



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



Oregon Department of Human Services

Office of the Director

500 Summer St. NE, E-15

Salem, OR 97301

Voice: 503-945-5600

Fax: 503-581-6198

March 3, 2021

Representative Anna Williams, Chair
Representative Gary Leif, Vice Chair
Representative Ricki Ruiz, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Human Services

From: Oregon Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Division

Re: HB 2333 Letter of Information

Introduction:

The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) is writing to provide information regarding the proposed changes in HB 2333.

Background:

The ODHS Child Welfare Division in close coordination with the Oregon Health Authority, and Oregon State University College of Pharmacy has successfully implemented significant changes to the process for prescribing psychotropic medication since the passage of HB 3114 (2009). As a part of implementation, a comprehensive monitoring system has been created that utilizes a pharmacy driven approach. HB 3114 (2009) required the department to develop procedures for the use of psychotropic medications for children placed in foster care. Those procedures can be found in OAR 413-070-0400 to 413-070-0490.

Additionally, oversight has been built into the process and requires a program managers' approval to authorize psychotropic medication prior to administration. Starting in 2019 the Child Welfare Nursing Team also reviews all requests for psychotropic prescriptions. Further, a comprehensive notification requirement now exists and requires Child Welfare to provide written notification to the parent or guardian, parents' attorney, child's attorney, Court Appointed Special Advocate, the substitute caregiver, and any other legal parties to the child's case.

These changes have proven successful, as demonstrated with a 10% reduction in the rate of psychotropic prescriptions among foster youth in Oregon since 2009, leaving the rate at 8.6% in 2019 which is below the national average.

“Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe”

March 3, 2021

What this bill does:

HB 2333 requires a quarterly report to the legislature on information on the number of psychotropic prescriptions and prescribers for youth in the custody of Child Welfare.

Summary:

This information is being respectfully submitted in consideration for HB 2333.

For more information, please contact:

Tristan Fernandez

Senior Legislative Policy Analyst

ODHS Child Welfare and Vocational Rehabilitation

503-302-1479

tristan.fernandez@dhsola.state.or.us