

EmploymentFirstMaine

DRAFT

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing on behalf of Employment First Maine (EFM). As you know EFM is a broad based coalition of individual with disabilities, families, advocates, providers and state agency representatives committed to improving and enhancing employment outcomes for Maine citizens with disabilities. Our enabling legislation was signed by the Governor on June 22, 2013 and we have made significant progress within the last 14 months.

Though your Department has been working collaboratively with EFM, we are asking for you to assign a person to help us gather information which would be utilized by EFM to help citizens of Maine with disabilities have employment be the “First and preferred service or support option” when they utilize the services from your Department.

In moving forward we are asking for your help in the implementation of the legislation that speaks to, “When permissible under the law, share information regarding the use of services and other data with other state agencies in order to monitor progress toward facilitating the acquisition by person with disabilities of integrated community-based employment or customized employment.” We have come to understand that in order to be successful in gathering information it would be extremely helpful to have a “point person” for the various departments to assist with the gathering of de-identified data.

EFM will be using the data collected to help with communication, coordination and policy development and changes. We are hoping to demonstrate the positive outcomes of employment of people with disabilities across agencies. The nature of the data that we are interested in can be found as an attachment memo.

We’d like to thank you in advance for your support of EFM and appreciate your help with this matter. We’d like to have your assigned person with contact information by XXXXX. This information can be submitted to Betsy Hopkins, the Chairperson of EFM. The assignment of a person from your department will help push the progress of helping people of Maine with disabilities find employment.

We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Every person. Every talent. Every opportunity.