

Date updated: April 3, 2025

- ☒ Draft Plan
☐ Final Plan

DSHS Policy 7.01 Plan
July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 Annual Plan and Progress Report
Cowlitz Tribe and ESA: Division of Child Support (DCS),
Region 3, Vancouver Field Office
(contact information listed at end of plan)

	Yes	No
Met with Tribe/UIO?		X
Tribal input received?		X
Tribal approval of plan?		X

Most recent meeting date: the Cowlitz Tribe have declined to meet with DCS so far this year. DCS will coordinate with OIP and the Tribal contacts listed below if a meeting is desired.

Implementation Plan				Progress Report
(1) Goals/Objectives	(2) Activities	(3) Expected Outcome	(4) Lead Staff and Target Date	(5) Status Update

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CONTACT INFORMATION COWLITZ TRIBE

<i>TRIBE</i>	Staff Member	Phone Number	<u>Email</u>
Cowlitz Indian Tribe			
Employment inquiries	Niki Galpin	360-353-9189	njorenson@cowlitz.org
Enrollment	Tonya Colby	360-575-6230 x 2272	tcolby@cowlitz.org OR cowlitzenrollment@cowlitz.org
	Cathy Raphael	360-575-3310	craphael@cowlitz.org
Payroll	Lisa V	360-864-8720 x 115	
Cowlitz Tribal Gaming Authority			
Employment inquiries / HR		360-887-6733	HRIS@ilaniresort.com
Payroll	Diane	360-887-6745	payroll@ilaniresort.com

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR STATE OF WASHINGTON

DSHS	Staff Member	Phone Number	Email
Primary Caseworker/Liaison	Denise McNichols	360-397-9734	denise.mcnichols@dshs.wa.gov
Tribal Team Supervisor	Marlowe McConnell	360-397-9765	marlowe.mcconnell@dshs.wa.gov
Vancouver Program Manager	Kris Wilson	360-522-6242	kristen.d.wilson@dshs.wa.gov
Vancouver District Manager	Kirsten Jenicek	360-628-4109	kirsten.jenicek@dshs.wa.gov
Tribal Relations Team	Chris Franks	360-338-2917	chris.franks@dshs.wa.gov
Office of Indian Policy	Heather Hoyle	360-725-4880	heather.hoyle@dshs.wa.gov

CRITERIA USED FOR CASES TO BE INCLUDED IN DCS TRIBAL CASELOAD

A tribal case includes, at the minimum, one **or** more of the following:

- a. A noncustodial parent (NCP) who is a member of a federally recognized Washington tribe.
- b. An NCP who is not a member of a federally recognized Washington tribe, but is employed by the tribe, a tribal enterprise, or an Indian owned business located on a reservation or trust land in Washington.
- c. A party included under a cooperative child support agreement with DCS.

Example: Nez Perce tribal member.

- d. A party receiving program services from a Washington:
 - i. Tribal TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) program.
 - ii. Tribal IV-D program.
- e. Paternity needs to be established and CP is a member of a Washington Tribe with a Tribal IV-D program.
- f. Cases associated with a Washington tribal TANF case.
- g. A Washington tribal TANF arrears-only case.
- h. A case involving other tribal connections issues, such as:
 - NCP living on a reservation, a party who filed a child support action in Tribal Court, an American Indian child receiving foster care, or a responding or initiating intergovernmental case with tribal connections.

Historical Activities

	1) Provide tribal members access to DCS staff	1) Continue to offer a direct way for tribal members to contact DCS.	<p>1) Judy Blum, Janet Hatfield and Brandon Glover</p> <p>1b.) Marlowe McConnell, Stacy Davis, Rachel Tumbleson and Victor Asher</p> <p>1c) Marlowe McConnell, Denise McNichols, Alisha Gordon</p>	<p>1) Sol Tripp left the tribal team in March 2017 and was replaced by Judy Blum as the primary contact. Janet Hatfield became backup contact in April 2017. Brandon Glover remained the supervisor. All three staff members were combined onto the same team in October 2017. Janet Hatfield retired effective 3/1/2019. Judy Blum retired 1/1/2022.</p> <p>Brandon Glover promoted to Management Analyst 4 in the Vancouver Field Office on 7/16/2021, and is no longer the supervisor of the Tribal team.</p> <p>Marlowe McConnell became the supervisor of the Tribal team in the Vancouver Field Office on 8/16/2021.</p> <p>Stacy Davis became the Cowlitz Tribal Liaison in October of 2021; she then moved to Central Services on February 1, 2022.</p> <p>Rachel Tumbleson filled in as interim Cowlitz Tribal Liaison until 2/13/2022.</p> <p>Victor Asher took over the role of Cowlitz Tribal Liaison on 2/14/2022.</p> <p>Jeannie Hernandez became backup Cowlitz Tribal Liaison 7/1/2022</p> <p>Rachel Tumbleson completed 7.01 training on 10/22/21</p> <p>Denise McNichols took over the role of Cowlitz Tribal Liaison on 7/1/2023. Alisha Gordon became the backup liaison on 10/16/2023</p>
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	2) Staff training	2) Better trained staff	2) Vancouver supervisors and tribal team.	<p>2) Training was provided by GOIA in Olympia, WA on 5/23/17.</p> <p>Janet completed Gov't – Gov't training 3/9/18</p> <p>All tribal staff and District Manager Bennett completed 7.01 training on 4/13/18</p> <p>District Manager Kirsten Jenicek completed Government to Government training on 4/9/2019. Several all-staff reminders regarding reviewing cases for tribal connections have been sent to the office. Brandon and Judy attended statewide tribal liaison meeting held 9/24/19 - 9/25/19 in Tacoma.</p> <p>Training was presented to 12 new SEOs and 4 new SETs in 2019.</p> <p>Kirsten Jenicek completed 7.01 training 3/8/21. It will be scheduled as training is offered in the coming year for new supervisors and as needed for other staff.</p> <p>Marlowe McConnell completed 7.01 training on 8/19/2021. Victor completed this training 03/17/2022.</p> <p>Marlowe, Victor and Jeannie attended quarterly tribal liaison meetings 2022-2023.</p> <p>Vancouver Field Office hosted the statewide annual meeting of tribal liaisons in October 2023. Marlowe, Denise and Alisha attended quarterly statewide tribal liaison meetings in August and December 2023 and February 2024.</p> <p>Denise McNichols and Alisha Gordon completed 7.01 training on 11/7/2023, and Gov't to Gov't Training on 11/13/2023.</p>
	3) Presented basic tribal policy training to new incoming Staff	3) Better trained staff	3) Brandon Glover, Judy Blum and Janet Hatfield	<p>3) 3 new staff were exposed to basics of DCS tribal policy and procedures in 2017. All new staff are exposed to basics of DCS tribal policy in their training plan and received Cowlitz Tribe specific training as well.</p>

	4) Cultural Awareness	4) American Indian Heritage Month	4) A presentation was done by the Cowlitz tribe on 11/21/17. Cowlitz member spoke, gave a drumming demonstration and offered prayers.	<p>4) A presentation was done by Tanna Engdahl of the Cowlitz tribe on 11/8/18 and on 11/12/19. She spoke on the history and culture of food of the Tribe. Many staff from DCS and the four other agencies in the building attended the November event. For the coming November DCS would gladly arrange and help present the event again in November 2019.</p> <p>3/8/18 Brandon, Judy and Janet met with Abriel Johnny-Rodriguez, Cowlitz Tribe Intergovernmental Relations Liaison. This is a new position for the tribe. We discussed basics of child support and how DCS can best work with the Cowlitz Tribe.</p> <p>9/22/18 Participated in the Cowlitz Health Walk in Longview. Provided information about child support services via DCS pamphlets and discussions with attendees. 41 individuals asked questions specific to their cases.</p> <p>10/20/18 Provided child support information at the Cowlitz annual powwow at Clark County Fairgrounds</p> <p>9/14/19 Participated in the Cowlitz Health Walk in Longview. Provided information about child support services via DCS pamphlets and discussions with attendees.</p> <p>10/20/19 Provided child support information at the Cowlitz annual powwow at Clark County Fairgrounds. DCS staff engaged with over 100 participants providing information and resources to attendees.</p> <p>Denise McNichols and Alisha Gordon completed the 7.01 training on 11/7/2023, and the Gov't to Gov't training on 11/13/2023.</p>
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