

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Section I

1.1 PARTIES

The Department of Human Services, specifically the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (OVRS) and the Office of Developmental Disability Services (ODDS), and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) desire to enter into an interagency agreement in order to increase the number of youth who transition from school to work or postsecondary education. The terms of this agreement is from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013.

1.2 PURPOSE

The general purpose of this MOU is to support the Charter between the Department of Human Services and the Oregon Department of Education that creates the initiative entitled, *"Integrated, Continuous Transition Services for Students with Developmental Disabilities: A Pathway to Employment."* The specific purpose is to outline mutual goals, strategies, actions and responsibilities that staff of the parties will endorse and conduct to accomplish the desired objectives(s). The intent is to:

- Establish a state level work group to address systems, policy and funding issues that impede the continuous provision of transition services by ODDS, OVRS and OED.
- Engage DD providers, school districts, vocational rehabilitation and stakeholders at the local level in collaboration and cooperation in the accomplishment of the vision and desired outcomes.
- Identify and disseminate best practices including training, capacity and funding strategies.

- Increase the number of youth who make a successful transition from school to work or postsecondary education.
- Increase youth and family satisfaction with transition services from all agencies.
- Foster innovation in program design and service delivery.
- Expand the use of technology in training and knowledge transfer.
- Build sustainability by intentional resource direction and management, and program design.

1.3 SCOPE

The initiative is statewide. The primary target is the continuum of educators, DD case managers and professionals, VR professionals and advocates involved in youth transition. The secondary target is youth with developmental disabilities exiting Oregon's public schools. The secondary target is transition age youth (16 to 21) with disabilities who are eligible for the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (OVRs) and the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE).

Section II

Background, Overview and Goals

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Department of Human Services' OVRs, ODDS and the ODE share a common mission, philosophy and goal of increasing the number of transition age youth with disabilities who successfully transition from school to work or postsecondary education. Because of the interdependent nature of OVRs' and ODDS' service systems and the existing partnerships with

ODE and local school districts, there is a shared strategic need to jointly accomplish the objectives. These mutual goals and strategic needs are reflected by the ODDS adoption of and the OVRS endorsement of the “*Employment First Policy*” for working age adults with disabilities; OVRS’ continued efforts to expand and enhance transition services as evidenced by *Project Access* and support for *Project Employ*; and the ODE mandate to provide transition services.

2.2 PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND ROLES

2.3 OUTCOMES

The outcomes for the MOU include the following:

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the state and local levels that will guide ongoing efforts to achieve the desired outcomes.
- Identification of Best Practices
- Policy and legislative changes (recommendations for changes)
- Coordinated service system
- Increased employment outcomes

2.4 STRATEGIES

Strategies to accomplish the MOU goals include:

- Develop governance structure for the Initiative
- Develop project plan
- Identify policy, practice and program gaps
- Address gaps through education, practices and policy changes


- Confirm data points and sources, initiate tracking and reporting
- Identify need for legislative changes at the state level
- Develop and implement a communication strategy

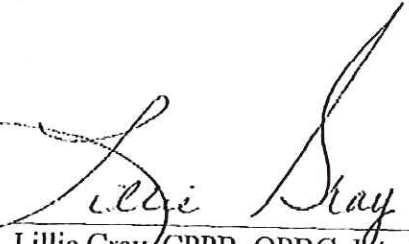
3.0 GENERAL PROVISIONS

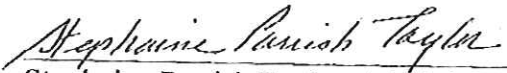
3.1 RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES ARISING FROM THIS AGREEMENT


- ODE and DHS (OVRS and ODDS) agree that unresolved disputes between the parties, including disputes over the development of recommended procedures, access to and availability of services, and allocation of financial responsibility, will be first brought to mediation. The first step of mediation will be through the Governor's Dispute Resolution office. Other mediators may be selected by mutual agreement from a list of mediators maintained by ODE, DHS (OVRS and ODDS) or the Department of Justice. The mediator's fee shall be shared equally between ODE and DHS (OVRS and ODDS).
- If mediation is unsuccessful in resolving the dispute, the parties shall appoint a dispute panel to hear the position of each party and make a final determination. The dispute panel will be comprised of an individual selected by ODE, an individual selected by DHS, and an individual selected mutually by the parties.
- The dispute resolution procedures in this Agreement do not affect or diminish the procedural safeguards available to parents of children with disabilities under the IDEA or clients of OVRS under the Rehabilitation Act.


- The agreement may be modified or extended by the written consent of both parties.
- Either party may terminate this agreement by giving the other party 30 days notice. The notice will include the reasons for the termination. Termination of the agreement does not relieve the parties of fulfilling their responsibilities under this agreement until the termination date.


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