

Employment First Initiative



Office of Developmental Disability Services

June 2012

A Farewell from DHS to Mary Lee Fay and Molly Holsapple

Message from DHS Director Erinn Kelley-Siel:

This week, the Developmental Disabilities community throughout Oregon is celebrating the accomplishments of two inspirational women who are retiring from state service. They are examples of what a difference just two people can make in the lives of so many: **Mary Lee Fay**, the Director of the Office of Developmental Disability Services, and **Molly Holsapple**, Developmental Disabilities Employment Program Specialist.

Mary Lee Fay has led the charge to improve the quality of community services for people with developmental disabilities and has been one of the driving forces behind the advancement in service quality in Oregon for decades. Mary Lee's vision put Oregon in the national spotlight as a model for progressive, self-directed and person-centered services. She helped develop and create the brokerage system which brought new services to thousands of Oregonians who were waiting for services. She also provided the needed leadership to create a system to address the long term funding inequity through the ReBAR Project and helped make the concept of "person centered services" an expected practice across Oregon.

There is not a person in Oregon -- or across the country -- who is involved with policy and training aimed at increasing community employment opportunities for persons with developmental



Mary Lee Fay (left) and
Molly Holsapple (right)



Work Unlimited has made the decision to stop using sub minimum wage waivers. All 72 consumers are now paid minimum wage or above, as of April 1, 2012. "We wanted to share the belief that everyone has the right to a decent wage and that in any situation accommodations can be made to ensure adequate productivity," said Kim Moore, Director of Vocational Services.

Useful websites:

disabilities who does not know **Molly Holsapple**. Throughout her career she has been a doer, a strategic thinker, a collaborator and true believer that individuals with significant disabilities belong in mainstream workplaces. Her work in supported employment and in Employment First policy, focusing on partnerships and collaboration with the business community, has opened doors once closed to people with developmental disabilities.

Mary Lee and Molly are as committed and passionate about their work as any two people I've ever met. Because of them, Oregonians with developmental disabilities have expanded service options, a stronger voice and the opportunity for an improved quality of life. Please join me in extending our gratitude and thanks for their years of service to people and families in Oregon!

We wish them both the very best in all the years to come.

~Erinn

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