

**Child Abuse Prevention
and
Treatment Act**

Section F. Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) State Plan

The CAPTA Grant supports two Child Protective Service Coordinators (2.0 FTE) and one Family Based Services consultant (.5 FTE). These positions are responsible for ensuring the PIP goals and action plans and the CAPTA grant focus areas are implemented in Child Welfare. The CPS Coordinators concentrate on the delivery of services by defining statewide practices through many avenues including writing and updating policy and procedures and training on the Oregon Safety Model. The Family Based Services (FBS) Consultant ensures that the PIP Safety focus areas are met through training and consulting with various DHS staff and partners.

Child Welfare will be concentrating on five (5) of the fourteen (14) purposes to assist the state in improving the child protective services system for FFY 2009-2014. They are as follows:

1. Improving the intake, assessment, screening, and investigation of reports of abuse and neglect;

- The Child Protective Service (CPS) Coordinator positions are critical in developing policies and procedures for CPS response by providing training and consultation to staff on how to apply the OSM to daily practice. They are involved in writing administrative rules and procedures to direct and guide staff in the screening (intake) and assessment (investigation) of child abuse and neglect. The coordinators work to support changes in administrative rule and CPS procedure. These efforts will increase consistency in practice across the state in screening and assessment.
 - Provide ongoing consultation regarding policy and best practice for timely responses to allegations of abuse and neglect.
 - Provide problem solving to the field regarding how to respond within time frames given the numerous demands of CPS workers.
 - Maintain policy surrounding response time.
 - Continuously assess the State's screening process and make improvements as necessary to keep a state of the art, consistent screening process.

- Implementation of ORKIDS (Oregon's Statewide Child Welfare Implementation System - SACWIS) and all the process training going with the implementation of ORKIDS.
- Continue to provide ongoing training to CPS workers around the criticality of response time in child safety.
- Provide ongoing consultation regarding policy and best practice for confirming safe environments for children in in-home and out of home placements.
- Provide problem solving to the field regarding how to continuously ensure/confirm the child's environment is safe.
- Maintain policy surrounding confirming safe environments.
- Provide ongoing consultation regarding policy and best practice for responding to allegations of abuse and neglect in certified foster homes.
- Provide problem solving to the field regarding how to best conduct these assessments, given the numerous demands CPS workers are under.
- Maintain policy surrounding conducting CPS assessments in Certified foster homes.
- Continuously assess the State's process and make improvements as necessary to keep a state of the art, consistent assessment process for state certified foster homes.
- Implementation of ORKIDS and all the process training going with the implementation of ORKIDS.
- Continue to provide ongoing training to CPS workers, certifiers, foster parents, and ongoing workers around the criticality of comprehensive CPS assessments in state certified foster homes.

- The Department is in the process of revision of relative rules, in consort with the Casey Foundation on relative engagement, reduction of the number of children in

substitute care and ongoing training on family engagement.

- The Department also completed a workgroup last year on visitation practices, and supervised visitation. Those procedural changes are currently being written and will be incorporated into the Procedure Manual.

This supports implementation of the PIP Safety Focus Area by seeking to improve timely responses to CPS referrals and to improve worker engagement of families so comprehensive assessments of children's immediate safety needs are completed.

2. Improving case management, including ongoing case monitoring, and delivery of services and treatment provided to children and their families;

- The Family Based Services (FBS) consultant position provides training and consulting on the Oregon Safety Model (OSM) and its implementation to all Child Welfare Staff.

PIP Focus Area: The FBS consultant position provides training on the Oregon Safety Model and its implementation to all Child Welfare Staff. The anticipated results of the training and consulting provided by the FBS consultant includes: a) improving worker engagement with the families (b) improving system response to ensure children are safe from maltreatment in their own homes and in out of home placements (c) ensure assessments for risk and safety occur during all home and foster care visits (d) ensure that the protocol in Administrative Rules in responding to maltreatment in foster homes is understood and followed (e) the consulting and training provides information for the caseworkers to provide consistent and regular face-to-face visits with children.

3. Enhancing the general child protective system by developing, improving, and implementing risk and safety assessment tools and protocols;

- CPS coordinators participate in the Department of Human Services development of the Program Improvement Plan. The Coordinators developed and implemented a case review tool to be used in reviewing CPS assessments. These reviews provide information regarding where training is needed in the field.

PIP Safety Focus Area: The CPS Coordinators provide training on the Oregon Safety Model and its implementation to all Child Welfare staff. The Child Welfare managers, CPS consultants and the CPS Coordinators participate in work sessions to address local barriers in using the OSM to develop written plans to address the barriers. The Coordinator implements a process for follow through on the written plans and outcomes to address timeliness of CPS response. The Coordinator reviews progress and adjust plans as need to ensure timeliness of CPS response.

- The Family Based Services consultant is participating in the current FBS redesign project. The redesign of services and new service model will assist workers in implementing Protective Capacity focused services that are congruent with the Oregon Safety Model.

PIP Focus Area: The Protective Capacity focused services will improve system response to ensure that children are safe from maltreatment in their own homes and in out-of-home placements.

4. Developing, strengthening, and facilitating training including –
(A) training regarding research-based strategies to promote collaboration with the families;

- CPS Coordinator positions conduct quality reviews of CPS/Child Welfare practice, procedure and performance. This results in the development of best practice procedures for CPS workers and supervisors to apply to daily practice. For example, several topics addressed range from ensuring timely response to CPS referrals, improving worker relationships with families to engage them in the process of completing comprehensive assessments and to ensure that maltreatment procedure is understood and followed by workers.

PIP Focus Area: The CPS Coordinator positions conduct quality reviews and focus on the goals of improving the timely response to CPS referrals. The reviews prepare workers to improve the engagement of families so comprehensive assessments of children's immediate safety needs are completed. This includes a focus on improving system response to ensure that children are safe from maltreatment in their own homes and in out-of-home placements and to make sure that assessments for risk and safety occur

during all home visits for children remaining in their own home, and during foster care visits for children in foster care. The CPS Coordinator positions participate in activities to ensure that Administrative Rules regarding CPS response to maltreatment in foster homes is universally understood and followed.

- The Family Based Services Family Based Services consultant is participating in the current FBS redesign project. The FBS redesign project researched Evidenced Based Practices to develop key services for implementation in Protective Capacity focused services plan. These services are congruent with the Oregon Safety Model.

PIP Focus Area: The consultant will provide training and consulting to Child Welfare staff on new services being implemented in the Family Based Services redesign. These services will benefit clients who receive FBS services to ensure that children are safe from maltreatment in their own homes and in out-of-home placement.

5. Improving the skills, qualifications, and availability of individuals providing services to children and families, and the supervisors of such individuals, through the child protection system, including improvements in the recruitment and retention of caseworkers;

- Child Protective Services positions: Coordinators train (practice forums, supervisor quarterlies and worker quarterlies) on the OSM concepts. This includes training and ongoing consultation with designated OSM trainers. The Coordinators development best practice procedures for CPS worker and supervisor use.

PIP Focus Area: Training is vital to improving the skills and abilities of caseworkers who provide services to children and families. The Coordinators strive to maintain a highly dedicated and trained workforce to improve the timely response to CPS referrals and to improve worker engagement of families so comprehensive assessments of children's immediate safety needs are completed. This includes a focus on improving the system response to ensure that children are safe from maltreatment in their own homes as well as in out-of-home placements and ensuring that assessments for risk and safety occur during all home visits for children

remaining in their own home, and during foster care visits for children in foster care.

- The Family Based Services (FBS) consultant position provides training and consulting on the Oregon Safety Model (OSM) and its implementation to all Child Welfare Staff. The FBS consultant provides case review and consultation for the Capacity and Assessment Review.

PIP Safety Focus Area: In providing training and consulting on the Oregon Safety Model and the Capacity and Assessment Review, the consultant is participating in the initial focus of the PIP by training to implement the OSM. The OSM initial focus of the PIP – Safety area, training, develops the skills and qualifications of current staff. A highly trained workforce is better able to provide the high standard of work that Child Welfare requires. The anticipated results of the training and consulting provided by the FBS consultant includes: a) improving worker engagement with the families (b) improving system response to ensure children are safe from maltreatment in their own homes and in out of home placements (c) ensure assessments for risk and safety occur during all home and foster care visits (d) ensure that the protocol in Administrative Rules in responding to maltreatment in foster homes is understood and followed (e) the consulting and training provides information for the caseworkers to provide consistent and regular face-to-face visits with children.

Writing the administrative rules, policies and procedures for Child Protective Services the objective is to use the written word to direct and guide staff to understand the principles and demonstrate the practice outlined by the Oregon Safety Model. Toward this end, there is a constant effort, and currently focused effort, to improve the consistency and usability of the rules. This includes a thorough review, reorganization and modification to the definitions that are integral to the rules. Also, participating in developing standards for creating and revising all rules within Child Welfare to be consistent in ways that increase their utility and ease of use by staff. In collaborating with all Oregon Child Welfare rule writers in a manner new to this division, the next several years should show considerable advancements in the processes that guide and support the rule writing process and the final written product. Developing the Rule Advisory Committee Procedure, taking an active role in Policy Council, revising existing rules and initiating

a process to improve standards for rule writing are some ways in which I have begun the efforts.

The completed Assurances form (Attachment C) signed by the Chief Executive Officer of the State pursuant to section 106(b)(2)(A) and (B) will be submitted by DHS staff.

There are no substantive changes in State law that could affect the State's eligibility for the CAPTA state grant in the Child Welfare unit of DHS.

Criminal History Checks

The State's criminal background check rules for prospective foster and adoptive families were updated on October 1, 2008 to bring the rules into line with federal Title IV-E requirements. Beginning on that date all foster/adoptive applicants and any other adult living in the home of an applicant were required to submit to a fingerprint-based nationwide criminal background check via the National Criminal Information Center. In addition, the list of crimes that disqualify a person from becoming a foster or adoptive parent under our rules was expanded to include all of the crimes identified as disqualifying under 42 USC 671(a)(20) of the U.S. Code.

The request for FY 2010 funds in the CFS-101, Part I and an estimate of expenditures in the CFS-101, Part II will be submitted by DHS staff.

