

Executive Order Statewide Stakeholder Policy Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 2022

2-3 p.m.

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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
ODDS Updates		5	Acacia
ARPA Updates		10	Rebecca
Compass Updates		10	Theresa
VR Update		10	VR
Education Update		10	TNF/ODE
Next meeting agenda items/wrap up		5	All

Minutes taken by: Debbie Stevens

Facilitated by: Acacia McGuire Anderson

Introductions

Review Agenda

Review last month's meeting minutes – Acacia

Our last meeting occurred before the latest COVID-19 variant caused us to delay reopening state offices.

ODDS Updates – Acacia

- ODDS was working in December on reopening guidance for larger stable cohorts. For now, though, no change in group sizes.
- Hoping to return conversations around moving to larger group sizes soon.
- Option was well received.
- Working on trying to integrate several COVID-19 reopening guides to one large guide.
- Doing this will provide consistent, predictable guidance.
- Also hoping to point providers to their Local Public Health Authority (LPHA) for guidance when a person in a group setting or service tests positive for COVID-19.
- Our hope is that exposure won't automatically require a provider to close if there is a positive case.
- Working internally to get information.
- Some counties reporting that they have had trouble connecting with LPHA.

Q – Referring to an article about Africa, Ross noted their rules around COVID-19 are very different than those in our country. Curious what ODDS is planning on the employment end and how situation can be improved.

A – Acacia agrees that health policies differ from country to country. However, we in ODDS will do our very best to stabilize and operationalize health and employment policies to keep people safe. Much to learn from other parts of world.

- No other new updates.
- We will continue our 1:1 policy work, conversations with stakeholders at this and the Employment First Policy & Innovation Stakeholder meetings, internal conversations regarding streamlining our Job Coaching without VR policy.
- Working on ARPA grants to assist providers rebuilding after COVID-19.
- ODDS is also working on new rates tied to service groups.

ARPA Updates

- Rebecca reported ODDS has \$320M available for grant programs.
- We have already distributed \$5M and are working on grant opportunities worth \$15M for providers.
- Over 90 requests for grant applications have been received for this first grant offering.
- Potential funding categories include start-ups, programs for persons with high support needs, services targeting rural areas, rebuilding and training, and TA for all provider types.
- Very far-reaching grant.

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- The ARPA team connected with subject matter and internal experts, agencies and stakeholders to gather input on how to prioritize funding to ensure largest impact on our system.
 - The team is currently assimilating feedback.
 - Next step will be arranging feedback into buckets of funding.
 - Some buckets will depend on a variety of factors such as type of provider and type of services.
 - Grants will initially be submitted internally to through OregonBuys submit through the Office of Contracts and Procurement (OC&P) March.
 - We can't predict how long it will take for grants to clear OC&P, but we are hoping by June or July.
 - At that time, solicitations for grant applications will be issued.
 - Email for suggestions, feedback, questions: oddsarpa.funding@dhsosha.state.or.us.

Q – What is ODDS's definition of "rural?"

A – This will be addressed in the grant application.

Q – Will the recently released MOU about Supported Living be part of the ARPA funding packages?

A – Yes, they are just using a different email address because the Operation's team is processing this grant and is similar to the residential retention and recruitment funding we offered in the past.

Compass Updates – Theresa Knowles, ODDS Regional Employment Specialist

- There will be an upcoming Compass project training that will provide an overview of Compass.
- Particular focus will be on the ONA, ISP redesign that is happening, and the service group framework and how it relates to unbundling of services.
- Theresa shared her screen and walked the group through the list of trainings: <https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/Compass-Project/Pages/Training-Center.aspx>.
- The list includes Zoom links for participants to access the trainings.
- No registration is required for the 2/8 Compass training for families and persons with I/DD.
- However, you will need to register in Workday for some of the trainings.
- Several provider trainings will be offered at the end of March
- Recordings for all trainings will be available if you click on the "past training" link.
- FAQs will also be available.
- Some online modules available, as well.

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- Encouraging anyone to join and participate.
 - If you encounter problems with registration, please connect with Theresa, THERESA.M.KNOWLES@dhsola.state.or.us/.
 - On the first Thursday of each month, an email will go out with a list of upcoming trainings to assist participants in planning.
 - Acacia noted ODDS is working on an Employment Compass training, especially for VR and employment providers. Gene is working on it.

Rate Changes

- Acacia reported ODDS is also finalizing changes in eXPRS.
- Excited about new rates and functionality.
- User will be able to see service group and calculate rates.
- Autogenerated by system.
- Add-ons and exceptions will be streamlined to be reflected in eXPRS.
- Other Compass trainings will cover rate changes.
- Transportation changes include ODDS moving to a rate of \$2.03, which includes administration costs for agencies that transport persons to and from work. This rate is substantially higher than what we pay now.

VR Update – Heather Lindsey

- RFP for training contracts for staff and employment providers is out.
- Close to executing contracts with University of Washington and Cornell University.
- Cornell has proposed monthly lunch and learns specific to provider requests.
- Will sub-contract if no Cornell has no subject matter expert available on staff.
- Past lunch and learns were well received, with increased registration up to 300 attendees.
- Q&A sessions will be provided two weeks after each training.

- Internally put together counselor onboarding plan and training topics for rehabilitation.
- VR Training unit consists of only one person.
- Some field staff will come in on rotation to assist in training development as part of their day-to-day work.
- Rotations started yesterday

- Working on another VR In-Service; want to provide for free to ensure plenty of attendees.
- Employment specific strand was very successful in last one.
- Have new contracts team member to email for providers.
- ABLE training in 2022, for staff, for partners, etc.

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- Launching first year of five-grant – first cohort in fall to train transition specialists and let people know who is accessing post secondary education.

Q – Will the lunch and learns be eligible for continuing education credits for VR and ODDS?

A – Yes, accessible and free!

Education Update – Margie Blackmore and Sarah Statham

- TNN Updates.
- The Oregon State Transition Conference (OSTC) 2022 will again be virtual.
- Over 600 people attended last year, which was more than the previous year.
- Shared screen.
- Registration begins February 4th.
- Link: https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?event_id=13817
- Conference runs March 30th – April 1st.
- Cost is \$199, which includes the opportunity to watch recorded sessions later up to three months via YouTube.

- New grant opportunity – Student Internship Program (SIP)
- Will run a pilot program for three students working 40 hours at minimum wage in a CIE setting.
- Looking for applicants
- Information can be found on the OSTC website or by email: josh.barbour@lblesd.k12.or.us and krita@clackesd.org.
- To be added to the OSTC mailing list, please email Sarah at email me at sstatham@mesd.k12.or.us.

- One keynote speaker will be advocate Russell Lehmann.
- Window for presentation applications is open until next Friday.
- Also, every year annual awards are handed out. Please considering nominations.

Q – Ross asked why OSTC will not be held in-person?

A – Sally noted the conference was originally planned to be in-person, but capacity in schools dropped with the new COVID-19. We all want to be in-person and hope we can be next year.

- Sarah thanked the Employment First team for their support.
- Sally reported a Community of Care session with TNF folks will be added after each day to answer questions.

- Sally reported safety guidance for schools is posted on the ODE website.

Other Positive Employment News to Share

- Michael Salitore reported he finished his dissertation regarding why we still have segregated classrooms.
- How are leaders improving on this?
- Utilized Lane v Brown process and the settlement agreement. Link: https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/open_access_etds/5840/
- Excited about this work. Good work moving away from segregated settings.
- Ross noted OSAC team is meeting about the next legislative session.
- Somehow OSAC lost employment help; trying to get back employment help.
- Derek reported OCB is planning for their summer program.
- Keeping virtual option in.
- Program most relevant – blind or visually impaired who want to get involved in preparations.
- Federal RSA monitoring (auditing) of VR is happening right now.
- Process for 300 documents.
- Oregon general agency received a request 12/8 to update thousands of pages by 1/5/22.
- Just started working through first topic: How VR is verifying information and how to determine if needed funding is allocated.
- After monitoring, VR will receive a final report with findings and suggestions for improvement.
- Haven't been monitored for several years.

Next meeting agenda items/wrap up

Lane v Brown agreement update

Data update – André's numbers from EOS for fall?

Next month – March – André's report to plaintiffs in February or early March

Membership:			
	Seth Johnson Opportunity Foundation of Central Oregon – Providers	X	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	X	Karen McKenney FACT – Family Members
X	Derek Hill 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
	Ryley Newport Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities – Advocacy	X	Margaret Theisen Pearl Buck -- Providers
	Mike Franklin Oregon Department of Education		Allen Cress Edwards Center – Providers
X	Heather Lindsey Vocational Rehabilitation		Justin Connolly Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition – Self Advocate
	Kriss Rita Education, Transition Network	X	Acacia McGuire Anderson DHS – Employment First
	Lilia Teninty DHS – Office of Developmental Disabilities	X	Michael Salitore Molalla School District – Education
X	Kathy Schlotfeldt MV Advancements – Providers	X	Howard Fulk Vocational Rehabilitation
			Senator Sara Gelser Oregon Senate – Legislature
	Invited Guests:		
X	Rebecca Sexton – ODDS	X	Ellen Mendoza – DOJ
X	Angela Yeager – ODDS	X	Theresa Knowles, ODDS
X	André Harboe – ODDS		Robin Brandt, VR
	Tim Acker – ODDS	X	Sally Simich, ODE
	Allison Enriquez – ODDS	X	Julie Huber – ODDS
X	Nathan Deeks, ODDS		Julia Ansberry, Trellis
	Brad Collins, ODDS	X	Amber Robles, Living Opportunities
X	Gene Rada, ODDS	X	Nicole Jorwic, IR
	Maria Gwilliam, MV Advancements		Tim Rocak, Garten
	Melanie Hartwig, ODDS		Sheri Boyd, VR
X	Donna Lowry, TNF	X	Pennie Hartley, VR
	Erica Drake, ODDS	X	Stephanie Roncal

X	Margie Blackmore High Desert Education School District	X	Sarah Statham Multnomah Education School District
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