



Spring 2011

Welcome Our New Volunteer Board Members

Deschutes County

Kenneth Goodin
Lisa Malnar
Gale Rivera
Lisa Wolpowitz

Jackson County

Suzanne Lettro
Cindy Parrott
Sarah Schendel

Josephine County

Janeen Andrew
Barbara Franklin

Marion County

Shannon Blake
Phyllis Bush
Janith Coe
Christine Dean-Washington
Kristina Gonier
Larry Payne
Diane Plummer
Carol Rugebregt

Polk County

Peter McDowell

Washington County

Christy Khalifa

Yamhill County

Bob Aptekar



A Message From Our Director

This is a busy time of year in Salem, our state capitol. The 30 senators and 60 representatives we elected are here introducing and hearing bills, working to balance the current biennium budget, and developing the 2011-2013 state budget.

Michael Livingston, our Juvenile Law Staff Counsel, and I are tracking 100 different juvenile law related bills that have the potential to impact the children, youth and families who come into contact with our courts, child welfare, or the juvenile justice system. If you are interested in seeing what is happening in Salem, or planning a visit, you can find daily schedules and information on bills on the Legislative website:

[http://www.leg.state.or.us/11req/
agenda/webagendas.htm](http://www.leg.state.or.us/11req/agenda/webagendas.htm)

This biennium's budget is being balanced by bills passed last week by the legislature. Part of that re-balance was removing \$13.3 million in General Fund from the OJD budget. The OJD's latest contribution to balancing the state budget was accomplished primarily by advance preparations that started last fall. The reduction plan depleted our savings and reserves, reduced staff and held many positions vacant, and deferred many important expenditures throughout the state court system. For CRB

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specifically, we eliminated our review of OYA cases, combined and reduced boards, reduced coordinator positions, encouraged board member use of ePackets, and began submitting CRB documents and materials to the court electronically.

I realize the strain that these measures put on you, but this plan caused the least damage to the CRB and our courts, given the demands to reduce the OJD budget. We are continuing our efforts to re-engineer our operations to find efficiencies that will mitigate the additional budget reductions we expect to face in the next budget period. The updated state revenue forecast issued in February still projects a significant shortfall from the amount of money needed to continue all state services at current levels.

The OJD 2011-13 budget bill hearings are scheduled for March 22, 23, and 28; and public testimony is scheduled for Tuesday, March 29, 2011. DHS Children Adult and Families (CAF) budget hearings have started. They are currently set to continue March 28-30 in the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services. Public Testimony is scheduled for March 29, 2011.

April is National Child Abuse Pre-



A Message From Our Director (cont.)

vention Month. As CRB members you are informed about the issues and impacts of child abuse and neglect, and your voice is important at the local level to ensure that services are available to support children and families. *The CRB and Juvenile Court Improvement Program are part of a statewide effort called "Raise Me Up,"* which is a call to action to improve - and ultimately prevent the need for - foster care. Together, the Oregon Department of Human Services, Oregon Commission on Children and Families, the Oregon Judicial Department and Casey Family Programs are calling on Oregonians to help Oregon's most vulnerable children. As the campaign says: "You don't have to raise a child to raise him up. You

just have to raise your hand and say you'll help." Check out the Raise Me Up website at: <http://www.raisemeup.oregon.gov/>.

Thank you for raising your hand and helping by serving as a CRB board member! Your service to the OJD and the children and families involved in the foster care system is greatly appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you at the annual CRB conference on April 8-9!

~ Leola



A Little Inspiration...

“There is no happiness except in the realization that we have accomplished something.”
~Henry Ford~

Report Shows Steady Decrease in Child Abuse and Neglect

The US Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families (ACF) annual report on child abuse and neglect, "Child Maltreatment 2009," released last December, shows a steady decrease in the number of victims of child abuse and neglect for the third consecutive year.

David A. Hansell, the HHS Acting Assistant Secretary for Children and Families, noted, "We are pleased to see a steady decrease in the rate of abused and neglected children, however we also know even one child abused is one too many. The more we support and implement evidenced-based programs and services to prevent child maltreatment and promote healthy families and

communities, the sooner we can ensure children are able to have the safe, happy and healthy childhood they deserve." The full report is available online at:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm09/index.htm>

Honoring an Original CRB Member: Deborah Martson

-Submitted by David Smith, CRB Field Manager

Representatives of many groups and agencies in Clackamas County gathered in Oregon City in October 2010 to acknowledge the tremendous contributions by Deborah Martson, longtime member of Clackamas County CRB. Among those honoring Debbie included the Clackamas County Juvenile Department Director and Supervisor, the Clackamas County DHS District manager, Oregon City Child Welfare Program Manager, the Clackamas County Oregon Youth Authority supervisor and parole/probation officer, school district personnel, representative of the Clackamas County Health Housing and Human Services Department and other local service providers. The group recounted Debbie's tireless work over the years to develop programs in Molalla, Oregon, including the Molalla Weed and Seed multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization. She has been a member of the various committees of Clackamas County, including the Local Public Safety Coordinating and its subcommittee, the Parents of Incarcerated Parents Workgroup. Through the group's efforts, parents in Clackamas County are able to participate in the Parenting Inside Out program. Debbie has also been a dedicated mentor to women in recovery.



Debbie and Her Family

Among her other accomplishments, Debbie is an original member of the Clackamas County Citizen Review Board. Debbie was a long time member of the Regional and State Advisory Councils, including serving as chair. She was honored as the Citizen Review Board Volunteer of the Year in 1998. Debbie has regularly participated in legislative advocacy at the state and local level. She helped pilot and evaluate the current Findings Driven Review Process in Clackamas County before it was implemented state-

wide. Debbie was also a long-term member of the CRB's Process Improvement Team. She has also helped recruit and mentor new board members. As a board member, Debbie has always known how to confront the tough issues and ask the hard questions, while still maintaining a sense of humor and earning the respect of those who appear before her board.

During the difficult months of her recent illness, Debbie has delighted in spending time with her two sons and three grandchildren. She and her husband Rick divide their time between their homes in Molalla and in Sunriver and have continued to travel when possible.

At the gathering honoring Debbie last October, she and Rick presented those in attendance with a specially-bottled root beer. Rogue Ales, of Newport, Oregon wanted to join in honoring Debbie; they designed a special brew, Full-Contact Root Beer, bearing a likeness of Debbie on the bottle. The label states "Dedicated to Debbie Martson, for whom life is a full-contact sport!" Those of us who have been lucky enough to work with Debbie absolutely agree!



Debbie,

We appreciate your years of dedication to the children and families of Oregon through your work as a Citizen Review Board Member.

You are an inspiration!

~CRB Staff and Administration~

USDA Announces Expansion of Nutrition Assistance for Foster Children

-Excerpt from USDA News Release No. 0048.11

The USDA announced that children placed into the foster care system by a state or court are categorically eligible to receive free meals in all USDA child nutrition programs. The expansion of categorical eligibility to foster children is a component of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 which President Obama signed into law December 13, 2010.

"Ensuring all children receive nutritious meals at school and through other child nutrition programs is a top priority for the Obama administration and a key step toward winning a healthy future for the next generation of Americans," said Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Kevin Conannon. "Categorical eligibility is a vital tool to simplify and expedite enrolling eligible children in school meal programs."

HHS Administration for Children and Families (ACF), which partnered with USDA in today's announcement, administers grants for foster care, runs the federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and oversees state child welfare agencies. ACF stressed the importance of helping foster children and families have better access to school lunches.

"Ensuring foster children have access to healthy, balanced and nutritious meals without the burden of unnecessary eligibility paperwork shows our commitment in providing the best quality of life for many deserving children and their families," said David A. Hansell, HHS acting assistant secretary for children and families.

For the full text of the article, see:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/acf_news.html

Baskets for Camp to Belong

-Submitted by Robin de Alicante, CRB Field Manager

Citizen Review Board members annually contribute thousands of hours of their time to the program for the benefit of Oregon's children. At the same time there are those who go even further and find other avenues for improving the lives of Oregon's children. In Wasco County the CRB does an annual Christmas book drive. Clackamas County board members have been involved in a toy drive, covers for Life Story Books, and assisting DHS with infant and toddler car seats. Other board members have worked with the foster parents association, and a Washington County board sponsored a visitation room (it was nicely spruced up and outfitted with child essentials – see the CRB Newsletter Article). Jackson County CRB has donated to DHS so that kids could have essentials available as they entered foster care.

There have even been board members who have asked that donations be given to foster children in lieu of birthday presents to themselves.

With this kind of giving and generosity in mind, it is appropriate to mention that the CRB will once again be having a raffle to raise money in order to send foster children to Camp to Belong. Last year we raised enough through our basket raffle to send two kids to the camp. For the 2011 CRB conference, the conference committee is encouraging each county to put together a basket that reflects their regional culture and charm. Past entries have had college themes, a culinary focus, or local libations. There were also several baskets that included regional wines that were very popular. Local businesses are often more than willing to offer a small donation of a product or service for charitable causes – talk to your neighbors and friends about which local businesses you might ask to participate.

If you haven't done it already, please consider arranging a nice basket for a great cause. Your Field Manager or Review Specialist would certainly be more than happy to assist.



Volunteer Spotlight: Suzie Heringer

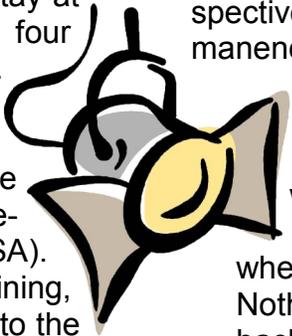
-Submitted by Sam Tazumal, CRB Review Specialist

Suzie Heringer has served on the Marion County Citizen Review Board for the last two and a half years. She is passionate about helping children in foster care, has a Master's degree in counseling, and is a stay-at-home mother of four school-age children. When her youngest child started school, she decided to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). During her CASA training, Suzie was introduced to the CRB. She states "I liked the idea of being involved and making a difference for kids in the foster care system." Ultimately she became a volunteer for both the CASA and CRB programs. She added:

"As a CASA, you really get to know the kids and the people involved in their lives. Quite often the CASA has information that brings the case together and provides a unique perspective. When the Board

is looking at where the case is going and what services are needed to get the child and family there, the CASA can be a great resource."

As volunteers you all have different reasons for volunteering for the CRB, whether it is from a law or policy perspective, or because you want permanency for children. Suzie states:



"I have a lot of respect for the other board members and what they each bring to the review. What I enjoy most is when there is a 'happy ending.' Nothing beats seeing children back home with their parents in a healthy environment or with those children who are starting a new life with adoptive families."

As Suzie states, the work you all do collectively as boards is very important. You all bring different experiences and expertise to the table. There is also a great deal of camaraderie between board members, which often leads to close friendships.

I am sure you have been encouraged by your local CRB staff to con-

sider switching from hard copies to electronic copies, which significantly lowers the CRB's costs associated with getting those packets ready, copied and mailed to you. During these challenging times for the state budget, these savings are important for the CRB program. Embracing this change, Suzie states:

"I have been using the electronic material for about 6 months now. It is much easier to review the material. It is easy to cut and paste what you need for the review. For any of those thinking about making the switch, I would suggest you try it in addition to the paper packet. I think you will soon find that you rely more on the electronic materials than the paper."

The work you all do is critical and important in ensuring ultimate permanency for children in foster care. As Suzie states, "If I can help make the system work to lessen the impact on those children, then I feel like I am making a difference."

JCIP Reassessment Update

Work continues on the 2011 JCIP Reassessment of how Oregon courts handle child abuse and neglect cases. The data collection phase is now complete. The reassessment team, led by Torrey Giaquinta, JCIP Data Analyst, and Lynn Travis, Travis Consulting Co., reviewed 380 case files, which included over 1,900 judgments! The team also observed 75 court and CRB hearings. This would not have been possible without CRB and CASA volunteer research assistants - Karen Bailey, Jodee Barnes, Kay Breithaupt, Wayne Breithaupt, James Castle, Jean Cauthorn, Marlene Fleischman, Sandra Fritz, Sandra Garland, Dorothy Glovka, Elizabeth Huntsman, Anne King, Marlene Krout, Mary LaMotte, LouAnn Martin, MaryAnn Miesner, Elizabeth Moulton, Kim-

berly O'Neal, Sally Scholz, Barbara Townsend, David Warner, and Kathy Warren. Thank you for the time and energy you devoted to this project.

In addition to analyzing the data collected, JCIP is conducting focus groups with youth and parents, and have release a statewide survey. The survey asks about various juvenile court practices. Juvenile judges, district attorneys, and defense attorneys as well as CRB and CASA volunteers have been sent a link to the online survey. This survey and the reassessment direct JCIPs initiatives and goals for the next five years. Make sure your opinion is heard!
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JCIPSurvey>

The H.O.P.E. Project of Lane County

-Submitted by Rebecca Regello, CRB Review Specialist

In 2009, the Lane County Independent Living Program (ILP) partnered with Committed Partners for Youth, Big Brothers Big Sisters (CPY) and was selected by United Way Women & Philanthropy to create a pilot program targeted for at-risk women in the community. Within four months, The H.O.P.E. Project was structured and serving young women in foster care.

The mission of The H.O.P.E. Project is to help young women in foster care (or recent alumnae) achieve their potential to become successful, independent and financially stable by providing wrap-around case management, individual mentors, and ongoing opportunities to build the skills, confidence and relationships they need to become engaged members of the community.

The H.O.P.E. Project offers a three-year structured experience of more intensive services than traditional ILP. Participants receive supportive case management on a 10:1 client to staff ratio; one-on-one adult women mentors; bi-monthly group classes (8 hours total) in addition to monthly ILP classes; and matched savings accounts. Planned Parenthood has partnered with ILP and CPY to provide classes on healthy relationships, sexuality and body image. Ophelia's Place offers self-defense, self-confidence and self-efficacy classes. Young women commit to participating the entire three years at the time they apply with a new cohort beginning every two years. The first year is

the most intensive, with bi-monthly classes; savings plan creation/monthly financial counseling; regular mentor activities; and work experiences. Advanced information is provided during year two.

It is anticipated that savings goals will be reached. Year three focuses on leadership. The young women help plan activities and support the new cohort.

Melissa Hicks, ILP Coordinator/Primary H.O.P.E. Project Manager, reports there are presently 16 young women participating in The H.O.P.E. Project. The initial cohort is entering its third year. It has been found that if participants are too old they tend

to be less involved and interested. The selection process has commenced for the second cohort. The cohort will be comprised of 10 young women age 15 to 18 who have been in their Sophomore, Junior or Senior year of High School as of September 2010; are eligible to receive ILP services; and will either be in high school or willing to continue their education at the time they begin the program. Kinks continue to be worked out, but overall, The H.O.P.E. Project has had positive results.

For more information: http://www.unitedwaylane.org/images/ulw&p_hope_brochure.pdf

“Nothing is more important to our community than ensuring every young person succeeds in life.”

~H.O.P.E. Project~

THE H.O.P.E. PROJECT

Helping Open doors by Preparing and Empowering young women

Training Materials: Cultural Competence With Kinship Caregivers

-Article courtesy of Children's Bureau Express, February 2011

The November 2010 issue of Training Matters, a publication of the North Carolina Department of Social Services (NC DSS) Child Welfare Services Statewide Training Partnership, provides information and resources on culturally competent child welfare practice with kinship caregivers. The resources include training materials, research articles, and a film; content summaries are included.

To access this issue of Training Matters, visit:
www.trainingmatters-nc.org/tm_v12n1/tmv12n1.pdf



Understanding Jurisdiction

As you prepare for the review of a new case, one of the first issues you need to address is the basis for jurisdiction. In this article, we'll look at what is the basis of jurisdiction and where to find it.

Jurisdiction in General

Jurisdiction is the legal authority or power a court has to hear and decide a case. This is based on the statutory power or authority of a particular court. ORS 419B.100 addresses the jurisdiction of the juvenile court and states that the juvenile court "has exclusive original jurisdiction in any case involving a person who is under 18 years of age..."

The Basis of Jurisdiction

When we are discussing the basis of jurisdiction, we are referring to the facts that a court has found or that a parent has admitted to that are the grounds for jurisdiction. Here are some examples of facts that form the basis of jurisdiction:

- The mother has a substance abuse problem, which threatens her ability to care for the child.
- The mother has mental health problems, which interfere with her ability to care for the child.
- The child sustained an unexplained physical injury while in the care of the father.
- Said child has been present during domestic violence between the mother and the father, which has placed said child at risk of harm.

What the Basis of Jurisdiction is Not

The basis of jurisdiction is not the DHS disposition. The "Disposition" section in the DHS 333a Child Welfare Case Plan is DHS' internal assessment of the case. This is different from the basis of jurisdiction and from the court disposition of a case. Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 413-015-1000 describes the different dispositions that DHS may make, which include:

- "Founded," which means there is reasonable cause to believe that child abuse or neglect occurred.
- "Unfounded," which means no evidence of child abuse or neglect was identified or disclosed.
- "Unable to determine," which means there are some indications of child abuse or neglect, but there is insufficient data to conclude that there is reasonable cause to believe that child abuse or neglect occurred.

Examples of the DHS disposition include:

- FOUNDED-Neglect

- FOUNDED for PHYSICAL ABUSE
- FOUNDED for THREAT OF HARM: SEXUAL ABUSE/SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Where to Find the Basis of Jurisdiction.

A major issue in preparing for reviews is where to find the basis of jurisdiction. The answer is that this information located in a few different places. In some cases, it will be very clear and straightforward. In others, it may require a more diligent examination of more than one document to ascertain the basis of jurisdiction.

The easiest place to find the basis of jurisdiction is in the "Legal Information" section of the DHS 333a under "Jurisdictional Basis." The problem with the DHS 333a is that the information in the DHS 333a is not always reliable. Many times, this section includes the allegations from the original petition. However, the parents may have admitted to amended allegations or there may have been a contested hearing and the court made its own findings. Sometimes, the DHS 333a clearly indicates what the parents admitted to and when they made the admission. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. In addition, the practice varies by county and by caseworker.

Another place to find the basis of jurisdiction is in the Judgment of Jurisdiction. In some instances, the Judgment of Jurisdiction may clearly state the basis of jurisdiction. In others, the judgment may only refer to which allegation was admitted to or proven. For example:

- "The allegations in the petition or amended petition that have been admitted or proven are: Paragraph 2A as amended were admitted by father."
- "The mother admitted to Paragraphs A and C of the Amended petition."
- Judgments such as these require you to examine the applicable petition or amended petition to find the applicable allegations.

A final place to find the basis of jurisdiction is in the Admissions form. In some counties, parents file formal admissions that are accepted by the court as the basis of jurisdiction. You may find Admissions forms as a part of the case materials.

Understanding the basis of jurisdiction is a crucial piece in preparing for the review of new cases. However, to find the correct basis of jurisdiction may take some careful study of your case materials.

CRB & CASA Marion, Polk, Yamhill Training Report

On January 19, 2011, Tom Carranza, CRB Field Manager for Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties conducted a joint training for board members and CASA's for those counties.

An important part of the training concentrated on using the CRB Supplemental Case Notes Sheet (SCNS) as a tool for CASAs in preparing for administrative reviews. The SCNS was developed by CRB members and staff to provide direction and guidance for board members' review of cases. The SCNS also provides direction for board members regarding the specific federal and state laws and policies that apply to the findings the board makes at reviews.

Mr. Carranza described the SCNS as a tool board members have by their side as they read the case materials submitted for each case. He recommended the CASA programs, when they are notified of an upcoming administrative review, implement a practice which includes the CASA staffing their case with their CASA coordinator using the SCNS as a

reference. Mr. Carranza also makes this recommendation for DHS caseworkers and attorneys involved in these cases.

Mr. Carranza reviewed the SCNS with the participants which included explanation of each finding and reference information for the board to look for when making their determination of yes or no for each finding. Mr. Carranza drew their attention to the enhancements made to the SCNS to better address the cultural needs in each case. Emphasis was made as to the federal law mandates of the Indian Child Welfare Act and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Note: The Supplemental Case Notes Sheet, as well as many other useful resources for CRB members and CASAs, is available on the Resources page of the CRB website: <http://courts.oregon.gov/OJD/OSCA/cpsd/citizenreview/Resources.page?>

Register now for the
2011 Annual Training Conference

"Every Day Counts"

April 8-9, 2011

Keizer Renaissance Inn and Convention Center

Registration:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/everydaycounts2011>

Conference brochure available online:

www.ojd.state.or.us/crb

Registration Deadline: March 28, 2011

Lodging Deadline: March 16, 2011

**A Little More
Inspiration...**

**"Look up and not
down; look forward
and not back; look
out and not in; and
lend a hand."**

~E.E. Hale~