OREGON DEPARTMENT OF Human Services
Developmental Disabilities Services

Solidarity with Silver Rail Elementary, Bend, and the I/DD Community

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Date: Oct. 26, 2026

To: Intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) community members

From: Acacia McGuire Anderson, Director, Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS)

Dear members of the intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) community, families, advocates, partners, and staff:

Last week's tragedy in Bend significantly impacted our community. The shooting at Silver Rail Elementary School is tragic. The loss of young lives in a classroom serving children with I/DD is especially heartbreaking. I am reaching out today, in partnership with Paul Partridge, Deschutes County CDDP, to share condolences and resources.

I extend my deepest sympathy, along with the support of the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) leadership and staff to the people of Bend, Silver Rail Elementary School, our partners at Deschutes County Human Services, Full Access High Desert, and all members of the community who are grieving. My heart especially goes out to the parents, family, and friends of the children and teacher who died and to children and school staff who survived. We all mourn your loss and pain. No child, parent, or community should have to go through something like this.

I also know that the I/DD community across the state is feeling the pain of this tragedy. People may feel sad, scared, angry, or unsure what to do. There is no right or wrong way to feel. Please know that we and so many others are here to support you.

I have seen the I/DD community in Bend and across the state coming together to offer support. I thank our partners at Deschutes County Developmental Disabilities and Full Access High Desert for all you're doing to support individuals, families, and staff. The county's support efforts have reached over 2,000 people. This is what our community does best: we reach out, offer support and speak up for one another during hard times.

It was heartwarming to hear the impact of that support from Paul Partridge from Deschutes County CDDP: "I think I speak on behalf of the Deschutes County Community when I say that the outpouring of loving kindness from all over the state and across the nation has been received and felt. We're grateful for how it contributes to feeling a little more stable and ready to move toward healing. Every individual is in a different place on the path to

heal from this, but it's the compassion everyone sends that will make that journey possible."

If you're feeling alone or if you're struggling to keep hope, those feelings are understandable. You don't have to face this alone. Please know support is available. If asking for help feels hard, please consider calling a friend, family member or someone you trust. You can also contact the resources listed below.

Resources

- Deschutes County Stabilization Center: Open 24 hours a day for walk-in mental health support at 63311 NE Jamison St. in Bend. You can also call the local crisis line at 541-322-7500 ext. 9.
- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: 24/7 free, confidential support for anyone experiencing emotional distress or a mental health or substance use crisis. Call or text 988, or chat online at.
- City of Bend Community Support Resources: List of free support services and ways to connect.
- The YouthLine: A 24/7 support service for youth ages 10-24. Teens answer calls, texts, and chats weekdays, 4–10 p.m. Call 877-968-8491, text TEEN2TEEN to 839863.
- Reach Out Oregon Parent Warmline: Connect with a family support specialist through the Oregon Family Support Network, weekdays, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Call or text 833-732-2467.
- American Psychological Association: Information and tools to help with stress or anxiety after traumatic events.

Offer support

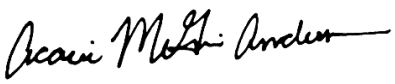
If you want to offer support to the Bend community, Deschutes County Health Services is helping connect people. Submit an offer of support.

Thank you

Thank you, community members, partners, and staff, for everything you do each day to create safety, comfort, and care for the people in our communities.

I/DD community members, we at ODDS continue to hold you in our hearts. We are and will continue to advocate for you, your rights, and your safety.

Sincerely,



Acacia McGuire Anderson, Director
Office of Developmental Disabilities Services
Oregon Department of Human Services

You can get this document for free in other languages, large print, braille or a format you need. Email dd.directorsoffice@odhs.oregon.gov or call 503-945-5811. We accept all relay calls.

Resources

- Sign up for ODDS updates.
- Learn about ODDS events.
- Sign up for Oregon Department of Human Services updates.
- Read messages from ODDS.
- Follow us on Facebook @oregondhs.idd