



# Transition Manager Choice List

## Special Needs



### **Virgil Edwards Region 1 208-664-9896**

#### DAC

Virgil has 15 years working with the aged and disabled. He started as a vocational consultant for people with disabilities. He worked through Projects with Industry- grant. He assisted people to have the tools for seeking employment, interviewing, resumes, cover letters, and job seeking skills. He is now employed with Disability Action Center as an Independent Living Specialist. Assisting people with disabilities to be involved in their own lives. Assisting people to be independent or continue to be as independent in their own lives as possible. Helping people to continue to live in their community and offer choice. This fits my philosophy as a person.

### **Kathryn Vercruyssen Region 1 208-765-9511**

#### Comfort Keepers

Kathryn "Kat" is a certified Senior Advisor. With over 12 years as the owner of Comfort Keepers of Idaho. Comfort Keepers provides in-home care services in 16 Idaho counties. As an outreach specialist, Kat has transitioned over 300 seniors and people with disabilities from facilities safely and successfully back into their communities.

### **Sandy Billingslea, MS Region 1 208-660-9534**

#### Coordinated Services of Idaho

Sandy has a variety of experience working with adults with disabilities. As a service coordinator she is aware of community resources and knows how to write and implement plans for community living. Sandy looks forward to working with you.

### **Elva Escobedo Region 2 208-883-0523**

#### Disability Action Center-NW, Inc.

Elva has lived in Moscow for over 39 years. She is a business owner and has worked with young adults and senior citizens with disabilities for over 10 years. She has also been a board member for the Self Advocate Leadership Network for 2 years. Elva enjoys helping people with disabilities in their private homes and senior citizens in nursing facilities.

### **Molly Sherpa Region 2 208-746-9033**

#### Disability Action Center-NW, Inc.

Being a parent and advocate for a child with a traumatic brain injury and being an individual with a disability it seemed like a natural fit for Molly to become transition manager for Idaho Home Choice. In 2008 she became a job coach/job developer with Opportunities Unlimited and fell in love with vocation; sadly, with Medicaid cuts she was laid off but in 2012 was lucky enough to start working for Disability Action Center as an independent living specialist. This is Molly's first involvement with the Independent Living Movement and it has been an exciting and rewarding one.

**David Knittel Region 2 208-798-4201**

**Community Action Partnership – Area Agency on Aging**

David Knittel has spent nearly all of his life in the LC Valley. He moved away for a short time to attend college in Colorado and graduate school in Iowa. David has worked at the Community Action Partnership for over 10 years and loves helping people learn how to develop relationships and meaning that are needed to thrive. David is excited to help others live interdependently in the community.

**James Auw Region 3&4 208-938-1760**

**Trinity Home Care and Resource, Inc**

James began working as a Personal Care Assistant in the summer of 2007 after he graduated from college. He quickly realized that he had found his calling working to help people, and that he had found the field in which to do it. James has worked in and out of a facility setting providing, managing, and establishing care. He now dedicates his time to helping people achieve and maintain their independence in the setting of their choosing. As a proud Certified Nurse's Assistant and a firm believer in the philosophy that compassionate care and services are the only way to go, James is willing to step up and help with your needs.

**Carol Foster Region 3&4 208-459-0678**

**Addus Health Care**

Carol started in the Health Care Industry when she was 15 years old and knew that she wanted to make her career in the Health Care Industry, she wanted to make a difference in someone's life. Carol has worked as a CNA, Activity Director, medical records, marketing, and in the office. She moved into the Assisted Living industry where she saw many people who did not need to be there, fall into depression or get angry. Working for Addus Health Care, Carol has learned that there are a lot of choices for people.

**Leanne Swetland Region 3&4 208-467-6910**

**WITCO**

It has been Leanne's pleasure to have worked in many capacities over the last 34 years helping individuals realize their goals and dreams.

**Samantha Johnson, LPN Region 3&4 208-440-6458**

**Best Home Care**

Samantha is a graduate from Boise State and a mother of three children with disabilities. She has been working with the elderly and disabled community for over 20 years; 10 of those have been as an LPN. She has worked in a variety of settings from nursing facilities, home health, hospice, and physicians' offices. Samantha has worked with many Medicaid programs over the years assisting individuals in getting the services they need. She also has experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities and mental illness. She is committed to helping people find the supports they need to live successfully in their own homes and community. Samantha is a firm believer in quality of life being very important to a person's overall health and well-being. She is compassionate and dedicated to the Idaho Home Choice program.

**Amber Mausling Region 3&4 208-336-3335 ext 14**

**LINC**

Amber Mausling is the Coordinating Advocate at Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC). During her tenure with LINC, Amber has assisted people with disabilities and seniors to transition from institutions back in to the community successfully. Amber is committed to advocating for personal choice and the full inclusion of all people and believes that given the right tools, anyone can achieve and maintain their desired level of independence.

**Degolia Johnson Region 3&4 208-515-1661**

**A Better Life Behavioral Health Services**

Degolia is a mother of four tender adults and a grandmother of six. She has been a PSR worker and is currently a counselor, an adult case manager and a service coordinator for children for over four years. She understands the referral process and loves to research and link clients to the resources that will benefit them in their quest for the best independent life possible. Degolia is currently preparing to take her test to be a clinical licensed social worker. She can work with all individuals, no matter their race, creed or color, life style, sexual preference, religious beliefs or what they have done in the past that has impacted their future.

**Vanessa Johnson Region 4 208-608-0237**

**Access Behavioral Health**

Vanessa graduated from BSU in 2006 with a B.S. in Psychology and a minor in addiction studies. Once she graduated she immediately started working in the community with individuals whom have a variety of disabilities. During the last five a half years, she has worked as a psychosocial rehabilitation specialist, a targeted service coordinator, and a supervisor to over 20 staff at one time. In 2008, in addition to her roles, she started as a Discharge Liaison to Idaho's region 4 from various institutions. Vanessa has successfully assisted over 300 individuals into least restrictive environments. She enjoys being a part of the life change individuals go through when they learn how to take charge of their life and no longer have to simply survive. Her experience has taught her to understand the difficulties and fears associated with this change. Vanessa looks forward to providing direction and support to anyone who has a desire to decide choice.

**Cheryl Robertson Region 7 208- 733-7340**

**Tasks Unlimited**

Cheryl is a Registered Nurse with over 27 years of experience in the medical field. She has developed knowledge of the industry from the ground up holding positions from a Certified Nursing assistant to Asst. Director of Nursing of a 300 bed skilled nursing facility in the greater Chicago area. Cheryl's emphasis has been in the Geriatric and Psychiatric nursing fields. Cheryl also has gained valuable knowledge of state and federal regulations and programs by working in the Regional Medicaid Unit as a nurse reviewer for over 15 years. Cheryl has worked closely with this states' resources and has developed contacts both within Idaho and around the country to bring to her clients' the best and most up-to date information they need to successfully transition back into their communities. Currently she is the owner/operator of her own consulting business that assists in-home care agencies, assisted living facilities, and skilled nursing facilities to improve the quality of the care they offer to their clients.

**Area Agency on Aging Region 6 208-233-4032**

**Area Agency on Aging**

The Area Agency on Aging is your leading source for programs, services and information in southeast Idaho specifically designed to assist older adults 60 years of age and older and their families.

**Heather Heiner Region 6&7 208-529-8610**

**LIFE, Inc.**

**Rhonda Gray Region 6&7 208-200-9106**

**Reach Beyond**

After growing up and graduating in Ashton, Idaho, Rhoda Gray graduated from University of Utah. She then moved to Texas where she worked with mental health and developmental youth. After a time, she moved back to Idaho. Since returning, she has worked in Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Service Coordination areas. She has also worked with foster children as their foster parent, and has offered her home as a PCS home.

Currently, Rhonda is the owner of Reach Beyond. Reach Beyond serves families, individuals, and the community with PSR, service coordination and other mental health needs.

**Kelly Lawrence Region 6&7 208-881-7929**

**Pearl Health Clinic**

Kelly has a Bachelor's degree in elementary education and a Master's degree in adult education. She has over ten years of experience working with people with disabilities and helping people coordinate their living needs.