



ONE WEEK TO GO! – ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN TO SAVE FAMILY NETWORKS

Dear Family Network Leaders & Members -

It is important that key legislators understand the unique role that Regional Family to Family Networks fill in meeting the needs of Oregon’s children with disabilities and their families.

Please join us in this ONE WEEK TO GO! Campaign by sending an email to a group of state legislators EVERY DAY THIS WEEK before there is another Special Legislative Session to discuss State budget cuts.

This is the time to rally support from every family, friend, and member of your organization! Our goal is that these legislators receive dozens of emails every day over the next week to demonstrate how important Family to Family Networks are to you and to our state.

Start each email with your name and city of residence. Please add personal observations that support the advocacy message of each email.

Send emails to: Rep.RobNosse@oregonlegislature.gov; Sen.LeeBeyer@oregonlegislature.gov; rep.danrayfield@oregonlegislature.gov; sen.elizabethsteinerhayward@oregonlegislature.gov; sen.betsyjohnson@oregonlegislature.gov; OregonDDC@gmail.com



Date: Sunday – August 2, 2020

Subject: DD Services Family Networks - Unique Array of Services

Families are the primary source of support for a person with developmental disabilities throughout their lifespan, and families must have ongoing access to support that is responsive to their changing needs over the years.

Regional Family to Family Networks have a unique role in the DD Services System. Family Networks can connect families to other families, provide support to all members of the family, help families understand various complex service systems, offer trainings, foster parent leadership skills, advance family advocacy efforts, and build capacity of communities in their region in a way that is responsive to the changing needs of families - unlike any other resource available.

With the modest investment of \$1.3 million per biennium (or \$667,000 for the remainder of the current biennium) Regional Family to Family Networks support more 12,250 families which equates to only \$54 per family per year. And because the Network funding does not increase as more families are engaged, the cost per family actually decreases every year.

Now is not the time to eliminate Family to Family Networks which serves as a vital lifeline for thousands of families across the State, including many whose children with disabilities cannot access formal services. Please maintain current service level funding in the DD Services Budget for Family to Family Networks to help ensure equitable access for children with disabilities and their families that are vulnerable to isolation and systemic discrimination, especially during this ongoing pandemic.



Date: Monday – August 3, 2020

Subject: DD Services Family Networks - Shared Parental Perspective

Now more than ever, Oregon needs resilient families. Human resilience comes from understanding you are not alone in your experience. With privacy regulations families with the shared experience of raising a child with disability need a structure to find each other. Once connected, families share tools, practical strategies, and needed perspective. Regional Family to Family Networks are the consistent and reliable point of connection between families - and are not dependent on eligibility variables. This kind of support helps strengthen families so they can effectively support their children at home.

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Date: Tuesday – August 4, 2020

Subject: DD Services Family Networks: Building Brighter Futures

Families with a child with a disability are often confronted by professionals, family members, friends and neighbors who have low expectations for their child’s future. Regional Family to Family Networks combat this antiquated view of disability by supporting families and the local communities where they live to recognize the true potential in every child. Over the last eight years, we have seen this shift in perspective result in children with disabilities become adults who are now living full lives and contributing to the strength of their community.

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Date: Wednesday – August 5, 2020

Subject: DD Services Family Networks – Filling in the Gaps

Families are often referred to Family to Family Networks by professionals in various service systems, including doctors, educators, and disability service coordinators, who recognize the networks as a valued partner and vital community resource for families of children with disabilities. Family Networks help these families make sense of complex systems, share solutions and support that fills in the gaps that exist between systems – which leads to healthier families and stronger communities.

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Date: Thursday – August 6, 2020

Subject: DD Services Family Networks – Immediate & Equitable Support

When families have the right support, at right time in the right amount they are stronger and more resilient. Systemic barriers have meant that not all families have equitable access to eligibility-based services. Family Networks were designed to ensure all families have at least minimal access to support when they it regardless of wait lists, eligibility variables, citizenship requirements, assessments and paperwork.

Family to Family Networks are also a lifeline for families just getting started on their journey. As families are getting to know their child’s strengths and challenges, and figuring out next steps, Family Networks offers immediate support and effective strategies to get through the hard days and celebrate the great days.

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Date: Friday – August 7, 2020

Subject: DD Services Family Networks - Strengthening Communities

One of the key functions of the Regional Family to Family Networks is to promote disability awareness and help build community capacity to welcome people with disabilities and their families. The Networks have provided training and consultation to public libraries, children's museums, youth athletic team coaches and even airports and wild animal parks. We are working to strengthen families while we are equipping local communities to support all families.

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Date: Saturday – August 8, 2020

Subject: DD Services Family Networks - COVID Response

Regional Family to Family Networks have been responsive to the changing needs of families and the intensified level of isolation that they have endured since the onset of the COVID pandemic in our state. Family Networks immediately adjusted their trainings and activities to help children with disabilities and their families stay connected as they were quarantined at home - most of whom continue to remain at home due to increased health risks.

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