



Date: July 12, 2017

To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

From: Lilia Teninty, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

The Oregon Legislature adjourned on Friday, July 7, 2017. Because we know you have questions, we wanted to send a brief update to you as soon as possible. This message also includes information on the 5 percent rate increase to support Direct Support Professionals (DSPs).

During the 2017 Legislative Session, the Oregon State Legislature:

- Eliminated funding for the five regional programs. The Legislature noted we may have to reprioritize internally to fill service gaps.
- Reduced the family support program by half (\$1.3 million General Fund). This action could affect approximately 500 children and their families.
- Capped bed hold payments to Group Home and Supported Living providers at 21 days, instead of 45. This action saves \$1.0 million General Fund.
- Decreased the budget by \$2.2 million (\$4.7 million total funds) based on an effort to review inactive client records and remove clients from the caseload if they no longer need or want services.
- Reduced \$12.0 million General Fund (\$24.0 million total funds) through implementing a new assessment tool and other management actions to help curb cost growth. ODDS was instructed that if it cannot meet the target with those actions, then it should consider and bring forward eligibility changes for legislative review and approval during the 2017–19 biennium. These efforts will be reported on as part of the agency's interim reporting requirements.
- Retained funding in the Fairview Trust.

- Continued funding for the Centralized Abuse Management project, which will replace a patchwork of solutions for records related to abuse reporting for our programs and others within DHS.
- Added \$21.3 million General Fund (\$50.5 million total funds) over the 2015–2017 level for CDDPs and Brokerages.
- Approved \$13.5 million General Fund (\$45.5 million total funds) to increase provider rates that include DSP wage assumptions by five percent effective October 1, 2017.

### **The 5 percent rate increase to support DSPs**

We've received several questions about the rate increase approved by the Legislature to support Direct Support Professionals (DSPs). We're glad to share the information we have at this time. The purpose of this increase is to support the vital work of DSPs.

The 5 percent rate increase (13.5 million General Fund, \$45.5 million total funds) takes effect October 1, 2017.

In addition to the budget, the Legislature made clear in House Bill 2684 its intent that when the Legislature increases rates paid to residential providers the wages and health benefits paid to DSPs be increased at a comparable rate.

Since DSP functions are included in many ODDS rate models, we are providing the following list to clarify which services are included in the 5 percent rate increase:

- Group Homes – Adults and Children
- Supported Living
- Day Support Activities
- Employment Path – Facility and Community

Please note that provider-based one-on-one ADL/IADL is not included in the 5 percent increase because the current rate model does not include a wage assumption. For that reason it was not possible to calculate a specific DSP wage increase for the service when the original request was developed.

This Legislative session covered many policy and budget topics important to the DD system. We are grateful for the work of the Legislature and for the funding ODDS secured for the 2017-2019 biennium.

We will need to work together to ensure we are able to carry out the Legislature's requirements as we continue to strive to achieve our vision: A system of supports that is simple to use and responsive to the strengths, needs and direction of the people and families who live as valued members of their community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lilia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a trailing flourish.

Lilia Teninty  
Director  
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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