

1-16-15

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Mike Maley, Statewide Employment First Coordinator

Re: Employment First: Local leadership meetings

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

Starting Jan. 29, leadership from the executive steering group of the Employment First initiative will begin a series of meetings around the state with VR branch managers, special education directors, brokerage directors as well as Community Developmental Disabilities Program (CDDP) managers.

I will attend all these meetings, along with Lilia Teninty, director of the Office of Developmental Disability Services (ODDS), Sarah Drinkwater and Mitch Kruska from the Oregon Department of Education, and Trina Lee, interim director of Vocational Rehabilitation along with Robert Costello and Joe Miller with VR.

There are three main goals of these meetings. First, the DHS and ODE Employment First leadership would like to share updates on current statewide policies and strategies, and share local data. Second, there will be breakout sessions bringing VR, CDDP, brokerage and local education leaders together to share suggestions on what is working, and give feedback on improvements and questions.

The third goal is to foster local working relationships and strengthen collaborative efforts on a local level to meet the goal of the Employment First initiative.

The goal, as always, is to work together to increase integrated employment opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The first meeting on Jan. 29 is in the Salem area. The second meeting is on Jan. 30 in Portland. After that, meetings will be scheduled around the entire state, including central, southern and eastern Oregon.

Thank you all for your continued involvement, support, and advocacy for services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oregon. If you have comments or questions, please email them to employment.first@state.or.us.

~ Mike