



Kate Brown, Governor

**OREGON  
COMMISSION  
FOR THE  
BLIND**

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**2019 Annual Report to the Legislative Commission on Indian Services  
Activities of the Agency under ORS 182.162 to 182.168**

**Key Contacts**

**Commission for the Blind**

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Executive Director

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**Mission, Vision, and Objectives**

The mission of Oregon Commission for the Blind is to *Empower Oregonians who are Blind to Fully Engage in Life*. The agency provides vocational rehabilitation and independent living services to individuals who are blind, in partnership and collaboration with the Department of Human Services, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (OVRs). We specialize in education for individuals who are blind (or have conditions which will progress to blindness) or those who have low vision (often due to age-related vision loss) to live independently and find and secure employment. Our consumers range in age from young adults to seniors.

Our vision is "Blindness without barriers: A state of inclusion for Oregonians with vision loss."

**Communication between the state agency and the tribes:**

Oregon Commission for the Blind is committed to ensuring equity in accessing services across Oregon, including among our citizens who are tribal members. As a part of our efforts, in

collaboration with DHS/OVRS, we have established partnerships and/or cooperative agreements with the following tribes:

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  
Klamath Tribes  
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon  
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs

In the past, we have provided an orientation and tour of our agency headquarters to the directors of Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation (TVR) for each tribe. The director of the Klamath Tribe toured our agency most recently.

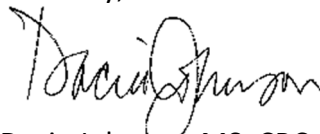
In our Vocational Rehabilitation Program, we will share resources and case management services with our partners in Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Programs. This includes gaining access to specialized services available at the agency's Orientation and Career Center for the Blind where individuals gain skills such as cane travel, Braille, techniques of daily living, technology, and adaptive devices. We also have been able to offer work experience opportunities to assist individuals in preparing for employment in their home communities.

The following are some examples of our collaborations currently underway:

- Working with the Siletz tribe to provide outreach to students at Chemawa Indian School in Salem, Oregon.
- Collaborating with OHSU to provide outreach in the Klamath Tribe service area.
- Providing training to our tribal VR partners from Warm Springs on disability awareness, blindness etiquette, and human guide, a means by which a blind individual may receive aid from sighted individuals and navigate in their environment (such as walking to a destination or through an unfamiliar area).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. The Commission for the Blind looks forward to continued development of these important tribal relationships.

Sincerely,



Dacia Johnson, MS, CRC  
Executive Director