

The Joint Committee on Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee

Informational Hearing on
Juvenile Dependency Representation

April 27, 2017

Oregon Department of Justice
Fred Boss, Deputy Attorney General
Joanne Southey, Deputy Chief Counsel,
Civil Enforcement Division

Oregon Task Force on Dependency Representation Recommendation

DHS should enter into a block grant or flat-fee agreement with DOJ for full representation from petition to permanency. In addition, the legislature should grant position authority to DOJ to implement this model.

- Provides for comprehensive, consistent and predictable representation
- Allows DHS to leverage federal grant and reimbursement programs
- Mitigates risk of unlawful practice of law
- Provides assistance with training for DHS workers
- Does not eliminate legal party status of any DA/County

Proposed Implementation Plan for DHS Dependency Representation by DOJ

Three phased-in tiers by January 1, 2019 (date required in HB 2345 and SB 525)

Each phase represents approximately one-third of total child welfare cases statewide for measured rollout.

Intended to recognize counties where DOJ has had to or will have to assume representation of DHS in all jurisdictional work or a significant portion of work in Phase I.

Phases II and III include counties that are able to continue to appear, considering county-based need, regional staffing and fiscal impact.

Created by DHS and DOJ in consultation with ODAA.

Proposed Implementation Plan

Anticipated Phase I

Implementation by January 1, 2018:

Benton, Coos, Gilliam, Grant, Hood River, Josephine, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Morrow, Polk, Sherman, Tillamook, Wasco, Wheeler

Anticipated Phase II

Implementation by July 1, 2018:

Columbia, Crook, Deschutes, Douglas, Harney, Jackson, Klamath, Lake, Malheur, Umatilla, Yamhill

Anticipated Phase III

Implementation by January 1, 2019:

Baker, Clackamas, Clatsop, Curry, Marion, Multnomah, Union, Washington, Wallowa

Questions?

Email Addresses:

fred.boss@doj.state.or.us

joanne.southey@doj.state.or.us