

Oregon Foster Parent Association Salem Town Hall Meeting Minutes - 10.15.2015

How to improve foster care system:

- Oregon foster parent survey – need to hear from more foster parents who can't make it to town halls
- Need improved foster parent training – specific training on how to (tools) parent children with disorders, attachment issues, trauma-informed training specific to the child, training on all available resources, foster youth perspectives incorporated in foster parent training (Children First), self-advocacy and support services training
- Training for case workers: mandatory ongoing, foster parent bill of rights
- Need centralized place for updates on rule changes
- Use DD behavior support plans as a guide for DHS foster cases
- Foster parent support groups
- Mediation training for DHS case workers to help mediate between youth and foster parent so that removal is not the first option
- Support when incidents occur – not in weekly therapy
- Board of professionals in the mental health field (not in the agency) to review placement decisions for non-emergent moves, including foster youth input
- Remedies for foster parent bill of rights, someone to hold DHS accountable for violating rules
- Case workers informing foster parent of foster youth's history, previous experience, and siblings
- Mentors/advocates for each foster parent
- Foster youth automatic ERDC
- Make 211 info listings

OFPA Can Do:

- Legal defense fund (retainer pro bono lawyer)
- Advocates/mentors
- Annual conference
- Respite resources, family support services, referrals
- Transforming training system to ensure that the training is helpful
- Staff person to respond to foster parents