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To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Interim Employment First Coordinator

Re: Employment First: Myths & Facts around Discovery

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

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With so much change in our system, it is understandable that myths spring up. To help address this, we are starting a feature in these messages called Myths & Facts. This is an opportunity to try and bust certain myths that are perpetuated around employment services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Please email your ideas for myth busting to: employment.first@state.or.us.

Our first Myths & Facts addresses Discovery. We have learned a great deal about this service since it started nearly two years ago. Recently, the Office of Developmental Disability Services (ODDS) started a Discovery workgroup to make recommendations about how to refine the service.

Myth: All job seekers must participate in Discovery.

Fact: Discovery is not required for anyone. It is optional and is one tool for collecting information about a person's talents, skills and interests. For instance, if a person knows they love office work and have always wanted to work in an office doing clerical duties, Discovery may not be necessary. Or if someone has 10 years of experience in retail and wants to continue in that industry, Discovery is probably not needed. However, if a person never had a community job and is unsure of how their talents and skills may fit in the workplace, Discovery may be one way to help narrow down a list of possible career options.

Here are just a few helpful links on Discovery:

1. A simple video on how Discovery works:
<http://www.powtoon.com/embed/bzyrA11Ddqa/>
2. A Frequently Asked Questions document from ODDS:
<http://www.dhs.state.or.us/spd/tools/dd/cm/Discovery%20FAQ.pdf>
3. A fact sheet on Discovery:
<http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/employment/employment-first/Documents/Fact%20Sheet%20-%20Discovery.pdf>

4. The ODDS Discovery Profile Template:
<http://www.dhs.state.or.us/spd/tools/dd/Individual%20Employment%20Discovery%20Profile.pdf>
5. A list of Discovery providers (as of May 2015, not comprehensive):
<http://www.dhs.state.or.us/spd/tools/dd/DiscoveryProviderList.pdf>

If you have comments or other questions, please email them to employment.first@state.or.us.

~ Acacia