



Oregon

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ORS 418.485 and 418.580

Report to Legislative Assembly for 2013

Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families Programs

Department of Human Services - Child Welfare

May 8, 2013

The Department of Human Services is submitting this report to the Legislature as required by Senate Bill 964 enacted in the 2011 Regular Legislative Session and now part of Chapter 418 of the Oregon Revised Statute. This report relates to the Strengthening, Preserving, and Reunifying Families pilot programs being implemented throughout Oregon. The specific requirements of the report are as follows:

The department, in consultation with programs, shall report annually to the Governor and the appropriate interim committees of the Legislative Assembly that address child welfare issues on the progress toward and projected costs of full implementation of ORS 418.575 to 418.598.

The Department presented a report to the Ways and Means Committee in February related to ORS 418.580. This report consists of updated information from that report and incorporates ORS 418.485.

As of April 30, 2013, the Department has collaborated with county partners in seven counties (Jackson, Clackamas, Malheur, Umatilla, Josephine, Coos and Multnomah) to develop and implement services consistent with those outlined in ORS 418.580. The process that was used to develop an individualized service array in the counties included facilitated meetings with county partners and program staff. The intent of the meetings was to identify gaps in current service provision and to build capacity in services already being rendered. Once the gaps were identified, proposals were written by the individual counties that address the specific related services identified in the community meetings. Community partners had representatives at community meetings in the counties and provided valuable input and planning of the service array for the individual counties. Those community partners included the Judicial Department, law enforcement, county employees, faith based organizations, school districts/education, parent programs, and drug, alcohol, and mental health programs.

The number of children in each category of need and the type of child care and services were determined based on Reason for Removal of Children Entering Foster Care in FFY 2011 and 2012 data. The categories of need were focused on the following characteristics: Neglect, Parent Alcohol and Drug issues, Parent Cannot Cope, and Inadequate Housing. In FFY 2011 and 2012 combined in the state of Oregon, there were the following number of children removed due to: 4,763 – Neglect; 7,831 – Parent Alcohol and Drug Issues; 2,124 – Parent Cannot Cope; and 1,492 – Inadequate Housing. Some of the numbers of children are duplicated as there were multiple reasons associated with their removal.

The following list provides an overview of the available services and the counties where the service is being used:

- Navigators: Specialists to help navigate social service agencies. (Multnomah, Clackamas, Coos).
- Parenting: Father, Culturally Specific, and Intensive parenting classes. (Multnomah).
- Parent Mentoring/Education: In-home, bi-lingual, available after work hours. Specialists to reinforce parenting behaviors, supportive services. (Clackamas, Umatilla, Josephine, Jackson, Multnomah, Coos).
- Relief Nursery: Daycare, parenting, support services. (Umatilla, Jackson, Coos, Malheur, Clackamas).
- Alcohol and Drug Treatment: Inpatient/Outpatient services that focus on multi-dimensional issues such as parenting, domestic violence services, and a relief nursery. (Umatilla, Clackamas, Jackson).
- Housing: Short-term & Emergency Housing services. (Umatilla, Josephine, Jackson, Multnomah, Malheur, Clackamas, Coos).
- Front End Interventions: Specialists (alcohol and drug, mental health, domestic violence, and human service generalists) responding with child protective service workers. (Clackamas, Umatilla, Josephine, Jackson, Malheur).
- Life Skills Coaches / Home Visitors: Provides similar services as Navigators. (Umatilla, Josephine, Multnomah, Coos).
- Reconnecting Families: Specialists used to engage families and conduct relative searches for additional familial resources/placements. (Josephine, Jackson, Coos).

- Trauma Services and therapeutic services: Intensive services to trauma affected families and children. (Multnomah, Clackamas, Jackson).
- Family visitation that is different from our traditional family visitation: (Josephine, Jackson, Umatilla).
- Mentoring: Youth Transition Mentoring for youth not eligible for DHS Independent Living Program (Malheur).
- Intensive In-home Services: 24/7 availability, crisis prevention/intervention, medication management, skill building, therapeutic services. (Multnomah).

Currently, there are 18 active contracts and 29 pending in the first seven counties.

Tillamook, Deschutes and Washington are the next three counties where services will be implemented. Contracts for these counties, as well as the initial seven counties, are expected to be in place by the end of June 2013. Currently, \$6.7 million dollars have been encumbered for the initial seven counties, and it is expected that the next three counties will encumber approximately two million dollars. Each county has presented unique service issues and gaps in their service array. As a result, a projection of costs can only be anticipated by estimating the cost per case for the pilot counties and speculating that the same trend of specific service need will exist in future community assessments. This approach to developing contracted services is unique to this service provision and requires a new assessment of service needs as implementation begins in each successive county.

The long-range plan for implementation of Strengthening, Preserving, and Reunifying Families programs statewide has been developed using data weighted in three areas:

- 1) Rate of over representation of children of color in foster care;
- 2) Rates of re-abuse; and
- 3) Foster care placement.

After developing a list of counties in the order they will be implemented, the information was shared with DHS Child Welfare district management to determine if there were other factors that should be considered. As a result, it was clear that some counties shared resources and stakeholders/providers/

community partners, thus making it more efficient for multiple counties to roll out simultaneously. The following list is the order in which the remaining counties will implement Strengthening, Preserving, and Reunifying Families services:

- Lane County (Casey)
- Klamath
- Linn & Benton
- Douglas
- Marion (Casey), Polk, Yamhill
- Lincoln
- Columbia
- Multnomah (remaining 3 branches)
- Clatsop
- Crook & Jefferson
- Gilliam, Hood River, Wasco, Wheeler & Sherman
- Lake
- Union, Baker & Wallowa
- Curry
- Morrow
- Harney
- Grant

Please contact Stacy Lake at 503-945-5915 or stacy.l.lake@state.or.us if you would like a copy of the full report or have any question or concerns.

Thank you.