



Presentation to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Human Services Subcommittee

Preventing Temporary Lodging

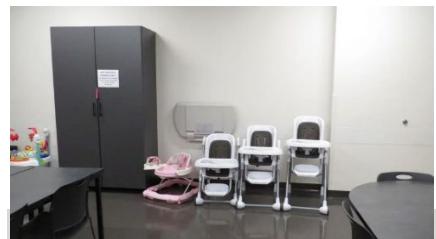
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February 12, 2024

Agenda

- I. Temporary lodging: History in Oregon
- II. Federal settlement agreement
- III. February session request
- IV. Longer-term, cross-system focus
- V. Questions

Brief history of temporary lodging (TL)



2012
Capacity constraints in appropriate settings increase incidence of children staying in ODHS offices overnight.



2016-2018

Lawsuit and settlement regarding the use of hotels for foster youth

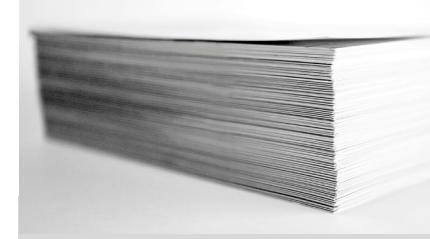


2020
Court order required ODHS to document steps to avoid the use of hotels.



2022

299 children kept out of TL, but 112 still spent a night in TL.



2023
Special Master appointed to make recommendations for new court order.

Increasing acuity levels among children in care

Settlement requirement

In-home efforts to avoid TL



DHS must consider services and supports **despite the costs, unless those costs exceed the amount of money it would otherwise spend to provide temporary lodging**

February 2024 General Fund request

What it's for:

- ODHS Child Welfare is requesting \$31 million to **sustain essential efforts to prevent TL**.
- The funds will enable spending on prevention activities – up to the amount spent per night on TL – in **compliance with the settlement agreement**.



What it's based on:

- The amount is based on **current spending rates for TL prevention** activities, per the settlement agreement, including child-specific plans, services and supports.

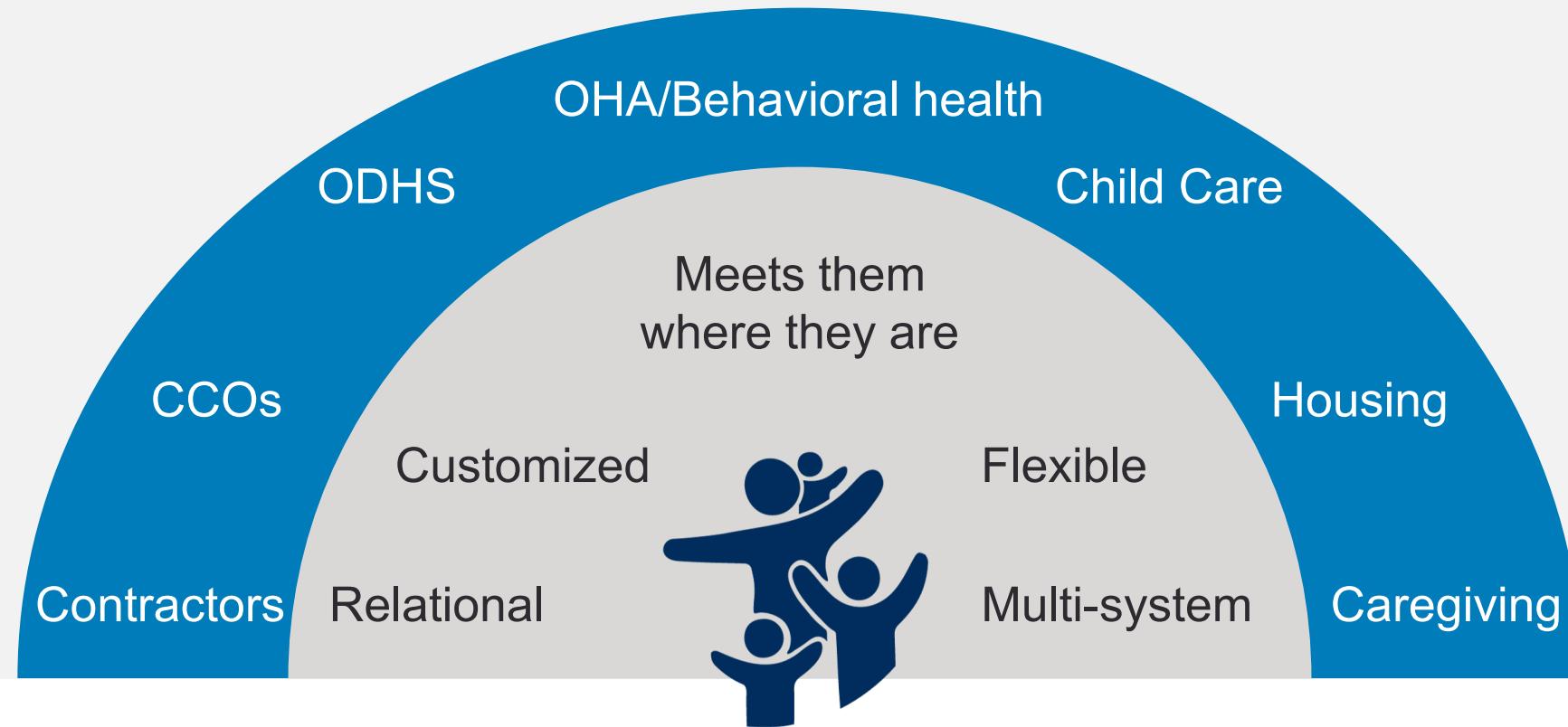


What it will buy:

- Service providers
- Staff supervision
- Housing
- Resource parent reimbursement to offset the costs of caring for youth
- Repair to damages to property and household supplies
- Other child-specific needs

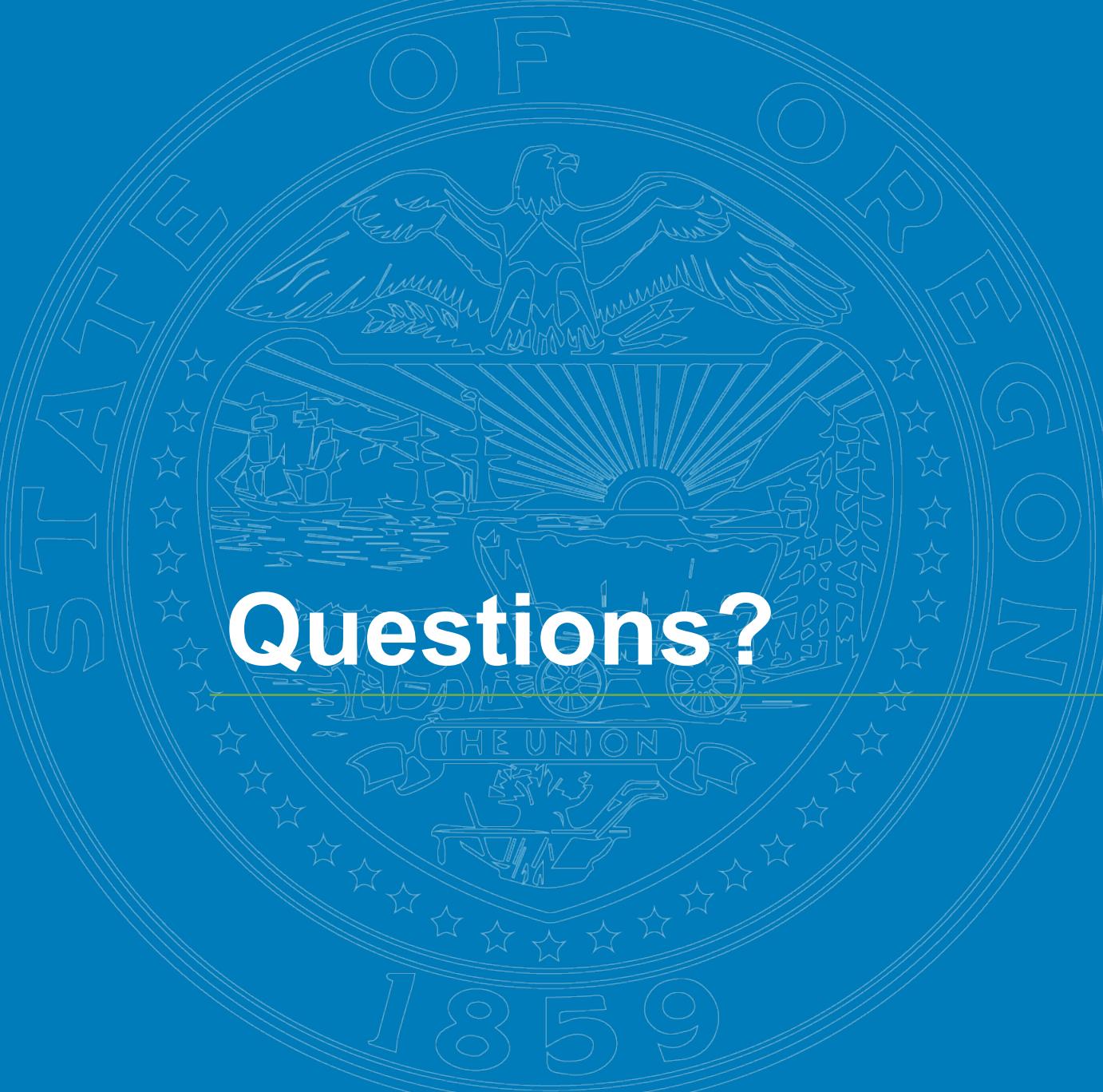


There is a range of cross-system solutions



“To end Temporary Lodging and ensure that every child and youth in foster care in Oregon has a stable placement that meets their needs requires changes by other agencies in concert with DHS.”

-Dr. Marty Beyer's Report of the Special Master



Questions?

