

2-7-14

**To: Employment First stakeholders**  
**From: Statewide Employment First Coordinator Mike Maley**  
**Re: Stakeholder Policy Group and Data Report**

One important provision of the Governor's Executive Order 13-04 is the creation of a Stakeholder Policy Group, comprised of key stakeholders and community partners. The Policy Group is charged with two central missions: (1) to recommend outcomes and metrics to the State and review the State's performance under those metrics; and (2) to advise and make recommendations to the Director of DHS and the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Governor and Legislature regarding the ongoing implementation of the Executive Order. A list of the group's members can be found here: [http://www.dhs.state.or.us/dd/supp\\_emp/docs/Policy-Group-Announcement-of-Members.pdf](http://www.dhs.state.or.us/dd/supp_emp/docs/Policy-Group-Announcement-of-Members.pdf)

My message today will address what the Policy Group has done so far and next steps.

The group formed in July 2013 and had its initial meeting in September 2013. The first few meetings focused on creating a cohesive organizational structure, getting all the members up to speed on the Executive Order, and reviewing the various documents or policies that have been required so far by the Order, such as the Integrated Employment Plan.

The Policy Group recently addressed the Order's requirements that the DHS Office of Developmental Disability Services (ODDS) and Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR) collect data and report back to the Policy Group twice a year, beginning in January 2014. At the group's January meeting, the draft data report's initial findings were presented for feedback. At the next meeting, the Policy Group will discuss those findings and how the information can be used to inform future discussions about policy or other recommendations. The Executive Order specifically calls for the report to address the following:

- The number of individuals receiving employment services;
- The number of individuals working in sheltered employment, self-employment, group employment or an individual integrated employment setting;
- The number of hours worked per week and hourly wages paid to those persons;
- The choices made by individuals between integrated work, sheltered work, and not working;
- Any complaints and grievances

Here are some highlights of the data recently reported to the Policy Group. You can review the Employment First full data report at: <http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/docs/emp-first-report-2014.pdf>

- There was an increase of 165 people in integrated employment from March 2013 to September 2013.
- There were 2,637 people in integrated employment in September 2013. Of those 2,637 people, 1,479 were in individual supported employment and 1,158 were in group supported employment.
- There were 2,671 ODDS service recipients working in a sheltered setting. This is a decrease of 19 from March 2013, the first reduction since September 2011.
- The average hourly wage for ODDS service recipients working was \$9.44 for those in an integrated setting. Those working in non-integrated settings earned an average of \$4.80 per hour. According to the Oregon Employment Department (OED), the average hours worked was

9.8 hours per week for all workers, 8.7 for non-integrated workers and 11.7 hours for employees in an integrated setting.

- As far as choices made by individuals between integrated work, sheltered work, and not working, the data shows that 48 percent of individuals were in a facility or community-based non-work environment (also known as alternatives to employment), 26 percent in sheltered workshop setting, and 26 percent in an integrated employment setting.
- A cross-agency process for compiling complaints and grievances specific to employment services is being finalized. The goal will be to assure that all complaints and grievances regarding employment services are forwarded to a central source at the DHS so this data can be reported accurately on a disaggregated basis.

We have more work to do to reach our long-term goals. Part of that process is working to improve the data sharing systems between ODDS, VR, the Department of Education (DOE) and OED, which will be addressed in July 2014 with improvements to the ODDS service billing and payment system. A second part of the process is to engage in more analysis of the available data to better inform policy and strategic discussions.

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](mailto:employment.first@state.or.us).

~ Mike