Key Contacts

Commission for the Blind
535 SE 12th Ave
Portland OR 97214
971-673-1588

Dacia Johnson, MS, CRC
Executive Director

Angel Hale
Director of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Vallory Alter, MS, CRC
Tribal Liaison

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
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 (TVR) 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 restrictions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic have curtailed provision of face-to-face services, although services that can be provided remotely are readily available.

The Covid-19 pandemic prevented us from performing our annual visit to Southern Oregon to work with the tribes there.

The following are some examples of our collaborations currently underway:

- Working with a pre-transition youth to provide career exploration services.
- Siletz tribe, Chemawa Indian School, Salem, Oregon: Outreach to pre-transition (high school age) youth.

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