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Oct. 13, 2022

To: I/DD community members and Tribal partners  
From: Fariborz Pakseresht, ODHS Director, and Liesl Wendt, ODHS Deputy Director  
Subject: ODDS interim director announced

We are pleased to share that Anna Lansky has agreed to serve as interim director of the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS). Anna will serve in this role through the 2023 legislative session until a permanent director is hired. ODDS Director Lilia Teninty will provide support through Nov. 10.

Anna joined the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) as the ODDS deputy director in 2015. Working with Lilia, the ODDS management team and staff, Anna helped set and implement the strategic vision for Oregon's programs and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Anna oversaw ODDS' policy and Medicaid authorities. She led many strategic initiatives including the Compass Project, the Blueprint Project and service equity initiatives. She supported ODDS through budget development, legislative sessions and collective bargaining. Anna is a founding member of the ODHS Slavic Employee Resource Group and represented ODDS on the Oregon Council for Developmental Disabilities.

Before coming to ODHS, Anna served as assistant director for the Arkansas Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS). She started at the Arkansas Department of Human Services in 2005, working on business process improvement and the design of automated cost-allocation and financial systems. She led departmentwide projects in the Office of Policy and Planning, including health care reform efforts. After becoming assistant director of DDS in 2012, Anna led efforts to improve home- and community-

based services for people with I/DD, including the Community First Choice Program, Health Homes and the Payment Improvement Initiative.

We are fortunate to have a strategic leader of Anna's caliber, expertise and skill taking the helm of ODDS as we head into the legislative session. In her seven years as deputy director, Anna has worked in partnership with the ODDS management team and staff to embody the [Equity North Star](#), engaged with the I/DD community and improved how ODDS serves Oregonians in a more person-centered and empowering way. Her policy and Medicaid experience, especially through the COVID-19 pandemic, will serve the I/DD community well as ODHS prepares for the unwinding of the federal public health emergency.

We will have more information soon about the recruitment process for a permanent ODDS director. Our primary concern is finding a leader who is a good fit for ODDS, ODHS and the people we serve. With Anna's leadership and ODDS' strong management team and staff, we have the time necessary to make the right hiring decision.

Sincerely,

Fariborz Pakseresht, ODHS Director  
Liesl Wendt, ODHS Deputy Director

*Previous ODDS Director's Messages are available at <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/SENIORS-DISABILITIES/DD/Pages/messages.aspx>*

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