

Office of Developmental Disabilities

A message from Lilia Teninty, Director



To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

Attached is this week's ODDS status report

Integrated, community jobs: empowering people with developmental disabilities

The future for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities in Oregon is one with an increased focus on integrated, community jobs. Oregon's Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) no longer funds employment services for new entries to sheltered workshops. I understand that changes in the delivery of services can create questions and concerns, and people have asked me to explain what these new goals mean for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families.

Why is DHS focused on Integrated Employment?

In 2013, with the adoption of Executive Order 13-04, Oregon changed the services it provides to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by committing to support people in "sheltered workshops" and those transitioning from school to find, gain and maintain employment in integrated settings. With this week's proposed settlement of the *Lane v. Brown* case, Oregon has agreed to continue to implement the Executive Order and carry out other commitments already made by the state – including specific steps to decrease the number of people receiving services in sheltered workshops and to increase the number of people working in integrated community jobs.

The settlement agreement is a long one, so here is a summary of some of the key points:

- **Substantial Progress:** The agreement acknowledges that "Oregon has made substantial progress in providing employment services to and improving employment outcomes" for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The agreement is intended to "reflect and take into account this substantial progress."

- **Continue Existing State Reforms:** The settlement is largely built around what Oregon has already set out to do. The state will continue to carry out a broad range of system reforms instituted under Executive Orders. These reforms include “closing the front door,” or ending new entries to sheltered workshops, as well as providing career development plans to persons who have worked in workshops, certifying service providers, coordinating more closely with the schools, and increasing services designed to achieve integrated employment. As provided in the Executive Order, the state will provide employment services to 7,000 people with I/DD, including those in workshops and transition-age youth.
- **Competitive Integrated Employment:** The Department of Human Services will help 1,115 people who have worked in workshops obtain community jobs at a competitive wage. The 1,115 job number was taken from DHS’s Integrated Employment Plan, and the state is agreeing to carry out the commitment that it made in its plan.
- **Goal of 20 hours of work per week:** DHS will issue guidance that the recommended standard for services is the opportunity to work at least 20 hours per week, if that is what the individual chooses. DHS will also provide some incentives to providers to encourage a 20 hour week. DHS also will establish and promote a goal that all persons with I/DD who want to work in the community will be afforded an opportunity to pursue competitive employment that allows them to work the maximum number of hours consistent with their abilities and preferences.
- **Sheltered Workshops:** In the next two years, DHS will carry out its plan to reduce the number of people with I/DD in sheltered workshops (from 1,926 to 1,530) and reduce the hours they work (from 93,530 hours to 66,100 hours).
- **Flexibility:** The state has flexibility to revise its Executive Order. The state also can seek relief from the requirements in the agreement in the event of an economic downturn, or other factor outside of the state’s control, as described in the agreement.
- **Monitoring:** Oregon will continue to provide detailed data reports, and Oregon’s performance under the agreement will be assessed by an independent reviewer.
- **Here is the link** to the proposed settlement agreement:
<http://www.oregon.gov/dhs/employment/employment-first/Documents/LaneFullyExecutedSA090315.pdf>

In addition, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which helps fund Oregon's services, recently adopted a Home and Community Based Settings rule that requires all Medicaid funded HCBS services (like employment services) be provided in an integrated setting. Based on the criteria set in this regulation, sheltered workshops are not integrated settings. And, finally, Congress recently passed the Workforce Innovative and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to prioritize employment services and supports to help people find jobs in the most integrated settings.

What happens to people already employed in a sheltered workshop?

People already using services in workshops before July 1, 2015 can continue to do so if they have a goal of achieving integrated employment in the future. I also want to encourage people to try integrated employment options, even if they were in a sheltered workshop before July 1, 2015.

Is this only happening in Oregon?

The move to prioritize integrated services is not new or unique to Oregon. More than 40 states across the country, including Oregon, have adopted Employment First policies and practices to prioritize integrated employment.

Transmittals for the week of September 7, 2015

- Access to K Plan Waiver Services for Children with I/DD
- Generic Providers in eXPRS Plan of Care
<http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/spd/transmit/transmit.htm>.

Thank you for all of your hard work,

Lilia

Lilia Teninty

Director of the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

Remember -- Community Forums coming to La Grande (see attachments)

The next Community Forum is planned for La Grande – September 16 and 17 at The Center for Human Development, 2301 Cove Avenue, La Grande.

For people who receive services and their families: Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2015 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

For CDDPs, Brokerages and Providers: Thursday, Sept. 17, 9 a.m. – noon.

We will discuss the vision for the future of services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. There will be a short presentation followed by a group discussion.