

Parent Child Representation Program

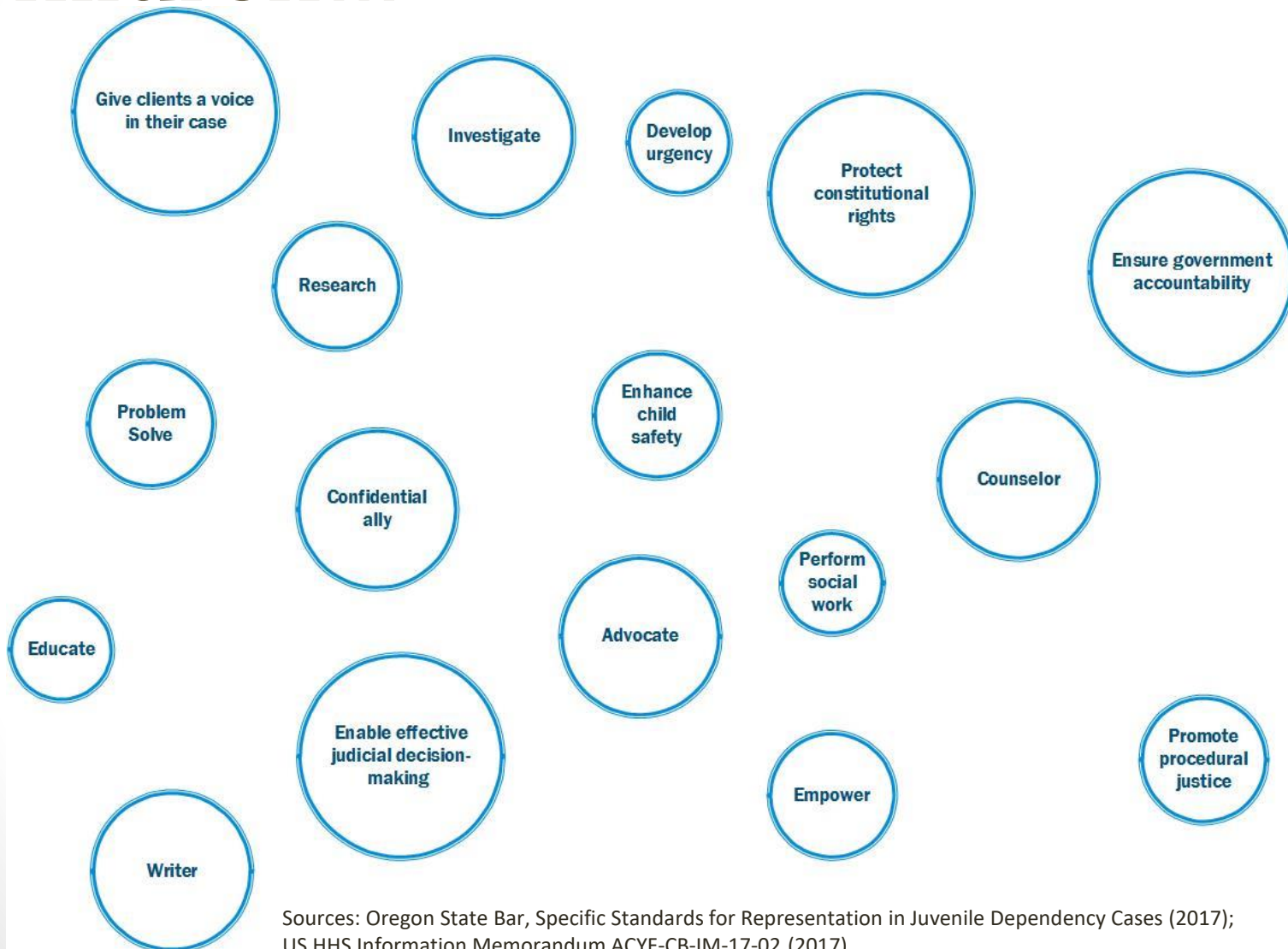
Public Defense Representation : juvenile dependency system
Ways and Means Human Services Subcommittee
February 14, 2018



Oregon

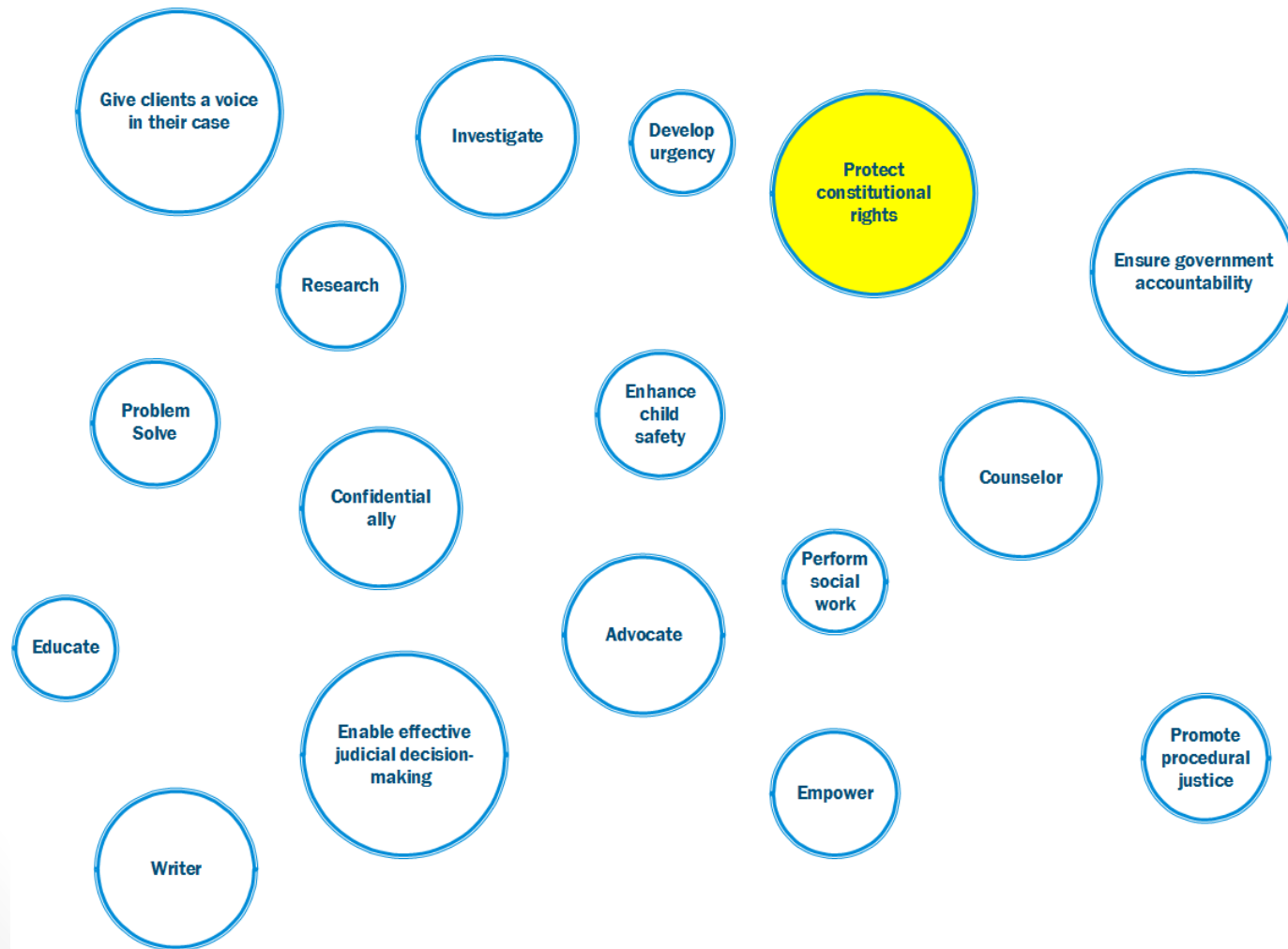
Office of Public Defense Services
www.oregon.gov/opds

Lawyers for parents and children...



Sources: Oregon State Bar, Specific Standards for Representation in Juvenile Dependency Cases (2017);
US HHS Information Memorandum ACYF-CB-IM-17-02 (2017).

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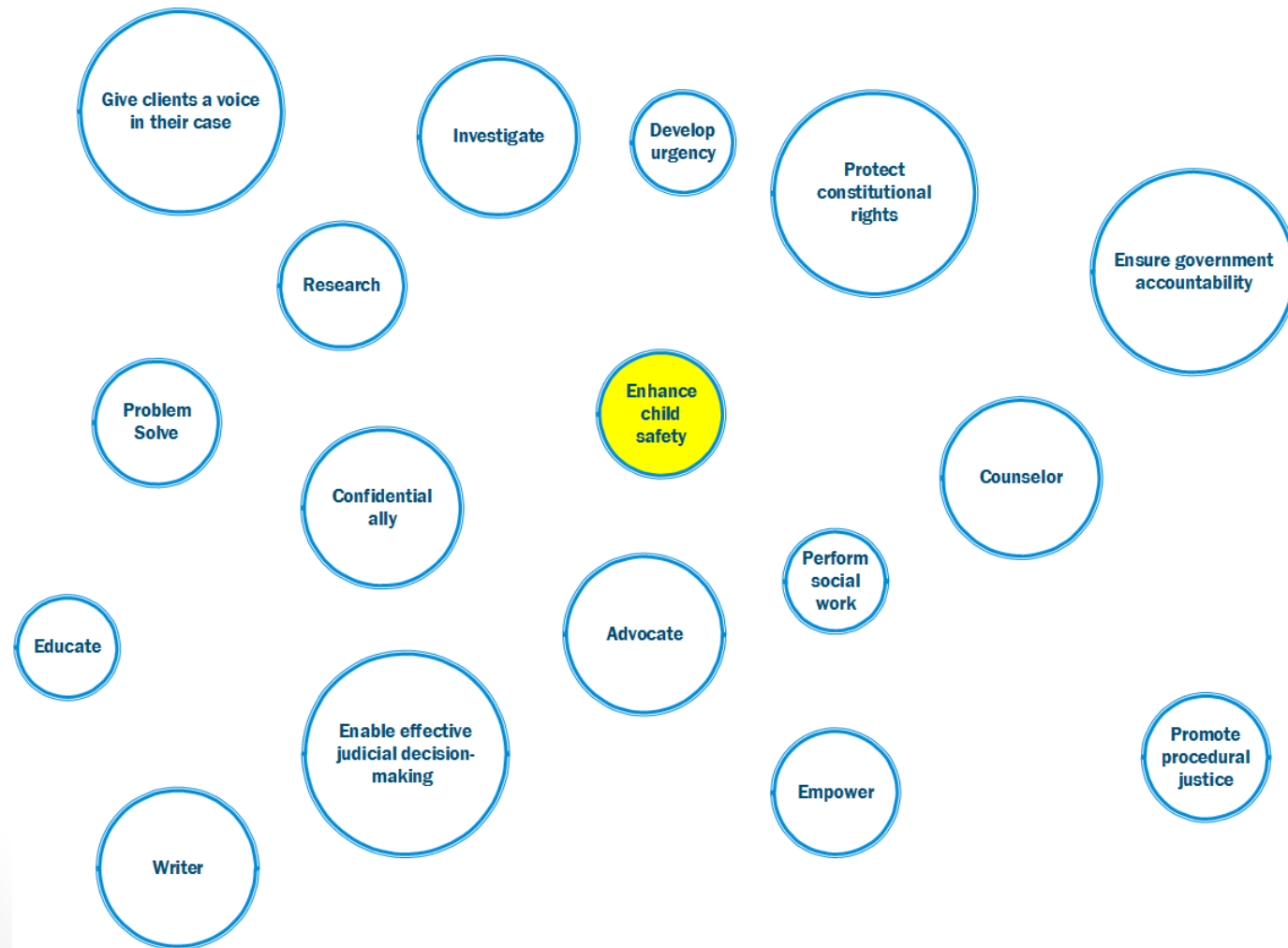
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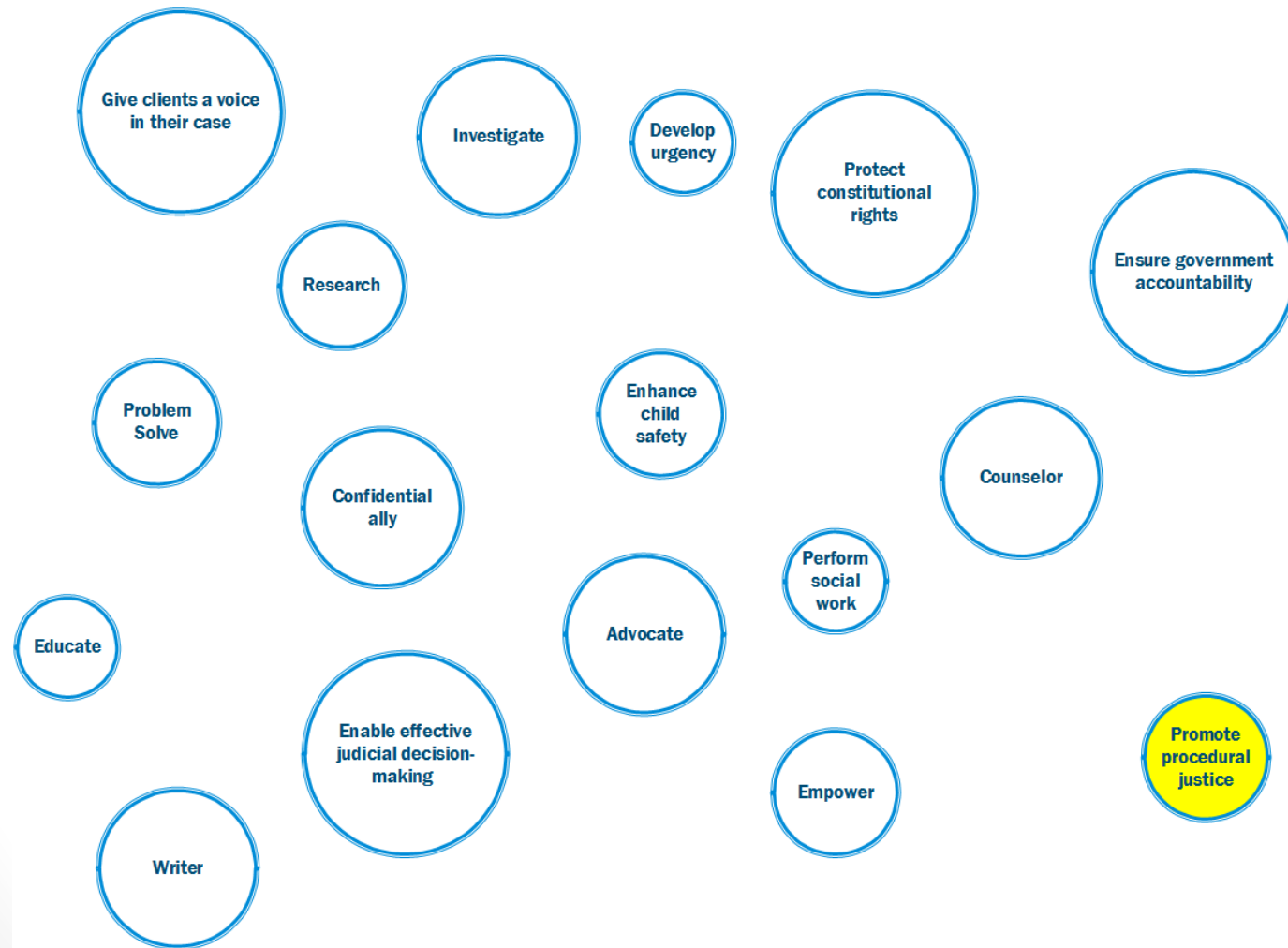
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Quality legal representation

- Contributes to or is associated with:
 - increases in party perceptions of fairness
 - increases in party engagement in case planning, services and court hearings
 - increased likelihood of reunification
 - more personally tailored and specific case plans and services
 - increases in visitation and parenting time
 - expedited permanency
 - cost savings to state government due to reductions of time children and youth spend in care
 - non-adversarial case resolution

Sources: US HHS Information Memorandum, 2017; Marcenko, Newby, Mienko, and Courtney, 2011; NCJFCJ 2011; NCJFCJ 2013 (Mississippi); Courtney, Hook & Orme, 2011; Center for Family Representation, 2013; American Bar Association 2009.

Challenges to quality legal representation in Oregon

- Outdated public defense delivery system
- Inadequate data management systems
- Absence of caseload standards
- Highly variable quality
- History of longstanding quality concerns; some still remain
- Chronic underfunding
 - Increasing caseloads
 - Lack of qualified workforce

Parent Child Representation Program

Linn, Yamhill, and Columbia counties

- A response to longstanding deficiencies in juvenile dependency representation and a desire to achieve cost-effective positive outcomes.
- Modeled after similar program in Washington state that has been shown to improve case outcomes.
- Goals
 - Competent and effective legal representation throughout the life of the case.
 - Meaningful representation at all proceedings.
 - Improved outcomes for children and families.

Parent Child Representation Program

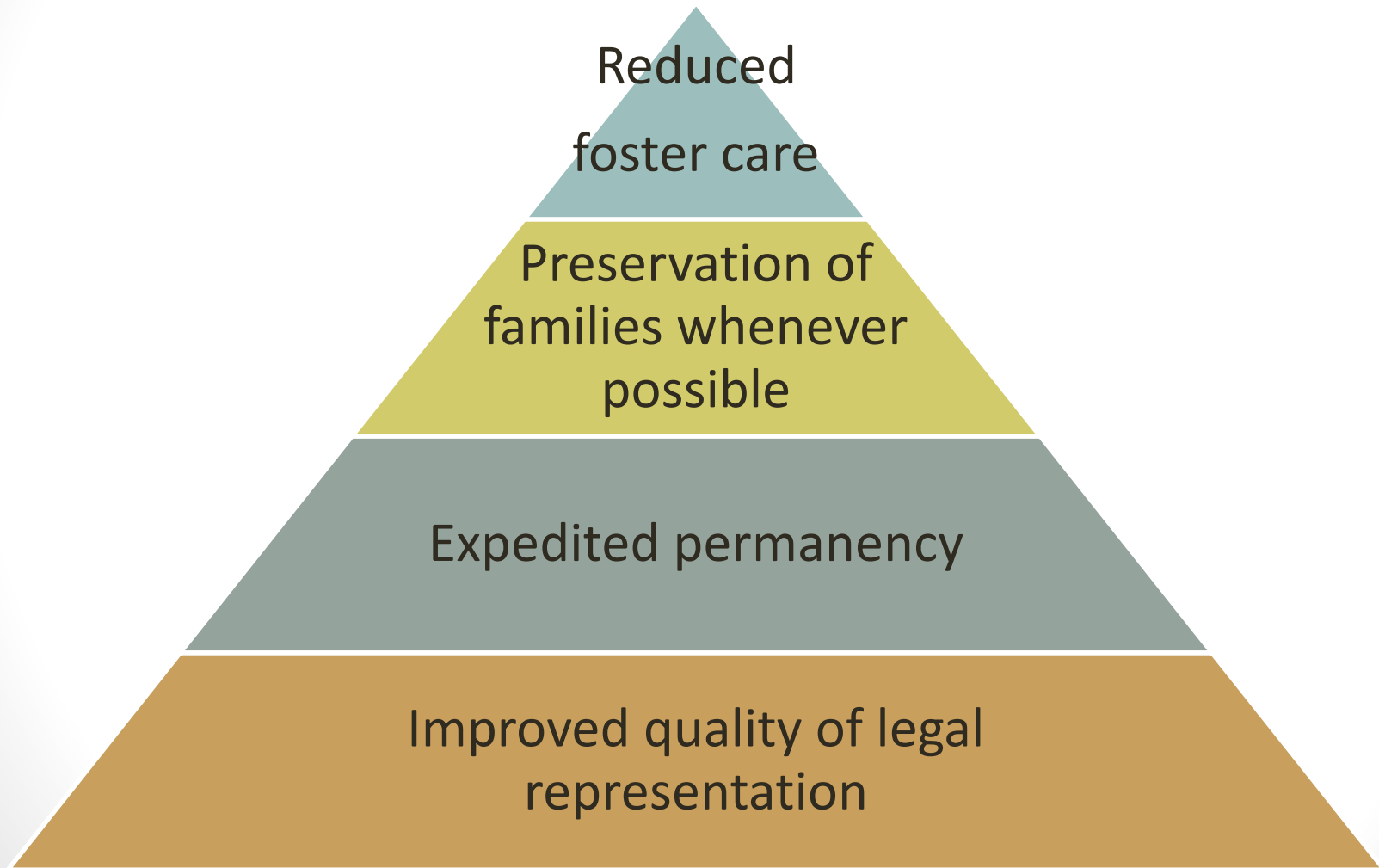
Linn, Yamhill, and Columbia counties

- Workload contract for legal services
- Caseload limits (80 open cases)
- Case managers as part of defense team (10-15% of cases)
- Evidence based
- Accountability
- Improved outcomes

Notable Observations

(2014-2017, full reports available at

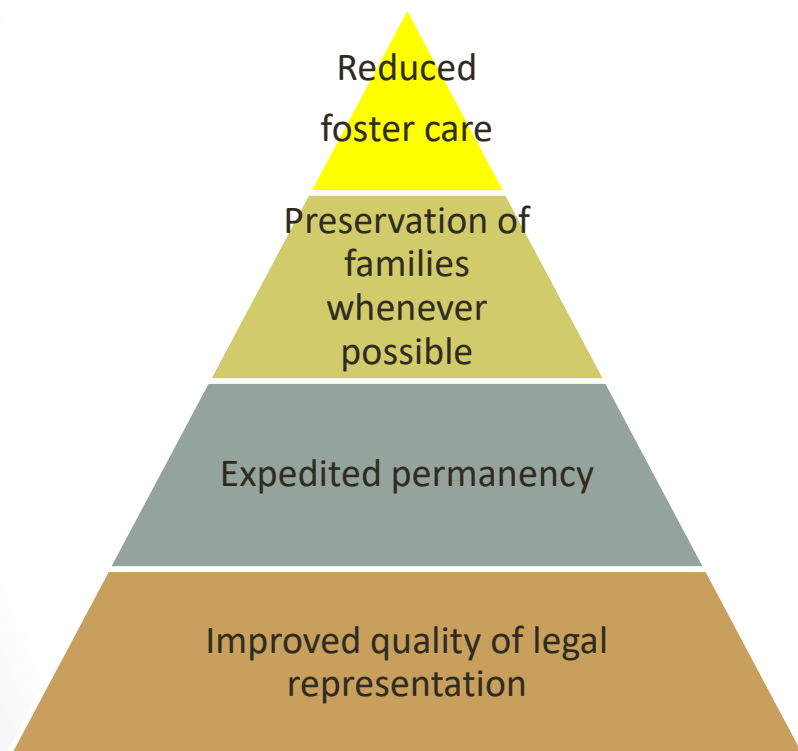
<http://www.oregon.gov/OPDS/pages/pdscreports.aspx>)



Notable Observations

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Reduced use of foster care

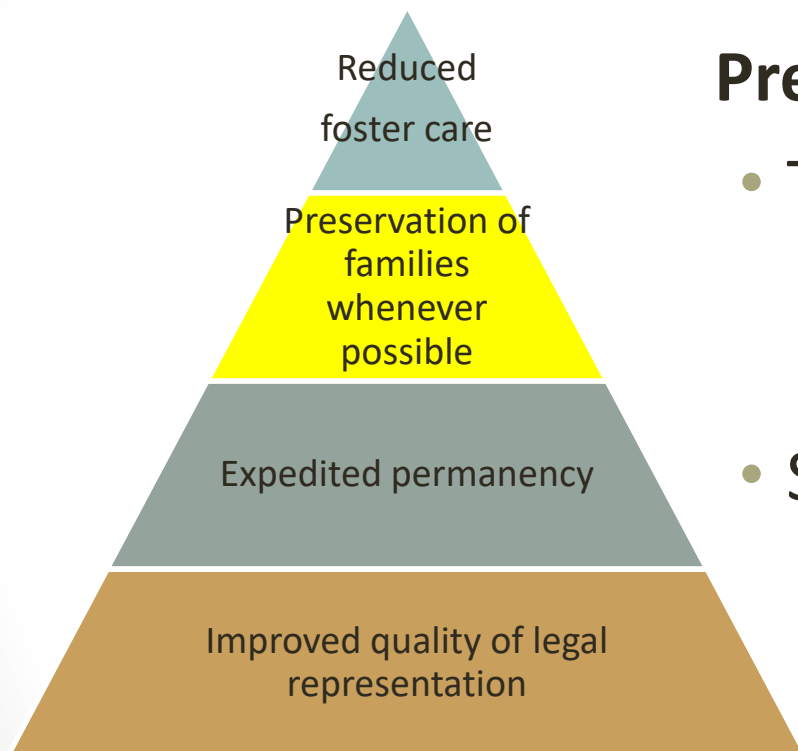
- Population in foster care
 - Statewide increase 1.7% per year
 - PCRP decrease 8.7% per year

Average rate of change in PCRP county foster population per year, 2014-2017, Oregon child welfare data set report CM.02 Placement Type (of those in care), The number/percent of children on the caseload on the last day of each report period, by the placement type they were in on that day, over time. Report provided by DHS Office of Business Intelligence 10.25.2017.

Notable Observations

(2014-2017, full reports available at

<http://www.oregon.gov/OPDS/pages/pdscreports.aspx>)



Preservation of families

- Time to reunification
 - Statewide unchanged
 - PCRP decrease 2 months
- Safe reunification
 - Statewide re-entry rate 13%
 - PCRP re-entry rate 8%

Average change in PCRP county time to reunification per year, 2014-2017, Oregon child welfare data set report CM.15 Median Length of Stay at Foster Care Exit, Of children discharged, the median number of months to discharge (median is middle score where half were more and half less), by admin level. Average PCRP county re-entry rate, 2014-2017, Oregon child welfare data set report PA.04 (Fed) Re-entry to Foster Care, Of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month target period and discharged within 12 months to reunification, living with a relative(s), or guardianship, what percent re-entered foster care within 12 months of discharge .

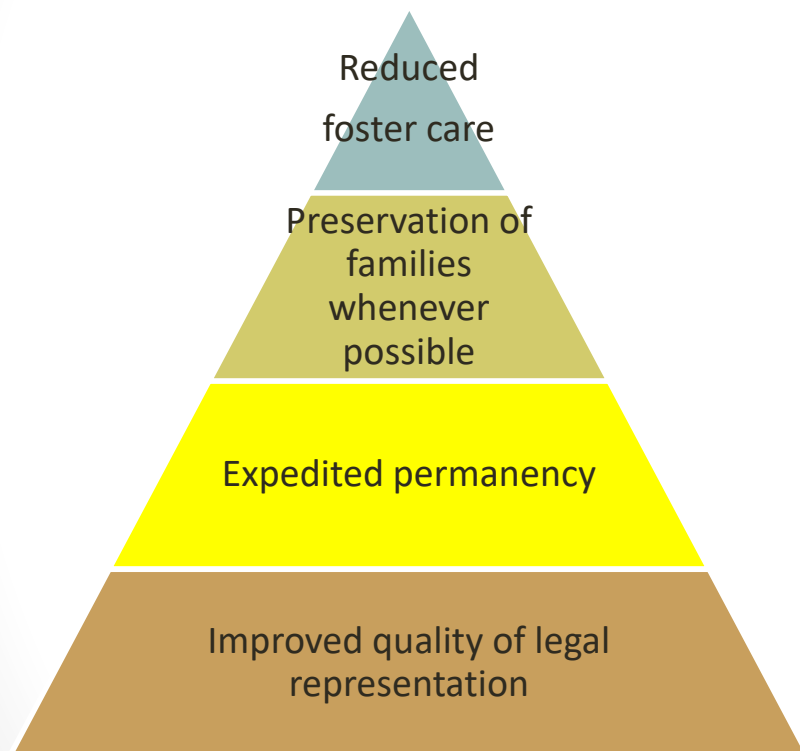
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Expedited permanency

- Permanency within 24 months
 - Statewide increase 3% (to 66%)
 - PCRP increase 10% (to 77%)

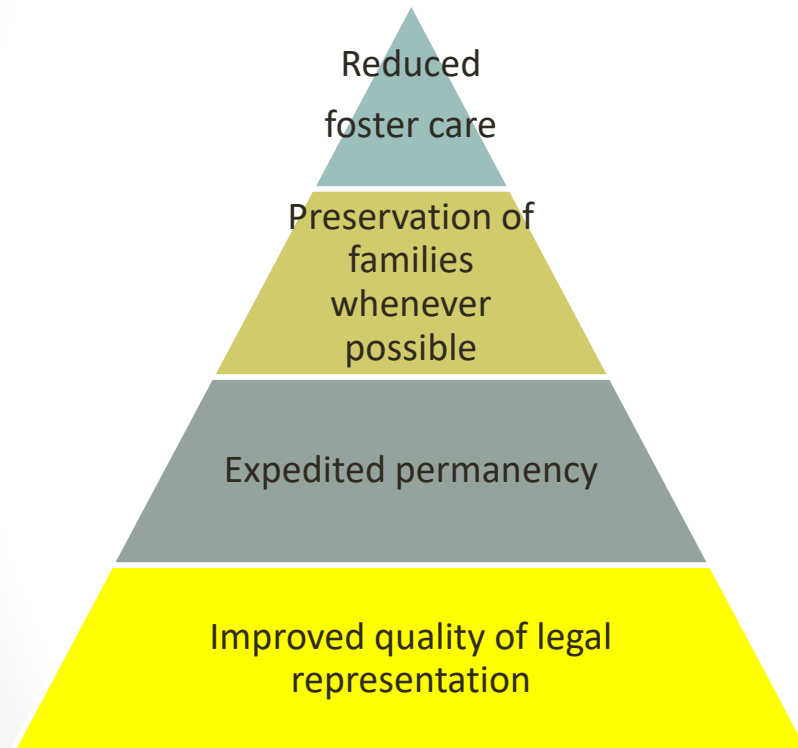


Average rate of change in PCRP county permanency within 24 months 2014-2017, Oregon child welfare data set report PA.08 Permanency in 24 months (of those entered care 24 months ago).

Notable Observations

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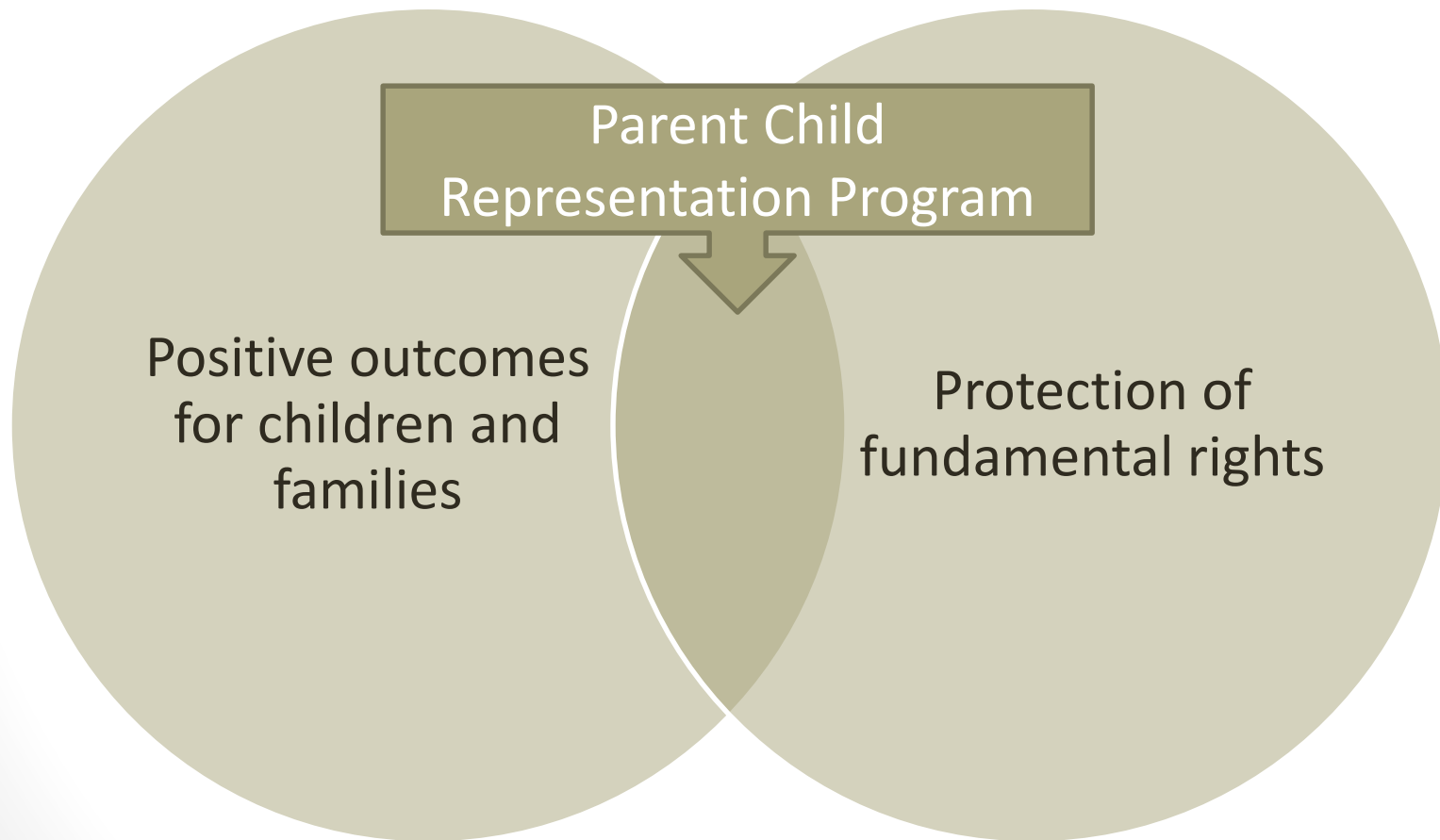
Improved quality of legal representation

- Presence at shelter hearings
- Use of experts & investigators
- Multidisciplinary, team-based approach
- Attendance at case-related meetings
- 97% client satisfaction rate

Next steps

- Finalist for Urban Institute-University of Chicago Study; requires incremental expansion of program
- Scalable options based on county's need, impact, and readiness.

Dependency system integration



Questions or comments

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