

2013 Yamhill County's Goal from Model Court Day:

Reduce the number of APPLA cases

I. Introduction:

- a. Statistics: reduction of approximately 25% APPLA plans in the last 2 years
- b. Goal: the last 2 years Yamhill County had an intentional goal to reduce APPLA plans and made a plan to achieve that goal
- c. Implementation: using a team approach with the Court, CRB, advocates, and community partners

II. DHS's role in reducing APPLA plans:

a. Education:

- i. Educate providers as to the benefits of other plans
- ii. Continue to educate caseworkers and change the culture at DHS of the benefits of other plans
- iii. Identify ways to overcome obstacles and barriers in order to move to another plan
 1. Why guardianship or adoption plans are better in many cases
 2. How ILP benefits can be preserved
 3. Working through subsidy/financial issues

b. Monthly Permanency Committee Roundtable meetings:

- i. Chose 2-3 APPLA cases to review each month and brainstorm how to overcome barriers and obstacles to move to a higher level of permanency
- ii. Involve kids in meetings and clarify their desires; focus on the child's perspective as well as the provider's perspective (many kids share that they don't want to age out of the foster care system)
- iii. Invite community partners to meetings to brainstorm resources and educate about the various plans:
 1. Permanency consultant
 2. Former foster parents who have moved to a guardianship or adoption plan
 3. ILP coordinator

4. Boys & Girls Aid provider: they offer professional services to the child welfare community to offer programming; specifically, a trauma mentor service with therapy, 3 - 5 – 7 service, to stabilize kids who have difficulties in placements. Started in Yamhill County 9 months ago.

III. Current cases and obstacles:

- a. 27.1% or 42 out of 155 kids in foster care have APPLA plan today:
 - i. 1/3 cases = DD kids in foster care. Delay in implementation of the new K Plan.
 1. The K Plan = a new Medicaid state plan option authorized under the Affordable Care Act. The K Plan allows for more federal dollars to be reinvested back into the DD system and allows additional supports and services to people who previously have been unable to access them, such as guardians or adoptive parents.
 - ii. 1/3 cases = kids in residential treatment services
 - iii. 1/3 cases = providers unwilling to consider a different plan

IV. Court / CRB's role in reducing APPLA plans:

- a. At court hearings and CRB reviews: continue to inquire why higher level of permanency is either not appropriate or can't be achieved. Identify specific barriers.
- b. Provide education at monthly dependency team meetings: discuss issues/myths about APPLA and learn how to overcome obstacles.
- c. Judge/s meet with the DHS branch manager to find out what DHS is doing internally, i.e. monthly roundtables, etc.
- d. Participate in "Engaging relatives training" – to learn how to involve more relatives as a placement or support resource; Attended by Steve Lindeman, Yamhill County CRB field manager