

The Rehab Council Connection a Quarterly e-Newsletter  
April 2009 Volume 2, Issue 2

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Our Volunteer Members

Jeffrey Abe-Gunter, Spokane; Don Brandon, Mountlake Terrace; Joanne Butts, Orting; Sandra Carr, Spokane; Sharey Cleveland, Nespalem; Lou Colwell, Seattle; John Harrison, Olympia; Rudy Hernandez, Burien; Jerry Johnsen, Seattle; Jim Larson, Olympia; Carol Maher, Olympia; Martin McCallum, Olympia; William Murray, Wenatchee; R.L. Roberts, Spokane; Lynnae Ruttledge, Olympia, ex-officio; Kris Tefft, Olympia.

DVR Drafts New State Plan

DVR is developing a new state plan. The state plan is a roadmap developed by DVR with the help of partners, to guide the organization's approach to service delivery and overall progress for the next three years. The final draft of the plan is due by July 1<sup>st</sup> for the review and approval of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). RSA is part of the US Department of Education. It monitors the program performance of all publicly funded Vocational Rehabilitation programs. RSA also provides technical assistance to the states and distributes the federal funds allocated by Congress to support Vocational Rehabilitation programs throughout the nation, the US territories, and the Tribal VR programs administered by sovereign Indian Nations.

The WSRC is participating in the development of this state plan by: writing a section of the plan outlining the recommendations the Council made to DVR between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2008; providing comment and input regarding the part of the plan specifying the goals, priorities, and strategies DVR proposes in charting its course; and by seeking input from customers and stakeholders. Together with DVR, the Council is sponsoring three state plan forums in communities across the state during the month of May (see the sidebar directly to the right for more information).

Throughout the month of March the members of the Council's Planning, Policy & Advocacy Committee worked diligently on preparing recommendations for our discussion with DVR about the state plan during our April 17<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting in Silverdale. To review those recommendations please visit our website, [www.wastrehabcouncil.org](http://www.wastrehabcouncil.org).

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Don't forget state plan forums

The WSRC and DVR are seeking input from stakeholders about the goals and priorities guiding DVR's approach to providing services for the next three years.

If you have input please join us.

May 8<sup>th</sup> Spokane 1:00-3:00pm; Spokane DVR Office; Rockpoint Conference Room; 1313 N Atlantic, Suite 1000

May 11<sup>th</sup> Tumwater; 1:00-3:00pm; DSHS Region 6 CSO; Nisqually Conference Room; 6860 Capitol Blvd. S, first floor

May 21st Seattle 1:00-3:00pm; Hearing Speech & Deafness Center; 1625-19<sup>th</sup> Ave.

ASL interpretation provided. To request reasonable accommodation contact [krulik@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:krulik@dshs.wa.gov)

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Upcoming Quarterly Meeting Dates and Locations

July 16 – 17<sup>th</sup>, Vancouver, Heathman Lodge, 7801 NE Greenwood Dr.; Vancouver, WA 98662

October 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, Spokane, Doubletree Hotel, Spokane City Center; 322 N Spokane Falls Court, Spokane, WA 99201

ASL interpretation provided. All activities open to the public.

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*SEEKING YOUR LEADERSHIP!*

It is not too late to join the WSRC. If you are a: Current or former customer of Vocational Rehabilitation or You work for a CRP AND You understand the Rehab process

Like working in groups to promote constructive systems change

Apply online at: [www.governor.wa.gov/boards/application/application.asp](http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards/application/application.asp)

Sharey Cleveland Listens and Leads

Pictured upper right: Dark skin Native American woman with long black hair, a big bright smile, glasses, pink sweater, earrings.

Caption: Sharey Cleveland is the Program Manager of the Colville Confederated Tribes Vocational Rehabilitation Program

Text:

Sharey Cleveland is the Program Manager for the Colville Confederated Tribes Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Cleveland, though relatively new to the field of Rehabilitation has a history of working in social services to support the safety of children and families. She has served as a representative of Tribal VR programs on the WSRC for nearly a year. When asked what drew her to service with the Council Cleveland explained, “I thought it would be a great learning experience. I am being a sponge and observing.”

Cleveland makes a connection between her work in Rehabilitation and the health of families and the community. Each year the program she manages serves 160 tribal members whose disability-related barriers to employment are compounded by the challenges of scarcity created

by limited economic opportunity in a remote, rural community. Sharey Cleveland came to the field of Rehabilitation because she is passionate about the experiences of people with disabilities, “I’m directly affected by Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and have a sister and uncle who are disabled and dealing with lifelong struggles.” Cleveland has made progress on her own journey with disability. She sets an example for her children and community by proving that change is possible. “I’ve been sober for eight years and in recovery. That’s really all about my children. I don’t want them to have the memories that I had.”

Her work in Tribal VR allows Cleveland to demonstrate more of her values, “Being an advocate and being proactive and compassionate with people with disabilities is an asset for everyone. It gives me hope for the proper treatment of people with disabilities in the future.”

Unlike the General VR program, Tribal VR programs have less secure funding because they operate on five year grants. Sharey would like those learning about Tribal VR to understand “Our programs are making a big difference in tribal communities, local economies, and in the self-esteem of members. We are contributing to the development of the tribal workforce and families.”

Sharey Cleveland commences her second year of service with the WSRC this summer. Our Council benefits from Sharey’s perspective and the connection she draws between the field of Rehabilitation and the health of the community as a whole. In addition to her work in Tribal VR and with the WSRC Sharey is raising three children, an eight-year-old son, and two daughters, ages three and four.

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Highlights from April Meeting Agenda

State Plan Discussion and Recommendations

Receipt of America Recovery and Reinvestment Act Dollars

LeAnne Raines Offers Perspectives from the Field

WSRC Engages Customers in Kitsap County

On April 16<sup>th</sup> members of the WSRC succeeded in engaging 73 members of the public. Kitsap locals participated in three activities affiliated with our quarterly meeting in Silverdale. The first activity was a focus group of eight customers who recently signed Individual Plans for Employment at the Silverdale office which we sponsored in collaboration with DVR. We also hosted a public forum attended by 15 people with a stake in the success of the DVR program who offered comment. Finally, we organized “Say Hey Kitsap,” a professional networking opportunity drawing DVR customers, DVR staff, DVR partners, and employers together. The model, which has proliferated across the state, was well received by those in attendance. Members of the Council were pleased that representatives of Human Resources for the Naval Shipyard, and the leadership of the local WorkSource supported the event.

The Council will be processing what we learned from the focus group and forum over the quarter.

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The WSRC

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WSRC Logo

We're on the Web! Visit us at: [www.wastrehabcouncil.org](http://www.wastrehabcouncil.org)

### DVR Receiving Federal Recovery Act Money to Put More Customers to Work

With the recent passage of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Washington's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will receive 8.5 million dollars. The federal funds do not have any requirements for state match. The first half of the total allotment was received within the last month. The rest will be received on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

By accepting the funds Washington State and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation are agreeing to use the money in a transparent manner to support a greater number of people with disabilities to work. The funds must be obligated by September 30, 2011. DVR projects that it will assist an additional one thousand people to go to work, beyond the numbers of customers it otherwise expects to achieve successful rehabilitations.

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Check Out the Redesigned WSRC Website!

You can take a look by visiting:

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

Share it with a friend

Help 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

Thank you Lou Colwell and Kris Tefft

The members and staff of the WSRC appreciate the service of our colleagues Lou Colwell and Kris Tefft. Lou has represented the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction on the WSRC for a number of years. Kris Tefft represents Business on the Council. He works for the Association of Washington Business. Through Kris' leadership a greater number of employers responded to our employer survey. Lou and Kris have made valuable contributions to our work and are concluding their service to the Council in April. Thank you both.

Lower third of page formatted as an envelope with the WSRC logo as a stamp and the Council address in the upper left. Center address reads: Coming Straight to You Quarterly from Cyberspace.