

# Senate Bill 85

## Legislative Report:

### Familial Group Home



## *Executive Summary*

The 2021 Oregon Legislature enacted Senate Bill (SB) 85, which requires Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to submit a report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to human services on September 1, 2022. This report is related to the success of children placed in programs allowed under subsection (1) of SB 85.

SB 85, section 1, allows up to two programs that are not qualified residential treatment programs to provide services to children in Oregon, so long as they meet the following criteria:

- a. The services are provided in a family home setting.
- b. The foster parents live in the house full time.
- c. The foster parents are the primary care providers for the children served by the program.
- d. The program serves no more than 15 children.
- e. The program accepts children who have sexually maladaptive behaviors, a history of eloping from care or a history of unsuccessful placement in other settings.

### **December 2022 Detail**

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) Child Welfare division seeks to support the individual needs of families, children and young adults. ODHS believes that children do best growing up in a family and strives to honor and support cultural wisdom. These beliefs support the Child Welfare Vision for Transformation guiding principle 1: supporting families and promoting prevention. This is built on trauma-informed, family and community-centered, and culturally responsive programs and services focused on engagement, equity, safety, well-being, and prevention.

To date, one program that meets requirements outlined in SB 85, section 1, remains contracted with ODHS, namely Affect Youth Services in Marion County. 48 children and young adults were served in this program during the calendar years 2021-2022, 12 of whom are currently placed. A majority of those served were able to transition to relative care or general resource care, or else achieved permanency through returning home or entering into an adoption or guardianship. Two children absconded from the program over the last two years. This program demonstrates consistent positive outcomes for the children and young adults it serves. Youth surveys and interviews conducted by ODHS Children's Care Licensing Program and ODHS Child Welfare Treatment Services reflect high levels of satisfaction among children and young adults served by the program.

The Affect program follows all ODHS licensing and contracting standards. In addition, there have been no substantiated allegations against the program or its staff members since its opening in 2016. Retention rates of staff in this program are high with the majority of employees sustained from program opening. The majority of child and family teams – including CASA, Child Attorneys, WRAP services, behavioral health therapists, schools and ODHS Child Welfare caseworkers – express satisfaction with the program.

Affect Youth Services has demonstrated its value in children's continuum of care, and ODHS recommends that the state continue its allowance of this unique program type. While at this time it appears that the allowance of two such programs is sufficient, it would be beneficial to expand the allowance to include more such programs should ODHS identify their availability in the future.

For additional information:

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