CHRISTINA KARSENGRAY
IN COLLABORATION WITH DISTRICT RFRRC

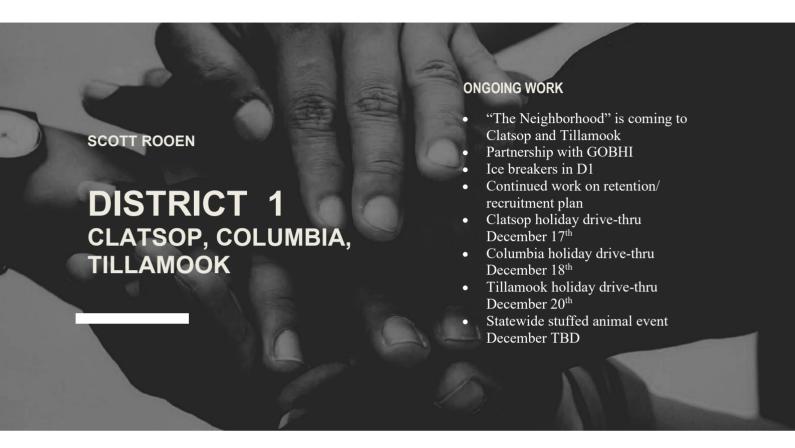
Dec 8, 2021

RESOURCE FAMILY RETENTION RECRUITMENT
CHAMPION TEAM

# MONTHLY REPORT

NOVEMBER 2021

**NOV 2021** 



## **D1 SUMMARY**

This month, I coordinated with our resource families, community partners, and local businesses to prepare for the upcoming holiday events. I also spent time with the Equity and Inclusion Committee to work on the creation of a newsletter and met with part of the OEMS team to talk about recruitment strategies for Spanishspeaking families. Additionally, in alignment with recruitment goal #4, I am working with a team that is now collaborating on the creation of culturally specific and appropriate recruitment materials for our BIPOC populations as well as LGBTQIA2S+ affirming individuals. Making progress on recruitment goal number 1, I met with staff from Columbia Memorial Hospital to discuss a recruitment event in January that will focus on the need for families to care for youth with behavioral and mental health needs.

District 1 will be providing "Learning Labs" for our resource parents that I have worked to coordinate. Learning Labs are informational sessions that will be held monthly; each Learning Lab will host a guest speaker and cover topics relevant to our resource families. Our first Learning Lab will be held virtually on December 8th covering the topic of childcare reimbursement.

It has been a pleasure this month to spend time working with new inquiries assisting them in getting signed up for Foundations and answering questions they had regarding the fostering process. The certification supervisor and I met to discuss supports for new families specifically in preparation of the high number of general applicant families completing their Foundations at the same time in February 2022.

Workgroups/subcommittees/meetings/actions teams I have participated in this month include:

- Riverside Community Outreach board meetings
- Clatsop County Practice Level workgroup
- Recruitment/Retention plan workgroup
- After Hour Support Worker subcommittee
- EIC D1

- Learning Lab
- Office for Civil Rights (OCR) Train the Trainer follow-up focus group
- Birth Parent/Resource Family Partnership workshop

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questions.

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## **DISTRICT 1**

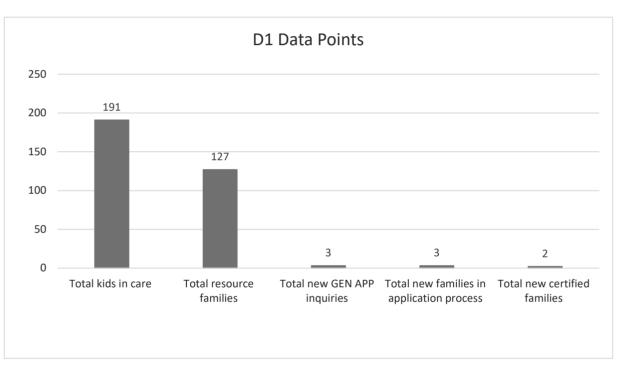
\*All data is a reported for the current month period

Please reach out to Scott.H.Rooen@dhsoha.state.or.us with any

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## DATA



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### **OUTCOMES**

- Supported families as the after-hour (on-call) support worker for the district. **Retention goal # 4**
- Lead the Holiday Wish List Project for Clatsop County.
- Creation of holiday "tags" for Clatsop County youth distributed to community partners
- Meetings with contract writer to hire a tutor for our local families to access. This correlates with retention goal # 6
- Assisted with placements for multiple youth in potential temporary lodging situations
- Preparing the first Learning Lab for resource families.
   Retention goal # 2
- Work with other champions on specific recruitment materials
- Connected local Every Child affiliate with the president of the Elks in Columbia County to assist with the local holiday drivethru event
- Maintenance and tracking of the foster care flex and respite budget for D1

- KEEP
- Every Child
- Connection with GOBHI
- Connection with mental health agency
- Connection with local CCO and Care Oregon
- Columbia County Health Coalition
- Oregon State University Extension Service Columbia County
- CASA
- Youth Era
- TLC banks
- Coastline Fellowship Church
- St. Mary's Church



#### D2 SUMMARY

This month included several recruitment presentations for our targeted recruitment areas of need and some planning for future outreach efforts. We also held the first meeting of D2's Certification, Recruitment and Placement workgroup which will support the implementation of some aspects of the recruitment and retention plan.

Magda led two presentations aligned with the goals in our recruitment plan; first to the Providence Promotores de Salud de la iglesia who are volunteers focused on community health in the Latino community in Portland, and second to the Every Step Community of Care clinics about ways that resource families can make an impact on children in foster care with special needs.

The kick-off meeting with the new certification, recruitment and placement workgroup included representatives of multiple teams and was a huge success. We look forward to our next meeting focused on data development and tracking outcomes for recruitment and retention goals.

Workgroups/subcommittees/meetings/actions teams we have participated in this month include:

- D2 Daily Certification/Recruitment/Placement huddle
- Unaccompanied Minors State-Wide workgroup
- Certification Leadership Implementation workgroup
- D2 Recruitment and Placement workgroup

- Champion Learning Lab
- Children's Alliance

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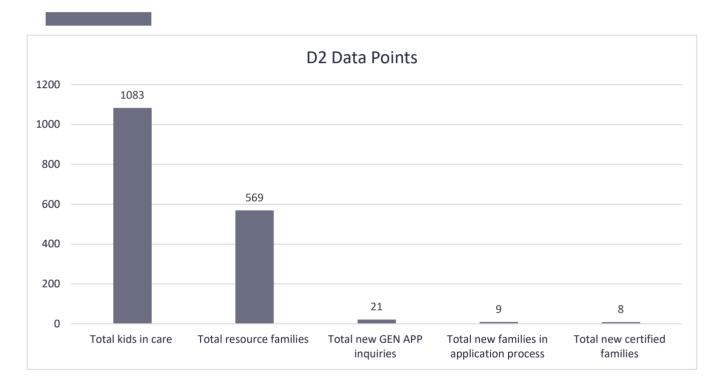
## **DISTRICT 2**

## **DATA**

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Please reach out to Elizabeth.Hauck@dhsoha.state.or.us or Magda.Y.Bejarano@dhsoha.state.or.us with any questions.

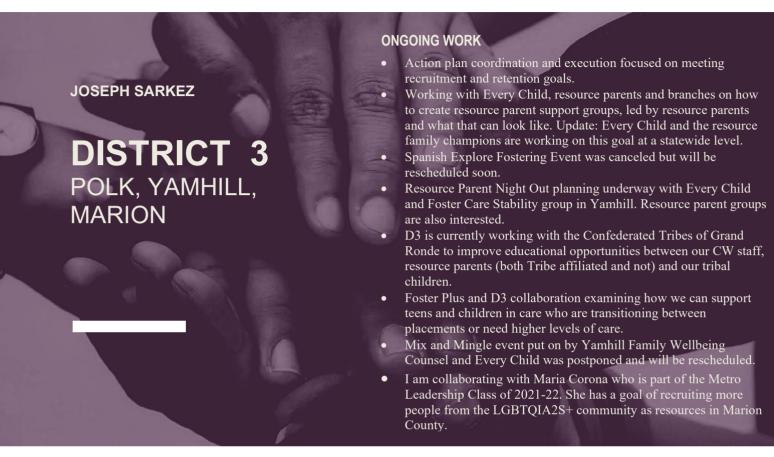


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#### **OUTCOMES**

- Magda delivered a presentation to a group of community volunteers involved in Providence's Promotores de Salud de la iglesia (Parish Health Promoter Program) on foster care and the impact a family can make as a resource parent.
- Magda joined members of the Unaccompanied Minor workgroup and representatives of Immigration Counseling Services (ICS) to provide feedback about a peer and resource parent support project, and shared insight from our focus group of resource families caring for UAMs.
- Magda joined D15 and D16 champions for a presentation on recruitment outreach for families equipped to care for children with special needs to representatives of the pediatric clinics that make up the Every Step Community of Care.
- We continued our collaborative efforts with D2 employee resource groups. Liz worked with chairs of PRIDE Bridge City on an outreach effort for the spring, and Magda participated in the monthly meeting of the D2 Equity and Inclusion Committee.
- In partnership with Program Manager Lisa Bender, we held the first meeting of an implementation workgroup that will be focused on implementing aspects of our recruitment and retention plan.

- Every Step Community of Care
- Winterhawks
- FACT Oregon
- Basic Rights Oregon
- Every Child PDX
- KEEP
- Providence Parish Health
- 211 Info
- Immigration Counseling Services



#### D3 SUMMARY

November was a good month in our efforts toward retention and recruitment. In conjunction with D3's continued collaboration with Every Child, I am participating in a subcommittee of the Every Child and resource family champion workgroup that is focused on creating collaborative retention, recruitment and community partner communication goals. The subcommittee I am part of is focused on retention and some good work has already taken place. More to come soon! Additionally, resource parents continue to experience support through Every Child My Neighbor program. Unfortunately, a Spanish-speaking Explore Fostering Event hosted by Every Child was postponed. However, all the pieces are in place and we plan to reschedule it soon.

Resource families in our community experienced generosity when Our Giving Table and Papa Murphey's came together to donate pizzas; this was part of a partnership that impacted several different counties around the state. Polk County was one of the impacted counties and every Tuesday throughout the month of November different resource parents received 2 pizzas for their families.

Salem Angels and Morning Star Church in Marion are additional community partners that are working together to plan an event similar to Resource Parent Night Out for those who participate in their Love Box program. Salem Angels have been a great support to resource families in the Salem area

Additionally, I collaborated with different partners in regards to our LGBTQIA affirming families recruitment and retention goals which should soon lead to some new action steps, as well as, finding ways to bring resource parents and bio parents together in meaningful ways and providing resource parents more check-in/information sharing opportunities with child welfare(recruitment goal #1, retention goals 3)

Workgroups/subcommittees/meetings/actions teams I have participated in this month include:

- Polk, Yamhill and Marion branch team meetings
- Every Child/ branch meeting
- Champion meetings
- Resource parent workgroups- Polk and Yamhill
- Retention Plan workgroup with PM
- Yamhill Foster Care Stability group
- D1, D15 and D3 collaboration meeting with our FCC
- District and program managers meeting quarterly

- Champion Learning Lab trainings on resource parent and bio parent connections
- CJIS training

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THE NUMBERS

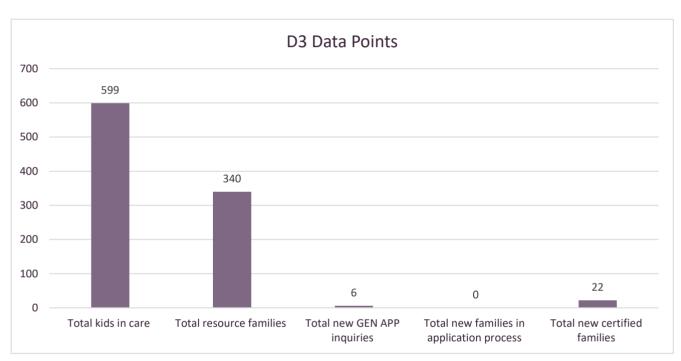
## **DISTRICT 3**

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Please reach out to <u>Joseph.A.Sarkez@dhsoha.state.or.us</u> with any questions.

## DATA



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### **OUTCOMES**

- Most Polk County resource parents received 2 pizzas from Papa Murphey's. Our Giving Table donated the pizzas.
- Salem Angels and Morning Star Church are collaborating on a Resource Parent Night Out event for all Love Box resource parent members.

## **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

- Individual/ small group meetings with: Every Child, Foster Plus, Polk and Marion CASA, CTGR
- Salem Angels

### CHAMPION COLLABORATIONS

- Collaboration with other champions on creating "Information to Share" document.
- D1, D15 and D3 collaboration monthly
- Looking at joint materials or advertising recruitment messaging.
- Examining respite methods with the D5 champion



#### **D4 SUMMARY**

November in District 4 was all about collaboration, problemsolving, and extending thanks to our resource families!

Several districts in Oregon partnered with Papa Murphy's and Our Giving Table (https://www.ourgivingtable.com/in-action/) to provide pizza to resource families for four weeks in a row! This meant that in D4, much communication and coordination took place to ensure resource families were receiving pizza each week. Papa Murphy's in Lebanon, Albany, Lincoln City and Newport took part in this generous event. I also had the pleasure of working with an Every Child board member to provide a donated turkey to a relative resource family the day before Thanksgiving. It was an awesome experience to support a family with this partnership.

I was asked to help present at a System of Care meeting for District 4. Not only was it great to connect with community partners to share our current and future plans, but we were able to collaborate regarding some shared recruitment goals. The next step is for District 4 program managers to meet with several of these community partners to discuss resource home recruitment (related to retention goal #1 of developing a Community Action Team; recruitment goals #2 and 3 related to targeted recruitment and collaboration with other entities related to this recruitment).

November was National Adoption Month. I had the opportunity to attend a showing of the documentary Closure (by Angela Tucker) and subsequent sharing by ODHS- CW Director, Rebecca Jones Gaston. This was so moving, and important to the work we do each day! It reminded me how important it is, from the beginning of recruitment of resource families, to emphasize the importance of ongoing relationships between children and their biological/first families, no matter the outcome of the Child Welfare intervention. I was also able to attend the 'Relationships Matter' training about the importance of resource parent/biological parent contact throughout the life of a case.

Workgroups/subcommittees/meetings/actions teams I have participated in this month include:

- Lincoln County Every Child steering committee
- Retention/Recruitment Group meeting (D4-Internal)

- Relationships Matter
- "Closure" and Rebecca Jones Gaston presentation

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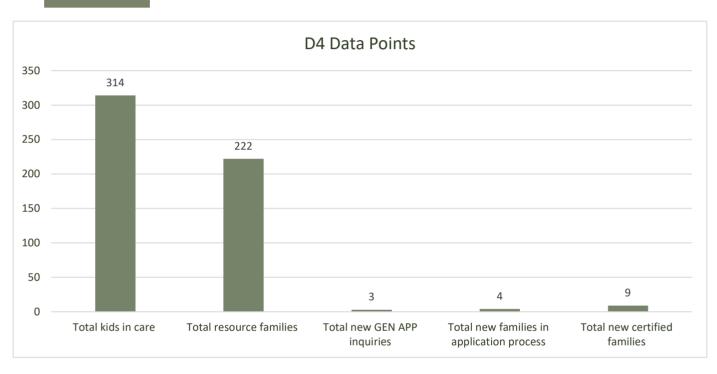
## **DISTRICT 4**

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Please reach out to <u>Andrea.Bellows2@dhsoha.state.or.us</u> with any questions.

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## **OUTCOMES**

- Hosted Exploring Fostering event with D7
- Connected an affirming applicant with Lincoln County (recruitment goal #1)
- Facilitated 2<sup>nd</sup> internal CAT 'sub-group' for D4
- Coordinated and assisted with delivering pizza to families in D4 in collaboration with the Giving Table and Papa Murphy's
- Helped to facilitate the return of applications of current inquirers
- Provided Every Child a list of individuals interested in attending a Respite Mix & Mingle event in January
- Created and sent out winter newsletters to resource families
- Connected with GOBHI & DD Services for recruitment collaboration
- Attended numerous staffings and assisted multiple resource parents access services, supports, and information
- Assisted in preparations for holiday wish lists in Lincoln County

#### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- Lincoln County Foster Parent Association
- Oregon Central Coast Trans Community
- Our Giving Table
- Linn Benton Every Child
- GOBHI
- LBL Developmental Disability Services
- Bijou Theater in Lincoln City

## **MEDIA**

https://www.facebook.com/LinnFosterORAdopt

Newsletters available upon request



#### **D5 SUMMARY**

Throughout November, I was able to participate in a variety of workgroups and meetings that brought productive outcomes towards D5's retention and recruitment goals.

A meeting I had with one of our local Spanish-speaking certifiers was a direct result of conversations from our community action team meeting in October. This aligns with measurable goal number 5 on D5's retention/recruitment plan. The certifier Ms. Maciel, and I talked specifically about strategy number 1 and 2 under that goal. We evaluated recruitment materials we currently have and made plans on how to build updated materials prior to having a specified recruitment event for Spanish-speaking homes. Another meeting is set for December to follow up on this planning. We have invited another certifier to collaborate with us for our general applicant homes. Our goal is to have a specific recruitment event in January or February to target recruitment for Spanish-speaking homes in Lane County. This month I participated in two Community Engagement workgroup meetings. In these we discussed recommendations for best practice in our partnership work with Every Child. After these two meetings our local Every Child director and I began planning for the presentation of this information to the statewide group.

I worked with another champion, Andrea Bellows on planning ideas around recruitment videos to have for statewide work. We met with Sunny Petit to share ideas and begin taking steps to make the videos accessible. A second meeting was held with video production staff to discuss how to move forward with video planning. The benefits of this project will be something accessible to all ODHS champions. This video can be used as a for statewide recruitment efforts.

I was able to participate in a social media discussion with a variety of other ODHS staff who work on social media sites. This was a very helpful discussion that will result in monthly meetings of collaboration. This group is an effort to unify social media strategies and goals, support one another is our social media efforts and start to develop a more cohesive brand and voice on social media settings. This work group was a very helpful discussion for me as I am the one that manages our local D5 Facebook page.

I held two meetings in D5 with local staff to discuss our inquiry process. In the first meeting we talked about the need to understand better what we each do in the inquiry process. In our second meeting we developed a protocol for D5's inquiry to home opening process. *LINK HERE*.

The work on this protocol will help streamline our local inquiry process as we have multiple people who do parts of the opening and assigning of homes.

I worked with local gym on a donation opportunity for our Lane County FAAPA. Orange Theory Fitness of Eugene did a promo live for their members to announce the gift card drive. For two weeks their members brought in gift cards as donations for resource parents.

This month I also worked with a local group called One Hope. They put together Thanksgiving food boxes for local families. They were able to donate 40 food boxes for resource parents. I put the information out to our certification team and caseworkers. I communicated with each family, picked up all food boxes and coordinated drop off/pick up for all 40 boxes to Lane County resource parents.

Workgroups/subcommittees/meetings/actions teams I have participated in this month include:

- Participated in 9 different TL staffing/prevention staffing meetings
- Community Engagement workgroup meeting
- Ongoing consultation with cert staff
- Mentor Family Program meeting and workgroup
- FAAPA Holiday Planning meeting
- Community Planning and Resource Contract Team meeting
- Met w/ECLC for monthly program update meeting
- Foster Care and Youth Transitions meeting

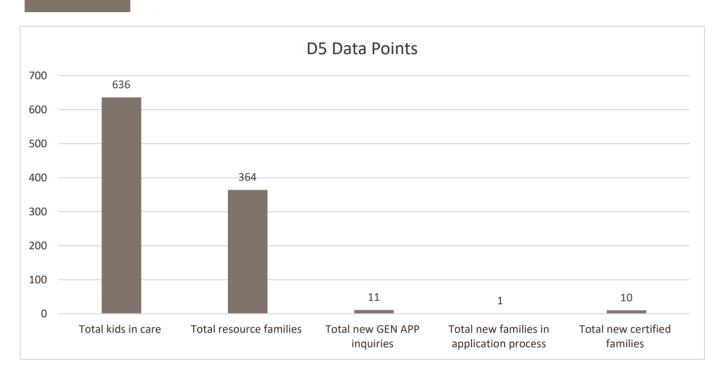
## **DISTRICT 5**

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Please reach out to <u>Brandyn.M.Rice@dhsoha.state.or.us</u> with any questions.

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### **OUTCOMES**

- Assisted in development of branch protocol for General Application Inquiry Process
- Worked with local news station on segment about need for resource parents in Lane County (see link below)
- Matched one new resource family with experienced mentor family
- Organized pick-up and delivery of 40 Thanksgiving food boxes for local resource parents
- Assisted in obtaining and distribution of 10 fire extinguishers and smoke detectors needed for resource parent certification.
- Continued outlining action steps and strategies of D5 retention/recruitment plan. Particularly started outlining of cohort plan. In correlation to retention plan measurable goal #1
- Created an outline for second CAT meeting
- Continued planning for targeted recruitment of LGBTQIA2S+ affirming families efforts (in correlation with Every Child brainstorming meeting on what this need is and how to partner in this in our community)
- Assisted with staff with multiple tangible needs requests for resource families
- Worked on assigned priority task assignment for D5 admin community team

### **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

- Worked with local One Hope organization on obtaining and delivery of 40 Thanksgiving food boxes
- Began coordination and work with SELCO credit union on providing Christmas gifts for resource families
- Individual/ small group meetings 15<sup>th</sup> Night (community partner gathering)
- Downtown care team meeting
- Meeting with Orange Theory Fitness for event planning for resource parent gift card drive
- Met with 15<sup>th</sup> night staff to discuss future partnership in community group meeting.

#### **MEDIA**

https://www.kezi.com/content/news/Pandemic-creates-urgent-need-for-foster-parents-in-Lane-County-575771141.html



#### **D6 SUMMARY**

The focus of my work for November was planning and preparing for our D6 resource family holiday event, which is a Polar Express-themed drive-through on Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4:30-7PM at our ODHS Roseburg parking lot. Donations include \$25 grocery store gift cards for each resource family from Mercy Foundation, Westside Christian Church in Roseburg is donating holiday gift bags for each child in a resource home, \$1000 was donated from ECHO Every Child Douglas to go toward raffle gifts and gift cards as well as \$5 coffee gift cards for all children in a resource home ages 10 and up.

Our D6 certification team has been working hard at building a train out of Christmas lights and cardboard, as well as decorating the Roseburg ODHS north parking lot with Christmas lights, trees and inflatable holiday characters. During the event, each drive up gift station will be decorated as a different train box car and as the family drives through to pick up each gift, they will be traveling to the "north pole" which is where they will be handed goodie bags with chocolate and hot chocolate packets before they exit the drive-through event. Currently, we have over 70 families registered for this event, and we are excited to load these families up with holiday cheer, love and appreciation from our certification team and community partners.

First Presbyterian Church and Roseburg Alliance Church have both agreed for me to come speak to their congregations this fall and winter and share about the demographics of homes we are most in need of including LGBTQIA+ affirming homes, homes that are open to taking in children aged 9-18 and homes with experience caring for children with high behavioral needs. Next step: I will be speaking at Roseburg Alliance Church in early 2022. **Recruitment goals: #1-5** 

Workgroups/subcommittees/meetings/actions teams I have participated in this month include:

- Learning Lab, 11/18 9-12PM
- Collaboration with Megan Boerste for monthly, resource family-led support group
- Recruitment Video workgroup
- Marketing Segmentation Pilot workgroup
- Champion Summit Planning workgroup
- "Polar Express" Drive-Thru Christmas Event workgroup

- Weekly huddles
- Worked with D5 Champion Brandyn Rice on Piktochart program problem solving

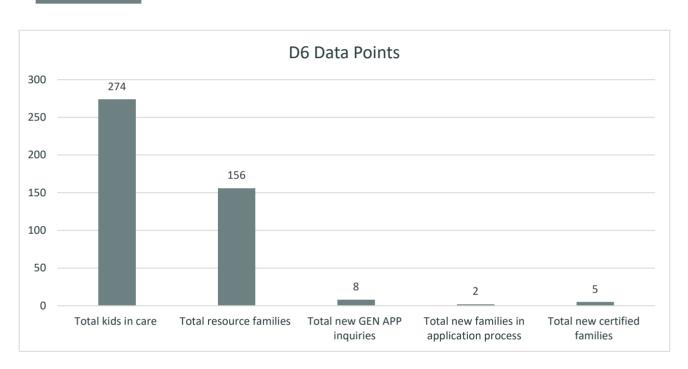
## **DISTRICT 6**

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Please reach out to <u>Kathryn.l.Garland@dhsoha.state.or.us</u> with any questions.

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### **OUTCOMES**

- Announced the launch of an in-person resource parent support group to the resource parent community in Douglas County. The first meeting for this new group is planned for Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at Mountain Mike's Pizza's party room in Roseburg (with the option of remoting in, virtually).
- Planned and prepared our "Polar Express" holiday drive-through event for our local resource families on Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Invitations were sent out to all resource families in Douglas County with an open certification during the first month of November. Emails were sent out weekly to all resource families reminding them to RSVP by November 24.
- Contacted all "yellow/exploring/gathering information" inquiries this
  month to check in with them, see where they are at and answer any
  questions and provide any support that they may need that would aid
  in them taking the next step in the inquiry process.
- Contacted all 8 new inquiries this month and walk them through the next steps in the certification process as well as invite them to attend our resource family Orientation on December 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Spoke at First Presbyterian Church's church about our local need in Douglas County for more resource homes for teens and youth that identify as LGBTQIA2S+, on Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>.

- Connected with The Ford Family Foundation's Youth and Family Program Manager, Robin Hill-Dunbar, and planned a virtual meeting in January to discuss grant opportunities at TFFF and to share more about D6's retention goal of being able to offer "benefit packages" to resource families in Douglas County that would be willing to take youth/teens who are experiencing behavioral health needs and/or are at risk of TL. Retention goal #4
- Received a \$1000 donation from ECHO Every Child Douglas to go toward our Polar Express drive-thru holiday event on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Referred 4 foster youth to the local Salvation Army's Dress A Child program which provides clothing to children in need of new clothing to promote confidence, empowerment and prevent bullying.
- Referred 30 foster youth to the Shop with a Cop program, ran by the City of Roseburg Police Department. On Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, these youth will meet at the Roseburg Walmart with local police officers to eat breakfast, drink hot cocoa, get pictures with Santa and then go shopping alongside their cop for siblings, family members and friends.



Please check back next month for more information.

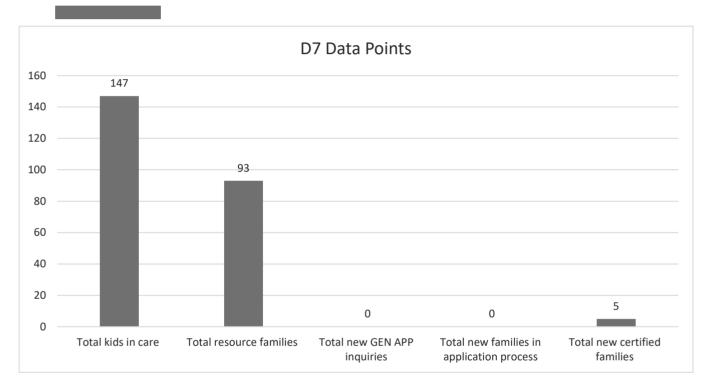
## **DISTRICT 7**

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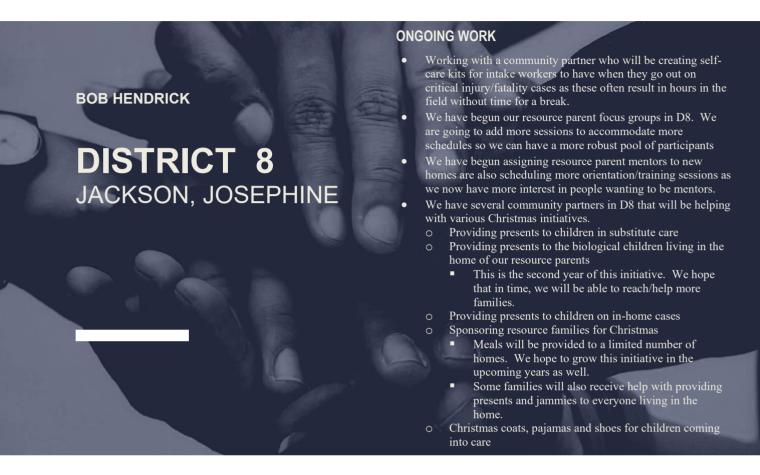
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Please reach out to <a href="mailto:gabriel.dawson@dhsoha.state.or.us">gabriel.dawson@dhsoha.state.or.us</a> with any questions.



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#### **D8 SUMMARY**

November was a good month in terms of community partners reaching out to us in our time of need. Shortly (about an hour) after a conference call with Every Child wherein we discussed creating a calendar of retention events for the upcoming year, a community partner called me to ask if we had a calendar of events for the upcoming year because she has a team of people who would love to help with retention/celebration events.

We also had a couple of opportunities for media presence this month. I was able to do a podcast interview with a couple of students from the Ashland High School media club. We discussed the Vision for Transformation as well as the current state of foster care in southern Oregon. We talked about the need to have an abundance of safe, affirming, well-trained, supported, diverse and thriving resource homes that reflect the characteristics of children in care and are equipped to meet their needs. I had a lot of positive feedback from the student that interviewed me. They will be editing the podcast and will give it to us for final approval before they post it to their website.

Shortly after this interview, I was able to accompany one of our statewide trainers (Rebekah Lawrence) who spoke about our increased accessibility and inclusivity of Foundations and ongoing training for our resource families. Rebekah did a fantastic job, and the two interviews will pair very well together.

Workgroups/subcommittees/meetings/actions teams I have participated in this month include:

- Every Child
- Foster Care System workgroup
- Youth Development workgroup
- Every Child Retention workgroup
- Birth Parents/Babies Placement
- Resource parent focus groups
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

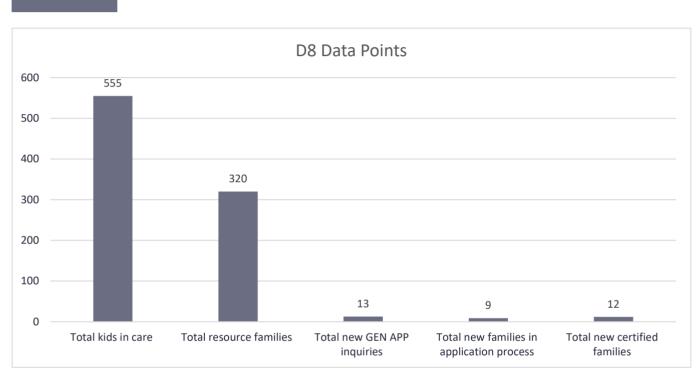
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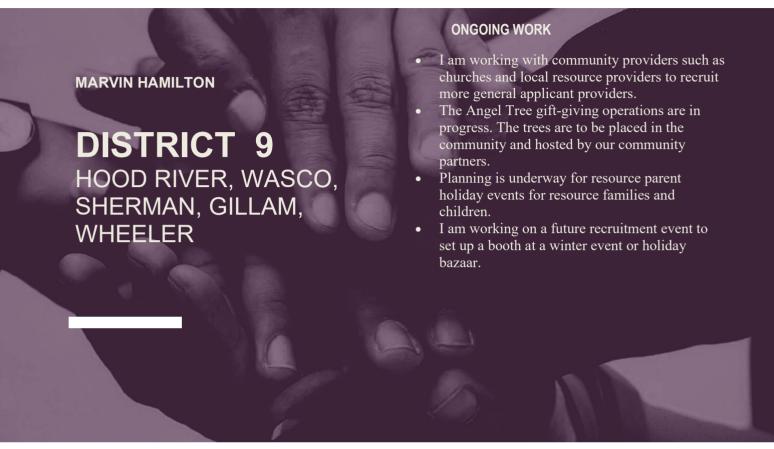


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## **OUTCOMES**

- I met with our local volunteer coordinator to discuss the logistics of the meal train that was suggested by one of our local resource parents. We decided it would be best to connect them to our Every Child affiliate as it falls in line with the My Neighborhood initiative. This connection has since been established.
- Two of the champions (Magda and Scott) and I met with Antonio Torres to discuss recruitment of Spanish-speaking resource families. We discussed cultural considerations to be taken and the need to have our recruitment material be more up-to-date and relevant/culturally appropriate. We plan to update recruitment material targeting several different audiences.
- I met with one of the Josephine County MAPS workers to discuss establishing an ice breaker protocol that would start in January. The MAPs worker has sent an email to the local managers to get the right people at the table to discuss this matter.

- Jackson County Foster Parent Association
- Josephine County Foster Parent Association
- Every Child Jackson
- Every Child Josephine
- SOELS Advisory Council
- "Tea, Toast and Truth", Ashland High School podcast
- Caveman Kiwanis
- City of Grants Pass
- Our Foster Kids Inc



#### **D9 SUMMARY**

My focus for D9 was to reach out to community partners and churches to get the word out for supporting children in care. I promoted Angel Gift Trees for December. In addition, I reached out again to an LGBTQIA2+ affirming church to recruit for affirming resource families.

The highlight of the Month: I had a great conversation with Pastor John Pinero of the Covenant Church in The Dalles and Pastor Mullins of the Faith Bible Church about setting up Angel Gift Trees for the children in care for District 9 in December. We discussed future involvement in the community for supporting children in care as well as, supporting resource families.

The success of the month: I was able to establish contact with the pastor of the Riverside Church. The Riverside Church is one of the few LGBTQIA + affirming churches of the area. I spoke with Pastor Vicky Stifter about promoting support for children in care that identify as LGBTQIA2S+. The guided conversation was around how her church could be a community support to resource families and children in care who identify as LGTBQIA+. As a result, we are discussing plans of support in the community and training on what it takes to be a resource parent.

The challenge of the month: Using feedback from our resource families about what services they would like to see or have, I have been looking to the local community partners to see who can provide specific services (i.e., daycare, behavior counseling, and loss or separation counseling) for the resource families and how they can best access the service. District 9 is a large area with a relatively small population and limited resources.

I received great feedback with many viable suggestions. I am excited to explore ways these suggestions can be implemented.

Workgroups/subcommittees/meetings/actions teams I have participated in this month include:

- Recruitment and retention planning.
- Weekly D9 Anti-Racism steering committee.
- D9 Anti-Racism Discussion, monthly meeting
- Foster Care Youth Transitions monthly meeting.
- FCC Champion meeting with Sally Vergara.
- Certification and Wellbeing meetings.
- Native American Heritage Celebration

- Champions Learning Lab training
- ORPAC training and film. ORPAC presented information on what they have to offer in their training library and provided a film that chronicled the journey of an adopted person trying to find her birth parents.
- Founded Dispositions training.
- Foster Parent Partnership training

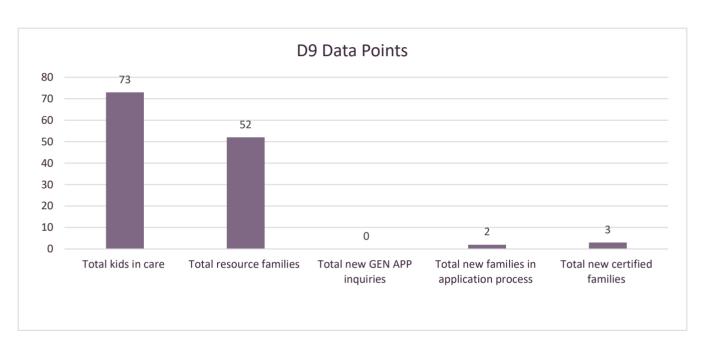
## **DISTRICT 9**

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\*All data is a reported for the current month period

Please reach out to <u>Marvin.Hamilton@dhsoha.state.or.us</u> with any questions.

## DATA

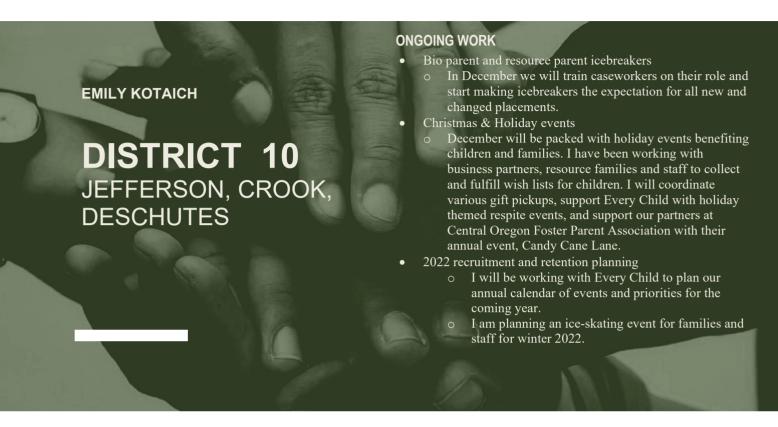


\*O does not represent quantity zero, but rather a lack of data to report at this time

## **OUTCOMES**

- I updated the monthly online resource parent mailing list for the training/networking meeting. There have been new families that have joined D9. I want to ensure all families receive all the training and networking information that ODHS has to offer.
- I have been working with faith-based community partners in preparation
  for our Christmas gift-giving event. I have a few community partners who
  are willing to put up Angel Gift trees for the children in their area. I am
  still in the process of providing information about the ages of children
  in ODHS care and the gifts requested.
- I contacted the pastor at the Riverside Church in Hood River. The Riverside Church is a LGBTQIA2S+ affirming church in our area. We discussed supporting young people that identify as LGBTQIA2S+ and promoting the need for affirming resource families.
- I have been working with Gorge Toyota of The Dalles about supporting children in care during the holiday season. They have asked for a list of children and ages to buy gifts for.
- My conversation with Pastor Pinero resulted in the conversation of the pastor wanting to start a respite care ministry for the support of resource families.

- Pastor Pinero of the Covenant Church
- Pastor Mullins of the Faith Bible Church
- Columbia Gorge Toyota



#### **D10 SUMMARY**

Throughout my time in this role, there has been a lot of behind the scenes work and planning towards our recruitment and retention goals. Planning, getting buy-in, creating structure are all necessary and valuable parts of the process, but don't always feel the most satisfying. I value the times when we get to see our vision in action, and this month I was able to do that.

We held our first Icebreaker informational session for resource parents to learn about these facilitated introductions with birth families. The session included a brief presentation by ODHS, but mostly focused on the experiences and insight from two local resource parents and one birth parent.

The birth parent poignantly described working with a supportive resource parent and an encouraging caseworker and how that transformed her outlook on her situation. Through these supports and the belief from others that she could succeed, she was able to move from nearly losing her children permanently to regaining custody and providing stability for her family.

The resource parents shared their advice, lessons they have learned over the years, and encouragement to other resource parents to remain open to cultivating relationships with birth families. They spoke about the powerful impact this has had for children, birth families, and themselves.

Beyond Icebreakers, the stories of the panelists exemplified a bigger vision of supporting birth and resource parent relationships and preserving families. While we still have a lot of work to do, this session reminded me of the possibilities when we let our clients, staff, and families teach us.

Workgroups/subcommittees/meetings/actions teams I have participated in this month include:

- Icebreakers (retention goal #2)
- Collaborative Youth Alliance (CYA)
   System of Care (SOC)
- Every Child Central Oregon
- Me and White Supremacy
- Recruitment and Retention Roundtable

Trainings I have participated in this month include:

• Birth and Foster Parent Relationships

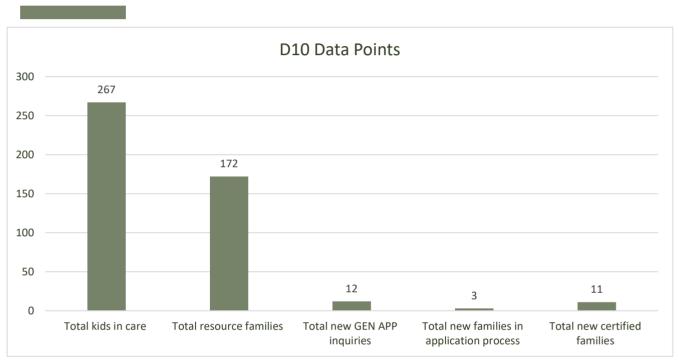
## DISTRICT 10

Data provided is a combination of information pulled from ODHS ROM, ORkids, Inquiry Tracker, Inquiry Module and information being tracked by the staff in the local District.

\*All data is a reported for the current month period

Please reach out to <u>Emily.Kotaich@dhsoha.state.or.us</u> with any questions.

## **DATA**



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### **OUTCOMES**

Icebreakers (Retention goal #2)

- This month we held our first informational session for resource families to learn about Icebreakers. The one-hour session consisted of a short presentation from ODHS on Icebreakers and most of our time was devoted to hearing from two resource parents and one birth parent about their experiences partnering. We plan to offer more sessions in the future. The recorded presentation is linked <a href="here">here</a>.
- SSAs participated in a training on Icebreaker facilitation. In D10, they will be the primary facilitators of these introductions. We have put supports in place to help them take on this new role successfully. I created a thank you gift for them as they take on this new duty (see picture below).

Resource Parent Quality Assurance Calls (Retention goal #1)

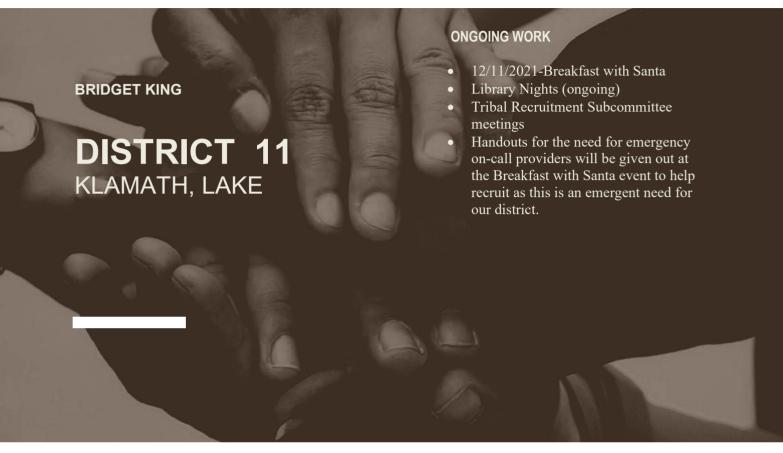
 The D10 management team conducted their first round of resource parent check-in calls. The feedback was reviewed during their manager meeting and will guide supervision.
 Positive feedback was shared widely with the staff to boost morale and celebrate our team. Overall, resource parents expressed appreciation for the manager's calls.

### Strategic Planning with Every Child

• I was invited to participate in Every Child Central Oregon's strategic planning process. These sessions were facilitated by a professional coach who helped the team focus on goals and priorities for the next 3 years. It was a unique opportunity and demonstrates a high level of collaboration amongst our organizations. This type of planning will help guide our mutual our goals as we work to further our missions. Moving forward, I will participate in quarterly coaching sessions with their team to ensure we are staying aligned with the plan.

## **COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

• In collaboration with GOBHI, I presented to the BestCare Madras team about the local foster care program, needs, and supports available. I plan to continue to present to various mental health and medical offices in hopes of reaching recruitment goal #4.



### **D11 SUMMARY**

Highlight of the Month: This month we had a donor come forward from Crystal Terrace Retirement Home who wanted to provide Thanksgiving dinner to some families who were involved with child welfare. I connected them with a local women's shelter, Alva House, to provide a turkey with all the trimmings, for the ladies and the children at the home. This was a wonderful opportunity for the mothers to gain skills in preparing a large meal as well as to have a family style dinner. The mothers at this home are parents with current open child welfare cases and have made sufficient progress for their children to be placed with them while they transition into return home. We are so thankful to Crystal Terrace for this amazing gift!

Success of the month: All the tickets for the Breakfast with Santa event sold out! At \$10 each, we have raised \$2,500 for future recruitment and retention efforts. A radio announcement I made with KLAD was the clencher and helped get the last few tickets sold.

Challenge of the month: We continue to need general providers. Currently we are in a dire need for certified providers to come forward to be on-call for emergency placements after hours and on weekends. We have sent out a Facebook post as well as an email to all currently certified resource homes for the need. Our informational Library Night had no response from the public, but we will try again after the holidays.

Workgroups/subcommittees/meetings/actions teams I have participated in this month include:

- Every Child Steering Committee
- Tribal Subcommittee
- Equity and Inclusion Committee
- Collaborative Recruitment Workgroup Every Child/DHS

Trainings I have participated in this month include:

• Learning Lab

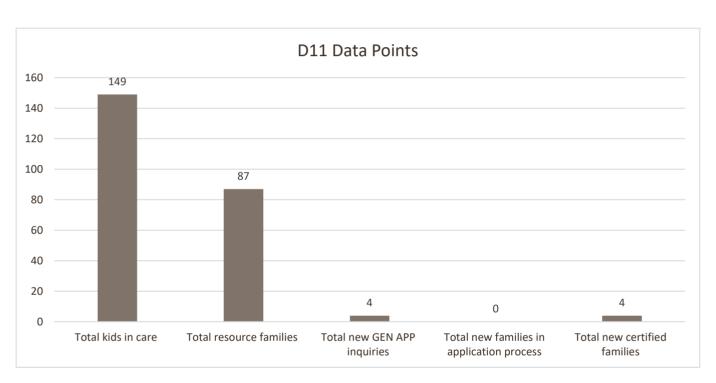
## **DISTRICT 11**

Data provided is a combination of information pulled from ODHS ROM, ORkids, Inquiry Tracker, Inquiry Module and information being tracked by the staff in the local District.

\*All data is a reported for the current month period

Please reach out to <u>Bridget.King@dhsoha.state.or.us</u> with any questions.

## **DATA**



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### **OUTCOMES**

- Klamath Tribes and ODHS District 11 recently met and did a hospitality and meet-n- greet to discuss the goals of recruiting more Tribal homes. I was not a part of that meeting as our district has a tribal certifier who is handling all recruitment and retention efforts for Tribal homes. Certifier Michael Bigby summarized the meeting and future efforts. The goals of Tribal recruitment and retention fall under the deeper need for building trust and connection between the Tribe and Child Welfare.
- With Breakfast with Santa and the Christmas Wishlist, I have been busy securing donations, creating work crew assignments and making decorations. Another major donor, Rubicon Construction, came forward for the second time to provide a toy for every child in foster care. The local Quota Club and CASA Klamath Falls collected hundreds of sets of new pajamas so every child in our resource homes will receive a new pair for Christmas.
- The Klamath County Library has agreed to let us set up a recruitment table in their foyer twice a month to do community outreach.

- Quota Club
- CASA
- Klamath Tribes
- Rubicon Construction
- Klamath Library



#### D12 SUMMARY

In November, I continued to complete actions steps associated with the retention and recruitment plans for D12. My focus was to examine the retention plans carefully and seek out any redundant or non-measurable goals. In addition, I looked to the community to help provide support for the coming holiday season. I was able to pass a Good Will contact to our office staff who wanted to be part of the gift-giving for this year.

The highlight of the month: I enjoyed working with our community partner, Our Giving Table, who provided local resource families, 80 pizzas in collaboration with Papa Murphy's. Every Tuesday in November, the certification team and I delivered 20 pizzas to the resource families. I truly enjoyed meeting with the resource families.

The success of the month: I worked with community partners such as Good Will and the faith community. They have agreed to set up Angel Gift Trees in the area to support the children in care. I was also able to provide a warm hand-off of the Faith Pendleton Church to Every Child.

The challenge of the month: Using feedback from our resource families about what services they would like to see or have, I have been looking to the local community partners to see who can provide specific services (i.e., daycare, behavior counseling, and loss or separation counseling) for the resource families and how they can best access those services.

Workgroups/subcommittees/meetings/actions teams I have participated in this month include:

- D12 Equity & Inclusion meeting, monthly meeting about identifying our gender and race bias and increasing inclusion in the workplace.
- Weekly meetings with Every Child, Marcus Gillette
- Recruitment and retention planning. Monthly gathering with the PM, DM, supervisor, and FCC. Planning is in progress.
- Foster Care Youth Transitions meeting
- FCC meeting
- Certification and Wellbeing meeting
- Native American Heritage Celebration

- Champions Learning Lab training
- ORPAC training and film. ORPAC presented information on what they have to offer in their training library and provided a film that chronicled the journey of an adopted person trying to find her birth parents.
- Founded Dispositions training.
- Foster Parent Partnership training

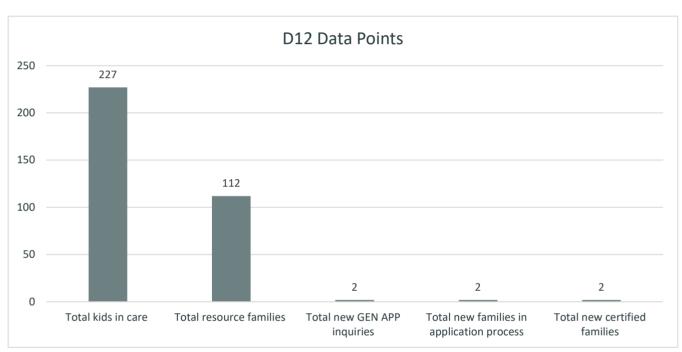
## **DISTRICT 12**

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## DATA

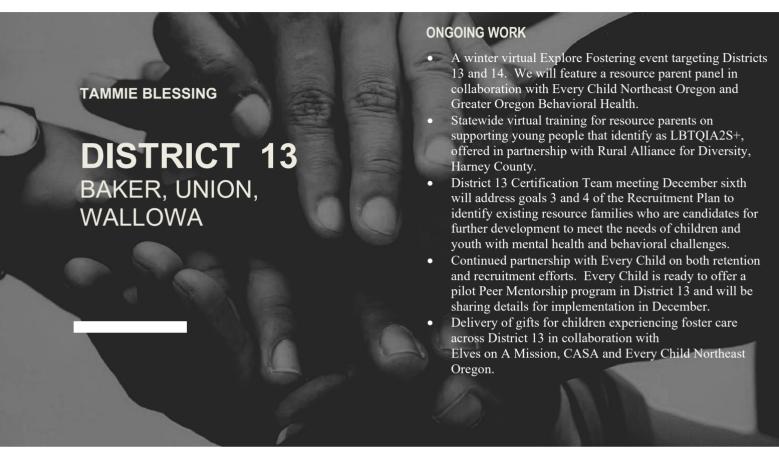


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### **OUTCOMES**

- Resource parent meeting..
- Leaders from the Campus Life program called me wanting to have an event in December to support teens experiencing foster care.
- I made face-to-face contact with Pastor Jessie Mace of Living Faith Church. The meeting resulted in a warm hand-off to Every Child steering committee leader to plan future events for resource families.
- Monthly retention and recruitment meeting with PM, DM, FCC, and certification supervisor.
- I provided a warm hand-off of community partner Faith Pendleton Church to Every Child.
- I collaborated with Our Giving Table and Papa Murphy's to organize and distribute pizzas to resource families in D12. 80
   Pizzas were delivered to resource families every Tuesday for the month of November.
- Preventive staffing for a child in care.

- Faith Pendleton Faith Church
- Campus Life
- Living Faith Church, Pastor Jessie Mace
- Good Will



## D13 SUMMARY

In November I started planning efforts for a winter virtual Explore Fostering event targeting Districts 13 and 14 to include a panel of experienced resource families. Due to the need for treatment foster care homes as well as general applicant resource families, I have engaged Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI). Every Child Northeast Oregon agreed to partner in this event. A planning meeting with GOBHI is set December 6th for further discussion.

Throughout the month, I also participated in temporary lodging staffings, followed up on all new district general applicant inquiries and sent out exit surveys.

District 13 has recently lost 3 child protective service caseworkers and is continuing to recruit for a supervisor position for the Baker County office which has been vacant for a couple of months. Permanency and certification caseworkers and the remaining management team are covering the workload and responsibilities of vacant positions. While recruitment and retention efforts are valued by management and staff, this work has not been prioritized during the last month as protective services and child safety have had to take priority.

Workgroups/subcommittees/meetings/actions teams I have participated in this month include:

- Every Child/ ODHS Retention Planning workgroup. This group has met 3 times this month and has outlined three goals toward statewide retention efforts to be shared with the champion and Every Child Oregon teams in December.
- Every Child Northeast Oregon and ODHS workgroup

- All About Me Books
- Regulating the Body with Sensory Based Interventions Part I with Robyn Gobbel, LCSW
- Certification Criminal History Rule Changes with Sally Vergara-Clement
- Champion Learning Lab
- Relationships Matter: Building Birth and Foster Parent Partnerships that Last
- 2021 Tribal/ State ICWA Conference Recorded Workshop #2: Tribal Partnership and Collaboration for Supervisors
- Parenting Challenging Behaviors Webinar, National Council on Adoptable Children

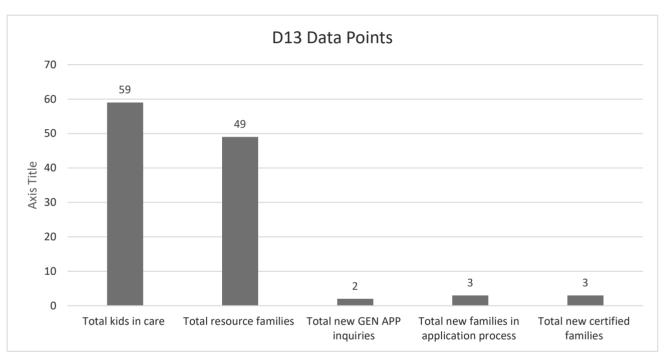
## **DISTRICT 13**

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Please reach out to <u>Tammie.R.Blessing@dhsoha.state.or.us</u> with any questions.

## **DATA**



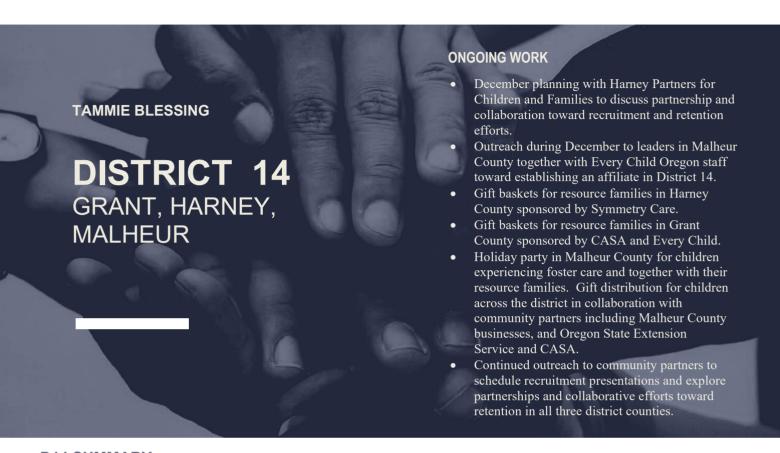
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## **OUTCOMES**

- I taught a two-session virtual Trauma Informed Parenting class for resource parents across the state.
- Collaborated with Our Giving Table, Papa Murphy's and Every Child to organize distribution of pizzas to resource families in Baker, Union & Wallowa Counties for children in foster care and assisted with pizza deliveries for families in Baker County.
- I have continued to support and monitor planning efforts holiday gifts for children in District 13 to assure any children experiencing foster care receives gifts.
- Identified trauma informed parent training resources for resource family needing specific training and provided information to their certifier.
- District 13 resource family newsletter has been distributed to resource families and district ODHS Child Welfare staff. The newsletter included training opportunities, resources to support children, and families, self-care, information about, icebreaker meetings, and targeted district recruitment needs for affirming homes and resource families for teens.

 Made contacts with two new Baker County businesses, Elkhorn Custom Meats and Grocery Outlet that are interested in supporting needs of children in foster care for the holiday season.

- Elves on A Mission
- Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc.
- Every Child, Erin Taggart & Marcus Gillette
- La Grande School District
- CASA
- District Resource Families
- Our Giving Table
- The Adoption Connection
- Papa Murphy's Pizza
- Rural Alliance for Diversity
- Grocery Outlet, Baker City
- Elkhorn Custom Meats



### **D14 SUMMARY**

In November I started planning efforts for a winter virtual Explore Fostering event for District 13 and 14 to include a panel of experienced resource families. Due to the need for treatment foster care homes as well as general applicant resource families, I have engaged Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI), as well as Every Child Northeast Oregon to partner in this event. A planning meeting with GOBHI is set December 6th for further discussion.

Efforts on goal 1 of the retention plan are being revisited to appoint new workgroup members from protective services, and permanency units as designated workgroup members have left the agency. Once new workgroup members have been appointed, workgroup meetings can be scheduled.

Throughout the month I have also participated in temporary lodging staffing's, followed up on all new district general applicant inquiries and sent out exit surveys.

Workgroups/subcommittees/meetings/actions teams I have participated in this month include:

- District 14 Retention & Recruitment Planning workgroup.
- Every Child and ODHS Retention workgroup

- All About Me Books
- Regulating the Body with Sensory Based Interventions Part I with Robyn Gobbel, LCSW
- Certification Criminal History Rule Changes with Sally Vergara-Clement
- Champion Learning Lab
- Relationships Matter: Building Birth and Foster Parent Partnerships that Last
- 2021 Tribal/ State ICWA Conference Recorded Workshop #2: Tribal Partnership and Collaboration for Supervisors
- Parenting Challenging Behaviors Webinar, National Council on Adoptable Children

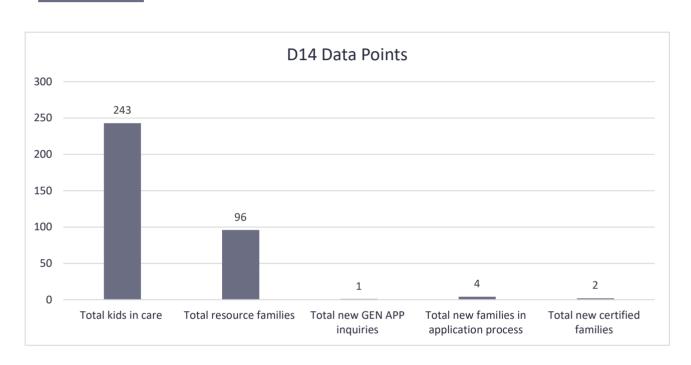
## **DISTRICT 14**

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Please reach out to <a href="mailto:Tammie.R.Blessing@dhsoha.state.or.us">Tammie.R.Blessing@dhsoha.state.or.us</a> with any questions.

## DATA

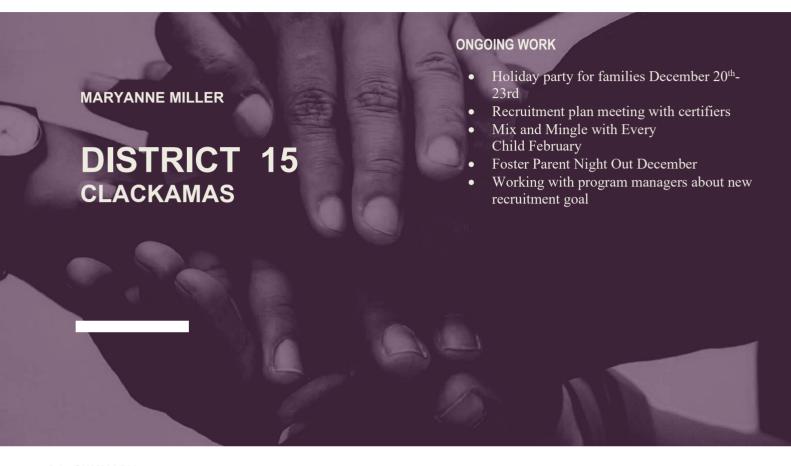


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#### **OUTCOMES**

- I met with Rural Alliance for Diversity (RAD) in Harney County to determine how the organization would like to support fostering in Harney County. In collaboration with ODHS, RAD will provide a virtual training for resource families on supporting LGBTQIA+ children and youth in January 2022. I am working with Rose Cokely, ODHS Resource Family Training Director to explore a statewide offering of the training. RAD also plans to offer a summer star party event in 2022 for resource families and children experiencing foster care. The event will offer a summer camp-out and opportunity to learn about astronomy and view the stars.
- 3 new respite families have come forward in Harney County through contact with the Rural Alliance for Diversity. These families are working with the foster care certifier in Harney County for coordinated respite needs.
- Holiday efforts to support children experiencing foster care in Malheur, Harney and Grant Counties continue. I contacted Grocery Outlet, Ore Ida, Waremart and Red Apple Grocery in Malheur County requesting support for the resource family and children's holiday party. Unfortunately, these contacts did not produce donations. Other options for community donations are being explored.

- Every Child, Marcus Gillette & Erin Taggart
- CASA Harney/ Grant Counties
- Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Andrea Lockner
- Eastern Oregon Early Learning Hub
- Rural Alliance for Diversity, Harney County
- Elkhorn Media Group
- Harney County Partners for Children & Families
- Symmetry Care



### **D15 SUMMARY**

We are in full planning mode for the upcoming holiday parties and events for our foster youth and our resource families. It has been such an honor to be able to participate in these events.

Highlight of the Month: During the month of November, myself and program managers were able to address the concerns that were brought up during our October feedback session during our retention meeting for retention goal #1 and started to work on a plan on how to resolve the concerns. On November 7th, D2 champions, D16 champion, and I participated in the quarterly Every Step meeting to discuss collaboration for our resource families and how we can work on recruitment. I met with the Clackamas Children's Commission as they donated bags with supplies to our resource families. They were broken up into newborn bags and then bags for 1-5 years olds. These are to be passed out to our resource families. GOBHI has reached out and wants to work together on recruitment of resource parents. We will be setting up a meeting to discuss this process.

Success of the month: I am continuing to work on getting a resource parent training that will offer support and resources for those caring for young people that identify as LGBTQIA2S+; we hope to deliver that in January 2022. We were able to certify another affirming family as part of recruitment goal #1 resulting in success of this overall goal. As part of retention goal #6, I have continued participating in the Family Time program meetings to ensure that we are tracking the Icebreakers and Comfort calls as part of this program which were retention goals #4, #5, and #6.

Challenge of the month: After meeting with the program managers, it was determined that we needed to add a new recruitment goal that would be to increase the number of Tribal affiliated resource homes. I have already participated in a meeting with the tri-county area back in October and will be using some of those techniques as part of our current recruitment goals.

Workgroups/subcommittees/meetings/actions teams I have participated in this month include:

• Tri-County Summit

- Champion Learning Lab
- OCR Train the trainer part 2
- Relationship Matters Biological and Resource Families
- ADA and Child Welfare

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THE NUMBERS

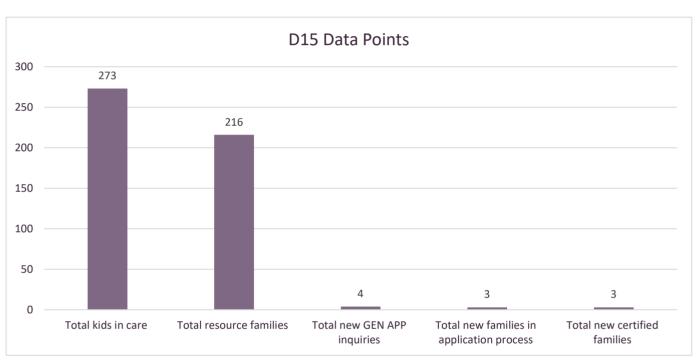
## **DISTRICT 15**

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Please reach out to <u>Maryanne.Miller@dhsoha.state.or.us</u> with any questions.

## **DATA**



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## **OUTCOMES**

- Participated in the Family Time Project for Clackamas County
- Presented at the Every Step Quarterly Clinic about recruitment and retention of resource homes
- Began a process to track comfort calls and icebreakers

- North Clackamas School District
- Relationship Matters Biological and Resource Families
- Temporary Lodging Staffing
- GOBHI
- Clackamas Children's Commission



Please check back next month for more information.

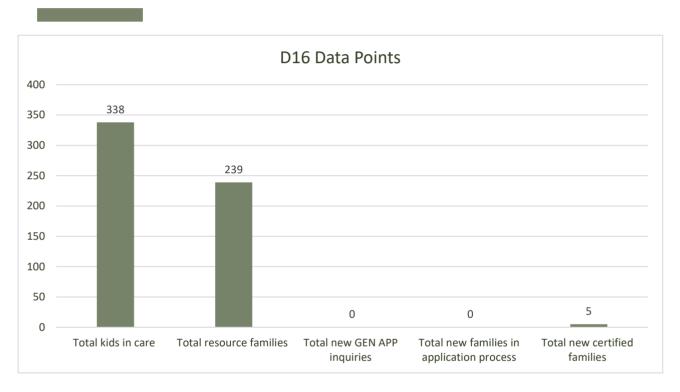
## **DISTRICT 16**

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Please reach out to <u>Dishanta.Kim@dhsoha.state.or.us</u> with any questions.

## DATA



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