**Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Activities**

Oregon’s Title IV-E waiver was approved from March 24, 2004 - March 31, 2009; with an extension through January 31, 2010, and an additional extension through June 30, 2011. In the past fiscal year the state continued to utilize the Title IV-E Waiver demonstration project to utilize flexible services with the goal of preventing children from entering substitute care, and improving outcomes for children who have been placed in substitute care. The outcome measures included:

- Length of time to achieve reunification
  - Recurrence of maltreatment
  - Foster care re-entries
  - Stability of foster care placements, and
  - Length of time to achieve adoption

Oregon is currently negotiating new Terms and Conditions for a renewed Title IV-E Waiver demonstration program, with the goal of implementation July 1, 2011. The waiver beginning July 2011 will consist of two projects, an enhanced visitation program and a peer parent mentor program. Parent mentoring is being developed in four of Oregon’s 16 districts, with enhanced visitation in 13 of the districts.

The enhanced visitation is a structured coaching service provided during a parent-child visitation. The goal of this type of visitation is to improve the parent’s interactions and enhance existing strengths. The parent mentoring program is focused on clients with alcohol and/or drug issues and uses former child welfare clients, or individuals with experience with child welfare and/or A&D systems. The goal of the parent mentors is to motivate clients to complete their services and meet their treatment goals.

Oregon continues to work with PSU to provide external evaluation of the demonstration projects. In the past months, the Department and PSU have worked together to strengthen the evaluation model for the two pilot projects of enhanced visitation and peer parent mentoring. The evaluation will use a random control group and we will track the expenditures and outcomes for each client.

The Department is nearing the completion of RFPs to solicit community based contractors to provide the visitation and mentoring services. As part of
the contracts, the selected programs will participate in specific training on
the models of peer mentoring and enhanced visitation-coaching. Services
will likely begin in the fall of 2011.