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Nov. 22, 2022

To: I/DD community members, Tribal partners and ODDS staff
From: Anna S. Lansky, Interim Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)
Subject: Thank you for supporting ODDS' mission in 2022

The winter season and its celebrations are here. Many of you may soon gather with your family, friends and communities. The holidays and end of the year provide an opportunity to reflect on the past and express our gratitude.

This year presented many challenges and opportunities. Thanks to your dedication and action, COVID-19 cases and death rates have significantly lowered in Oregon's I/DD community. Still, COVID-19, [RSV](#) and other illnesses threaten the wellbeing of our community, especially those at higher risk for serious illness. The Oregon Health Authority offers these [tips for meal safety at holiday gatherings](#). Thank you for protecting the health of those in the I/DD community.

ODDS underwent a great deal of change this year. Thank you, ODDS staff and partners, who are assisting me and managers through the current leadership transition in ODDS. Your dedication to this work is remarkable.

Thank you, self-advocates, family members and partners, for your feedback as ODDS moves forward with its strategic initiatives. Thank you for helping us better implement and embody the vision of the Oregon Department of Human Service's [Equity North Star](#).

The journey to achieve true equity and accessibility is ongoing and is hard work. This week, my heart is particularly with Tribal partners and families, as they await the fate of the [Indian Child Welfare Act](#). My heart also goes

out to the LGBTQIA2S+ community in the wake of the mass shooting in Colorado this weekend on the eve of the Transgender Day of Remembrance. May the coming season bring you healing and hope. We will continue to work together for equity in the face of current and future challenges.

Thank you, all, for helping ODDS provide services, supports and advocacy to empower Oregonians to live full lives in their communities. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of more than 32,000 people and their families!

I wish you all healthy and safe celebrations this winter season.

Sincerely,



Anna S. Lansky
Interim Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services

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