**Collaboration**

The Department program staff consults with community partners and stakeholders to plan for the delivery of and to assess the strengths and areas needing improvement for Child Welfare service delivery. The key collaborators include but are not limited to:

- Juvenile Court Improvement Project (JCIP) Steering Committee;
- Oregon Commission on Children and Families (OCCF);
- Citizens Review Board;
- Tribes;
- Foster Parent Advisory Committee;
- Children’s Justice Act Task Force (CJA);
- Domestic Violence Advisory Committee;
- Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC);
- Foster Care Safety Team;
- Critical Incident Review Teams;
- Coalition of Adoption Agencies;
- CASA;
- Governor’s Task Force on Disproportionality;
- Communities of color and organizations representing them;
- District managers, branch managers, and program managers meet regularly with community partners and stakeholders to address issues specific to their community, families and children.

The stakeholders, community partners and central office program staff provide requested information (as outlined in the program instructions issued by ACF) to meet the reporting requirements. The various stakeholders and community partners such as Tribes, OCCF and JCIP, as well as CAF program staff compile and submit information on activities and progress towards the plan, which is then assimilated into the APSR.

**Collaborations between CAF and Courts**

CAF Administrator of Safety and Permanency has continued as a member of the Juvenile Court Improvement Advisory Committee. In this capacity the member provides input, recommendations and action review regarding the Oregon Judicial Department; Juvenile Court Improvement Strategic Plan.
CAF staff also participates on JCIP subcommittees with joint participation during Legislative Road shows and the Annual Judges Conference.

CAF continues to partner with Casey Family Programs, OCCF, and the Oregon Judicial Department, working to safely and equitably reduce the number of children in foster care and to reduce the disproportionate number of children of color in the foster care system. This collaboration has been in place since 2008, and in 2010, the Courts became a full partner in the efforts and has increased participation in the work. This partnership is designed to increase policy and practice improvements amongst community partners at a statewide level, while also creating localized, community driven partnerships and collaborations, to achieve the goals. The work began initially with eight pilot counties. In 2011, three additional counties are being added to this work. Local communities have engaged community partners beyond those usually associated with child welfare to ensure a better community response to child abuse and neglect, which include the business, faith, and communities of color. Oregon is learning that community collaboration is based on relationship building which takes time and trust, something that deserves investment of time and resources. In 2011, the Model Court training and a Casey supported Early Learning Symposium will occur in conjunction with each other, increasing the opportunity for Model Court teams to learn from the efforts of the counties to equitably and safely reduce the number of children in foster care.

Oregon participated as a member of the National Governor’s Association (NGA), Safe Reduction of Children in Foster Care policy academy from 2008 to 2010. This policy academy allowed multi-disciplinary teams from each state to attend learning labs, receive peer to peer technical assistance, and attend various trainings around foster care reduction strategies. Oregon’s team included CAF, Oregon Judicial Department, and members from the Oregon legislature.

As a part of the Safe and Equitable Foster Care Reduction efforts, the Governor’s Task Force on Disproportionality was created to assess and report findings and recommendations to the legislature regarding solutions to overcome Oregon’s over-representation of African-American and American Indian/Alaskan Native children in foster care. The Task Force membership was representative of Oregon Tribes and communities of color, as well as the legislature, foster parents, youth advocates, law enforcement, and others.
CAF Assistant Director, Deputy Director and Administrator of the Office of Safety and Permanency for Children are members of the *Three Branches of Government* workgroup. This workgroup consists of representatives from the Executive, Judicial and Legislative branches of the government with a mission to improve the Child Welfare System in Oregon. This workgroup continues to meet and address improvements.

JCIP staff and CAF staff worked in partnership throughout the CFSR process with participation from judges, CASA, CRB, DAs, and other court staff in the state’s self assessment workgroups, on-site stakeholder interviews, and now the Program Improvement Plan (PIP). In early 2011, Oregon successfully completed our PIP. Stakeholders and the Courts will continue to work with the Department to sustain and improve the successes of the PIP.

CAF continues to work with the Court system on the implementation of E-Courts, an electronic system of information exchange between the courts, attorneys and Child Welfare, toward a goal of better information exchange between participants in Juvenile Court. In addition, as part of CAF continuous improvement efforts, a series of efficiency exercises resulted in an improved method of electronically providing discovery materials to the courts and attorneys. This improvement will be piloted in partnership with the Courts in 2011.

The Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC) assumed responsibility as the Task Force for the CJA grant as well as monitoring CAF’s efforts to implement the recommendations of the Foster Care Safety Team. The Foster Care Safety Team is a multidisciplinary team that was brought together in 2009 to review abuse in foster care and make recommendations for improvements. Representatives from law enforcement, CASA, foster parent associations, Oregon Attorney General, CAF and foster youth all participated on the team. This team produced a report with a number of important recommendations for improvement in the foster system that CAF is in the process of implementing.

**Statewide Children’s Wraparound Initiative**

As stated above, the SCWI was established by HB 2144 in the 2009 legislative session. It called for the DHS to lead the partnership of all state agencies serving children to collaborate on comprehensive, cultural and or
linguistic, competent services and supports, to children (and their families) with complex behavioral health needs. The leadership was provided from two divisions in the DHS, Addictions and Mental Health (AMH) and Children, Adults and Families (CAF). Since passage of the bill, AMH has been moved to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA); however, the spirit of partnership in leading the initiative has remained strong.

This new statutory requirement came with no additional funding. As such, initial emphasis has been placed on children in child welfare custody who have (a) been in custody for one year (or more) and have experienced four (or more) placements or (b) are in their first year of custody and are requiring increasingly intensive services to manage their behavior.

Through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process three sites were selected that include eight counties of the state and reach 340 children. Support has been provided to all three demonstration sites through staff at Central Office and the Child Welfare Partnership at PSU, who are providing training and direct consultation.

Demonstration sites were funded as of July 1, 2010 but were allowed until October 1, 2010 to meet their contractual census requirements. This means that Wraparound as a practice or process has only been in effect for seven months, giving us only two quarters of data. It is showing promise of increasing the number of children returning to a parent, decreasing the number of children in foster care, and decreasing substance abuse and delinquent behaviors exhibited by children in the initiative.

In this first year the initiative has been able to establish Wraparound at the case level, streamline referral processes, establish governance structures, and establish guidance on partner roles in Wraparound. In the next year the focus of the initiative will be on establishing systems of care that support Wraparound in the demonstration communities, establishing data sharing agreements between state agencies, and developing a continuous quality improvement system in regard to culturally and linguistically competent services and supports.

A full description of the progress toward and cost of full implementation as required by ORS 418.985(4) can be accessed through: http://www.oregon.gov/OHA/mentalhealth/wraparound/main.shtml