Presentation to the Senate Committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

CHILD WELFARE OVERVIEW

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Presentation Outline

• Who we are

• Carrying out the Vision for Transformation Areas of Work

• Supporting families and promoting prevention
  o Oregon Child Abuse Hotline
  o Safety
  o Permanency
  o Treatment Services
  o Interstate Compact Placement of Children
  o Youth Transitions
  o Independent Living

• Our staff and data infrastructure
  o Tribal Nations and ORICWA
  o Child Fatality Prevention and Review
  o Equity, Workforce Development and Training
  o Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System
  o Family First

• Thank you/ Questions
Who We Are

1. Highlights from the past biennium
2. Vision for Transformation
We are Child Welfare

- The Child Welfare Division’s mission is to ensure every child and family is empowered to live a safe, stable and healthy life.

- ODHS Child Welfare Division is part of a larger statewide social safety-net system that works to support children and families and communities.
Children in foster care remain on a downward trend (6,296) lowest number in about 15 years

Children in out-of-state placements remain at 0

Overall, the division’s caseworker staffing is at 91.47% of position authority

Average wait times at the Oregon Child Abuse Hotline (ORCAH) continued to stay low with an average of 3.37 minutes despite call volume increases.

The use of Temporary Lodging has been reduced by 66% over the last 12 months.

Launched the implementation of ORICWA (Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act)

Created leadership role – Deputy Director for Equity, Training and Workforce Development
Lowest number of children in foster care in 15 years

Foster Care Caseload January 1 by Year

Linear (January 1 of Year)
About the Vision for Transformation

• Vision for Transformation brings equity and an anti-racist lens to every aspect of our work.
• The Vision for Transformation is the spirit of what we believe the child welfare system can and should be in Oregon.
• We envision a child welfare system built on our mission, core values, and a belief that children do best growing up in a family and in their community.
• The Vision for Transformation was created through collaborative discussions with our workforce, community partners and Tribal Nations.
Three Guiding Principles of the Vision for Transformation

1. Supporting families and promoting prevention
2. Enhancing our staff and infrastructure
3. Enhancing the structure of our system by using data with continuous quality improvement
Carrying out the Vision for Transformation

1. Who we serve
2. How we serve
Who We Serve

• All 36 counties in Oregon
• Children and Young Adults
• Biological and Kin Families
• Foster Parents and Caregivers
• Community Partners
• Tribal Nations
• Providers
We provide services for children and families

Who We Serve and Services Provided (2019 and 2020)

- Total Number of children in foster care (Dec.): 6296 (2020), 7100 (2019)
- Total Number of Services provided for families in-home: 6659 (2020), 7443 (2019)
- In-home safety plans created: 3009 (2020), 2909 (2019)
- Total Number of Licensed General Foster Homes: 942 (2020), 1401 (2019)
- Total Licensed Child Specific Foster Homes: 6879 (2020), 6682 (2019)
# Child Welfare Division Core Areas of Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oregon Child Abuse Hotline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Safety: Child Protection Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanency: Foster Care, Reunification, Adoption, Guardianship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Transitions Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fatality Prevention and Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Wellness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foster Parent Recruitment &amp; Retention</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treatment Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICPC Interstate Compact for Placement of Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy: State and Federal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equity, Training, &amp; Workforce Development</td>
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<td>Business &amp; Operations Contracts, ORKIDS</td>
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Staff Structure

• 3,223 authorized FTE from Legislatively Adopted Budget (2019-21)

• 74 offices including central, district, branch, satellite, and visitation locations

• Services provided by ODHS Child Welfare staff in partnership with community partners and organizations
Supporting families and promoting prevention

1. Oregon Child Abuse Hotline
2. Safety Program
3. Permanency Program
4. Treatment Services
5. Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children
Oregon Child Abuse Hotline (ORCAH)

• First point of contact for community or people concerned about children’s safety

• Educating mandatory reporters that poverty does not equal abuse

• Report child abuse at 1-855-502-SAFE (7233)
Maintaining Access to ORCAH

Assigned Screening Reports 2019 and 2020 April-November

ORCAH Contacts 2019 and 2020 April-November
Safety Program

• Comprehensive child safety assessments
• Goal is to keep child in a home safely and provide supports to families
• Foster care should be the last option for intervention

2020 Safety Decision by Reporter Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporter Type</th>
<th>Unsafe</th>
<th>Safe</th>
<th>Pending</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
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<td>Non MR</td>
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Unsafe, Safe, Pending
Permanency Program

• Supporting families in reaching permanency as quickly as possible

• Permanency looks like:
  ○ A child reuniting with biological parent(s)
  ○ A child being adopted
  ○ A child being placed in guardianship

• Post-Adoption Services

• Agency continues intentional focus on reunification and permanency.
Treatment Services

• Treatment Services recognizes children who need higher-level behavioral health services need therapeutic supports where they live with families or through a treatment stay, when medically necessary.

• Services Include:
  o Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS)
  o Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP’s)
  o Community level shelter care.

• Focused Opportunities for Children Utilizing Services (FOCUS)
  o Services to support children where they live to meet the child where they’re at to prevent disruptions to higher level care
Treatment Services Team

Residential Resource Consultant Team

Treatment Program Analyst

FOCUS Committee

Logistics Team
Treatment Services

• All children are now served in Oregon and there are no approved out of state providers.
  o Contract with Sequel Youth Services was cancelled July 2020.

• Worked to maintain bed capacity throughout 2020. Gained 25 beds with a net loss of 17 beds.

• Tailor expansions based on individual needs.

• Incredible effort to reduce use of temporary lodging.

• Several plans in 2021 to continue to shift to more in-home services.

Quarterly Unique Youth Entering Temp Lodging

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Q1 2019</th>
<th>Q2 2019</th>
<th>Q3 2019</th>
<th>Q4 2019</th>
<th>Q1 2020</th>
<th>Q2 2020</th>
<th>Q3 2020</th>
<th>Q4 2020</th>
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<td>Value</td>
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<td>49</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>13</td>
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Independent Living Program

• In the federal fiscal year, Oregon served:
  o 1,753 youth in 2019
  o 1,572 youth in 2020
  o Working to connect teens and young adults with relational systems of support as they transition to living independently.

• Additional support for young adults was provided during the COVID-19 pandemic
  o Independent Living Housing Subsidy Program
  o Chafee Housing Program
Youth Transitions

• Programs for young adults transitioning out of foster care
• We help young adults with life skills such as:
  o Connections to life-long relationships
  o Getting an ID
  o Successfully graduating high school
  o How to pay taxes
  o Balance a check book
  o Getting into college
  o Financial Literacy
  o Getting an apartment (CHAFEE)
Our staff and data infrastructure

1. ORICWA and Tribal Nations
2. Child Fatality Prevention and Review Program
3. Equity, Workforce Development and Training
5. Family First Prevention Services Act
Partnering with Tribal Nations

• Honor and support our Government-to-Government relationship

• Tribal Affairs Baskets of Work
  o Tribal Consultations and Partnership
  o Program, Practice and Policy Development
  o Training and Capacity Building
  o Resource Management
  o Research and Data

• Quarterly meetings with Indian Child Welfare Advisory Council
Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act (ORICWA) began Jan. 1

**ORICWA Goals**

**Data**
Identifying an evaluation mechanism to track, measure, learn, and report on the impact of ORICWA.

**Improvement**
Creating conditions to realize and sustain CW practice shifts that help tribal families thrive.

**Culture & Equity**
Preserving cultural connections among tribal children and families, strengthening Active Efforts to promote the stability of Tribal children, and decreasing disproportionality of tribal children and families in the Child Welfare system.

**Spirit**
Embodying the spirit of ICWA in practice, policy, relationship, and purpose.

**Workforce Development**
Establishing consistent practice and application of ORICWA and recruiting ICWA Champions by building capacity of CW staff through ORICWA workforce development.

**Relationships**
Increasing and enhancing parent engagement and strengthen Oregon Tribal Partnerships through direct involvement with ORICWA implementation.
Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)

• ICPC program handles placements of children coming into and going out of Oregon.

• Despite barriers and slowdowns associated with the pandemic, Oregon ICPC kept the work moving even as some other states completely shut down their ICPC work.

• Planning for National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise (NEICE)
Child Fatality Prevention and Review Program

- **Child Fatality Prevention and Review Program**
  - New program implemented on February 1, 2020 to increase independence and transparency of child safety and fatality reviews through the Critical Incident Review Team (CIRT) process

- **Participated in the National Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management Conference**

- **Three large prevention efforts**
  - Safe sleep for infants
  - Suicide prevention
  - Responding to chronic neglect
Equity, Workforce Development and Training

- Intentional work to weave equity into all work and build capacity to lead with equity
- Focus on hiring and training Child Welfare caseworkers. Current caseworker staffing is at 91.47% of position authority
- POP: 16 FTE focused on equity, workforce well-being, training deliverables for staff and resource parents
- Workforce and Training Assessment and Planning
- Realignment with Portland State University
- Building internal training capacity
- Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)
Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) Implementation

- OR-Kids, the state’s information - case management system, is being updated to meet the new federal CCWIS regulations
- Goal to improve ODHS Child Welfare’s infrastructure and processes to better enhance and support our work force
- Monolithic Model → Module Model
- Complete transition scheduled for second quarter of 2024
- Partially funded by federal government, Administration of Children and Families (ACF)

CCWIS Modernization Program

- CCWIS certification by ACF for OR-Kids
- Data Quality Program to improve accuracy
- Easy to Use/Training Program for End Users
Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First)

• Federal legislation passed in 2018
• Expanding the use of Federal Title IV-E funding to include services to prevent the need for foster care
• Also created specific requirements for congregate care placements
• Submitted Oregon Family First Prevention Plan for federal review in November 2020
Family First Within Oregon’s Prevention System

- Oregon’s Child Welfare transformation is built on trauma-informed, family and community-centered and culturally responsive services focused on engagement, equity, safety, well-being and prevention
- One tool to support Oregon families
- Cross-agency prevention system
- Build infrastructure to serve children at home with their families
Choosing a path forward
Thank you