

9-19-14

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Sarah Drinkwater, Assistant Superintendent, Oregon Department of Education

Re: Employment First: Transition Technical Assistance Network

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

I am excited to inform stakeholders of Employment First about a new team from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), developed to support the implementation of the Governor's Executive Order 13-04 and Employment First in Oregon. The Transition Technical Assistance Network includes Heather Lindsey, our Secondary Transition Liaison, Mitch Kruska, Director of Education Programs/Secondary Transition, and eight newly-hired Transition Network Facilitators.

These eight part-time staff were assigned around the state to provide outreach, technical assistance, and training opportunities for school districts in their assigned regions.

Some of the goals of the transition technical assistance network include:

- Helping school districts recognize and understand the outcomes of the Executive Order, specifically focusing on successful transition to employment and/or education;
- Offering technical assistance to educators for students with disabilities who are of transition age;
- Establishing relationships with community partners such as Vocational Rehabilitation, Community Developmental Disability Programs, Support Service Brokerages, service providers, local Employment First leadership teams, family advocacy programs, etc.; and
- Implementing training and professional development for educators on policy and systems change.

For more information about the Transition Technical Assistance Network, the website is: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=4250>

Thank you all for your continued involvement, support, and advocacy for services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oregon. If you have comments or other questions, please email them to employment.first@state.or.us.

~ Sarah

Region assignments and contact information for the Transition Network Facilitators:

Region 1 (Portland, Washington, Clatsop, Columbia)

Lizze Juaniza, Multnomah ESD

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Robbie Spencer, Multnomah ESD

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Region 2 (Tillamook, Yamhill, Polk, Marion)

Eivind-Erik Sorensen, Willamette ESD

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Region 3 (Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Benton)

Vikki Mahaffy, Linn-Benton ESD

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Region 4 (Douglas, Coos, Curry)

Rebekah Mathweg, Douglas ESD

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Region 5 (Josephine, Jackson, Klamath, Lake)

Gwyn Lema, Southern Oregon ESD

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Region 6 (Clackamas, Wasco, Hood River, Sherman, Gilliam)

Ariel Nielsen, Clackamas ESD

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Region 7 (Jefferson, Deschutes, Crook, Wheeler)

Marguerite (Margie) Blackmore, High Desert ESD

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Region 8 (Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur)

Lon Thornburg, Intermountain ESD

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