

September 18, 2013

Oregon Employment First: News & Information for You

From: Mike Maley, Employment First Coordinator, Oregon Department of Human Services

To: All Oregon Stakeholders, DHS Office of Developmental Disabilities Staff, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services Staff, Oregon Department of Education Staff, Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities Staff (*please forward to others on your e-mail lists*)

I am pleased to deliver the next *Oregon Employment First News & Information for You* message in the new series of communications. As I said last week, you can expect to see regular updates as we move forward to implement Governor Kitzhaber's Executive Order (http://www.oregon.gov/gov/docs/executive_orders/eo_13-04.pdf) on Employment First and our ongoing commitment to integrated employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

The first meeting of Oregon's Employment First Policy Group was held this week. One important provision of the Executive Order is the creation of this group, comprised of key stakeholders and community partners. They will be working to: 1) make recommendations to the Director of DHS and the Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction regarding the design and implementation on issues including but not limited to education, outreach, development of provider capacity, training, and processes for assessment and discovery; and 2) recommend outcomes and metrics to the State, review the State's performance under those metrics, and make annual recommendations to the Governor for improving performance.

The members of the policy group have been selected, and their names and affiliations are shown below:

- Bill Uhlman, Eastern Oregon Support Service Brokerage - Support Service Brokerage
- Chris Burnett, Oregon Rehabilitation Association – Service Providers
- Cynthia Owens, Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities – Family Members
- Dacia Johnson, Oregon Commission for the Blind – Vocational Rehabilitation
- Dan Peccia, Self-Determination, Inc. - Support Service Brokerage
- Ed Krankowski, Portland Public Schools - Education
- Jaime Daigault, Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities - Advocacy Organization
- Jan Sansom, Lebanon School District - Education
- Jessica Leitner, Edwards Center – Service Providers
- Jordan Ohlde, Oregon Self Advocacy Coalition – Self Advocates
- Jordana Barclay, Oregon Workforce Partnership – Workforce Systems
- Liz Fox, Oregon State Rehabilitation Council – Vocational Rehabilitation
- Marcie Ingledue, The Arc Oregon - Advocacy Organization
- Pat Zullo, Clackamas Developmental Disabilities Program - Counties

- Patrice Botsford, Oregon Department of Human Services – Developmental Disabilities
- Rebecca Cader, Oregon Self Advocacy – Self Advocates
- Representative Sara Gelser, Oregon Legislature – Oregon House of Representatives
- Roberta Dunn, Family and Communities Acting Together – Family Members
- Ross Ryan, Oregon Self Advocacy – Self Advocates
- Sara Jane Owens, Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs - Counties
- Sarah Drinkwater, Oregon Department of Education – Special Education
- Senator Lee Beyer, Oregon Legislature – Oregon Senate
- Seth Johnson, Opportunity Foundation of Central Oregon – Service Providers
- Stephaine Parrish Taylor, Oregon Department of Human Services – Vocational Rehabilitation
- Sydney Shook, Families Connected – Family Members

The important work of the Policy Group will ensure that Oregon remains a leader in providing supported employment services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I will keep you informed of their work and post minutes and other materials online at http://www.dhs.state.or.us/dd/supp_emp/initiative.html. In addition, you will be able to get lots of other information of Oregon’s services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through our Facebook page. Go to [ODDS Facebook](#) and be sure to “like” the page to get updates automatically.

Thank you, and I look forward to continuing to provide you with the most accurate and up-to-date information on Employment First through these *Employment First News & Information for You* messages.

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