



Feb. 6, 2020

To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

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

I want to share with you all an update on the Compass Project and our work on the Oregon Needs Assessment, Service Groups and rates.



Since 2017 we have been focused on the Compass Project, a large body of work that realigns our center to our North Star of person-centered planning.

As part of this work, ODDS developed and implemented the Oregon Needs Assessment (ONA), a single assessment to make access to supports less confusing.

ODDS contracted with the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) to develop a way to group people with similar support needs using data from the ONA. When implemented, the service group for an individual will generate the range of hours the person could receive for in-home services or the rate paid to the person's providers. We also worked with stakeholders and our contractor to develop new rate models for providers.

In 2019, the Legislature approved \$30 million General Fund for provider rate increases and new rate models. The goal was to bring direct support professionals' wages as close as possible to \$15 per hour by the end of the 2019-21 biennium.

With extensive stakeholder involvement, ODDS developed a strategy to implement the new rates.

In the first year, rates were increased as follows:

- New rate models for Children's Residential Services (group homes)

- A 4 percent increase in provider rates for:
 - Adult 24-Hour Residential Services
 - Attendant Care
 - Day Support Activities, Community and Facility
 - Employment Path, Community and Facility
 - Small Group Employment
 - Supported Living

In the second year of the biennium (planned for July 2020), ODDS was to implement new service groups and rate models.

In December 2019, ODDS staff discovered data processing errors by HSRI. ODDS and stakeholders had agreed on an update to the model in early 2019 to ensure people with the highest level of need were appropriately grouped in the highest service groups. The HSRI errors undercounted the number of people with high needs. HSRI continued to use the model until the error was discovered in December.

As a result of HSRI's errors, ODDS cannot move forward with the new service groups and increase provider rates at the planned levels in July 2020.

ODDS required HSRI to implement new quality assurance measures to ensure accuracy of future data analysis. ODDS has verified those quality assurance measures are working.

The errors do not impact the integrity of the ONA, the new provider rate models or the service group framework itself. They do impact ODDS' ability to provide the anticipated rate increases and move into the new ONA-based service groups by July 1, 2020.

New rates plan

ODDS honors the commitment made to the people we serve and those who provide supports. As a result, we have submitted a request for an additional \$12.2 million General Fund investment by the Legislature with a new plan to do the following:

- On July 1, 2020: Increase current provider rates by 7 percent.
- January 1, 2021: Move into the new rate models and service groups.

It's important to note that the new service groups and rates will not change the supports people receive from their provider agencies, such as group home or employment providers. There may be an impact to the provider's rates, but services will remain the same. The ONA also will not impact the number of service hours people receive at this time. If there are any changes in the future, those will be communicated well in advance.

I will keep you updated on our request to the Legislature during the short session and assure you that we are working hard to make sure this issue does not impact the people in our services.

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

Previous Director's Messages are available at
[http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-
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