

To: All ODDS Staff and Stakeholders
From: ODDS Director Lilia Teninty
Re: New Regional Employment Specialists

I am happy to announce that ODDS has officially hired 4 new Regional Employment Specialists! Brad Collins, Robyn Devoll, Nathan Deeks and Theresa Knowles!

Brad Collins joins us from Vocational Rehabilitation. He has worked to help individual's with intellectual and developmental disabilities seek employment for many years and has participated in several pilot programs. He is located in Eugene and will be covering Southern Oregon.

Robyn Devoll joins us from Deschutes CDDP. She has worked in her role as a Services Coordinator for several years and has also worked as a Quality Assurance Specialist. She is located in Bend, Oregon and will be covering Central Oregon.

Nathan Deeks joins us from ODDS. He has had several years of experience working in the field, including as Personal Agent and Lead Personal agent in the metro area. He is located in Portland and will be covering the metro area.

Theresa Knowles joins us from Horizon in Pendleton, Oregon. She has worked with individual's with I/DD in several residential settings and most recently was a job developer. She is located in Pendleton and will be covering Eastern Oregon.

These positions are similar to the Transition Network Facilitators through Department of Education and the I/DD Specialist Counselors through VR. The role of these positions is to work with individual's with I/DD, families, CDDPs, Brokerages, Provider Organizations, Vocational Rehabilitation and Education to help move the Employment First initiative forward.

The new Employment Specialists will be available to provide technical assistance and training around current and new policies and to gather information about what is working/not working in the field and in their region. They will then share this information with central office to aid in policy development. They will also be available to help staff cases, coordinate communication between regional entities such as VR, Education, etc. to help with communication and coordination of services.

Please join me in welcoming these new members to our team!

ODDS will be holding an informational phone call on the policy changes for entry into sheltered workshops for individuals and their family members/support people on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 from 9:00 – 10:00 AM. An agenda for this call-in is attached. **Conference line: 800-260-0702 Guest code: 361647.** Please help get the word out.

Also, if you haven't seen it yet, please take a minute to view our July 1 Policy FAQ Video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rC74Np7bj6M> and please share it with anyone else who may not have seen it yet.

There are no transmittals for this week.

Lilia