

Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

A message from Lilia Teninty, Director



March 11, 2016

To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

Hello:

In March we celebrate Development Disabilities Awareness month. You can watch Governor Kate Brown surrounded by advocates read the proclamation encouraging all Oregonians to join in this observance:

<https://youtu.be/QdjAgeqaDGg>.

In honor of this month I wanted to review some of the accomplishments the program has made:

- **The Employment and Eligibility** team got a lot of great work accomplished. The team started a stakeholder group on Discovery, which is a service to help people explore employment options through work experiences, informal interviews and other activities. The team also updated the employment rule and training requirements; the Home and Community-Based Services provider assessment was completed by all employment providers; regional specialists were added to their group; and the HUD Project Rental Assistance 811 is underway, which helps low income people with disabilities have housing.
- **Employment First** had many accomplishments. The Employment First program works to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to have meaningful work in integrated settings. As of July 1, 2015 there has been a policy in place for no new entries to sheltered workshops. Also, the Transformation Project is helping providers transform into integrated employment services. Oregon also recently achieved 120 Certified Employment Support Professionals through the Association of People Supporting Employment First, the highest of any state. The very popular “I Work We Succeed” outreach campaign launched; Employment

First Leadership forums were held around the state; and the Proposed Settlement of Lane v. Brown was reached. The settlement means that we will continue to help 1,115 people who have worked in workshops obtain community jobs at a competitive wage among other important reforms.

- I want to add another overall achievement that one of our stakeholders shared a recent meeting: Oregon is ahead of most states in making sure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the supports needed to work in an integrated job setting and for full participation in their communities and to be successful in their lives. My hope and focus of work through this year is to continue being a leader in ensuring that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities lead full, integrated and successful lives.
- In **Children's Services** we continue to provide access to in-home services for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Families no longer have to wait for near-crisis circumstances to access services for children.
- We now have eight **Family Networks** across the state. Their work includes family training, identification of local resources, and creating networks of support from one family to another.
- **The Quality Assurance (QA) team** created a consistent way to ensure that all Brokerages and Community Developmental Disabilities Programs are meeting State and Federal requirements. A statewide QA team has been hired and trained to conduct field reviews based upon CMS requirements. The team trained nine agencies covering eight different case management topics.
- **The Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU)** has started the process of moving to a new organizational model consisting of three regions and seven islands. The new model encourages better communication and team work, which in turn better serves our clients. The program also increased community placements. SACU has worked hard to place more individuals in successful community placements, ensuring that they are receiving the least restrictive care possible. This has allowed SACU to focus more on

becoming a crisis provider, offering placement to individuals in crisis without any other options.

- **The Assessment team**, along with many stakeholders, combined several tools into one that will be used to inform services, allocate funds, and meet level of care. Work on development and refinement of one assessment tool is well underway. The team continued to train and conduct assessments for people all across the state.

This month is a perfect time to reflect on the goals of our friends and family members with I/DD have and to consider how we can best continue to support them in achieving those goals in all aspects of our work and our day to day lives.

Lilia

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Director of the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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