

# SOCAC

System of Care Advisory Council

## **SOCAC supports HB 4086 -4 Amendment**

The System of Care Advisory Council (SOCAC) respectfully submits this letter of support for the studies outlined in sections 1 and 2 of the -4 Amendment to HB 4086.

We believe this is necessary to allow ODHS to compare Oregon's current practices with national best practices, and what works in other states. Specifically, section 1 will address:

- Who does DHS investigate?
- Who else investigates the same thing?
- How can we align these in ways that support trauma informed practices for the vulnerable populations who are impacted by these investigations, and ideally reduce the current practice of multiple agencies investigating the same issues, which also creates trauma for victims and families?

Recommendations would guarantee clarity on:

- Who is responsible for investigating what events?
- What the consistent response and appropriate consequences for when someone is found in violation of abuse and neglect?
- What are national best practices for ensuring child abuse and neglect are addressed appropriately?

SOCAC believes that child abuse and neglect investigations should be handled efficiently, effectively and in a trauma-informed way. ODHS needs to engage a wide variety of stakeholders in these important conversations that will lead to meaningful system change.

SOCAC also supports the study in section 2 which addresses how children with problematic sexual behaviors, including those with I/DD who engage in voluntary sexual encounters, are treated. Currently, the System is not directly addressing these issues in a trauma-informed way, and instead relies on criminalizing and ostracizing these behaviors. This is a very difficult topic, and ODHS should engage in thoughtful conversations before recommending or implementing policy with appropriate state and national experts across the multitude of perspectives including education, law enforcement, youth and families, to name a few.

SOCAC supports the voices of our children, youth and families to help create a more trauma-informed system that supports the wide variety of needs we have. It is our hope these studies will move Oregon forward in reaching these goals.

**Please support the -4 Amendment to HB 4086!**