

# Memorandum

PREPARED FOR: Senate Committee on Rules  
DATE: March 27, 2025  
BY: Leslie Porter, Legislative Analyst  
RE: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments



## GOVERNOR'S CHILD FOSTER CARE ADVISORY COMMISSION

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The Governor has appointed the following individuals to the Governor's Child Foster Care Advisory Commission, subject to Senate confirmation:<sup>1</sup>

### New Appointees

Matt Crowell of Boardman  
Jessy Powell of Salem

### Reappointees

Casey Dreher of Cottage Grove  
Alicia Richard of Troutdale

### Terms

Crowell: May 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027  
Powell: May 1, 2025 – June 30, 2029  
Reappointees: May 19, 2025 – June 30, 2029

### Statutory Authority

[ORS 418.041 \(2023\)](#).

### Statement of Economic Interest<sup>2</sup>

Not required.

### Composition<sup>3</sup>

The commission consists of 13 Oregon residents:

- current or former foster parents and foster children, (**HAWASH, RICHARD**);
- family members of current or former foster parents and foster children (**VACANT**);
- biological parents involved in the foster care system (**POWELL**);
- representatives of organizations that advocate issues of concern to the foster care system (**ALEXANDER, HEISLER**);
- representatives of entities with experience and interest in, and responsibility for, the provision of care to children in the foster care system (**CROWELL, ISLAND, WELCH**);

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<sup>1</sup> [Or. Const. art. III, sect. 4](#); [ORS 171.562 and 171.565 \(2023\)](#).

<sup>2</sup> [ORS 244.050 \(2023\)](#).

<sup>3</sup> [ORS 418.041 and 418.043 \(2023\)](#); [ORS 182.100 \(2023\)](#) for affirmative action policy; [ORS 236.115 \(2023\)](#) for diversity criteria.

- members of the Oregon State Bar with expertise in family and juvenile dependency law (**DREHER**);
- representatives of law enforcement and district attorneys;
- former employees of the Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Authority and Department of Justice, who were responsible for the administration and oversight of child welfare and foster care systems, including former caseworkers and former court appointed special advocates (**SALAZAR**);
- Judicial Department representatives (**HARRIS-JAQUOT**); and
- representatives of federally recognized Indian tribes and organizations serving Native Americans.

Appointees serve four-year terms. Any Judicial Department member is appointed by the Chief Justice and serves at their pleasure. The commission meets at least once every three months. The commission selects its chair and vice chair.

## **Duties<sup>4</sup>**

The commission advises the Governor and the directors of the Department Human Services (DHS), the Oregon Health Authority, and the Oregon Youth authority, and makes recommendations for legislation. It also studies and reports on

- legal and policy issues,
- accountability measures and outcomes,
- improving internal DHS operations,
- improving the availability of foster care and finding alternatives to foster care,
- the promotion of responsible statewide advocacy for children in foster care, and
- ongoing review of foster care providers and barriers to providing quality care.

The commission also considers reports, findings, and recommendations that have been or will be issued by legislative and agency task forces, work groups, and committees that have undertaken to study, review, or oversee the foster care system. It also establishes advisory or technical committees to aid its work and adopts rules to carry out its function.

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<sup>4</sup> [ORS 418.044 \(2023\)](#).



## Governor's Child Foster Care Advisory Commission

Agency: **Governor's Office**

Policy Area: **Human Services**

Authorization: **ORS 418.041**

Board Admin: **Ellyn Bell**

Min Members: **11** Max Members: **13**

Address:

Term Length: **4** Term Limit: **2**

, **OR**

Senate Confirmation Required?: **Yes**

**Ellyn.Bell@odhs.oregon.gov**

### Current Appointments

**Salazar, Deian JA**

Term(s): **2/16/2024 - 6/30/2027**

Position Number: **1**

**Alexander, Malik**

Term(s): **7/1/2024 - 6/30/2028**

Position Number: **3**

**2/16/2024 - 6/30/2024**

**Ms Harris-Jacquot, Megan L**

Term(s): **9/28/2022 - 6/30/2026**

Judicial Representative

Position Number: **4**

**Mr Dreher, Casey S JD**

Term(s): **5/19/2025 - 6/30/2029**

Attorney for youth in care; member OSB

**4/19/2021 - 4/18/2025**

Position Number: **5**

**Crowell, Matt**

Term(s): **5/1/2025 - 6/30/2027**

Law Enforcement Office; foster parent

Position Number: **7**

**Mrs Heisler, Pamela L**

Term(s): **7/1/2022 - 6/30/2026**

Member of an advocacy org related to foster care

**11/25/2019 - 6/30/2022**

Position Number: **8**

**Hawash, Jessica**

Term(s): **2/16/2024 - 6/30/2027**

Position Number: **9**

**Richard, Alicia A**

Term(s): **5/14/2025 - 6/30/2029**

Former Foster Youth

**5/14/2021 - 5/13/2025**

Position Number: **10**

**Welch, Jamie**

Term(s): **9/28/2022 - 6/30/2026**

Nonprofit Providers Representative

Position Number: **11**

**Powell, Jessy**

Term(s): **5/1/2025 - 6/30/2029**

Parent who's experienced CW

Position Number: **12**

<b>Island, Alex</b>	Term(s):	<b>10/1/2024 - 6/30/2028</b>
Lived experience w/guardianship and the family court system		
Position Number: <b>13</b>		

Vacant Positions				
Pos	Former Member	Appointed By	Term Begin	Term End
2	Gallo, Nick	Governor	9/28/2022	6/30/2026
2	Dr Powell, Tracy M PhD	Governor	11/25/2019	6/30/2021
2	Mr Wagner, William "Bill" R	Governor	7/1/2017	6/30/2021
2	Mr Wagner, William "Bill" R	Governor	12/19/2016	6/30/2017
Pos	Former Member	Appointed By	Term Begin	Term End
6	Steffany, Seema	Governor	2/16/2024	6/30/2027
6	Ms Donart, Robin C	Governor	7/1/2017	6/30/2021
6	Ms Donart, Robin C	Governor	12/19/2016	6/30/2017