

## Child Welfare Division Vision for Transformation Guiding Principle 1: Supporting families and promoting prevention

December 4, 2020

To our valued partners,

As many of you are aware, the [Child Welfare Division Vision for Transformation](#) was released last month and reflects our commitment to our mission, our core beliefs and our values. It is a roadmap to transform our work including how we work with our community partners. This transformation will not happen overnight and can only be successful when everyone works together.

In the coming weeks, we will be sharing a closer look at the [Vision for Transformation](#) sharing each of the three guiding principles and how they impact our work. This week, we will look into the first Guiding Principle.

### Guiding Principle 1: Supporting families and promoting prevention.

This guiding principle commits that the Child Welfare Division transformation is built on trauma-informed, family and community-centered and culturally responsive programs and services focused on engagement, equity, safety, well-being and prevention.

This means child welfare work will include strategies that:

- Are centered on family support focusing on individual needs and appropriate services.
- Value the voices, experiences, cultures, intellect and uniqueness of the children, young adults and families we serve.
- Are based on early support services at a time when small interventions can make an enormous difference in people's lives, prevent a crisis and provide appropriate resources if a crisis occurs.
- Use a multi-generational approach to meet families' needs and address factors that contribute to risk, trauma and safety concerns and the cycles of child abuse and neglect.

- Focus on strengthening and preserving connections to family and community by keeping children and young adults safely in their own homes and communities whenever possible.
- Engage with the community by integrating the voices of children, young adults, parents, families, Oregon Tribal Nations and partners to be more responsive to the needs of families and community partners.
- Honor and support the self-determination of communities of color and other marginalized communities and aim to build their power.
- Are culturally responsive by embracing the communities' lived experiences and the cultures of children and young adults in decision-making that affects their safety, health and well-being; as a result, delivering services aligned with the cultural context of children, young adults, family and community so they can live their lives with dignity, autonomy and equality.
- Are trauma-informed to recognize the impact of trauma, including historical trauma, and promote a culture of safety, empowerment and healing.
- Are strength-based to support families and individuals with the tools to better handle mental health, substance use, domestic violence issues, and other factors that can contribute to child abuse and neglect.
- The [Vision for Transformation](#) is a roadmap and compass for the Oregon Child Welfare Division to transform itself and the greater child welfare system. The three guiding principles give us direction to achieve the [Vision for Transformation](#).

There is more information in the [Vision for Transformation](#) on specific projects, initiatives and desired outcomes for Guiding Principle 1.

As valued community partners within the child welfare system, we hope you see the ways your work too aligns with this guiding principle. We encourage you to share the [Vision for Transformation](#) with your networks and communities. Together we can transform the child welfare system of Oregon.



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