

- Rule writing workgroups
- CPS Assessment Disposition Review Committee
- Peer Advisory Review Committee
- State Child Fatality Review Team and sub work groups
- Legislative meetings
- Cross Department Information Sharing meetings
- Nurture Oregon Expansion Core Team
- Plan of Care Core Team
- Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act weekly meetings
- Sensitive Issue Workgroup
- Safe Sleep Cross Agency Workgroup
- Safe Sleep Curriculum Workgroups
- Child Fatality Prevention and Review Program meetings
- Fatality Review Health Equity Learning Collaborative
- Western Region Child Death Review calls

CB reminds states that all states receiving the CAPTA State grant must provide assurance that the state has “provisions and procedures requiring that in every case involving a victim of child abuse or neglect which results in a judicial proceeding, a guardian ad litem who has received training appropriate to the role, including training in early childhood, child, and adolescent development, and who may be an attorney or a court appointed special advocate who has received training appropriate to that role (or both), shall be appointed to represent the child in such proceedings— to obtain first-hand, a clear understanding of the situation and needs of the child; and to make recommendations to the court concerning the best interests of the child” (section 106(b)(2)(B)(xxiii)).

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 419B.112 is in place to ensure the court shall appoint a court appointed special advocate, which in turn can be guardian ad litem. For the purpose of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (42 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.) grant to this state under P.L. 93-247, or any related state or federal legislation, a court appointed special advocate or other person appointed is deemed a guardian ad litem to represent the interests of the child or ward in proceedings before the court. In addition, all children and wards of the court receive a court appointed attorney in Oregon. ORS 149B.234 outlines the qualifications for any person appointed as guardian ad litem.

Annual Citizen Review Panel Report

Attached is the Annual Citizen Review Panel Report. (Attachment 17). The report makes five recommendations specific to Child Welfare. Child Welfare responds to the recommendations as follows.

ODHS clarify expectations around concurrent planning in the first six months of the case
 Within the last year there has been concerted efforts to implement 90-day staffings, utilizing the 90-day staffing guide. This guide lays out very specific areas to review every time a staffing occurs, including the concurrent plan. We have seen an increase in this practice across the state. By the six-month mark, a supervisor should have had two of these comprehensive staffings per case, and a solid concurrent plan should be identified.

In addition to continuing the message that 90-day staffings are vital, the Permanency Consultants will renew their focus on the need for concurrent plan development at every group supervision and case consultation staffing.

One of the requirements of Family Engagement meetings is the discussion of ASFA timeliness and the need for an identified concurrent plan. Family Engagement meetings were recently implemented, and we anticipate they will positively impact concurrent planning.

ODHS ensure workers continue to reach out to relatives throughout the life of the case. A workgroup has just been formed led by a Permanency Consultant and including staff from across the state in a variety of positions to review Child Welfare's relative search policy and procedure. Currently, there is only a requirement for relative searches at the time the child is removed. We anticipate the workgroup will result in a more robust process which will include family engagement throughout the life of the case.

Child Welfare is building a software program specifically to assist in relative searches in ICWA cases.

The Vision for Transformation brings agency-wide awareness to the need for increased relative engagement and is leading the change in our practice.

ODHS ensure workers come to CRB reviews knowing the details of relative searches and absent parent searches.

As described above, a workgroup has been formed to address Child Welfare's relative searches. The result will enhance the way both relative searches and absent parent searches are done. The workgroup will consider system enhancements for OR-Kids, which will allow workers easier access to the details of each search. The importance of workers attending CRB reviews prepared to fully discuss this information will be highlighted in training, consultation, and coaching.

ODHS address service gaps in transition planning. ODHS ensure appropriate and timely plans for transitional services to ensure the long-term success of the child.

Currently two workgroups have been formed to address FSS (Family Support Service) cases and young adults (age 18+) we serve. These workgroups will be provided this recommendation so they can assess the service gap needs and make recommendations about meeting those gaps. Not all young adults in foster care desire to continue receiving services once they turn 18.

ODHS create clear guidelines for filing a dependency petition in a case that starts as a voluntary placement.

As indicated in the previous recommendation, a workgroup is underway focused on Family Support Services cases, which includes the process of filing dependency petitions. This group will be making recommendations about the process and will work to clarify procedure. Child Welfare policy plays a role but is not the sole decision maker for filing petitions; the Department of Justice represents Child Welfare and, in consultation with Child Welfare staff, makes determinations regarding legal sufficiency of petitions.