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August, 28, 2020

To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

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

CDDP and Brokerage directors: Please share this message with your staff.

In my Aug. 20 [Director's Message](#), I shared a summary of budget cuts by the Legislature. Those cuts were made due to the financial impact of COVID-19. As part of that announcement, I shared that funding for the Family Networks was ended by the Legislature.

Today I want to take a moment to reflect on Family Networks and honor their vital work.

The idea of Family Networks began about ten years ago. It started as a grassroots movement. Families of children with I/DD wanted to connect to other families. In these Networks, there are no hoops to jump through. Just families with shared life experience supporting one another.

Not long after forming, advocates secured state funding. Now, the Networks reach more than 12,000 families and community partners across 20 Oregon counties. The Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) was key in ensuring the growth and success of the Networks.

The Networks help families focus on what's possible for their children with disabilities. They use common language and personal stories to teach

others. They help families develop leadership skills and engage with their local communities.

We will support the Networks through this process and look forward to continued partnership with all family leaders across Oregon.

Please join me in recognizing the importance of family-to-family connections and thanking Family Networks and the OCDD for their positive impact on families, communities and Oregon's system of support.

Sincerely,

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

Lilia Teninty
Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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[http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-
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