

4-8-16

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Interim Employment First Coordinator

Re: Employment First: Seamless Transition Pilot: Phase 2

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

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Employment First recently hosted a kick-off event in Salem for the second phase of the Seamless Transition Pilot.

The Employment First Seamless Transition Pilot began in Sept. 2013 with a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy. The first phase of the pilot included local agencies and partners from Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas and Umatilla counties.

The focus of the pilot is to implement a seamless transition model from school to integrated work for transition aged (16-21 years) individuals experiencing



The Benton County transition pilot team discusses local strategies to engage providers and schools at the recent kick-off to phase two of the Seamless Transition Pilot.

intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Seamless transition means a student with significant disabilities will transition seamlessly from school services directly into a paid job in the community. It also involves coordinating and sequencing resources and services that involve education, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR),

Developmental Disability Services and an employment service provider.

The Seamless Transition Model, developed by TransCen. Inc., calls for identification of students three to four years prior to the student's planned exit from high school; discovery process through collaboration of partner agencies; community-based work experience such as summer youth employment; and job development and placement during the last year of high school so the student gets the job prior to leaving school.

In phase one, there were 46 students who participated in the pilot during school year 2013-14, and 70 students who participated in school year 2014-15. The report for phase one is available [online](#).

For phase two, the pilot will include Multnomah, Washington, and Clackamas as well as two additional counties, Marion and Benton. Washington and Clackamas are also expanding to include additional school districts.



The Marion County transition pilot team, which includes teachers from Woodburn High School, discuss local strategies at the recent kick-off event for phase two of the Seamless Transition Pilot.

Local pilot team partners include, but are not limited to, school districts, Vocational Rehabilitation, Community Developmental Disability Programs (CDDPs), Support Service Brokerages, employment providers, families, and advocacy agencies.

The goals of the pilot are to:

- Implement a seamless transition model;
- Identify and apply promising, best or evidenced based practices;
- Identify innovative and creative ideas to support collaboration and seamless transition that might be able to be implemented statewide;
- Identify what is working or not working about state policies and procedures that need to be supported more or addressed to facilitate a seamless transition for youth with I/DD.

Subject Matter Experts are engaged throughout every step of the pilot as a resource for training, technical assistance, and guidance to both the teams and to Employment First, including VR, Office of Developmental Disability Services (ODDS) and Oregon Department of Education (ODE) leadership.

Employment First is excited to continue to learn from the pilot teams in phase two, and to continue developing a systematic approach to moving transition-age students experiencing significant disabilities from school to work.

If you have comments or other questions, please email them to employment.first@state.or.us

~ Acacia