

Office of Developmental Disabilities

A message from Lilia Teninty, Director



July 14, 2016

To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders

Moving Toward a Sustainable Future

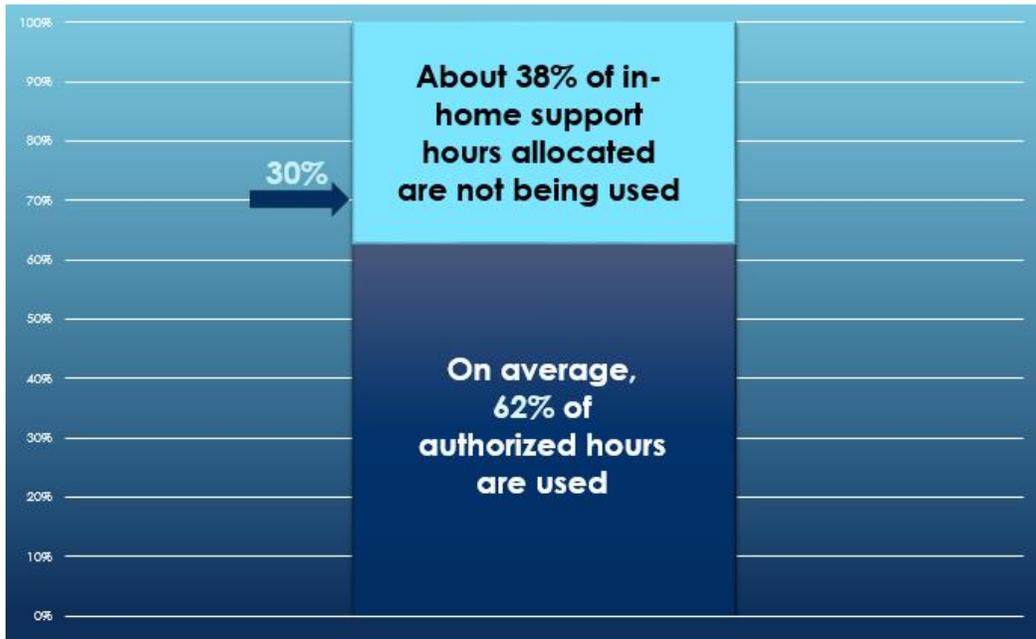
My last message talked about the importance of taking the difficult steps necessary to ensure services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are financially sustainable now and in the future. Since then, Anna Lansky and I have had the pleasure of talking to hundreds of individuals, family members, providers and advocates for I/DD services at the DHS Budget Forums held throughout the state. Sustainability was a primary topic of those sessions and we heard from many who had questions about what will happen next. The questions asked were thoughtful and indicated that people are concerned about both the immediate future and the long-term viability of funding for I/DD services.

We also recently held another Vision Advisory Committee (VAC) meeting. At that meeting we shared information and data on the trends in home services. The increasing cost of in-home services is our biggest budget challenge because we are now serving all kids that meet I/DD eligibility requirements and our cost per case for adults has increased. The information we shared provided a look at different options for moving forward with hour realignment efforts. With hour realignment, we will be adjusting authorized hours in the Adult Needs Assessment (ANA) and the Children's Needs Assessment (CNA) to more closely reflect the level of services people with I/DD are using. We asked the Vision Advisory Committee for input on a number of decision points for the hour realignment effort.

Based on the feedback we received from the VAC and the questions and comments we heard during the DHS Budget tour, we are moving forward on the following:

1. The Adult Needs Assessment (ANA) and Child Needs Assessment (CNA) adjustments will be made on each item in the assessments, not across the board off the total hours. The impact of this for most children and adults will be the same with either option, but for those with higher levels of need, the impact will be less because of how the tool allocates service time based on a 24-hour day. We are testing the assessments now and are on track for roll out of Version D for September 1, 2016 to start with new people coming in to service and for those currently in service, with ISP dates that start November 1, 2016.

2. After considering a number of different levels or percentage amounts for the adjustment, we will implement the item by item reduction at 30%. Please keep in mind that our overall data shows usage at about 38% lower than what is being currently authorized so for most. We did consider smaller reductions but, as was pointed out by members of the Vision Advisory Committee, doing less now will likely mean having to make more drastic reductions in the future.



3. A stakeholder group is meeting to strengthen the guidance we provide around helping to develop strong person centered plans to ensure that everyone continues to receive the necessary supports and services. Individuals can also work with their case managers (Service Coordinators and Personal Agents) to request exceptions if an individual's support needs cannot be met by the assessed support needs, or authorized hours. The standard hearing process described in the Notice of Planned Action (NOPA) is available, as well.

4. We recently held a Supported Living Summit to discuss options and pose questions about this important service. Supported Living is different from in home services in that we require the provider to support the individual on a 24-hour basis, whether a Direct Support Professional is working with the individual at the specific time help is needed, or not. In that way, it is more like a Group Home or Adult Foster Care service. We have decided that Supported Living rates will not be impacted by the in home hour realignment effort. Instead, we will work with our contractor, Burns & Associates, to develop a rate for the service as part of our overall rate study efforts. SL providers and other stakeholders will be involved in that work. The small workgroups we discussed at the Summit, one on SL in family homes and one on SL in provider owned and controlled settings, will start soon and continue as planned.

Implementation of the Community First Choice Option, or k plan, brought considerable opportunity and improvements to Oregon's IDD service system by opening services to children, moving us away from a 'crisis based' service model and allowing people who want to live with family or independently the option to do so, even if they have a high level of need. With that though, have come considerable challenges. Managing and operating these services within Legislatively Approved Budget (LAB) is one of those challenges. The Legislature has been supportive of these services and understands the steps that need to be taken will not be easy. The Budget Note directing us to take appropriate action while working to minimize the impact on people served is evidence of this commitment and understanding.

As we move forward with the hour realignment effort, we are also pursuing increased funding for Direct Support Professionals working for provider agencies. This funding is needed to support staff that work with people with I/DD that live in provider agency Group Homes. That request is expected to go to the Emergency Board (E-Board) in September.

ODDS is developing a website for individuals, families, case managers, providers and other interested advocates that will include communication, Frequently Asked Questions, exception criteria and other information about the hour realignment project. I'll send a message to let everyone know when the website is available. If you haven't read my earlier message on sustainability dated June 20, 2016 it, and all other Director Messages, are available on this website: <https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/messages.aspx>.

I'd like to thank everyone that took the time to come to the DHS Budget Forums to advocate and talk with us. I'd also like to thank members of the Vision Advisory Committee for their continued engagement and thoughtful direction and feedback. I look forward to continuing discussions about longer term options with the VAC and other stakeholders.

Sincerely,
Lilia