

# Unified Child and Youth Safety Implementation Plan Steering Team

At the steering team meeting on May 10, 2017, each member of the steering team responded to the following question: "Name one thing you are impressed with that DHS is doing well with in regards to child safety."

- Moving forward to centralize hotline operations.
- An exceptional caseworker that is more dedicated than anyone I have ever met around child safety.
- Increased communication from DHS.
- Impressed with the team that is building that is not just with DHS staff and the dedication of the kids in the center to solve these problems.
- All three branches of government and community providers are making child safety a priority for kids and families in Oregon. The fact that this is a priority at every level of leadership and the Governor means a lot. We need to embrace the momentum.
- The continued work to be a transparent and ethical organization.
- Impressed with the level of intensity and frequency that we are having conversations internally about child safety issues.
- Happy that we all work together and that we see kids as kids and not just our kids, your kids...they are all of our kids. They are Oregon kids.
- Continued value for bringing stakeholders, community partners, and government to government relationships together.
- Impressed with breaking down silos and collaboration across state agencies, health plans, advocates...
- Increased implementation of feedback from community partners by DHS. We take an issue to them, they act on it and implement it.
- Renewed efforts to support foster parents as they care for the state's most vulnerable children.
- Our partnership rule is that we don't ever do anything alone. Our best partner, if we are to rank them, is DHS. We are so thankful for the opportunity to work with the agency on engaging the community.
- I have advocated for foster youth since I have gotten out of foster care and I can just say that DHS has made huge strides in creating safer families, safer environments, and all around better homes for foster youth. And this isn't an overnight process, nor an easy one. The more partnerships and communication between every advocate for foster youth...that is what is going to create better outcomes for foster youth.
- The new foster parent videos by Every Child Oregon are phenomenal. If you haven't seen them, seek them out and share them!
- Most excited about hotline and centralized screening and for moving so quickly with pulling this together. You normally don't see this happen in the agency.
- I was just at the program managers meeting and I wished that they all could hear what you are saying. Things that stick out for me is collaboration, community engagement, and working toward positive change in the department. We are always trying to evolve.
- Appreciative of the executive leadership at DHS and the fortitude of perseverance over the last eighteen months.
- Excited about how we are training caseworkers because they will be the ones that provide child safety.
- Appreciation for child welfare workers. They have been working in a system that has been for a long time underfunded. They have to stand in front of judges and answer questions...but they keep showing up. The general public doesn't have the opportunity to hear success stories of the caseworkers who do preserve, who think creatively with limited resources, and who are thanked by families who are reunited by children who succeed. I don't think that story is told nearly enough.
- Commitment towards data informed decision strategies.
- Impressed with the level of investment and engagement of the community and its stakeholders in ensuring that the department is supported and ultimately that children and families have better outcomes in Oregon.