

- **Sept. 3, 2015**
To: Employment First Stakeholders
From: Mike Maley, Statewide Employment First Coordinator
Re: SC/PA Conference

Case management conference held

The Office of Developmental Disability Services (ODDS) held its annual Case Management Conference for Service Coordinators (SC) and Personal Agents (PA) on Aug. 26-27 in Corvallis. More than 500 participants from around Oregon attended the conference, which featured more than 50 sessions on a range of topics.



Corissa Neufeldt of the DHS Employment First team presents on the Seamless Transition Pilot at the SC/PA Conference on Aug. 26, 2015.

Photo: Cassy McCartney

The
DHS

Employment First team attended both days of the conference and had a booth featuring items from the I Work We Succeed campaign on display. Because of the important role that service coordinators and personal agents have in making sure the Employment First policy is successful in Oregon, multiple sessions addressed employment.

ODDS Field Services Manager Acacia McGuire Anderson conducted a high-level overview of ODDS employment services which included tips on how to help individuals choose services. ODDS employment specialist Julie Huber led a session on

Career Development Planning and also led another session with Allison Enriquez of ODDS on the “Employment Path” service and how to build a bridge for people to work in the community.

Employment First team member Corissa Neufeldt, along with Derek Hill from Vocational Rehabilitation, led a session on both days on Oregon’s Seamless Transition Pilot, which has been in place since Sept. 2013. The presentation provided an overview of efforts to develop systemic approaches to support transition-age students experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve seamless transition from school to work. The ultimate goal of seamless transition is that local community developmental disability programs/brokerages, VR and local schools will work together to help students experiencing I/DD to leave school with a job in the community and with the right supports, where they earn at least minimum wage, and work with other people without disabilities.

The presentation focused on best practices emerging from the pilot for SCs, PAs and VR counselors. Specifically Neufeldt and Hill discussed how SC/PA's can best collaborate with VR, as well as the local schools, to support seamless transition outcomes.

“The Seamless Transition pilot has taught us that seamless transition is a complex process that must be started early,” Neufeldt said. “While there is still much to be learned, the pilot is definitely helping to inform DD, VR and education on best practices for successful seamless transition, including helping to clarify roles and responsibilities of professionals like service coordinators and personal agents to best support a student.”

Other employment-related sessions included “Empowering the Person & Embracing the Movement,” by ODDS employment specialist Stephanie Roncal, a session on transition services and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and a session led by self-advocates on transitioning from school to work.

There were three keynote speakers during the conference. Lilia Teninty, director of ODDS, spoke about her vision for the future of developmental disability services. Pete Moore from the Ohio Association of County Boards Serving People with Developmental Disabilities addressed “Escaping ‘DD’ Land,” and educator Robin Rose discussed the “Science of Compassion

Fatigue.”

A photo slideshow from the conference is online at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/dhsoregon/albums/72157657596194729>

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.

