



January 5, 2018

To: All ODDS Staff, CDDPs, Brokerages and Stakeholders

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

As 2018 dawns, it's time again to reflect on the past and look to the future.

First, some accomplishments to note for 2017:

- In October, ODDS published the *Employment First Outcomes and Successes Report*. It showed that 1,111 people with intellectual or developmental disabilities were working in community jobs with supports in March 2017. That is an impressive 32 percent increase from the previous year. There was also a 46 percent increase in people working 20 or more hours per week.

Those successes were the result of collaboration and partnership between ODDS, Vocational Rehabilitation and the Oregon Department of Education. Most importantly, it's the result of strong efforts on the part of the professionals who work every day to match people with I/DD with the right employers. Their efforts help individuals and business be successful and exemplify our values.

- The Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) implemented collaborative problem solving in its residential homes. SACU staff are attending training in this important communication tool. We already have one staff who has achieved practitioner-level certification and two staff who are in the certification process.
- Another key accomplishment was the creation of the Quality Improvement (QI) unit to improve health and safety outcomes for people with I/DD. The QI unit includes licensure and quality assurance staff who monitor our Community Developmental Disabilities Programs and Brokerages.

- A streamlining workgroup was established to look at ways to minimize administrative burdens for the ODDS case management entities and provider agencies.
- ODDS also created a provider enrollment unit. Previously this service had been part of the Aging and People with Disabilities programs. The new ODDS unit now enrolls all I/DD providers, provides customer service specific to our providers' needs and assists personal support workers with payment issues.

Those are just a few of the accomplishments from 2017. Each one of those efforts involved a multitude of people who worked together to be successful. I sincerely thank you all for making those accomplishments happen.

2017 also had its challenges. Some services were cut or eliminated by the Legislature for the 2017-19 biennium. We were also tasked with identifying \$12 million in General Fund reductions to make during the 17-19 biennium. Last biennium efforts to address DD budget issues were stopped following the lawsuit by Disability Rights Oregon. We are actively working with stakeholders and DRO to implement an improved support planning and assessment process that will focus on individual strengths, community engagement, personal goals and outcomes.

Throughout the many challenges, the I/DD system, families and the individuals we support, continue to work toward our shared vision where 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.

Looking ahead, the [Compass Project](#) will be 2018's big effort. We are aiming to improve our person-centered planning process and support adults and children with I/DD to have a whole life in the community — this is our North Star. We will continue to provide you updates, and seek your input and involvement, as we move ahead on our journey.

I thank you for your partnership and commitment to those we support and look forward to continued accomplishments in 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lilia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, prominent loop at the beginning.

Lilia Teninty  
Director  
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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