

# Jackson County's Early Entry Grant: Changing Systems to Benefit Children

Rita Sullivan Ph.D, On Track  
The Honorable Patricia Crain

**We believe that:**

*Maintenance of attachments is critical for both the **positive** outcomes it produces and the avoidance of the **negative** impacts that occur when attachments are severed.*

# Separation damages

- ▶ Children's best interests lie in the preservation of their attachment ties, and repeated ruptures of such ties constitute a severe trauma (Gauthier et al, 2004).
- ▶ Foster children frequently suffer from developmental delays; severe behavior problems often lead to repeated displacements in addition to the separation from the biological family.

# Therefore

- ▶ **Fostering** a child should always be the **last resort decision** because of the potential trauma to the child, including infants.

# PARTNERSHIPS

Our efforts are conducted in partnership with:

- ▶ Child Welfare
- ▶ The Courts (Dependency)
- ▶ Family Nurturing Center
- ▶ CASA
- ▶ Center for Non Profit Legal Services
- ▶ Commission on Children and Families
- ▶ Options
- ▶ Public Defender and District Attorney

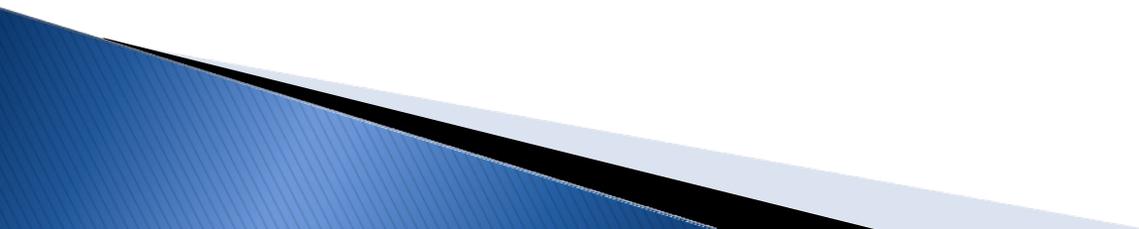
# Redefining the landscape

We have  
together  
redefined the  
landscape of  
our  
community's  
Child Welfare  
efforts.

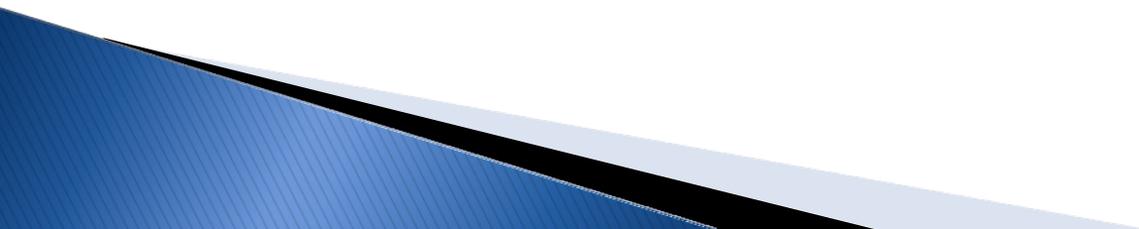


# PERMANENCY: EARLY ENTRY PROGRAM

## The Most Significant Work I Can Remember in terms of:

- ▶ Maintaining families safely whenever possible.
  - ▶ Improving outcomes for children in the Foster care system
  - ▶ Demonstrating through rigorous evaluation that these changes improve child outcomes
  - ▶ Seeking to bring about systems change.
- 

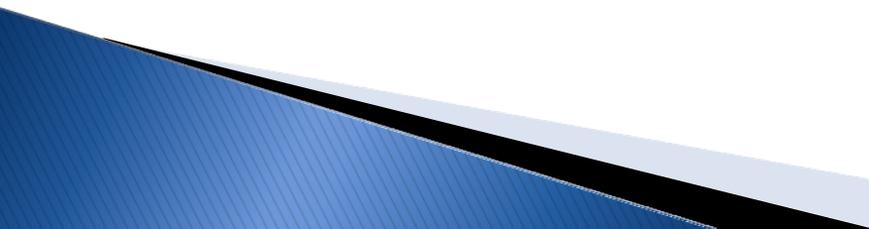
# TWO OVERARCHING GOALS OF OUR PARTNERSHIP:

- ▶ **FRONT-END:** Implement services that will allow our Child Welfare staff and judges to keep children safely together without any period of removal.
  - ▶ If children **must be removed**, keep the biological parents substantively involved in the child's life while learning to be good parents: **PARTNERS IN PARENTING**
- 

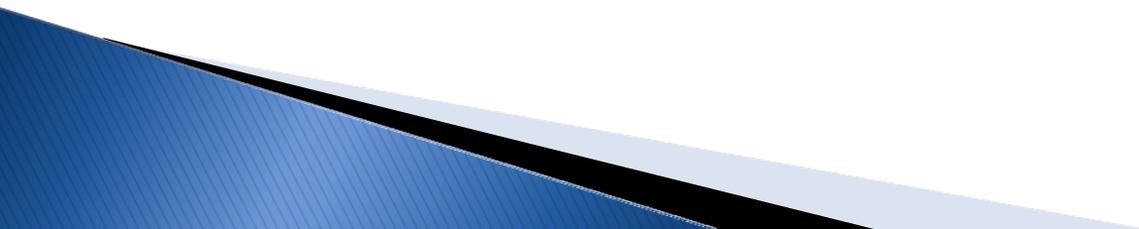
# Front-end efforts to keep families together

- ▶ Treatment specialists go out with Child Welfare workers.
  - ▶ In collaboration, Child Welfare and Treatment staff develop a service plan.
  - ▶ Staff attend shelter hearings and ask the judge to support the plan.
- 

# JUDICIAL SUPPORT

- ▶ In order for our efforts at remaking systems to work, we have to give the judges and Child Welfare case workers the service options required to implement new practices under new philosophies.
  - ▶ Judges have to be willing to “force” system change...and have been willing to do that.
- 

# SERVICES INCLUDE:

- ▶ EMERGENCY HOUSING
  - ▶ INCREASED HOME TREATMENT BEDS
  - ▶ CASE MANAGEMENT
  - ▶ MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES/RELATIONAL REPAIR
  - ▶ ACCESS TO A FULL ARRAY OF CLINICAL AND SUPPORT SERVICES
- 

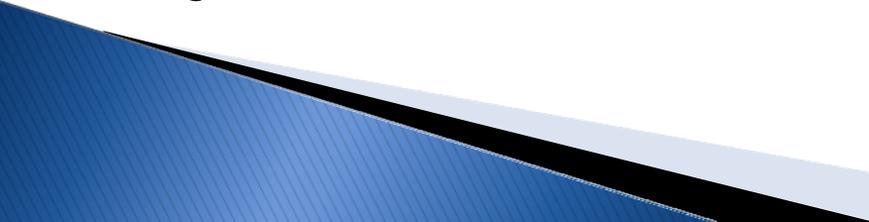
# IF CHILDREN MUST BE TEMPORARILY REMOVED, “PARTNERS IN PARENTING” PROVIDES MENTORING FOSTER CARE



OnTrack is partnering with Child Welfare to recruit and train foster care parents who will agree to work closely with biological parents.

We hope over time, that this model will become the standard of practice for Oregon's foster care system.

# FOSTER CARE STAFF

- ▶ Were committed to the model before the grant.
  - ▶ Knew how to recruit and used their experience in advertising venues.
  - ▶ Committed to having this mentoring model of foster care become the way foster care is conducted in Oregon – for all children, not just the cohort served through the grant.
- 



776-6120  
Jackson County



474-3120  
Josephine County

Help change a  
**Child's Future**

**Become a  
Foster Parent.**

**776-6120**



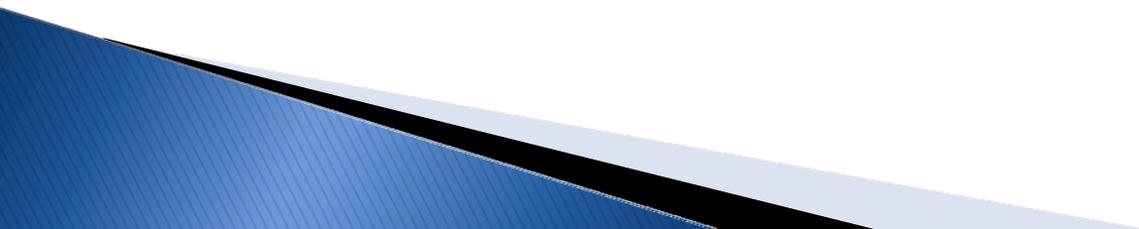
*Partners in Parenting*

On track X DHS

LAMAR

16138

# GENERALIZATION

- ▶ The entire team committed to generalizing these best practices throughout the system of care.
  - ▶ The federal support we are getting toward sustainability of the **Oregon Model** is very significant.
- 

# COST EFFICIENCIES

- ▶ We are measuring cost efficiencies through the SYSTEM LENS rather than by elements or programs.
- ▶ We are getting federal assistance to help us frame what cost effectiveness is, and how to measure it in meaningful ways.
- ▶ We will measure cost effectiveness at all four Oregon sites and present the Oregon Model to the Legislature, hopefully through an option package presented by our Child Welfare division.

# Outcomes to date

- ▶ 91 individuals have been served
- ▶ 71 total families
- ▶ 125 children
  
- ▶ *2 families with children in relative care (5 children)*
- ▶ *4 families with children in foster care (6 children)*