



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND

*3411 So. Alaska Street • Seattle, Washington 98118-1631 • (206) 721-4422 • (Toll Free) 1-800-552-7103
Voice or TDD (206) 721-4056 • FAX (206) 721-4103*

June 17, 2013

TO: David Schumacher, Director
Office of Financial Management (OFM)

CC: Kelly Wicker, Executive Director for Internal Affairs
Office of Governor Inslee

FROM: Lou Oma Durand, Director
Department of Services for the Blind (DSB)

**SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR STATE AGENCY
OPERATIONS ON JULY 1, 2013**

Mr. Schumacher,

In the event state budget issues are not resolved before July 1, Department of Services for the Blind (DSB) anticipates that we would need to shut down all operations, directly impacting 89 state employees, dozens of contractors and community providers, plus thousands of blind and visually impaired citizens who currently receive our services.

Department of Services for the Blind (DSB) has identified one program that fits "Category 2: Services that do not require appropriation." DSB 's Business Enterprise Program (BEP) is funded through a non-appropriated fund 02H. This program provides ongoing support and consultation for blind food service business owners operating cafeterias in state and federal buildings (3 FTE plus .25 FTE fiscal support). However, the administrative and fiscal support required for BEP to operate would not be available. So, we assume that the program would need to be shut down.

Shutdown of other DSB services and projects would adversely affect blind individuals, children, and their families, not to mention our contractors and local community providers, across the state. To close our Orientation and Training Center program, we would need to send residential students home in advance of July 1st and then bring them back again when the budget is resolved. In another instance, 24 blind high school students have planned work experiences with Seattle area employers through our YES program. These students will be arriving in Seattle on June 26th to reside at a Sorority

House on the UW campus that is contracted for DSB's use for the summer. The students are scheduled to begin paid summer employment July 8th. The program is staffed by 17 temporary employees, through a contract with Pacific Associates. The program is supervised and supported by ten DSB staff, plus payroll, IT and fiscal staff.

I look forward to OFM's review of this assessment, so that we can communicate more clearly to our staff and stakeholders.

Thank you for your efforts to manage this untenable circumstance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lou Oma Durand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "D".

Lou Oma Durand
Executive Director
WA State Dept. of Services for the Blind
Seattle: 206-906-5535
Olympia: 360-725-3835
louoma.durand@dsb.wa.gov