

## Our Mission and Core Beliefs drive the Child Welfare Division Vision for Transformation

November 13, 2020

To our valued partners,

As we continue to face the worsening COVID-19 pandemic in our communities, state and nation, our commitment to our mission, our core beliefs and our values is stronger than ever. Whatever the coming days, weeks, and months bring, I know that we will weather this unprecedented storm together.

Last week we introduced the [Child Welfare Division Vision for Transformation](#). The [Vision for Transformation](#) is the roadmap and compass to improve the Child Welfare Division and the greater Oregon child welfare system.

It is important to note that the [Vision for Transformation](#) strengthens our mission to ensure every child and family is empowered to live a safe, stable and healthy life.

Both the Child Welfare Division's mission and [Vision for Transformation](#) are based on a set of beliefs and core values:

- We believe children and young adults do best when they grow up in a family.
- We value fairness, equity, inclusion, accessibility, diversity and transparency in our work.
- We value the voices, experiences, cultures, intellect and uniqueness of the children and families we serve.
- We believe that communities often already have the wisdom and assets to provide safe, stable and healthy lives for their children.
- We believe that Child Welfare needs to partner, listen to and lift up community voices and their decision-making powers.
- We value building authentic relationships and being accountable to communities of color and other marginalized communities by elevating their voices and proactively engaging with individuals, families and communities.

- We believe providing earlier, less-intrusive support for parents and families means more children can remain safe and healthy at home and in school.
- We believe families and communities working together in a more proactive, holistic way will allow ODHS and its partners to allocate resources where they have the greatest impact for children, young adults, parents and families.
- We believe when families and communities are strong, fewer children experience abuse and neglect.

These beliefs and core values inform our three guiding principles:

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

When the work and actions of the Child Welfare Division align with these beliefs, core values and guiding principles, families and communities will be strong and successful.

In the coming weeks we will be sharing more about the [Vision for Transformation](#), its three guiding principles and how it both guides our work and holds us accountable.

Warmly,

Rebecca Jones Gaston, MSW  
Child Welfare Director