

Office of Developmental Disabilities

A message from Lilia Teninty, Director



To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

This week I celebrated my one-year anniversary at the DHS Office of Developmental Disabilities Services. During this past year, we have refocused our vision, developed in partnership with stakeholders, and we've continued to move forward with a number of important projects.

Here are some of the highlights of our work this past year:

With the help of CDDPs, Brokerages and Providers, we have continued to implement the K Plan, also known as the Community First Choice Option. Under the K Plan, all children and adults who meet eligibility requirements can access services, and this enables us to better serve people who need ongoing services and supports to remain healthy and safe. The K Plan also allows for more federal dollars to be reinvested back into our services.

We now have eight quality assurance (QA) compliance specialists that are conducting QA reviews of CDDPs and Brokerages. This allows for more accountability and supports our efforts to maintain compliance with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

We are actively engaged with our partners in DHS Aging and People with Disabilities and the Oregon Health Authority in the implementation of our Global Transition Plan to ensure we are in compliance with the new Home and Community-Based Services regulations by March 2019. This effort will include the involvement of providers, people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and their families.

To continue our work on the Employment First Initiative, we created the Discovery service. Discovery helps a person get work experiences, identify their strengths and interests, and develop work skills in an integrated community setting. We also closed the front door to Sheltered Workshop settings as of July 1, 2015.

This also was my first Legislative session. The Legislature supported our efforts to continue serving people through the K Plan and approved a 4 percent rate increase for non-bargained services. We also received funding to support the transition of people out of Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) when they are no longer in crisis.

There has been an increased focus on the safety of our clients and staff who support them at SACU. The Task Force on Client and Staff Safety was established to increase resident and staff safety. We will continue to update you on the work of this important group.

Now for my next year. . .

The Legislature directed that our budget must be more sustainable. Our caseloads have increased, which means we are providing more people with services and, in many ways, we are reducing the likelihood that children and adults will go into crisis. But, we do need to control the cost curve. We are looking at a number of options for doing this and expect to report back to the Legislature on those options next session.

We are also reaching out to our local and federal partners, advocacy groups and providers on ways to increase our sustainability while also continuing to serve to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Day-to-day, I never lose sight of our vision for the future: Oregon's system of supports 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.

Upcoming Community Forums – and you are invited

We hope you can attend one of the Community Forums. We will discuss our vision for the future of services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. There will be a short presentation followed by a group discussion.

The next Community Forum is planned for La Grande – September 16 and 17. Where: The Center for Human Development, 2301 Cove Avenue, La Grande Who: For Individuals and Families: Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. For CDDPs, Brokerages and Providers: Thursday, Sept. 17, from 9 a.m. – noon.

Here is a link to the list of all the [Community Forums](#). If you need more information, contact Cindy Steinkamp, Executive Support Specialist, cindy.i.steinkamp@state.or.us; 503-945-9780.

Join us at the next Home and Community-Based Services Forums

You are invited to attend our Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) educational forums. The forums are also hosted by the Oregon Health Authority and the Aging and People with Disabilities program.

The next three Forums are planned for:

- Monday, Aug., 31, Central Oregon Community College Willie Hall, 2600 NW College Way, Bend
- Wednesday, Sept. 2, Keizer City Hall Iris Ballroom, 930 Chemawa Road NE, Keizer
- Thursday, Sept. 3, Hillsboro Public Library Event Room, 2850 NE Brookwood Pkwy., Hillsboro

Agency staff will provide information on upcoming changes to setting and service requirements for HCBS providers. These changes will impact providers of Aging and People with Disabilities, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services and Addictions and Mental Health.

Here is a link to the list of all the upcoming [HCBS Community Forums](#). For further help: hcbs.oregon@state.or.us.

Transmittal for this week:

- Informational Memorandum: Home and Community-Based Provider and Individual Surveys

I want to thank everyone for all the great work you do every day, every year.

~ Lilia

Lilia Teninty
Director
Office of Development Disabilities

Learn more about the [Office of Developmental Disabilities Services](#).