

# ODHS Child Welfare Division: Family First 2021 Accomplishments

The Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First) was enacted on February 9, 2018. This Act provides jurisdictions the option of receiving federal Title IV-E reimbursement at a matching rate for certain evidence-based, trauma-informed services related to parenting skills, mental health and substance use disorders. These services are aimed at preventing children from entering or re-entering foster care by increasing families' access to supportive services prior to child welfare interventions.

Oregon Child Welfare opted to pursue the options provided by Family First as a tool in realizing the [Child Welfare Division Vision for Transformation](#). As part of Guiding Principal 1: Supporting Families and Promoting Prevention, Oregon Child Welfare is "committed to building trauma-informed, family and community-centered and culturally responsive programs and services focused on engagement, equity, safety, well-being and prevention."

The Family First Implementation team, subgroups and field branches deliberately and consistently engaged throughout 2021 to identify, create and execute the structures and partnerships necessary for successful implementation in 2022.

## Overall Successes

- Approval of the [Oregon's Title IV-E Prevention Program 5-year plan](#) for fiscal years (2020-2024) by federal partners in April 2021.
- Delineation of target population and candidacy.
- Identification and readiness of three ODHS demonstration sites representing large, mid-size and small branches: District 2 – Alberta, District 6 – Roseburg and District 11 – Klamath Falls
- Active partnership and readiness of two Tribal demonstration sites: Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

## Planning and Implementation Accomplishments

### Operations and Technology Infrastructure

- Supported the initiation and continued development of the In-Home Services Candidacy Determination (ISCD) tool for the Oregon Case management system, OR-Kids. The tool will ensure the state can properly identify youth who are candidates for prevention services, allow federal reimbursement to flow to Oregon and is anticipated to be completed early 2022.
- Facilitated robust internal discussions on the varied ways in which FFPSA could be implemented in the initial and following phases.
- Partnered with other workgroups on logistical requirements and constraints related to system and funding operations.

### Policy and Practice

- Drafted guidance for Children Protective Services (CPS) to partner with Self Sufficiency Programs (SSP) and other community supports at initial contact with the goal of reducing trauma and increasing family engagement and supports.

- Reviewed, updated, and defined family stressors to be used to identify Family First candidacy eligibility.
- Drafted procedure to identify eligible families and the transfer to ongoing case management.
- Identified areas in ongoing case management procedure to be updated or aligned with the new model for family preservation.

### **Honoring the Government to Government Relationship with Tribal Nations**

- Five of Oregon's Nine Tribal Nations have current Title IV-E agreements and are in the process of documenting the tribal prevention plan and services in preparation to present to Tribal Councils.
- Oregon Tribes have interest in training and are exploring training options for Motivational Interviewing and exploring training options and trainers who can provide training specific to tribal communities and tribal culture.
- Oregon Tribes have been offered the opportunity to have Tribal staff trained in *Honoring Children, Making Relatives*, a cultural adaptation of Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT).
- ODHS meets regularly with Oregon Tribes to provide consultation and support to Family First implementation in conjunction with existing tribal prevention services.

### **Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) and Service Array**

Service Array and Continuous Quality Improvement workgroups decided they were inter-dependent for implementation and created cohesive workgroup in 2021.

- Initiated cross-system discussions to begin the integration of developing a Child Welfare serving system community, inclusive of service providers, individuals with lived experience.
- Facilitated active discussions, participation, and current planning across other state agencies with Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) for service integration and delivery.
- Engaged national and state experts in the four identified services areas for implementation and continue building these relationships throughout implementation.
- Instrumental in maintaining knowledge of the national changes with Title IV-E Clearinghouse for services authorization and aligning these requirements with other workgroups.

### **Active Contributions and Partnerships**

Many contributed this year to pursuit of preventing children from entering or re-entering foster care. Championing was actively provided by Child Welfare Leadership. Changes and requirements were facilitated by partnerships with all Child Welfare programs, both in design and delivery. Active collaboration and engagement was provided by SSP partners, external agency partners including OHA, OYA, external community partners, service providers and Oregon Tribal Nations. Oregon was also assisted by Chapin Hall and Casey Family Services throughout 2021 to achieve these accomplishments.