

Next Step: Development of a Strategic Plan – August 2005

The primary focus for this first year of the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant is strategic planning. With the 2005 Oregon Legislative Session now adjourned, we can move forward from “strategic thinking” to “strategic planning” and preparing for “strategic doing” over the next three years. We have spent these first few months hiring staff, identifying resources and data sources, learning from other states, and submitting required reports.

We will be conducting a series of community forums and engaging community partners in the strategic planning process throughout the state from September 26 to October 14 of this year.

We will submit Oregon’s Strategic Plan to the federal Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) by November 30.

Update on Recent Grant Activities

The 2004 Annual Report on Medicaid Buy-in Participants was submitted on time. A contract was negotiated with the Employment Department to analyze wage information for the Medicaid Buy-in (Employed Persons with Disabilities) program.

Oregon received a supplemental grant of \$100,000 to do targeted education and outreach to EPD participants regarding the upcoming changes in prescription drug coverage that Medicare Part D will provide. A preliminary study determined that 530 EPD clients would be affected by the implementation of Medicare Part D.

Project staff have continued to participate in regular conference calls with the two nationally recognized technical assistance organizations. These calls have enabled us to network with other states and keep informed of their activities.

Working together as a team, project staff and representatives from Seniors and Persons with Disabilities, Mental Health, and Vocational Rehabilitation are meeting regularly to begin the planning process. Project staff are actively building relationships with other partners including the Employment Department and the Disability Program Navigator Initiative.

We have exchanged information with several other states that have Comprehensive Employment System Grants, including Alaska, Washington, Maine, New Mexico, Utah and Vermont.

We are busily preparing the 2006 continuation application, due August 26, and also submitted a quarterly report to CMS.

Welcome Travis!

We are pleased to announce that we have hired S. Travis Wall as the Project Manager and are very excited to have him on board. Travis officially starts on September 6, although he is already meeting and working with staff and our initial planning workgroup.

Travis has advocated with and on behalf of persons with disabilities for many years. Since moving to Oregon several years ago, Travis has served as the Oregon State Ombudsman for Injured Workers. Travis previously developed and directed the Utah State Office of Public Guardian, which serves as a court-appointed guardian and conservator for adults incapable of managing some or all of their affairs.

In addition, Travis' professional experience includes:

Leading the Utah Self-Determination Project for the Utah State Division of Services for People with Disabilities. This systems change project was part of national initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Establishing and directing the Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center, Nevada's counterpart to the Oregon Advocacy Center.

Serving as the principal Legislative analyst on disability issues for the California Assembly Health Committee.

Help us get connected!

In addition to our series of Community Forums throughout the state, we're interested in connecting with groups and organizations that will be meeting in September, October, and November. Please notify us of possible dates, times, locations, and/or contact information for upcoming meetings. We'll follow up and see if we can be on the agenda to give an overview of the Strategic Planning process and to solicit input.

Please join us for an Open House to welcome Travis Wall, the newly hired MIG Project Manager, and to learn more about the strategic planning process for the grant. This event will be held Friday, September 9, 2005, from 2 to 4 pm in room 473 of the Human Services Building, 500 Summer Street Northeast in Salem. RSVP to (503) 947-5469 or send an e-mail to paula.fitch@state.or.us.

If you would like to discuss goals and expectations, or any other aspect of grant activity, please feel free to contact us and we will arrange a meeting. The contact information is (503) 947-5469 or paula.fitch@state.or.us.

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