

2-19-16

**To: Employment First stakeholders**

**From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Interim Employment First Coordinator**

**Re: [Employment First](#): Settlement and what it may mean to you**

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

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The Settlement Agreement for Lane v. Brown was approved by a federal court in December 2015. Since then, we have heard from service coordinators, personal agents, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselors and employment providers around the state with questions as to how the settlement, as well as other major federal changes, may impact their work.

For instance, the settlement calls for:

- By June 30, 2022, the state will help 1,115 people who have worked in sheltered workshops obtain competitive integrated employment;
- DHS will establish and promote a goal that all people with I/DD who want to work in the community will be afforded an opportunity to pursue competitive employment that allows them to work the maximum number of hours consistent with their abilities and preferences;
- DHS will issue guidance to VR counselors, ODDS staff, CDDPs, and brokerages that the recommended standard for planning and implementing supported employment services will be the opportunity to work at least 20 hours per week, recognizing that based on individual choice, preferences and circumstances, some people may choose to work at that level while others may not.
- By June 30, 2017, Oregon will reduce the current number of working-age adults with I/DD in sheltered workshops from approximately 1,926 to 1,530 and decrease the number of hours adults are working in sheltered workshops from approximately 93,530 hours to 66,100 hours; and
- For transition-age youth, Oregon will ensure that 4,900 youth ages 14 to 24 years of age are provided with employment services by June 30, 2022. At least half of the transition-aged youth who receive employment services, and who apply and are found eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services, will receive an Individual Plan for Employment with VR.

Providers and other organizations are vital to this effort. To help support those efforts, regional employment specialists from the Office of Developmental Disability Services (ODDS) are meeting with Community Developmental Disability Programs (CDDPs), Brokerages, employment providers, local Employment First teams, and more. The employment specialists will share regional data to provide more information about what the settlement agreement may mean locally. These presentations are designed to help with the implementation of the settlement agreement.

In addition to the settlement, ODDS regional specialists will provide information regarding the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) regulations, local capacity building, and more. ODDS plans to share this information now through early spring.

Finally, ODDS regional specialists are meeting with provider organizations to complete the [HCBS employment checklist](#), which can be found, along with the non-residential day service checklist, at: <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/HCBS/Pages/Resources-Oregon.aspx>

This is a requirement set forth in the HCBS regulations. The role of the ODDS regional employment specialist is to provide training and technical assistance around the HCBS requirements. The regional specialists will be conducting initial reviews in an effort to learn more about each organization and provide additional information as needed. After these initial reviews, additional reviews will be an ongoing function of the licensing unit. These reviews will take place throughout 2016.

We wanted to let you know these meetings are happening and that we are doing our best to get around the state to give local information and data that will help inform your efforts. We are happy to meet with other groups or organizations that feel this information would be helpful, so please let us know if you would like to request a meeting.

If you have comments or other questions, please email them to [employment.first@state.or.us](mailto:employment.first@state.or.us).

~ Acacia