

9-12-14

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Statewide Employment First Coordinator Mike Maley

Re: Employment First: New website

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

One of the critical components of our efforts to do outreach to our stakeholders is to have a viable and easy-to-access website.

I am pleased to tell you today that we have launched a newly-designed Employment First website. You can access the website at:

www.oregon.gov/dhs/employment/employment-first/

The website has all of the major content that our old site contained, including links to the Governor's Executive Order 13-04, our Integrated Employment Plan, Employment First data reports, and the Memorandum of Understanding on Transition of Students with Disabilities to the Workforce.

In addition, the new Employment First website has pages designed specifically for resources for families, employers, and employment providers. It also features employment success stories and all of my weekly messages.

In the "About Employment First" section, you can find information on the history of Employment First, and links to some of our key partners such as Vocational Rehabilitation, the Office of Developmental Disability Services, the Oregon Department of Education, and the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Any website is a continuous work-in-progress, and in the coming months we plan to add additional helpful information, particularly to the Individuals/Families page and the Information for Employers page. We also will continue to add success stories showcasing employment success for people with I/DD around the state.

In the meantime, we invite you to view our new website and give us any feedback on additional information that may be helpful to include.

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 other questions, please email them to

employment.first@state.or.us.

~ Mike