

January 16, 2014

To: Employment First stakeholders
From: Statewide Employment First Coordinator Mike Maley
Re: Employment First January Message

I hope all of you had a restful holiday season.

I want to take some time today to give a bit of information around our structure and introduce the DHS Employment First Team. I was appointed as Statewide Employment First Coordinator as part of the announcement of the Governor's Executive Order 13-04 in April 2013. The Employment First team is placed within the DHS Director's office and I report directly to Director Erinn Kelley-Siel. Other members of the team report directly to me. Because of the work to be done, we have close working relationships with the leadership in the Office of Developmental Disability Services (ODDS), Trisha Baxter, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Stephaine Taylor, and the Department of Education (ODE) Office of Learning Student Services Unit, Sarah Drinkwater. This working relationship extends to the respective staff of these entities.

If you have any questions, concerns, or other feedback, we encourage you to send them to any member of our team by emailing: employment.first@state.or.us.

As we continue our efforts around implementing the Employment First Policy and the Governor's Executive Order, we have built up our Employment First team in order to ensure this important work moves forward. I wanted to take a moment to introduce them. As for me, I have worked at DHS since 2001, previously as deputy director of the Office of Developmental Disability Services. My entire professional career has involved working in Oregon's service system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I am a native Oregonian, graduate of Linfield College, and enjoy Irish music.

Our other team members are:

- **Corissa Neufeldt**, Project Manager: Before joining Employment First, Corissa worked as community relations union manager for ODDS. She entered the field in 1990 as a residential trainer for an Oregon services provider. She worked as a community health educator for the Peace Corps in Africa for a few years before returning to Oregon. Corissa recently gave birth to her third daughter, and spends her free time restoring her 1908 home.
- **Cassy McCartney**, Program Support: Cassy worked in office support for ODDS before transferring to Employment First. Before that, she was working in Portland at the

Oregon State Hospital as administrative support. Her current focus is getting the team up and running, but hopes to delve into other projects as the initiatives move forward. Cassy has a bachelor's degree in photography and enjoys doing fine art and portrait photography.

- **Andre Harboe**, Research & Data Analyst: Andre came to Employment First from the Office of Economic Analysis where he was an economist and helped forecast state revenue and inmate populations. Previously, Andre was an employment economist at the Employment Department. He has a bachelor's degree in economics from Willamette University. Andre loves to snowboard in the winter and ride his bicycle in the summer.
- **Ava Bartley**, Quality Assurance and Medicaid Analyst: Ava's youngest son experiences a developmental disability, and that has been the driving force behind her passion for policy work. Prior to joining the Employment First team, Ava was a lawyer in private practice. She also served as interim policy analyst at the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities in 2011 and practiced law at Stoel Rives LLP in Portland from 1997 to 2006. Ava lives on a small family farm in Dundee, and spends much of her free time battling invasive blackberry vines and taking her kids to 4-H activities.
- **Angela Yeager**, Communications Officer: Angela recently joined Employment First after spending seven years as media relations specialist for Oregon State University. Before that, she was a reporter at the Statesman Journal newspaper in Salem. Angela holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Arizona State University, and a Master of Arts degree from OSU. In her free time she produces and co-hosts a weekly film review TV show in Salem.
- An **additional position** is established for a Policy and Innovation Specialist. This position is not yet filled.

I look forward to our work together in 2014 and wish you and your loved ones a happy and successful year.

Mike