

Sept. 28, 2018

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Statewide Employment First Coordinator

Re: Employment First: Transition Planning

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

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The Lane v. Brown settlement agreement focuses primarily on two populations: people who have been in sheltered workshops and transition-age students and youth. The Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS), Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) collaborate to make sure services for transition-age young people are streamlined, and that employment is the first and priority planning option. In recent years, we have been focused on work experiences for transition-age youth and collaborating on seamless transition from school to work.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) states that transition planning must begin at age 16. However, transition planning may begin as early as 14 years of age. The sooner we start transition planning, the better for the young person so they can connect to ODDS and VR services and begin the process of exploring career options and skills needed to be successful in the workforce.

In Oregon, we have Transition Network Facilitators who provide outreach, technical assistance, and training opportunities for educators, individuals and families, and collaborate with VR counselors, providers and DD case management entities. The TNFs are also launching a podcast series in January aimed at providing information and resources to educators, individuals and families throughout Oregon.

There is a website with a wide variety of resources: <http://triwou.org/projects/tcn>. This includes the [Transition Resource Handbook](#), a [map of TNFs](#) by region, and much more.

A list of the ODDS regional specialists, VR I/DD counselors, TNFs and Pre-ETS Specialists is on the [Employment First Training](#) web page: <https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/EMPLOYMENT/EMPLOYMENT-FIRST/Documents/VR-ODE-ODDS-Regional-Employment-Specialists.pdf>

There are upcoming trainings where educators, as well as VR staff and DD providers and case managers, can learn more about transition planning. These include the [Oregon Statewide Transition Conference](#), happening March 7-8, 2019, in Eugene. In addition, ODE, ODDS and VR collaborate to put on regional trainings throughout the state.

If you have any questions regarding transition planning beginning as early as age 14, or any questions regarding transition services in general, email: employment.first@state.or.us.

Thank you for all your efforts as we strive to support people with I/DD to live and work in their communities.

~ Acacia