



# Oregon Competitive Employment Project

*Oregon Department of Human Services — Office of Vocational Rehabilitation*

## LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

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*Office of Vocational  
Rehabilitation Services*

**Tina Treasure**

*State Independent Living Council*

**Lucy Baker**

*Oregon Business Leadership  
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*Oregon Department of  
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*Employment Department*

**Scott Lay**

*People with Disabilities Advisory  
Council*

**Bill Lynch**

*Oregon Council on  
Developmental Disabilities*

**Mike Maley**

*Seniors and People with  
Disabilities Division*

## THE PROJECT and THE WORK INCENTIVES NETWORK (WIN) WELCOME WAYNE MOAK TO THE STAFF!

We are pleased to announce that Wayne Moak is joining the Project to assist Molly Sullivan with WIN. Wayne has spent the last two years working with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services in Medford as an Employment Specialist Case Manager, and has made Oregon his home since 1991. Wayne has a strong background in benefits and work incentives planning supports and services and is passionate about assisting people with disabilities achieve their employment goals. He will be based out of Salem.

WIN staff have served over 400 people since the end of October 2007, with the numbers climbing each month!

For more information on WIN or the Competitive Employment Project:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/vr/cep/index.shtml>

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## TICKET TO WORK PARTNERS SUMMIT

Project staff were in attendance for the March 2008 Social Security Administration's (SSA) Ticket Partners Summit: "Working Together for Success" in Louisville, Kentucky. The Summit brought together over 400 stakeholders who are dedicated to providing employment opportunities for people with disabilities. SSA used the Summit to energize and engage partners in the revitalized Ticket to Work



**Clover Mow**  
*Worksystems, Inc.*

**Cynthia Owens**  
*Oregon Council on  
Developmental Disabilities*

**Janice Richards**  
*Oregon Parent Training &  
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**Tamara Sale**  
*Mid-Valley Behavioral Care  
Network*

**Frank Synoground**  
*Oregon Commission for the Blind*

**Jesus “Tony” Zarate**  
*National Association of Black  
Veterans*

**Doug Zeh**  
*Oregon Advocacy Center*

## STAFF CONTACTS

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**Molly Sullivan**  
Program Analyst/WIN  
Coordinator  
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**Wayne Moak**  
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(TTW) program

The new TTW program will “...give SSA beneficiaries the opportunity to increase their financial independence, participate in and contribute to their community and enjoy all the benefits that work can bring for them.”

Molly Sullivan, the Project’s Work Incentives Network Coordinator did two presentations for the national audience: “Work Incentives Analysis and Business resources to Support Self-Employment” and “Helping Beneficiaries with Business Start-Ups”.

To read all the Summit presentations:  
<http://www.cessi.net/ticketpartnerssummit/index.htm>

For more information on the Ticket to Work Program:  
[www.socialsecurity.gov/work](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work).

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## OREGON ASSOCIATION FOR VOCATIONAL SPECIAL NEEDS PERSONNEL CONFERENCE

In February the Project’s Work Incentive Network (WIN) and the Oregon Advocacy Center’s Planning for Work (Oregon’s Work Incentives Planning and Assistance program) presented to statewide service providers of transition-age youth at the 2008 Oregon Association for Vocational Special Needs Personnel (OAVSNP) in Hood River.

Participants learned about myths that can stop people receiving public benefits from going to work. They had the opportunity to discuss strategies available to assist transition-aged youth and young adults realize their work-related goals without jeopardizing needed benefits. Of special interest to conference participants was information about the Social Security Administration’s Student Earned Income Exclusion.

WIN’s participation in this conference has helped to spread the word that benefits and work incentives supports and services are necessary are necessary for transition aged youth and their advocates to make informed choices regarding work.

**Karen Bigler**

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Karen.C.Bigler@state.or.us

**Paula Fitch**

Administrative Support, 503-947-5469  
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For more information on WIN:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/vr/cep/index.shtml>

For more information on Planning for Work:

<http://www.oradvocacy.org/programs.php>

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**EMPLOYED PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TRAINING**

In March and April the Office of Developmental Disability Services (ODDS) in collaboration with the Competitive Employment Project and trainers Janet Stevely and Scott Lay conducted training statewide on the Employed Persons with Disabilities (EPD) Program to over 200 staff from Community Developmental Disability Programs and agencies serving adults with developmental disabilities.

EPD is Oregon’s Medicaid Buy-In program that allows people with disabilities to maintain or obtain health insurance when employed. The outreach events focused on the specific benefits EPD has to offer people with developmental disabilities as well as recent changes in the program.

For more information on the EPD program contact Jeff Stell, Medicaid Program Analyst at [jeff.stell@state.or.us](mailto:jeff.stell@state.or.us) or (503) 945-6834 or call your local Senior and Disability Office.

View the EPD rule changes:

<http://egov.oregon.gov/DHS/vr/cep/index.shtml>

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**THE OREGON SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE (OSECE)**

The OSECE is a collaborative project between Options for Southern Oregon, Lifeworks NW, and the Regional Research Institute of Portland State University (PSU) funded through AMHD and the Project. The OSECE provides technical assistance to implement and evaluate evidenced-based supported employment in community mental health

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## GOOD INFORMATION!

### **The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services**

**Administration (SAMHSA)** has a new web page: *Resources for Returning Veterans and their Families* that provides valuable information on prevention, treatment, and recovery support for mental health and substance use disorders. Publications, fact sheets, and links to relevant agencies are provided along with information on SAMHSA-funded programs, agency activities, and training and technical assistance opportunities.

For more information:  
[www.samhsa.gov/vets/](http://www.samhsa.gov/vets/).

### **The Latino Connection**

**Program** is an Easter Seals of Oregon program established in 2003. The program is dedicated to creating employment opportunities for Latino individuals with special needs or disabilities through a partnership with Vocational Rehabilitation Offices and employers. Some of the services offered are job development, job placement, translation/interpretation, career advancement, job retention/ job skills training, English as a second language support, and referrals to other services.

For more information, contact either the Portland office at (503) 335-6161 or the Salem office at

centers serving Oregonians with severe mental illness.

The OSECE will assist 12 new supported employment sites across Oregon. The specific goals of the OSECE are to: 1) provide technical assistance in the implementation of evidence based supported employment models including trainings, supported employment toolkits, site-visits, and on-going consultation; 2) conduct supported employment fidelity reviews of each site; 3) help establish local stakeholder groups in each county to provide local oversight including mental health consumers, Vocational Rehabilitation Division staff, the business community; and 4) organize 2 state-wide conferences over the 18 month grant period, which runs from January 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

For more information on the Center:

[http://www.rri.pdx.edu/or\\_excellence\\_center.php](http://www.rri.pdx.edu/or_excellence_center.php)

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## LOOK AT MY ABILITY VIDEO

“Look At My Ability” is the Oregon Business Leadership Network’s (OBLN) new 2 minute video focusing on the abilities of the largely under-tapped skilled labor pool of Oregonians with disabilities. “Look At My Ability” was a collaborative effort by the Project, the OBLN, the Oregon Business Plan, the Department of Human Services and Morgali Films.

To view Look At My Ability: [www.obln.org](http://www.obln.org).

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## HEALTH AND DISABILITY ADVOCATES and THE NATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR HEALTH SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS PLANNING TRAINING

In January Project staff attended a 2 ½ -day Work and Public Benefits Policy Academy offered by Health and Disability Advocates (HDA) and the National Consortium of Health Systems Development (NCHSD), one of the Project’s two technical assistance providers. The training focused on increasing the understanding of how state Buy-In

(503) 587-7389 or  
[http://www.dhs.state.or.us/  
tools/vr/training/2006/  
perpro\\_development/  
latino\\_emp/araujo\\_program.ppt](http://www.dhs.state.or.us/tools/vr/training/2006/perpro_development/latino_emp/araujo_program.ppt)

**Virginia Commonwealth University's** fact sheet "*Job Coaching Services and Benefits to Business and People with Disabilities*" recognizes that job coaches are often key to the employment success of people with significant disabilities. The fact sheet identifies the activities of job coaches and examines the benefits to businesses that their services. Benefits to employers include the following:

- Job coaches can reduce the time it takes businesses to locate workers by giving the business access to a pool of pre-screened candidates;
- Job coaches can assist with the identification of accommodations for the business and be a resource for their diversity efforts;
- Job coaches can assist the employer with obtaining tax credits such as the Work Opportunity Tax Credit and the Disabled Access Tax Credit for small businesses; and
- Job coaches provide ongoing supports and job retention services.

The fact sheet is available at:  
[http://www.worksupport.com/  
documents/va\\_board\\_factsheet.  
pdf.](http://www.worksupport.com/documents/va_board_factsheet.pdf)

Programs (Oregon's Employed People with Disabilities Program) fits within the larger framework of public benefits work incentives.

National experts in benefits and work incentives planning supports and services from HDA and NCHSD conducted the training which included information on existing work incentives, the Social Security eligibility process, how income impacts continued eligibility for cash assistance from Social Security, as well as how policy and systems change can impact the costs and benefits of employment for people with disabilities.

In addition to the training, Project staff also had the opportunity to meet and network with staff from Medicaid Infrastructure Grants in Louisiana, Texas and Colorado.

For more information on HDA and NCHSD:  
<http://www.hdadvocates.org/>

For more information on Social Security Work Incentives:  
[http://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/workincentives.  
htm](http://www.ssa.gov/disabilityresearch/workincentives.htm)

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## **OREGON BUSINESS LEADERSHIP NETWORK AND THE PROJECT COLLABORATE ON NATIONAL PRESENTATION**

The Oregon Business Leadership Network and the Project joined the states of Maine and Virginia as presenters on a national webinar, "Medicaid Infrastructure Grants: Partnering with Business and the Workforce System to Improve Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities" sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. All materials and presentation slides used in this webinar are available for download from the "Resource" section of the Workforce3 One Webspaces at [www.workforce3one.org](http://www.workforce3one.org).

## WORK INCENTIVE NETWORK CONTACT LIST

### **Independent Living Resources (ILR)**

2410 SE 11th Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97214  
503-232-7411

- Information and Referral Specialists Coming Soon!

### **Lane Independent Living Alliance (LILA)**

99 West 10th Avenue #117  
Eugene, Oregon 97401

- Emma Levert, Information and Referral Specialist:  
elevert@lilaoregon.org or  
541-607-7020

605 Cottage Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

- Carol Simila,  
Work Incentive Coordinator:  
csimila@lilaoregon.org or  
503-378-8077

### **Central Oregon Resources for Independent Living (CORIL)**

20436 Clay Pigeon Court  
Bend, Oregon 97702

- Gene Rada,  
Work Incentive Coordinator:  
gener@coril.org or  
541-388-8103

## **OREGON REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION'S (ORA) CUSTOMIZED EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE**

ORA has brought together DD providers and stakeholders including the Project to:

- Reinvigorate Oregon around customized & supported employment (SE) issues;
- Identify strengths and resources within the state;
- Identify training and TA needs as the state moves towards more SE;
- Bring in outside resources for training & TA;
- Collaborate with state on moving employment issues forward;
- Track/Influence Person Centered Planning project;
- Track/Influence policy at state level:
  - Rate restructuring project
  - Incentives for SE
  - Training & TA;
- Track high school transition activity (Competitive Employment Project); and
- Track replication of Project Search (Competitive Employment Project).

For more information about the Customized Employment Committee contact Karen Craven at ORA: (503) 585-3337.

To find out more about ORA:  
<http://www.oregonrehabilitation.org/>

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## **OREGON BUSINESS PLAN SUMMIT**

On December 3, 2007, over 1000 business, elected, and community leaders, including the Project came together for the 6th Annual Oregon Leadership Summit.

Many of you know that the Oregon Business Leadership Network (OBLN) is included in the Oregon Business Plan (OBP). The Policy Playbook

**SPOKES Unlimited**

415 Main Street  
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601

- Patrick Reed, Information and Referral Specialist:  
patrick.reed@spokesunlimited.org  
or 541-883-754

**Independent Abilities Center (HASL)**

305 NE “E” Street  
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

- Ronnie Shainin, Work Incentives Coordinator:  
Ronnie\_hasl@yahoo.com or 541-479-4275
- Nelson Ferguson, Information and Referral Specialist:  
Nelson\_hasl@yahoo.com or 541-479-4275

**Eastern Oregon Center for Independent Living (EOCIL)**

1021 SW 5th Avenue  
Ontario, Oregon 97914

- Jennifer Bonnell, Work Incentives Coordinator:  
jbonnell@fmtc.com or 541-889-3119  
toll free: 1-866-248-8369

322 SW 3rd, Suite 6  
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

- Sarah Thompson, Information and Referral Specialist:  
sthompson@fmtc.com or 541-276-1037  
toll free: 1-866-248-8369

and Initiative Guide distributed at the Summit states: “Employers can also address such shortages in significant part by broadening their target workforce to include people with disabilities, retirees returning to work, and individuals from diverse communities historically underrepresented in the workplace. Achieving this greater inclusiveness will require a more effective business-education partnership than ever before.” Included in the guide is an update on the greater inclusion of workers with disabilities as a result of the efforts of the OBLN.

To read the guide and all the materials from the Summit:  
<http://www.oregonbusinessplan.org/index.html>