



# Polk County Family & Community Outreach Department

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1407 Monmouth Independence Highway, Monmouth, OR 97361

Phone: 503-751-1644 Fax: 503-623-7902

To: Oregon House Committee on Early Childhood and Human Services

From: Brent DeMoe, Director  
Polk County Family & Community Outreach Department

Re: HB 2842

Good afternoon Chair Hartman, Co-Chairs Nguyen and Scharf and the members of the EC&HS committee.

I'm writing today to give our full support to HB 2842. I understand that there will be an amendment forthcoming that will change the text of the current bill to include Polk County as well. If funded, this bill will bring back the Court & Community Care program in Polk County and allow Marion County's program to expand their hours of operation.

Court & Community Care is free, high-quality, episodic child care for children ages six weeks to twelve. It provides children with a safe, supportive, and quality child care environment so that their parents or guardians can attend a variety of qualifying appointments, including any business related to courts or a court case, job interview, any veteran-related appointment including medical appointments, meetings or appointments with community corrections, behavioral health, ODHS, domestic violence programs or any other appointment where ideally children should not be present.

Court and Community Care protects children from witnessing adult conflict, hearing harsh words, and seeing potentially disturbing scenes that could traumatize them.

We are thrilled to announce that we have identified a licensed child care provider and a space to operate the C&CC program if funding comes through. We've already had our pre-certification visit from the State Licensing Specialist and we passed.

We have full support from our Judges, Circuit Court Administrator, District Attorney, Victim Assistance, Health Services Department, Community Corrections Department, Family & Community Outreach Department, Public Health Department, Veteran Service Office, SABLE House (DV program/shelter), and the directors of both ODHS Self Sufficiency and Child Welfare for Polk County.



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We began collecting data in January on the continued need for this program and below are a few highlights from our surveys.

- Over 200 surveys have been submitted so far.
- Surveys were conducted by a broad range of social service providers who asked parents about the need for the program at their last appointment.
- 60% of parents indicated they have had to bring children to an appointment/court proceeding that was not appropriate for children
- 85% of parents said they would have utilized a Court & Community Care program if it had been available on their last appointment

I am unable to be there in person tomorrow but please know we are excited for this potential funding to provide this vital service.

Brent DeMoe, Director  
Polk County Family & Community Outreach Department