



**INTER-AGENCY COOPERATIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN
MEDICAID AGENCY, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

AND

**THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION, OFFICE OF THE
GOVERNOR**

Section I. Preamble

This inter-agency cooperative services agreement is entered into between Medicaid Agency (MA), Department of Public Health and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), Office of the Governor.

Section II. Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is: (1) to provide for maximum coordination, utilization, and comparability of services, (2) to ensure for maximum benefits and services to VR qualified individual/Medicaid recipients with disabilities, and (3) to agree on cost sharing arrangements between Medicaid and OVR.

Section III. Role of Each Agency

Medicaid agrees to:

1. Refer individuals with disabilities, applying for Medicaid benefits and who are interested in employment, to OVR.

2. Provide and extend Medicaid authorized assistance and services for all medical treatment under the provisions of the Northern Marianas Title XIX Plan to eligible VR consumer applicants with disabilities.
3. Consult with OVR about potential rehabilitation or medical services required by a VR consumer/Medicaid recipient and secure OVR written prior approval before authorizing services with if costs are expected to be shared with OVR.
4. Share and extend training or staff development opportunities to OVR staff, especially those topics relating to provision of services to individuals with disabilities who concurrently qualify as VR consumers and Medicaid recipients.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation agrees to:

1. Assess eligibility of all Medicaid referrals received for VR eligibility.
2. Coordinate activities to the maximum degree possible in compliance with the requirements of the Rehab Act as amended, particularly on the provisions pertaining to “comparable programs and benefits” required to the rehabilitation plan of eligible VR consumers.
3. Share with Medicaid Agency, for the costs pre-authorized in the Individualized Plan for Employment of the VR consumer. OVR funds shall not be expended for progressive medical conditions. Pre-authorized costs may be for purchases of rehabilitation services such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech or vision rehabilitation services or procurement of assistive devices (eyeglasses, wheelchair, etc.) as required by a VR consumer/Medicaid Recipient to secure, obtain, or retain employment.
4. Share and extend information or share in the costs for training or staff development to Medicaid staff, especially those education and training opportunities that deal with topics relating to provision of services to individuals with disabilities who may be eligible for OVR or Medicaid programs and services.

Section IV - Exchange of Information and Confidentiality

Case information on individuals referred or served may be exchanged between the two agencies. Personnel having access to such information will protect its confidentiality. No information shall be released without the written consent of the individual or authorized representative. To the extent possible, the following information will be provided in conformance with federal and local laws, regulations, and policies in making referrals between the two agencies:

OVR to Medicaid

1. Date of Referral
2. Name & Address of Consumer
3. Social Security Number
4. Telephone Number
5. Name/Phone No. of Contact Person
6. VR Eligibility Status
7. Vocational Objective
8. Statement for Referral

Medicaid to OVR

1. Date of Referral
2. Name & Address of Consumer
3. Social Security Number
4. Telephone Number
5. Name/Phone No. of Contact Person
6. Medicaid Eligibility Status
7. Vocational Objective
8. Statement for Referral

Section V- Collaboration/Cooperation, Joint Community Partnerships


Both OVR and MA will develop and conduct coordinated programs or activities for promoting public awareness and public information about the contributions and assistance received by a VR consumer/Medicaid Recipient who obtain employment successfully after rehabilitation services jointly funded by both agencies were completed.

Section VI - Termination or Amendment to Agreement

This agreement and/or the conditions stipulated herein may be terminated by either party in the event that program funds are exhausted or suspended by the federal grantor agencies or are not available in any manner beyond the control of either OVR or Medicaid Agency.

This agreement shall become effective upon the date signed by both representatives for OVR and Medicaid.

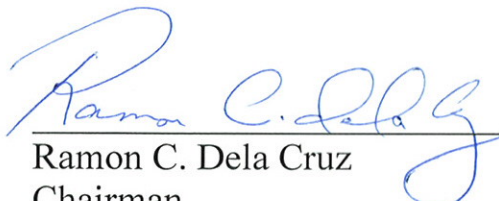
For OVR:



Felicitas "Tee" P. Abraham
Director

5-24-00

Date



Ramon C. Dela Cruz
Chairman
State Rehabilitation Council

05/24/00

Date


For Medicaid:



Helen T. Sablan
Administrator

5/26/00

Date

for 

Joseph K.P. Villagomez
Secretary
Department of Public Health

5-30-00

Date