

**To: Employment First stakeholders**  
**From: Statewide Employment First Coordinator Mike Maley**  
**Re: Employment First – Training and Technical Assistance**  
(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

Providing training and technical assistance for providers and stakeholders is one of the key steps in our efforts to implement the Employment First Initiative and the Governor's Executive Order 13-4. The purpose of training and technical assistance is to enhance practical or specialized knowledge to achieve the employment outcomes of the Employment First Policy and the Executive Order.

There are joint efforts underway by Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Office of Developmental Disability Services (ODDS), Oregon Department of Education (ODE), and the Department of Human Services (DHS) Employment First team. These efforts are directed at meeting the training and technical assistance needs of providers, service coordinators, personal agents and others. In addition, staff and community partners are conducting training and technical assistance related to the Employment First Initiative. Some of those partners conducting training include:

- The Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities (OCDD)
- Work Incentives Network (WIN)
- Advocacy organizations
- Provider associations
- Provider agencies
- Professional associations such as the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
- Training and technical assistance entities such as the Oregon Technical Assistance Corporation (OTAC) and the Center for Technical Assistance and Continuing Education (TACE).

There are three basic goals to be accomplished through training and technical assistance activities. The first goal is to expand the amount and variety of direct service providers skilled in meeting service demands and outcomes. The second goal is to provide service coordinators, personal agents, educators and VR counselors with the knowledge and skills to effectively support the Employment First Initiative. The final goal is to support self-advocates, families, and other stakeholders, such as businesses, to engage in employment services.

Because the Employment First Initiative involves new or enhanced service practices and expectations, the provision of training and technical assistance must span a variety of areas. Some of the following efforts will help meet these training needs:

- Creation of a statewide Transition Technical Assistance Network by ODE to meet the knowledge and skill needs of educators in areas such as outcome-based transition planning and person-centered planning.
- Assisting providers of facility-based employment services to transform their service model to one that provides more integrated, community-based employment services.
- Providing training on the planning and delivery of self-employment services.
- Providing training to services coordinators, personal agents, and others in the implementation of Career Development Planning.
- Provide training on supported employment, job carving, and customized employment.

This list is by no means exhaustive, but does give an example of some of the training and technical assistance activities that will be delivered to meet the outcomes of the Employment First Policy and the Executive Order.

A few websites to check for upcoming training sessions include:

<https://otac.quickbase.com/db/bhb27xmh6?a=q&qid=5>

<http://www.otac.org/training/>

<http://employment-first.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/OELN-Training-Announcement-UPDATE.pdf>

<http://ccer.org/tace-northwest>

Thank you all for your continued involvement, support, and advocacy for services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oregon.

~ Mike

- For those of you in the Salem area, the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities will be celebrating DD Awareness Month on Friday, March 7 at 1 p.m., in the State Capitol in the Galleria. The celebration will include guest speakers (including Governor Kitzhaber and DHS Director Erinn Kelley-Siel), the unveiling of the annual awareness poster and DD Champion Award Winner presentations. This year the focus will be on employment. Information: <http://ocdd.org>