

# Oregon DHS Child Welfare

A message from Director Lena Alhusseini



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## Redesign of Oregon's Child Welfare Caseworker Training

When we feel supported, prepared and empowered with knowledge, that's when I believe we create a space for informed and high quality practice. And that is exactly what we are striving for as we begin our redesign of new Child Welfare caseworker training.

We are developing a curriculum that recognizes the need for a more holistic, trauma informed, culturally sensitive training for new child welfare staff. This approach honors the importance of family community engagement. The new training is staggered over the course of one year.

Working in conjunction with Casey Family Programs, Portland State University, tribes and community stakeholders, the training redesign will be available for review and feedback throughout the development process. And we truly value your feedback, so please let me know if you have any comments or suggestions. For updates please visit the [New Child Welfare Caseworker Training web page](#).

An important difference in this training plan is that it spans over a full year, recognizing the need for ongoing professional development which includes multiple trainings and learning experiences to engage the new case worker in a more immersive learning experience. For example, the training model includes,

- Computer-based learning
- Prerequisites to classroom training, which can include following an experienced worker, meeting local school staff or the local mental health agency contacts
- Post classroom transfer of learning activities in the local offices and in local communities
- Supervisory supports, coaching and mentoring
- Knowledge and skill assessments
- The creation of a training portfolio where supervisors can get updates on classroom performance

Several workgroups are engaged in all the aspects of the redesign. As information is available it will be posted on the [New Child Welfare Caseworker Training page](#). The redesign is scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2017.

We recognize that a redesign of training addresses the needs of new workers – not our current staff. I can assure you we are diligently working to get you the trainings, resources and support you need as you move forward in your career and get more experienced in your practice. We truly appreciate all the good work you do, and I look forward to partnering together to better serve and protect our children.

Lena