

Memorandum of Understanding

Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation

and

Helen Keller National Center for Deaf-Blind Youths and Adults

I. Purpose

In order to advance, improve and expand employment outcomes for individuals who are deaf-blind, the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR) and the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC), herein commit themselves to work cooperatively in implementing the objectives set forth in this agreement.

The CSAVR, an advisory body of the Rehabilitation Services Administration in the U.S. Department of Education on policy, regulations and the administration of programs affecting persons with disabilities, provides a forum for the collective deliberation of State Vocational Rehabilitation agencies on issues affecting the provision of vocational rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities; and informs the public about the effect of disability on the lives of persons with disabilities, particularly with respect to employment and economic independence.

The mission of the HKNC is to enhance the lives of people who are deaf-blind by providing rehabilitation services that will assist them to live and work in the community of their choice. HKNC offers intensive specialized services at its internationally recognized training facility in Sands Point, NY, as well as other rehabilitation services nationwide through a national network of over 45 affiliated agencies, eleven regional representatives, an older adult program and a National Training Team. HKNC, in collaboration with Teaching Research at Western Oregon University, provides technical assistance through the National Technical Assistance Consortium (NTAC) to families and agencies serving children and young adults who are deaf-blind.

II. Statement of Need

The CSAVR and HKNC believe that quality employment outcomes for people who are deaf-blind can be dramatically increased and improved through a closer working relationship between the State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies and the Helen Keller National Center.

III. Terms of Cooperative Agreement

The CSAVR and HKNC will communicate to their respective networks, the desire to establish cooperative agreements and the intended outcome of such agreements. The CSAVR and HKNC will work together to ensure that such agreements support the mission of both CSAVR and HKNC and assist in the development of a seamless system of service provision.

The CSAVR and HKNC will share information and coordinate activities, as appropriate, to carry out and support the objectives of the agreement.

The CSAVR and HKNC will provide technical assistance to each organization's affiliates regarding issues and activities that promote specialized services for individuals who are deaf-blind.

HKNC will appoint a representative to serve as the agency's liaison to CSAVR regarding issues related to deaf-blind individuals. HKNC will actively participate on and support the mission of CSAVR's Committee on Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Late Deafened and Deaf-Blind.

HKNC and CSAVR will maintain membership and appropriate national taskforces that promote the purpose of this agreement.

Representatives of HKNC and CSAVR will meet every two years to ensure that this agreement continues to support the mission of both organizations.

IV. Authority

This agreement does not in itself authorize the expenditure or reimbursement of any funds. Nothing in this agreement shall obligate the parties to expend appropriations or other monies, or to enter into any contract or other obligation.

Further, this agreement shall not be interpreted to limit, supercede, or otherwise affect either party's normal operations or decisions in carrying out its mission, statutory or regulatory duties. Nothing in this agreement shall be interpreted as altering any eligibility requirements for the public VR program authorized under Title I of the Rehabilitation Act.

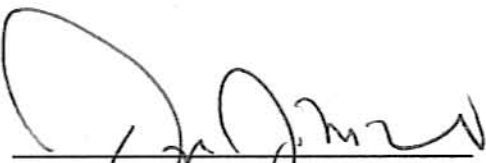
V. Effective Date/Duration

This agreement shall become effective upon signature of the underlined parties. This agreement may be terminated at any time upon 30 days' advance notice by one party to the other, and may be amended by written agreement of both parties and their designees.


Steve Shivers, President

4/18/05
Date

Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation


Joseph J. McNulty, Executive Director
Helen Keller National Center

5/9/05
Date