

1-30-15

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Mike Maley, Statewide Employment First Coordinator

Re: Employment First: Transition Network Facilitators

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

The eight newly-hired Transition Network Facilitators have now been on the job for more than four months. This message is to update you on the progress of Transition Technical Assistance Network from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), developed to support the implementation of the Governor's Executive Order 13-04 and Employment First.



Transition Technical Assistance Network: Pictured (left to right), top row: Sally Simich, Heather Lindsey, Eivind-Erik Sorensen, Marguerite Blackmore and Lizzie Juaniza. Bottom row (left to right): Lon Thornburg, Vikki Mahaffy, Gwyn Lema, Ariel Nielsen and Rebekah Mathweg.

The Transition Technical Assistance Network includes eight Transition Network Facilitators, plus Heather Lindsey, Secondary Transition Liaison, Mitch Kruska, Director of Education Programs/Secondary Transition, and Sally Simich, Education Specialist.

These eight part-time staff were hired in August 2014 to provide outreach, technical assistance, and training

opportunities for school districts in their assigned regions. Their goals include helping school districts focus 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 and implementing training and professional development for educators.

At a recent meeting in Eugene, the Transition Network Facilitators (TNFs) met with leadership from the Youth Transition Program (YTP) to find out how they could collaborate on common goals.

In addition the TNFs shared progress in their region. Eivind-Erik Sorensen shared a report on a school site-visit and shared some of the innovative practices from the visit, while Rebekah Mathweg announced plans for an education symposium for supported employment in spring. Margie Blackmore in the central Oregon region is on the planning committee for a Life Without Labels conference in April and Lon Thornburg in Eastern Oregon is putting together contact lists and informational handouts so that the local schools, Vocational Rehabilitation and Developmental Disability offices will have better connections.

All the Transition Network Facilitators were enthusiastic and engaged about bringing about positive change in their community and working together to help educators and students with disabilities.

See below for a list of the TNF contacts. The Transition Technical Assistance Network also has a website: <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 questions, please email them to employment.first@state.or.us.

~ Mike

Region assignments and contact information for the Transition Network Facilitators:

Region 1 (Portland, Washington, Clatsop, Columbia)

Lizze Juaniza, Multnomah ESD

ejuaniza@mesd.k12.or.us; 503-257-1657

Robbie Spencer, Multnomah ESD

rspencer@mesd.k12.or.us; 503-257-1727

Region 2 (Tillamook, Yamhill, Polk, Marion)

Eivind-Erik Sorensen, Willamette ESD

Eivind.sorensen@wesd.org; 503-474-6915

Region 3 (Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Benton)
Vikki Mahaffy, Linn-Benton ESD
vikki.mahaffy@lblesd.k12.or.us; 541-812-2737

Region 4 (Douglas, Coos, Curry)
Rebekah Mathweg, Douglas ESD
Rebekah.mathweg@douglasesd.k12.or.us; 541-440-4777

Region 5 (Josephine, Jackson, Klamath, Lake)
Gwyn Lema, Southern Oregon ESD
Gwyn_lem@soesd.k12.or.us; 541-944-2418

Region 6 (Clackamas, Wasco, Hood River, Sherman, Gilliam)
Ariel Nielsen, Clackamas ESD
anielsen@clackesd.k12.or.us; 503-675-4163

Region 7 (Jefferson, Deschutes, Crook, Wheeler)
Marguerite (Margie) Blackmore, High Desert ESD
Marguerite.blackmore@hdesd.org; 541-693-5717

Region 8 (Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur)
Lon Thornburg, Intermountain ESD
Lon.thornburg@imesd.k12.or.us; 541-966-3162