

Executive Order Statewide Stakeholder Policy Meeting

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

1:00-2:00pm

Join ZoomGov Meeting

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1618282846?pwd=ZzVGNWZhd2pNQUVQTEZiYTZZRnlaQT09>

Meeting ID: 161 828 2846

Passcode: 700830 One tap mobile

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Agenda	Documents	Time	Owner
Introductions		5	Acacia
Review Agenda		5	Acacia
Review last month's meeting minutes	Copy of last month's notes	5	Acacia
Education Updates		10	Mike
E-signatures/VR Updates		10	VR/Howard
Update on Freeze		10	Acacia
Update on Provider Sustainability meeting		10	Acacia
Model Employer LC		10	Angela
Supported Decision Making LC		10	Acacia/Allison
Next meeting agenda items/wrap up		5	All

Minutes taken by: Debra Stevens

Facilitated by: Acacia McGuire Anderson

Introductions

Acacia introduced attendees.

Review Agenda

Acacia reviewed agenda.

Review last month's meeting minutes

- Acacia reviewed last month's meeting minutes, highlighting the following.
- VR working hard to make sure providers who want a VR contract, get it.
- Impact Oregon beta testing going forward. Seven colleges across the state are

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participating. Job seekers can apply during beta testing.

Education Updates

- Lon shared a video of a success story involving an autistic student, Ethan, in Long Creek who successfully transitioned from school to employment.
- Donna visited the mother to record the story.
- This was an example of a seamless transition for the student and highlighted all who helped this person move into a job 40 minutes away.
- Team never doubted young man Ethan with Autism could get a job, but mom did.
- The mother emphasized that YTP is not just some feel-good state program.
- Ethan's job means something and he even has a social life now.
- Job is real; those who helped him get his job did not coddle him along.
- Exceeded mom's dreams; now he has a job.
- Ethan's story is an example of a successful seamless team coming from a remote rural area.
- Donna reported that despite COVID-19, Ethan still reports for work four days a week at the restaurant.
- Team was just doing what was best for him, without realizing how extraordinary their efforts were.
- Solutions developed by the ESD, VRC and Community Counseling Solutions were phenomenal.
- Lon noted how the team worked on maintaining Ethan's routines when COVID-19 hit, essential for him to successfully transition from school to work.
- Lon commended Donna for her great work with schools located in remote areas of Region 8, which comprises eight counties.
- Donna also shared another example of how a young person at Ontario High School was able to use her voice to express her choices – a big step for her.

E-Signatures/VR Updates

- Howard reported that VR has been considering using electronic signatures for virtual

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intakes for a while.

- Now using electronic signatures for all intakes; however, the intake process is the only VR service using them right now.
- Electronic signatures are still not being used for contracts, service agreements, or financial documents.
- Working to add this capability to other processes.

Update on Freeze

- Acacia reported on the Governor's recent directive moving past freeze to four new risk tiers instead of phases.
- Many counties now fall into the extreme tier category.
- Challenge to crosswalk internally.
- Publishing guidance tomorrow.
- Extreme and high risk-tiers are similar to freeze and pause.

Q – Ross asked about services in Marion County.

A – We believe they are going to be in the extreme category. Tomorrow the Governor will be providing an update. Best to check with the Governor's website.

- Challenging for providers.
- Prior to pause and freeze, ODDS saw first positive cases among people receiving DSA and employment services.
- Requirements and terminology are changing.
- Still have Workers Guide for reference.
- Publishing table on services/risk categories, that specifies what is allowed.
- Hoping chart will be easier than sifting through text.
- Many providers already have approved reopening plans.
- Once their county is in moderate or low risk, providers can return to services as listed in their approved reopening plan.
- Challenge is identifying which risk category county is in.

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Q – Ross asked what happens if a person needs JC in a high-risk county?

A – JC services may continue as long as the person continues to work. We consider job coaches as essential staff, following all safety precautions. If a person’s support needs require JC services in order to continue working, those services will be provided. However, virtual support is the best option, where possible.

- Margaret noted that dropping from high to medium risk means a county moves into what was formerly Phase 2.
- In these cases, we should drop or extract people in long-term care from the data count to get people back into services faster.
- People in long-term care are physically very isolated, with low risk exposure; however, counting them is dominating the data.
- Margaret will address this with the Governor’s office.
- How will people recover after this shut down?
- How to balance what is needed – economic, health wise, etc.
- This is not an easy conversation.
- Concern about metrics and how decisions are being made.
- ODDS is trying to go off what is allowed, but also the concern about capacity.

Q – Ross asked how advocates can get information so they will know where things are heading. He is concerned as so far two businesses were instructed by the Public Health Department to close.

A – We all share this concern. Acacia will send a link to the Governor’s website showing counties. This is what ODDS is working off. There is also a link on the ODDS COVID-19 page.

Update on Provider Sustainability Meeting

- Good meeting that focused on delivering remote services.
- Considering next steps.
- Continuing to assess 1:1 rates for facility and EP services.
- Also looking at “on-behalf of” activities.

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- Policy changes include extending free Open Future Learning class opportunities and allowing Employment Path with DSA for helping with activities dependent on IT.
 - Making explicit in guide.
 - Challenges include not being able to allow some small group services for up to three people at a time; this was previously proposed but now is not something we can do under Governor's new directive.
 - Justin was told he can't return to his job until called back as the company has stopped services.
 - Acacia noted that some providers decided to stop; however, ODDS did not stop small group services.
 - Justin reported Tiffany said not going back until 12/8.
 - Acacia said that if they are restarting on 12/8, he can go ahead and do that.

Q - Tim from Garten asked whether we have timelines regarding when decision will be made.
A - Acacia has no timelines. ODDS has been working on this for over a month; it is our top priority. We have a long list of budget items for approval and will not hold anything for which we get approved.

- Tim reported Garten has remained open and provided virtual services, but this is a challenging environment.
- Garten has been working on keeping staff available but providing some hours to other services such as job development and providing virtual services.
- Acacia acknowledged that some providers have had to cut staff; we know this is a struggle.
- Coming early 2021, ODDS will be able to offer free on-demand training.
- We are hopeful that this training will help new staff across the state be ready when providers are ready to move.
- No money for contingency funding is available now; we must have federal match to quality and CMS has to say they will do another round.
- However, because this is a nationwide issue, we hope to see movement at the federal

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level.

- Acacia advised she shares whatever information she learns in her daily ODDS COVID-19 meetings as well as directly with Lilia.
- If you have any ideas, please bring them forward to Acacia.

Q – Ross asked whether the task force has any I/DD people on it.

A – Acacia will ask OHA. She attends daily COVID-19 meetings at ODDS.

Legislative Concepts

- Hoping to engage the Governor's office.
- Acacia displayed the proposed legislative bills.

Supported Decision Making Legislative Concept – Acacia

- Supported decision making supports a person's right to make their own decisions and direct the kinds of support they want.
- While this concept involves a team of people who serve as support for the person, it also formalizes the legality of the team through documentation.
- It is important to get this concept into statute so that institutions like banks, etc, recognize a person's right to make their own decisions.
- ISP team agreements exist in the system now, but a person can't take an ISP agreement to open, for instance, an ABLE account on their own.
- Some people are being required to get a Guardian or name a POA in order to conduct business on their own.
- Other states are putting supported decision making into their statutes.
- Such a statute or agreement doesn't remove other options like POA, guardianship, or a medical POA. Rather, it just adds to options available to the person.
- ODDS is doing its best to move this concept forward.
- Our objective is to determine how we can help people use supported decision making to make their own decisions in the least restrictive way possible.

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Model Employer Legislative Concept – Rebecca

- Rebecca reported that the concept of the state as a model employer has been in existence several years.
- 2015 data showed the State of Oregon employed only .03 percent of I/DD persons.
- Adopting this concept creates a process that grows organically by demonstrating the benefits of employing people with I/DD, such as loyalty, regular attendance and high value added to the business.
- It can also show others this concept can work and encourages more businesses to employ people with I/DD.
- This concept is meant to raise awareness and, through legislative dialog, establish a statute.
- Model Employer is a direct appointment program for people already receiving ODDS services and has been approved by our union.
- The legislative concept forms a task force that will include representatives from ODDS, VR, DAS, self-advocates, DD Council, etc., in order to collaborate with stakeholders and advocates to increase employment of people with I/DD and better represent them in the state workforce.
- Rebecca shared one close-to-home success story: Two years ago, ODDS hired a person with I/DD as a direct appointment; this person is not only still employed with the State, but has also received a promotion.
- Our objective is to grow this program within the State by creating strategies to get other State managers on board.
- Kathy noted that the more people can see people with disabilities get employed, the more hope.
- Kathy reported Ron Noble of the Oregon House of Representatives has hired someone with a disability and may be amenable to supporting this bill
- Sally shared that some student workers have also been hired.

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Next Meeting Agenda Items/Wrap Up

- Next meeting will be held on 1/6/21.
- Should have Impact Oregon updates and hopefully more information on risk tiers and provider sustainability.
- Acacia has reached out to the Governor's office for someone to join us.
- Ross asked that we discuss vaccinations and returning to normal life again.
- Acacia pledged we need to address how we can help people return to work.

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Membership:			
	Seth Johnson Opportunity Foundation of Central Oregon – Providers		Paul Partridge Deschutes CDDP – Counties
X	Corey Jeppesen Oregon Resource Association (ORA) – Providers	X	Laura Noppenberger Eastern Oregon Support Services Brokerage
X	Heather Hopkins-Slechta Full Access Brokerage High Desert – Brokerage		Roberta Dunn FACT – Family Members
	Cam Jordan Oregon Commission for the Blind		Keith Ozols DHS – Vocational Rehabilitation
X	Ross Ryan Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition – Self Advocate	X	Liz Fox Alternative Work Concepts – Providers
X	Ryley Newport Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities – Advocacy	X	Margaret Theisen Pearl Buck -- Providers
X	Mike Franklin Oregon Department of Education		Allen Cress Edwards Center – Providers
	Heather Lindsey Vocational Rehabilitation	X	Justin Connolly Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition – Self Advocate
	Kriss Rita Education, Transition Network	X	Acacia McGuire Anderson DHS – Employment First
	Lilia Teninty		Michael Salitore

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	DHS – Office of Developmental Disabilities		Molalla School District – Education
X	Kathy Schlotfeldt MV Advancements – Providers	X	Howard Fulk Vocational Rehabilitation
X	Sally Simich Oregon Department of Education		
X	Pennie Hartley Vocational Rehabilitation		Senator Sara Gelser Oregon Senate – Legislature
	Invited Guests:		
X	Rebecca Sexton – ODDS	X	Ellen Mendoza – DOJ
	Angela Yeager – ODDS		Theresa Knowles, ODDS
X	André Harboe – ODDS		Robin Brandt, VR
X	Tim Acker – ODDS		Erica Drake, ODDS
	Nicole Perdue, Linn Benton Lincoln ESD		Micah Sisco - ODDS
X	Allison Enriquez – ODDS	X	Julie Huber – ODDS
X	Nathan Deeks, ODDS	X	Karen McKenney, FACT
X	Brad Collins, ODDS		Amber Robles, Living Opportunities
X	Gene Rada, ODDS	X	Nicole Jorwic, IR
	Maria Gwilliam, MV Advancements	X	Tim Rocak, Garten
X	Melanie Hartwig, ODDS		Sheri Boyd, VR
	Julia Ansberry, Trellis		Tami Socolofsky, Trellis
X	Cindy Cameron, Southern OR ESD	X	Sarah Statham, Multnomah ESD
	Josh Barbour, Linn Benton Lincoln ESD	X	Donna Lowry, InterMountain ESD
X	Stephanie Roncal, ODDS	X	Darci Shivers, Douglas ESD
X	Lon Thornburg, InterMountain ESD		