

April 24, 2019

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Statewide Employment First Coordinator

Re: [Employment First](#): Independent Reviewer in Lane v. Brown Settlement

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

Cathy Ficker Terrill, the Independent Reviewer appointed to oversee the Lane v. Brown Settlement Agreement, is stepping down from the role as of Dec. 31, 2019.

Ficker Terrill will continue to evaluate the performance of the Lane Settlement Agreement and will issue a report to the federal judge in January 2020 after stepping down Dec. 31, 2019.

Nicole Jorwic, Senior Director of Public Policy for The Arc of the United States, has been appointed as the new Independent Reviewer. Jorwic will begin working with Ficker Terrill in September 2019 to ensure a smooth transition.

Jorwic has been with The Arc of the United States since 2015. She is an attorney who previously served as manager of the Employment First initiative in Illinois and as CEO/President of The Institute on Public Policy for People with Disabilities.

In her role as Independent Reviewer since the Lane Settlement was reached in 2016, Ficker Terrill has closely monitored the actions of the State of Oregon. The Lane v. Brown Settlement Agreement requires the State, specifically Vocational Rehabilitation, the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services and the Oregon Department of Education, to meet a number of requirements, including:

- Supporting 1,115 people who have been in sheltered workshops to obtain competitive integrated employment (community jobs at minimum wage or higher).
- Creating and promoting policies to help transition-age youth to work in community employment.
- Issuing guidance that the recommended standard for services is the opportunity to work at least 20 hours per week.
- Providing supported employment services to 7,000 people.

Lane v. Brown was a class action lawsuit filed in 2012 involving employment services that Oregon provides to people with intellectual and developmental

disabilities (I/DD). A proposed settlement agreement was reached in late 2015, with the final settlement published in January 2016.

Ficker Terrill's [2017 report](#) to the court and [2018 report](#) are both online.

~ Acacia