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Jan. 6, 2022

To: ODDS Staff and Partners

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

Subject: Happy New Year — Looking back at 2021

Happy New Year! I hope you had a good holiday season.

As we enter 2022, I want to thank all of you, the ODDS staff, our Case Management Entity (CME) partners and providers across the state, and all who volunteered or stepped up to make a positive difference in the lives of Oregonians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in 2021. Thank you for your dedication, care, hard work and sacrifice.

It was another challenging year with the pandemic, ice storms, wildfires, heat waves and staffing shortages. I offer a special thanks to all of you who stepped up to support COVID-19 vaccination and booster efforts, to train and recruit new employees, and especially to those of you who cared for those affected by COVID-19 and extreme weather. ODDS leadership and I extend our deepest appreciation.

Despite the challenges of 2021, the ODDS community had many accomplishments worth celebrating. Here are just a few:

- In response to our partners' requests, we launched [ImpactOregon.careers](#) in January. ODDS [providers and case management entities can now post job openings for free](#).
- After President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) into law in March, ODDS staff, partners, providers and self-advocates worked together to develop [a plan for ODDS' federally funded COVID-19 relief package of \\$160 million](#). A few examples of what we

did with the funds are [recruitment and retention grants](#) for direct support professionals, [grants for employment and day support activities](#), and funding efforts statewide to rebuild our workforce. Plans for more ARPA-funded grants, including those for Service Equity initiatives, are underway now.

- For the first time this biennium, ODDS required service equity assessments and plans from CMEs.
- This summer, we faced a huge challenge when [Mentor Oregon, one of our biggest providers and a case management entity, left the state](#). We had 90 days to transition more than 1,300 people to new case management services and providers. Thank you, all of you at brokerages, providers, partner organizations and ODDS who made this happen.
- In June, the [Oregon Legislature passed the 2021–23 budget that included a historic \\$1.24 billion investment](#) in the state's I/DD system. This investment is and will continue to make a huge difference in the lives of those with I/DD.
- During autumn's increased staffing shortage, [ODDS and ODHS launched a staffing-support effort](#) to assist providers and help as many individuals as possible remain safely in their homes. In December and in response to providers' input, [ODDS streamlined the process by shifting resources and contracting to providers](#). These efforts required ODDS staff and providers to go above and beyond in their job duties. Thank you to all of you who stepped up.
- In response to the staffing shortage, the Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU) hired and trained more than 100 contracted workers over the course of a few weeks and held its first virtual recruitment fair. SACU safely moved 27 residents into the private sector.
- To support staff and residents, SACU met with Oregon State Police and sent local law enforcement agencies information to help them better understand SACU and how their response to critical incidents might affect SACU employees and residents of color. SACU also implemented a new internal critical incident debriefing process.

These are just a few highlights from the year. Thank you, all, for your continued commitment to our mission and partnership to provide services and supports to empower Oregonians with I/DD to live full lives in their communities.

May 2022 bring you good health and much joy.

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

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