



May 15, 2017

To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

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

It's been about a month since I let stakeholders know about the lawsuit Disability Rights Oregon filed against the Department of Human Services and ODDS. I'd like to provide an update on where things stand.

We signed an agreement with DRO, called a preliminary injunction. By June 15, 2017, we will restore the assessed hours for individuals who had an assessment using the "D" version of the assessment tool. We are returning to the "C" version of the assessment for now.

We are working closely with the Community Developmental Disability Programs and the Brokerages, along with our attorneys, to take the necessary steps to restore hours to those who had assessments since October 31, 2016. CDDPs and Brokerages will return to using the C assessment going forward.

The CDDPs and Brokerages have had to make a lot of changes quickly. The staff at ODDS have also had to take on a major amount of work. Together, all these groups have actively participated in calls and requests for information and review of documents. This partnership is essential as we move forward in compliance with the preliminary injunction. Thank you all for your commitment and diligence.

So, what's next? Remember, we implemented the D version of the assessment in response to a Budget note after data showed that in the summer of 2016 the number of hours used by the individuals we support averaged 38 percent lower than the assessed hours. Working with our Vision Advisory Committee we elected to reduce authorized hours by 30 percent. You can read about the changes online at <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/Oregon-Assessment-Changes.aspx>

Moving to a more reliable assessment tool has been long-term project. In 2015, we began working with Mission Analytics Group to develop the Oregon Needs Assessment. This new assessment tool will be used to assess need, regardless of the setting that the person is or will be living in (group home, foster care, own home, etc.).

As part of that effort, we engaged in a pilot with nearly 500 individuals volunteering to participate in an assessment with the ONA. The pilot testing wrapped up on April 6 and now we're running focus groups and gathering feedback about the assessment process from those that participated. Mission Analytics is analyzing data from the pilot to help finalize the tool.

We will continue to work with the Vision Advisory Committee and DRO to develop an individual planning process that includes an assessment and stays true to our vision: To have a system of supports that are easy to use and responsive to the strengths, needs and direction of the people and families who live as valued members of their community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lilia".

Lilia Teninty  
Director  
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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