



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Employment Department announces new leaders for paid leave program

Feb. 2, 2022 (Salem, OR) — Today, the Oregon Employment Department (OED) announced the newest members of the Paid Family Medical Leave and Insurance (PFMLI) program’s leadership team.

“This new team brings decades of experience in policy development, outreach, organizational development, and strategic planning. They are the right people to keep the program moving toward the successful and on-time launch of this vital safety net program,” said Karen Humelbaugh, PFMLI program director.

Kelley Ofoni will be the new policy manager. She’s been with PFMLI since March of 2020, and since then she has led the both the contributions team and the benefits team. Before coming to OED, Ofoni managed a non-profit language school in Portland. She also worked in Kosovo in Eastern Europe as a political officer for the United Nations and as project manager for the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI).

The new operations manager is Danielle Willey, who has been with OED for almost 10 years, holding several positions within the agency, including claimant reemployment program coordinator, overseeing the federal Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program for



the state. Most recently, Willey emerged as a leader within the agency's response to the pandemic, working collaboratively across divisions to improve services for customers.

Michele Roland-Schwartz will begin her new role as the Outreach & Engagement Manager on March 7. Roland-Schwartz is currently the Executive Director of the Oregon Sexual Assault Task Force – a nonprofit based in Keizer, Ore. She has been a sexual and domestic violence advocate in rural Oregon, Tennessee, and Arizona, with a focus on training, technical assistance, legislative advocacy, and community engagement.

Ofofi, Willey and Roland-Schwartz will join Director Karen Humelbaugh, hired in October, and Deputy Director Juan Serratos, who assumed his role in January. Together they will lead a dedicated team that is working diligently on developing and implementing the new program.

“PFMLI will provide paid leave during life's important moments, whether it's the birth or adoption of a child or if you or a loved one gets sick or injured. It also provides safety if you are experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault or harassment,” she said. “The pandemic has underscored how important having paid leave is for workers and their families.”

When the department hired Humelbaugh last year as the new PFMLI director, she pledged to address equity and inclusion concerns. “We said we'd bring in an equity and inclusion firm, and we began working with Subduction in December. We also said we'd bring on a new leadership team dedicated to equity and inclusion, and we have done just that with Juan, Kelley, Danielle and Michele,” Humelbaugh said. “As soon as they are on board, the new PFMLI leaders will begin working with Subduction in leadership team strategy sessions.”

PFMLI has also been holding a series of listening sessions to gather community recommendations, concerns and ideas on its administrative rules. The program expects to complete its rules by Sept. 1, 2022, as



required by statute, and is on track to begin receiving employer contributions in January 2023.

“We are at an exciting point within the new PFMLI program, getting to dig into the details about how the new program will work,” Humelbaugh said. “For the next few months, we will focus on continued community engagement to make sure that we are building a program that is inclusive and accessible to all Oregonians.”

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