

**Strategies to Support Systemic Performance Measures
Clackamas County Model Court Workgroup
April 2011**

Systemic Goal: Improve the timeliness of filing TPR petitions in cases where the DHS case plan has changed to adoption.

Systemic Outcome: Children will achieve permanency sooner.

Court Strategies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) TPR petitions filed within 30 days of change in plan, with service required 30 days thereafter 2.) Require all experts performing psychological evaluations to complete their written reports within 30 days of the assessment 3.) Frequent/timely review and permanency hearings—every 90-120 days 4.) Switch to modified model permanency judgment to ensure proper findings made 5.) Emphasize early engagement in services at initial court appearance
Barriers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Late service by AG’s office 2.) Late psychological evaluation reports 3.) Unavailability of DHS funds for services 4.) Caseworker availability at initial court appearances to advise parents of services
Efforts to Overcome	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Order AG’s office to file within 30 days and service 30 days thereafter at time plan is changed. 2.) Require AG’s office to notify court and parties if service cannot be accomplished within 30 days of filing of petition 3.) Order DHS caseworkers to inform psychologists of 30 day report requirement. If psychologists cannot/will not comply, DHS is not to use that psychologist 4.) Flexible docket to allow for permanency hearings on short notice 5.) Emphasize and encourage caseworker availability at initial appearance
Status of Efforts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) AG’s office has been filing TPR petitions within 30 days of change of plan when ordered to do so. There have been a few occasions where service was not accomplished within 30 days of filing, but the AG’s office has been prompt in writing a letter to the court and parties with an explanation of the situation 2) Caseworkers have represented that psychologists are responding well and providing written final reports within 30 days of the exam 3) Almost all cases are now being reviewed at 90-120 days 4) Switch to model form implemented 5) Early engagement now emphasized at all initial appearances

