

### Left Side Bar (Bright Green)

Our Volunteer Members: Jeffry Abe-Gunter, Spokane; JoAnne Butts, Orting; Sandra Carr, Spokane; Sharey Cleveland, Nespelam; Lou Colwell, Seattle; Kimmer Gordon, Blaine; John Harrison, Olympia; Rudy Hernandez, Burien; Jerry Johnsen, Seattle; Jim Larson, Olympia; Carol Maher, Olympia; Martin McCallum, Council Chair, Olympia; William Murray, Wenatchee; Lynnae Ruttledge, DVR Director, Ex-officio, Olympia; Bob Roberts, Spokane; Kris Tefft, Olympia

### Middle First Page

#### A Systemic Look at the Transition from High School to Work

The success of every VR process depends on effective partnerships. In the case of supporting young people with disabilities to make the transition from high school to work and beyond, partnerships are even more critical. There is ongoing discussion about promising practices such as Project SEARCH nationally and locally. Still, multiple approaches are necessary to address the systemic challenges facing transitioning students.

The role of the WSRC is to examine the systemic issues which impact DVR's success and to make recommendations to address them. To aid us in making informed recommendations, we invited four experts to present at our July quarterly meeting. Maureen Roberts, a VRC Lead from the Kent office, is well regarded by the field and partners statewide for her work with transitioning students. She helped us focus the discussion on DVR's role in the process of the transition from high school to work. Cinda Johnson, of the Center for Change in Transition Services at Seattle University, approached the topic from a macro level by presenting survey data on graduation rates and the numbers of Special Education students working or pursuing higher education after graduation. Our own Lou Colwell, with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, addressed federal requirements and OSPI's role in monitoring local schools' implementation of special education laws and policies. Finally, Karen Blaine of Washington PAVE provided suggestions about how DVR can better support parents and students negotiating the transition from high school to work.

Considering these varied perspectives on transition was a step in the Council's effort to prepare recommendations designed to support DVR to increase its success with young customers. The Executive Committee will prepare draft recommendations for the consideration of the full Council in October.

Right Upper Side Bar (Turquoise)

SAVE THE DATE, WSRC Customer Forum, October 16, 2008, 5:30-7:30, Tentative Location Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport, 18740 International Boulevard, Light Refreshments & ASL Interpretation provided, Nearest bus routes 194 and 174, To RSVP or to request reasonable accommodation contact JoAnne Lang at: [langjk@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:langjk@dshs.wa.gov)

Lower Right Side Bar (Black—Directional)

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Client Assistance Program Logo  
Followed by Upper Left Side Bar  
CAP and the Law

The Client Assistance Program is a private non-profit organization. It is established under Title 1, Section 112 (c) (1) (a) of the Rehabilitation Act. It is funded by the federal government. In Washington State CAP has authority under WAC 388-891-220 to assist DVR customers to advocate regarding individual case concerns

The Client Assistance Program is a Resource in the VR Process

The Client Assistance Program (CAP) may be the best resource you were unaware of in the VR process.

CAP is a tool for those who have reached a bottleneck with their individual plan for employment, but it can be a good resource for counselors as well. Last year alone, CAP advocated for 250 clients and provided information and referral for an additional 200 people who inquired.

Jerry Johnsen has been the Director of CAP for 15 years. Johnsen, full of energy, and even more opinions, takes a complex view of the role of CAP.

“We are serious about calling people on the stuff they need to see to be successful. We are not an advocacy program that moves ahead without helping the clients understand what they need to consider to overcome the barriers to employment.

Part of getting the best deal for our clients involves working with staff to come up with positive options and creative solutions.”

CAP is a reliable source of independent information. The program supports customers to take an active role in advocating for themselves. Whether you are a customer or a counselor the WSRC hopes you will not hesitate to work with CAP staff to support the success and integrity of the VR process.

## Right Upper Side Bar

### When to Engage CAP

For Information about services offered by Vocational Rehabilitation, Services for the Blind, and Projects with Industry, Tribal VR , Independent Living Centers, or your rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

To understand your rights and responsibilities as an applicant or customer of these programs;

To solve case concerns through negotiation;

For help with administrative processes.

Contact CAP at:

1-800-209-2011 [v]

1-888-721-6072 [tty]

[caprogram@qwestoffice.net](mailto:caprogram@qwestoffice.net)

Left: Photo (black and white photo of a white male wearing glasses. Caption reads Kris Tefft WSRC Member)

### Kris Tefft Promotes Prosperity for All

Kris Tefft is the kind of ally DVR needs to build inroads to employers statewide. Governor Gregoire appointed Tefft to the State Rehabilitation Council in August 2007. Tefft, a father of four, who lives and works in Olympia, is the General Counsel for the Association of Washington Business (AWB).

He advises the Association's members on employment law and represents their interests before the Legislature and the State Supreme Court, where he previously worked as a clerk.

Tefft came to work for AWB after earning his law degree from Notre Dame. The Association offered him a rare opportunity to work on matters of law and policy in the political arena. AWB is a member-driven industry group that advocates for policies which allow small and large

businesses to remain competitive. Tefft believes that the opportunity to prosper should be extended to everyone who is willing to work, a belief that motivates him to serve on the Council.

Although there are instances when AWB takes position on Legislation that some disability advocates oppose, Tefft sees more common ground than difference. He says, “The Council has highlighted that living with disabilities requires people to adapt and that a qualified individual with a disability who wants to work could market his or her ability to adapt or innovate as a valuable skill set. This is a point that I have not heard raised before. It provides a positive message and an effective way of interfacing with the employer community.” The Council and our partners at DVR are pleased to be collaborating with Kris and the Association for Washington Business.

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To learn more about the Association for Washington Business visit:

[www.awb.org](http://www.awb.org)

or call

(360) 943-1600

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*The WSRC*

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Celebrating the Service of Linda Pratt

Linda Pratt is the genuine article. She is a tireless advocate for tribal members, particularly those with disabilities, who want to go to work. Linda is less concerned about making people comfortable than naming inequity for what it is.

During her four years of volunteer service with the WSRC, which ended in May, there was never a doubt that Linda focused her attention on the success of the tribal people of Washington State. She was also a fierce advocate for young tribal members with disabilities. Linda was a dedicated member of our Council and of our Interagency Liaison Committee. She worked to achieve cultural awareness between the Toppenish School District and the Yakama Tribe. The Council celebrated Linda's service at our July quarterly meeting. We appreciate her assistance in recruiting Sharey Cleveland of the Colville Confederated Tribes to help the WSRC consider tribal interests.

Center: Photo (black and white photo of a native female. Caption reads Linda Pratt.)

Right Upper Side Bar

What would happen if all people with disabilities, eligible to vote in Washington State, did?

IT WOULD BE BIG!

Find answers to questions commonly asked by voters with disabilities at:

<http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/accessible-voting.html>

Graphic: Red, white, and blue voting button.

Lower Middle Bar

Help the WSRC Spread the Word

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, contact Joelle Brouner at [brounjm@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:brounjm@dshs.wa.gov), or call (360) 725-3690

Bottom Third Page

Formatted like an envelope with the WSRC logo as if it were a stamp.

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COMING STRAIGHT TO YOU

QUARTERLY

FROM CYBERSPACE