

Oregon's foster children deserve to live in a supportive environment that is safe, free from abuse or neglect. Even one incident of abuse while in care is too many. DHS is actively implementing strategies to improve outcomes for children and strengthening our approach to safety.

### **Training DHS Staff**

DHS certification staff and supervisors participated in an enhanced training this summer regarding *Managing Mitigation* during the S.A.F.E. homestudy process. DHS caseworkers and supervisors were retrained in *Confirming Safe Environments*.

### **Quality Assurance**

The *Consortium for Children*, an outside agency, completed a Quality Assurance (QA) Review of S.A.F.E. home studies for the DHS over the summer. Among the key findings:

- 71% of the studies identified all issues and concerns accurately
- 76% of the studies reflected the practitioners were utilizing the rating guide correctly
- 90% of the studies were not mitigating the identified issues thoroughly

DHS is piloting a comprehensive QA tool beginning January 2016, providing an additional review of work related to foster care and relative care providers with an emphasis on safety.

Child Protective Services has completed a QA Review of 2014 Allegations of Maltreatment in foster care, which identified a need for increased communication across branch program areas, and a need to monitor cases closed at screening in a comprehensive manner.

### **Improved Accountability**

Quarterly Business Reviews are a data-driven tool for monitoring safety in Foster Care. These occur quarterly at an enterprise level. Data related to maltreatment in foster care is monitored at these reviews, issues are identified and solutions are proposed.

The Foster Child Bill of Rights (SB 123) is implemented, requiring posters displayed in all care settings that provides information for children and youth to report safety concerns. This is supported by the Foster Care Ombudsman Office, which was established in 2014.

