Title IV-B Subpart I and II of the Social Security Act, Family Support Services Programs

Program Service Description

Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program (Title IV-B, subpart I)
During this most recent year Oregon has continued to achieve the development and expansion of services identified in the five-year plan for children and families through coordinated efforts with other Department resources, local community-based organizations and individuals within our communities. Although services are being developed and expanded these services and collaborations remain stretched and impacted by the numbers of children and families requiring assistance.

- Child Protective Services – In 2010 DHS responded to 71,886 reports of abuse and neglect (up from 67,885 in 2009); 29,021 reports were referred for investigation; 11,188 children were confirmed victims of abuse/neglect (up from 11,090 in 2009).

- Out-of-Home Care – 13,129 children experienced foster care in 2010; 8,718 on an average daily basis (up from 8,466 in 2009). 6,046 children were in family foster care (ADP), about 32.7% with relatives.

- Reunification, Adoption and Guardianship – In 2010, about 63% of children leaving foster care returned to their parents (an increase from 58% in 2009); 781 children leaving foster care were adopted (down from 1,104); 201 went in to permanent guardianship arrangements (down from 294 in 2009).

Service recipients

- At 44%, Alcohol and Drug Issues were the largest single family stress factor when child abuse/neglect was present; next most common stressors were Domestic Violence (33%) and Parental Involvement with Law Enforcement (27%). These drivers & their percentages are about the same as in 2009.
- Of children served in foster care: 64.4% were Caucasian (up from 62.2%); 6.9% were Native American (a decrease from 8.8%); 8.3% were African American (the same as in 2009); 1.5% were Asian/Pacific Islander (an increase from 1.4%); 13.7% were Hispanic (an increase from 12.8%); and for 5.1% children, Race/Ethnicity was Unknown (a decrease from 6.4%).

- 1,611 youth received Independent Living Services (an increase from 1,598 in 2009).

Oregon has established Child Welfare Strategic Improvement Efforts and continues to design program, policy and practice toward successful achievement of these goals.

Goal: Safe and Equitable Reduction of Children in Foster Care
- Increase number of children who remain safely at home after a founded report of abuse or neglect.
- Increase placements and connections with family, siblings, relatives and other individuals children know.
- Increase the number of children leaving foster care –either to reunite with parents or to be adopted/permanent guardianship –and decrease the length of time children spend in foster care.
- Safely Maintaining or Improving the Re-Abuse rate.
- Equitably: Eliminate disparate treatment and over-representation of children of color/Native American children in foster care.

Goal: Children in Foster Care are Safe & Healthy
- Timely and appropriately meeting the medical and behavioral health needs of children in foster care.
- Providing services that support placement stability and that are culturally and linguistically specific to the child and their family.
- Eliminating abuse in foster care.

Statewide Improvement Indicators - Improvements at a glance: Compared to 2009 (state level)
- Re-abuse rate declined from 6.5% to 4.2% annually, representing a 35.4% improvement.
- Re-entry remained below 8% (7.8% in 2010).
• The over-representation of Native American children served in foster care declined by almost 21%.
• The number of African American children entering the system declined by 8%.
• Number of children with two or fewer placements up by 5%.
• Number of children referred timely for Mental Health (MH) assessments at 83% (number receiving timely MH assessment at 57%).
• Number of children abused in foster care at less than one-half of one percent (0.48%), representing a reduction of 23% since 2008.
Statewide Improvement Indicators - Core Improvements:

- Foster Care Stability
  - 36.59% of children had only 1 placement (compared to 33.2% in 2009).
  - Oregon’s performance is better than national median for children in foster care through 24 months. For children in care 24 months or more, Oregon’s performance consistent with national median.

- Sibling Relationships
  - 83.5% of foster children were placed with one or more siblings (up from 81.2% in 2009).
  - As of September 2010 this measure showed further improvement, increasing to 84.2% of foster children placed with one or more siblings.
  - The number of children not placed with any sibling has improved.

- Placement Connections
  - Of the children served by Child Welfare, 40.5% were served in their homes with their parents.
  - Family Foster Care settings include Relative Caregiver Homes (related) or Family Foster Home (non-related). Of those children placed in family foster care, the percent of children placed with relatives has increased by 2.4 percentage points between 2009 and 2010, a 9.2 percent increase.

Strategic Improvement Efforts –2009/2010

- Redesigned the contracts that support in home services (Family Based Services) to allow for earlier and more individualized use.
- Increased engagement training for field workers.
- Increased the training and support for supervisors of line field workers.
- Revised our rules to support greater use of relatives and relative identified supports.
- Continued implementation of the SAFE Home study (Foster Parent Certification).
- Revised Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) rules to clarify permanent foster care.
- Implemented the Permanency Roundtable Pilots.
• Implemented the Fostering Success changes to implement the Guardianship Assistance program.
Adoption Promotion and Support Services (Title IV-B, subpart 2)

Goal: To continue to provide post adoption services to families through Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center (ORPARC).

Measurement: Number of families served; Adoption disruption rate.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) continues to contract with Northwest Resource Associates to operate the Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center (ORPARC). This program has been in operation since 1999. The primary objective of ORPARC remains to enhance the stability and functioning of adoptive or guardianship families and their children through the provision of a support network that includes information and referral services, consultation services in response to imminent and current adoptive family crises, support groups, training, and a lending library. Secondary objectives of ORPARC include community outreach, Department outreach, adoptive family association collaborations, community partnership collaborations, and staff development (both DHS and ORPARC).

For the federal fiscal year October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010, the following services were provided by ORPARC:
- 1,442 initial and follow up contacts including phone and in person to 479 individual families or eligible professionals.
- 45 reported crisis or disruption related services.
- 13 trainings reaching 334 individuals.
- 1,308 library items and information packets to 326 users.
- Support to 73 statewide adoptive/guardianship support groups that included consultation, attendance, presentations, and/or training.

For the first six months of the federal fiscal year October 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011, the following services were provided by ORPARC:
- 807 initial and follow up contacts including phone and in person to 217 individual families or eligible professionals.
- 15 reported crisis or disruption related services.
- 17 trainings reaching 313 individuals.
- 730 library items and information packets to 226 users.

Post adoption service funding which support ORPARC was recommended for elimination in the Governor’s proposed budget for the 2011-2013
In anticipation that this would be supported by the legislature which is still in session as of this writing, the Department has worked together with ORPARC to determine how to maintain the primary goals and objectives of this program within our fiscal resources. Consequently, a large portion of Oregon’s Adoption Incentive Award money from 2010 will be used to support this program. As the incentive money must be spent by September of 2012, we anticipate covering the rest of the biennium using Title IV-B money with the required small amount of general fund match coming from other places in the adoption program budget. The contract will be reduced by 30%. This will reduce the FTE of the program and will result in the program providing less training, support group participation, purchases of lending library materials, collaboration and sponsorship of conferences, and community and agency outreach. The Department and ORPARC are committed to using the available resources for direct services and support to families.

Statistics show 97.8 percent of Oregon’s adoptive placements continued to finalization without disruption in the federal fiscal year 2009. 97.4 percent of Oregon’s adoptive placements continued to finalization without disruption in the federal fiscal year 2010.

The Department has asked ORPARC to start reporting on the number of reported diversions of disruptions, dissolutions, or re-entries of adoptive and guardianship children into the foster care system, so we can begin to show the impact this program has on Oregon’s low disruption rates and/or the rates of adoptive children needing an episode of substitute care. We can begin to compare the costs of funding this post adoption and guardianship services program versus bringing children back into the foster care or residential care system.

Goal: To provide a specialized Post-Graduate Certificate Program in Therapy for service providers who work with adoptive families.

Measurement: Increase the number of program graduates providing services in the community.

This program is no longer funded by IV-B subpart 2, but through IV-E training dollars. However, it was in the original plan and will be reported here. Through a contract with Portland State University (PSU), the Department provides funding for an Adoption and Foster Family Therapy
Certificate Program for Mental Health Professionals. The objectives of the Certificate are to increase accessible and affordable mental health support for foster/adopted children and their families with professionals competent in using evidence-based strategies for the emotional, behavioral, and mental health issues of children with histories of child abuse, trauma and neglect. A list of therapists who have completed the Certificate are made available to child welfare staff as well as foster, adoptive, and kinship caregivers.
In the 2009-11 biennium, the following activities and outcomes were reported:

- Delivery of program courses to a total of 523 participants July 1, 2009-June 30, 2011 (336 licensed mental health therapists and 187 DHS Child Welfare professionals).
- 48 attendees for academic credit for graduate students in the counseling program or social work program at PSU.
- Applicants accepted in the full post-graduate certificate program include 12 therapist and two pending applications for 2010. Eight therapists completed the entire certificate program in 2009.
- The Directory of Therapists with the post-graduate certificate program currently includes 67 therapists and adoption professionals with an anticipated eight additional therapists at the end of July 2011.
- 33 of the 67 therapists serve rural Oregon.

Funding for this program continues in the 2011-13 biennium. The project agreement includes each of the eleven courses that comprise the Adoption and Foster Family Therapy Certificate Program once per year. This advanced training is accessible to therapists and child welfare professionals across the State with the convenience of distance learning. To save money and increase participation, the seven face-to-face classes on campus also have video streaming available for distance participation. The remaining four classes are fully online. As many as thirty participants can register for any of the in-person courses. For the sessions offered by distance, there is no limit to the number of participants. Ten courses per year will be open to child welfare staff. Topics will be relevant to the preparation of foster, adoptive, and guardianship families to maintain strong lifelong connections with their children.

Goal: Targeted Recruitment of foster families in order to address the need for specialized foster homes.

Measurement: Data from the inquiry of increase in the number of foster homes; increase in the ration of ethnic providers to child need.

In addition to our large foster and adoptive recruitment contract with Boys and Girls Aid Society, there are specific recruitment strategies in place to
increase the pool of prospective adoptive families and to match families with available, harder to place, legally free children.

Boise Wednesday’s Child: This contract purchases child-specific recruitment services from the Boise, Idaho, Wednesday’s Child Program. The provision of services under this program has changed over the past two years. Rather than individual caseworkers traveling to Idaho with their child(ren) for professional photography and program taping for television, the program now travels to Portland, Oregon twice per year.

In 2010 the program served 17 children, all of whom had their segments filmed in Portland. It became clear that this was a preferred method of recruitment for workers. More child profiles can be facilitated with a twice-yearly arrangement than when individual travel to Boise was required. It requires less time and effort on the part of the caseworker and the child(ren) no longer has to travel for two or more days to tape the program. The television anchor and cameraman now travel to Portland where the Wednesday’s Child program coordinator makes all the arrangements between the caseworker, foster parent, and child.

Northwest Adoption Exchange
The Department, through a contract with Northwest Resource Associates, receives services from the Northwest Adoption Exchange (NWAE). Those services include maintaining and providing an internet-based photo listing service for children in the legal care and custody of the Department. In addition to the photo listing, NWAE provides site visitors information regarding classes, programs, adoption process, resources, and offers direct contact with consultants and educators. Children referred to NWAE are harder to place special needs children for whom recruitment needs to be expanded outside the State of Oregon. Children served by the NWAE for the first three quarters of this fiscal year are as follows:

First Quarter:
- 101 Oregon children served
- 7 new registrations
- 38 children placed
- 7 withdrawn
- 12.5 months, average length of time on the website

Second Quarter:
- 64 Oregon children served
- 6 new registrations
- 14 children placed
1 child withdrawn
9.3 months, average length of time on the website

Third Quarter:
- 86 Oregon children serviced
- 31 new children registered
- 20 placed
- 1 withdrawn
8.9 months, average length of time on the website

This year, the Department expanded its contract with Northwest Resource Associates to create and maintain a password-protected Oregon specific website to be known as the Oregon Adoption Resource Exchange (OARE). Adoption Incentive Funds were used for the start up and first year maintenance of this program. See Adoption Incentive Funds section for further explanation of this new service.

**AdoptUSKids (AUK)**
General inquiries generated from advertisement on the AUK website are referred to Boys and Girls Aid Society (BGAID) which handles our primary recruitment contract. BGAID receives information directly from AUK about prospective families and shall make contact with callers within seven calendar days of receiving the information to answer questions. BGAID conducts follow-up inquiries with prospective adoptive families to gather the status of their recruitment effort, progress in the adoptive continuum or reasons why a family may have opted out. Follow-up inquiries are conducted at two week, three month and six month intervals.

Children who are referred for expanded recruitment (outside of Oregon) are posted on the AUK website by the Northwest Adoption Exchange. NWAE monitors the site and tracks all activity including new postings, inquiries, number of children placed, and number of children withdrawn.

**Special Needs Adoption Coalition (SNAC) and Coalition of Adoption Agencies (COAA)**
The Department continues to collaborate with both SNAC and COAA to extend the pool of general applicant adoptive homes available to children in the Department’s custody. SNAC and COAA work closely with our Independent Adoption Program Coordinator on licensing related matters and the Department provides oversight for work done by private agencies, to include quality of home studies.
A Family for Every Child (AFFEC) The Department discontinued its contract with AFFEC.

Goal: Assess organizational capacity of the foster care and adoption program.

Measurement: Increase of timeliness to achieving adoption.

OR-Kids (Oregon SACWIS system)
The adoption program has remained closely and actively involved with business and practice design and development over this reporting period. This includes participation in development and design sessions, and development of business processes with a goal of streamlining work, eliminating duplication, and developing a more seamless process for the receipt and approval of documents necessary for the legal adoption file. When the system is activated, which is anticipated to be in 2011, the system should support increased timeliness to achieving adoption. The adoption program was also involved in a four week pilot session for OR-Kids. This remains a high priority for the adoption unit in the coming months as we prepare for the OR-Kids go live date and prepare for the design and implementation of subsequent stages.

Rapid Process Improvement Initiative
The adoption program participated in two Lean Daily Management/Rapid Process Improvement Initiatives during this review period in connection with anticipated business processes changes in OR-Kids. The two initiatives focused on the paperwork flow and communication between the field and the Legal Assistance Specialists who review and approve all documents for the legal adoption record and the Adoption Assistance and Guardianship Assistance referral process. Both initiatives included Central Office Adoption Unit staff, field staff, OR-Kids business analysts, and LDMS staff. The focus was to map the work of the two programs, then take advantage of the OR-Kids system in streamlining the flow of paperwork and communication, and eliminating unnecessary steps involved in the current processes.

In addition to the above, all adoption staff became trained during this review period on Lean Daily Management and continuous improvement processes.

Implementation of new Administrative Rules
The Department has revised a number of Administrative rules in an effort to update best practice, streamline work, and create new or different processes in permanency planning and freeing and placing children for adoption. Some of the significant rule changes implemented this year that should lead to increased timeliness for permanency include:

- Revised process for seeking legal permanency for a child that includes collaborative participation of the child’s team (CASA, attorney, Tribe, Refugee committee, and other significant persons to the child).
- Revised adoption selection process that includes the ability for adoptive resource selection to occur by the caseworker in consultation with the supervisor, and child’s team or at a local branch committee in a majority of the cases.
- Increased scrutiny and a higher level of approval for changing a child’s plan to Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement.
- Early relative engagement and continued search and engagement throughout the life of the case.

Implementation of the Fostering Connections Act of 2008
In the 2011 session, the Department introduced legislation to allow the payment of adoption assistance to age 21 for eligible youth who were adopted after age 16. The legislation passed and October 1, 2011 is the expected implementation date. With this comes extending guardianship assistance to age 21 due to the ability to now claim Title IV-E reimbursement for both these populations. With this incentive, we hope barriers to adopting or entering into guardianships with older, harder to place youth will be reduced and we can see a rise in permanency of teens.

Representation Pilots
Continued restructuring and piloting of how we use Department of Justice (DOJ) staff in legal review, consultation, representation, and litigation. One pilot is underway and a second cost neutral pilot will begin in June that will add DOJ representation earlier in the case, provide seamless representation and litigation with one assigned attorney, and add an early case review with a consultant to discuss appropriate permanency plans including adoption and guardianship. Expected outcomes of the restructuring include early identification and resolution of legal issues, better outcomes in court that support the best interest of the child, earlier identification of concurrent permanency plans, decreased paperwork and consultation once a case is approved for TPR.
Hague Convention Intercountry Adoption Act
Administrative rules are in effect, and since implementation, Oregon has placed a total of 14 children with their relatives out of country.

Casey Family Program Permanency Roundtables
A Permanency Roundtable is a professional case consultation that is structured, in-depth, non-blaming and relentless in the pursuit of legal permanency for a child who is on an Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement plan. At the end of each Roundtable, a case specific action plan is developed with identified work efforts and timeline goals specified to expedite safe legal permanency and permanent connections for each child staffed. A total of 65 people were trained as master practitioners, neutral facilitators and cultural guides for the Permanency Roundtables for eight Oregon counties who are pilot participants in the statewide Safe and Equitable Foster Care Reduction initiative. Counties were encouraged to select long-term foster care cases based on the criteria of children of color, children in the foster care system for the longest period of time, and young children designated as APPLA. Systemic barriers to achieving permanency were also identified. In addition to individual children staffed at the Roundtable getting an intensified plan for permanency and connection, progress is being made to strategically address some of the systemic barriers identified in the Permanency Roundtables. An Executive Summary of the Oregon Permanency Roundtables is available upon request.

Investments in Family Support (Title IV-B, subpart 2)
In FFY 2011, Family Support funds are most commonly used to protect children from harm and strengthen at-risk families (80%) through the implementation of programs and strategies intended to reduce child maltreatment and provide needed supports to at-risk families. The remainder is used to strengthen the service delivery systems in communities that support children, youth and families (20%).
Primary programs or activities funded in communities in FFY 2011 are:
- Healthy Start.
- Parent Education Programs.
- Family Centered Counseling.
- Respite.
- Parent/Child After School Programs.

Primary system development initiatives funded in communities in FY 2011 are:
- Student Success Initiatives.
- Integrated Service Delivery Improvements.
- Early Childhood Care and Education System Improvements.

**Accomplishments and Progress FFY 2011**

- In April 2009, the State Commission on Children and Families clarified the role of local Commissions on Children and Families in the Title IV-B(2) Program. Local Commissions participate in the Family Support portion of the Title IV-B(2) grant.
- Counties adjusted investments as necessary to conform to the revised rule.
• All 36 Oregon local Commissions on Children and Families provided updates to counties’ local coordinated comprehensive plans for children and families.
  o 36 counties reported child abuse and neglect prevention as a significant issue; 21 counties experienced an increase in child abuse and neglect rate from 2007-2009.
  o 30 counties reported poverty and child hunger as a significant and quickly growing issue up from 23 counties in 2008.
  o 36 counties reported preparing children and youth for the future as an issue area and over half of the counties noted a need for culturally appropriate services.

• All 36 counties are implementing strategies and funding programs and activities to address issues identified in the comprehensive plans and State Commission goals, which include:

**Healthy Start**

![Rate of Maltreatment Healthy Start vs. Non-Healthy Start](image)

Healthy Start families are two and one-half times less likely to abuse or neglect their children. *NPC Research 2007-08 Healthy Start Evaluation Report*  
*March 2009*
Relief Nurseries strengthen families and improve parenting skills in families at the highest-risk of abusing and neglecting their children. **NPC Research Relief Nurseries 2007-08 Evaluation, February 2009**

**Local Commission Title IV-B(2) Investments**
Local Commission’s on Children and Families are investing in activities and programs intended to impact the following high-level outcomes through local activity outcomes as displayed in the following table.

Counties report 90% of programs, activities and initiatives funded through Title IV-B(2) Family Support investments are meeting or on track to meet outcome targets; only 3% are not meeting or are not on track to meet outcome targets; and counties report that it is too early to assess results in 7% of their programs. Following are outcomes for key programs. *(Please note that data reported to date is preliminary, incomplete and “raw.” Some counties are unable to report until after the close of the biennium and data will be analyzed after that time.)*
Primary Target Areas for Title IV-B (2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High-level Outcome Goal</th>
<th>Local activity outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduce child maltreatment</td>
<td>• Improved stability of family life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Improved parent and young child interactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Increase adequacy of social supports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Improved youth and parent interactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Adequate basic resources: food, shelter, transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive Youth Development</td>
<td>• Positive Relationships with Adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Quality peer interactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Pro-social skills and behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Academic progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• School attendance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readiness to Learn</td>
<td>• Normal child/adolescent growth and development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ready to learn at kindergarten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Family literacy practices and resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase child care availability</td>
<td>• Adequate, quality child care to meet family needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease alcohol, tobacco and other drug use</td>
<td>• Improve life skills and problem solving skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Reduce use of ATOD during pregnancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase community engagement</td>
<td>• Increased positive, informal interactions that link adults, children and youths.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Increased formal interactions and systems that link adults, children and youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Increase integrated service delivery for children, youth and families</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Planning for FFY 2012

The State Commission plans to adopt intermediate outcomes that correspond to the following goals approved in 2011.

1. Improve early childhood development outcomes through home visiting and children ready to enter school.
2. Reduce child hunger through partnerships, collaborations, and summer food programs.
3. Decrease child abuse and neglect through risk reduction and prevention.
4. Reduce adolescent risk factors through prevention and intervention strategies.

The State Commission will adopt intermediate outcomes for these goals in FFY 2011 and will require local Commissions to target investments to programs that are research based and proven to impact the goals and
intermediate outcomes. Intermediate outcomes that will be recommended to the State Commission on Children and Families are being developed by State Commission staff in consultation with local Commissions and outcome and evaluation experts.
Promoting Safe and Stable Families (Title IV-B, subpart 2)
The State of Oregon has continued to successfully move toward community-based family support services in order to achieve success in family preservation, family reunification, and supportive services for adoption of children.

Family Preservation and Family Reunification
As defined in the state’s five year plan Oregon has been working on a significant redesign of the Family Based Services program to incorporate new models for family support to maintain children in their families, prevent foster care and to assist in the reunification of families.

Goal: To redesign of Family Based Services that promote a safe, supportive family, and focus on the parent/child relationship.

Measurement: Increase the percentage of children who are served in their own homes.

- Use services to enhance or supplement parent/child visitation and other opportunities for parents and children to connect with each other.
- Use parenting education during or in conjunction with visits to assess and improve parenting skills.
- Increase parent’s skills to improve parent/child relationships.
- Help parents develop skills through coaching, mentoring and providing immediate, constructive feedback.
- Ensure providers are skilled in using engagement and motivational procedures.
- Ensure that trauma informed services are incorporated into all child welfare and FBS service components.
- Ensure that services are strength based, flexible, and individualized to each family’s specific, unique needs.
- Ensure that families have concrete supports and services to address their daily living needs so they are able to make necessary changes and meet expected outcomes.
- Services are coordinated by providers, parents and the child welfare caseworker who communicate on a regular basis to jointly assess safety and service needs, review progress inservices and determine when safety has been stabilized.
Oregon used a very wide net to capture the thoughts, ideas, voice and needs of communities beginning in 2009 and concluding in 2010 with the Request for Proposals to engage community service providers across the state. The new practice model and service array is referred to as In-home Safety and Reunification Services (ISRS) and contracts are now in place across the state.

The new contracts have taken two different approaches as a result of the community stakeholder input; one statewide service array for all counties in Oregon and an additional component in the model for Multnomah County, the state’s largest urban area which requested to have a service clearing house for a central point of contact in making referrals.

In-home Safety and Reunification Services (ISRS):

- **Statewide Service Array:**
  - ISRS program is designed to provide for the immediate safety of children at risk of maltreatment by managing the safety threats within the family; or when children have been placed in protective custody to help them return home with intensive in-home services.
  - ISRS program will provide a combination of concrete safety and strengths based change services that will lead to lasting safety changes within the home. Services are designed to protect children, stabilize the family, and assist parents in establishing links to formal, informal, and natural supports and resources so that a child can remain safely with their family without further intervention of the Child Welfare System. The opportunity for lasting change is improved when parents develop skills to advocate for their family and meet their child’s individual needs for safety.
  - Specific cultural adaptation has been considered in proposals for services. Providers are expected to provide a model for working with minority cultural groups disproportionally represented in the child welfare populations.

- **Multnomah County:**
• A “single point of contact” for DHS Child Welfare caseworkers to make Referrals for ISRS for their clients;
• A single agency with the responsibility to match the referral to an appropriate ISRS Provider; and to coordinate reimbursement to the Service Provider for services provided.

Early implementation of the ISRS model has found some providers who have quickly integrated the new practice model and have built service capacity while other areas have struggled moving forward. This is one area that Oregon has used the Technical Assistance and Training network which has been helpful and we anticipate utilizing continued support in this practice change.
In addition to these significant efforts identified in the five-year plan to move toward community-based family support services in order to achieve success in family preservation, family reunification; Oregon remains in partnership with other state resources and organizations. One of the more strategic efforts occurring is to ensure that partnerships, projects, initiatives, or grant opportunities align with the strategic goals of the Department. Some of the more prominent partnerships and initiatives are:

- **Statewide Children’s Wraparound Initiative.**

  The goals of the Statewide Children’s Wraparound Initiative (SCWI) are to bring wraparound, an evidence-based practice model, to all communities and serve children with the highest levels of need and their families. Children have the full array of child welfare and mental health services available to them, as well as other services and supports. SCWI takes strength-based approach that also is team-based, systems-driven and family- and youth-driven. This model creates a flexible, coordinated plan of services and supports based on each young person’s strengths.

  - More children returning to a birth or adoptive parent (9% at entry to 18% at 90 days).
  - More children exiting temporary foster care (18% at entry to 9% at 90 days).
  - More children producing school work appropriate to their ability (42% at entry to 51% at 90 days).
  - More caregivers saying they feel supported (58% at entry to 77% at 90 days).

- **Moving beyond foster care - Racial equity and safe families for Oregon's children.**

  The Moving Beyond Foster Care initiative foundation is through formal partnerships with; Casey Family Program, DHS, Oregon Commission for Children and Families and new in this recent year is the inclusion of the Oregon Judicial Department as a standing partner in this initiative. Statewide goals for this initiative:

  - Safely reduce the number of children in foster care by 26%;
  - Increase relative foster placements by 50%;
  - Reduce the number of children entering care by 10%;
  - Increase foster care exits by 20%;
- Reduce the disproportionally high representation of Native and African Americans in foster care;
- Hold the child abuse and neglect recurrence rate at or below 6.5%.
• Child Welfare Equity Task Force.

Executive Order 09-02 and Oregon Senate Bill 630 established the Child Welfare Equity Task Force to study the causes and make recommendations on how to eliminate the problem of racial disproportionality in Oregon’s child welfare system to the Oregon legislature and to the Department of Human Services. Recommendations from the study were released in spring 2011 and included the following areas:

  o Workforce Development
    ▪ Policy and Practice
    ▪ Data-Based Decision Making
  o Community Capacity Building
  o Culturally Specific
    ▪ Recommendations for Cultural Specific Practice with Urban and Rural AI/AN
    ▪ Recommendations for Sovereign Nations
    ▪ Recommendations for Culturally Specific Child Welfare Practice with African Americans

Next Steps:

During the next year Oregon anticipates a number of activities to occur which will ground the new practice model of Family Preservation and Family Reunification. The goals outlined in the five-year plan remain intact and efforts toward solidifying these into Oregon’s Child Welfare system continue.

• Continued Goal: To redesign of Family Based Services that promote a safe, supportive family, and focus on the parent/child relationship.
  o Measurement: Increase the percentage of children who are served in their own homes.
  o Status: Contracts have been developed and are in communities.

• Continued Goal: Improve FBS Contracting and Business Processes.
  o Measurement: Annual survey to inquire if Districts have contractors in place.
  o Status: Not all Districts have ISRS contracted providers up to capacity with the model or expertise for service delivery.
Children, Adults and Families has been researching and exploring models across the country for Differential/Alternative Response. The purpose will be to re-design and transform the front-end of child welfare services and prevent child welfare foster care entry. The Oregon legislature, although has not determined an operating budget for the Department as of this writing for 2011-2013 it is anticipated to be approved by the end of June 2011. Within this budget it contemplates moving toward implementation of a Differential Response model in Child Welfare. The support for this direction is also being reviewed by the Legislature for a companion bill, Senate Bill 964 which seeks to do many of these same efforts toward community based services, family preservation, and prevention of foster care entry.

- Senate Bill 964 (summary excerpt):
  - Requires Department of Human Services and county partners to implement Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families programs to provide family preservation and reunification child welfare services.
  - Directs the Department to seek federal approval to access federal savings accrued as result of reduction in costs of foster and substitute care to reinvest in programs under Act.
  - Creates Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families Program Fund.
  - Continuously appropriates funds to the Department for specified purposes.
  - Requires the Department and juvenile courts to include in reasonable or active efforts considerations and determinations whether preservation and reunification services provided by programs are most likely to prevent or eliminate removal of child from child’s home or most likely to make it possible for child to safely return home.

During this recent year as Oregon redesigned Family Based Services as identified in the five-year CFSP with a focus on community based organizations to promote safe, supportive families, and focus on the parent/child relationships and to increase the percentage of children who are served in their own homes it became important to educate service providers, staff and communities on this paradigm change. Oregon has utilized Safety Services through the Oregon Safety Model and now is integrating the Change Services within the ISRS model.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safety Services</th>
<th>Change Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The purpose is to control.</td>
<td>The purpose is to change behaviors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety Services are limited to controlling</td>
<td>ISRS Services are put in place following provider assessment and when the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>impending danger threats.</td>
<td>family is ready.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity and services are dense which means there</td>
<td>Activity and services focus on lasting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>are a lot of things going on frequently.</td>
<td>behavioral change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The safety services must have an immediate effect.</td>
<td>Change services build on existing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This means the moment they are set in place.</td>
<td>protective capacity of the Parents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The safety service provider’s role and responsibility</td>
<td>The change service provider’s role and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in the ongoing safety plan is exact and focused on</td>
<td>responsibility vary according to client need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>safety threats.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Change Services is at the core of the ISRS paradigm change.

- Crisis Intervention services to address the crisis of disclosure, CPS assessment, and concerns when a significant family member leaves the home.
- Motivational Interviewing, Collaborative Problem Solving, Cognitive Behavioral therapy, and Parent–Child attachment coaching sessions.
- Basis Home Management Skills.
- Support Services.
- Self Management Services to facilitate access to counseling resources for children traumatized by abuse and exposure to Domestic Violence, assist with health care needs and ongoing social supports.

Referrals as part of a protective action to prevent placement during the CPS assessment must be assigned promptly so the Provider can initiate contact with the family within 24 hours after DHS has initiated the referral.

Referrals to support reunification or in-home safety planning require the Provider to initiate contact with the family within 5 days after DHS initiated the referral.

Family Preservation and Reunification efforts are also supported by the use of the Departments Foster Care Prevention activities as well as the states flexible funding program of Systems of Care. Most often these funding
resources are aimed to prevent a child from entering foster care, assisting a child to exit foster care to reunification or to enhance a child well-being while in foster care. Funding is primarily used for; caregiver support, therapeutic support, housing/lodging, and house repairs.

Oregon remains committed to services previously defined in CFSP five-year plan although may take on varying names through the ISRS model such as;

- Parent Training as Parent-Child Connections; utilizing the education model while having visits with the child to practice learned skills.
- Family Decision Making Meetings while using FDM Facilitators.
- Intensive Family Services for crisis intervention.
- Varying services that are community enriched and culturally appropriate.