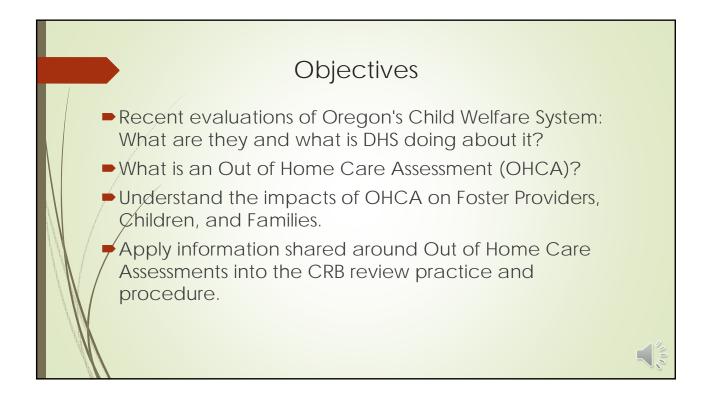
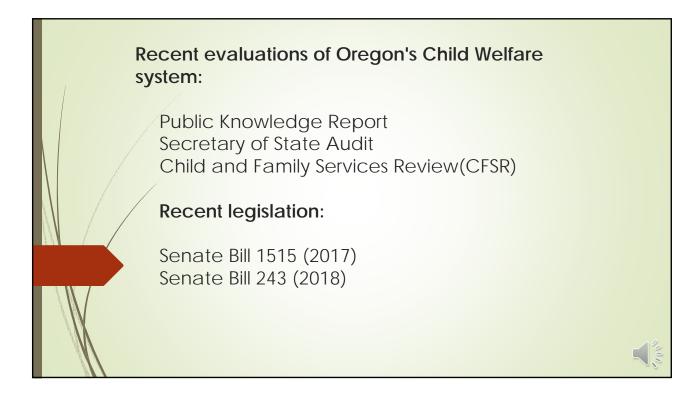
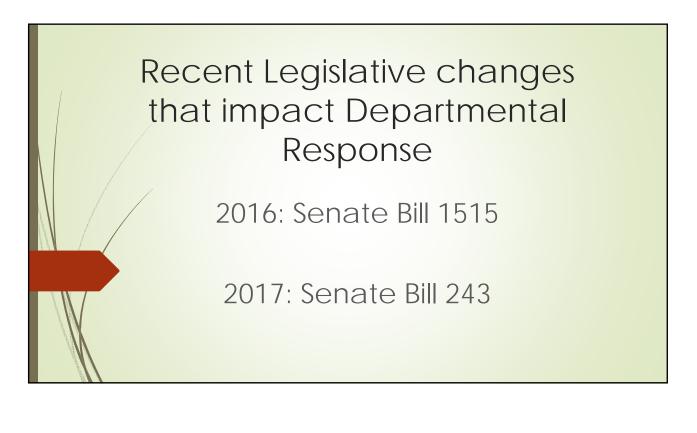
Ensuring Safety in Foster Care: Understanding & Responding to Out of Home Care Assessments

Presented By Ronika Ferguson- DHS-CW Safety Program Consultant Janna Owens-DHS-CW Foster Care Coordinator

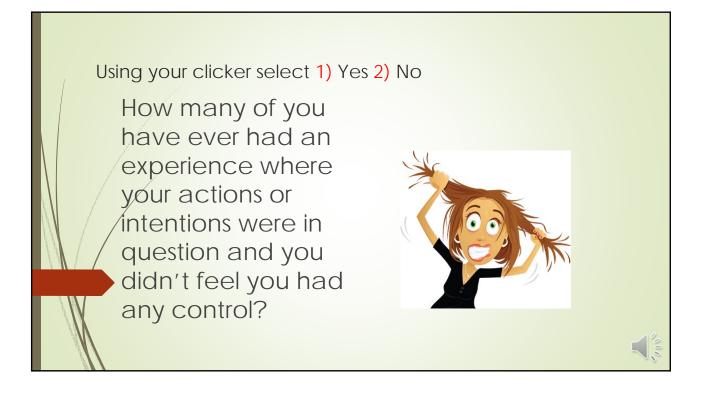


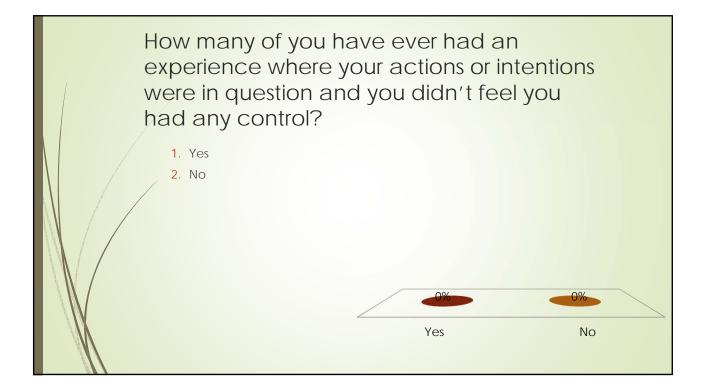


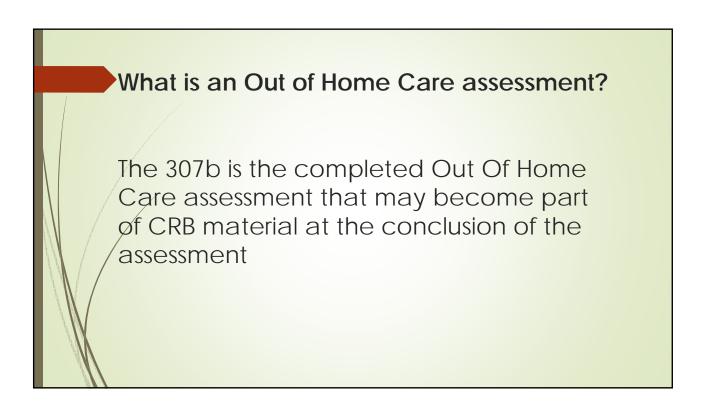


These reviews continue to shape the forward movement of the department in ensuring safety in the lives of the children and families we serve

Another important intergovernmental stakeholder partnership that helps ensure safety in foster care is YOU!







Reports of Child Abuse:

For all Children:

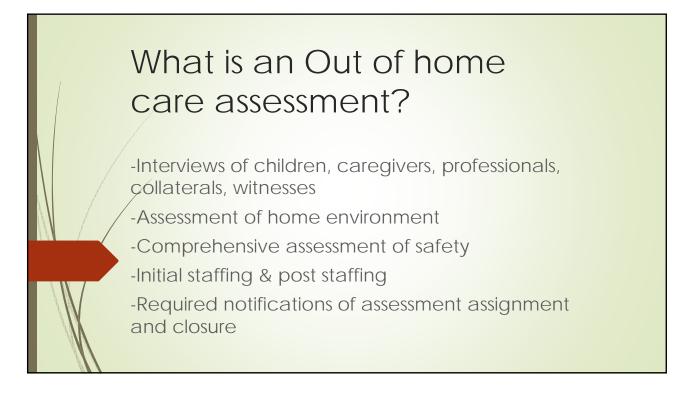
is there a report of abuse or neglect? -Is there access? -is it a foster home or licensed care setting? 24 hour or 5day response?

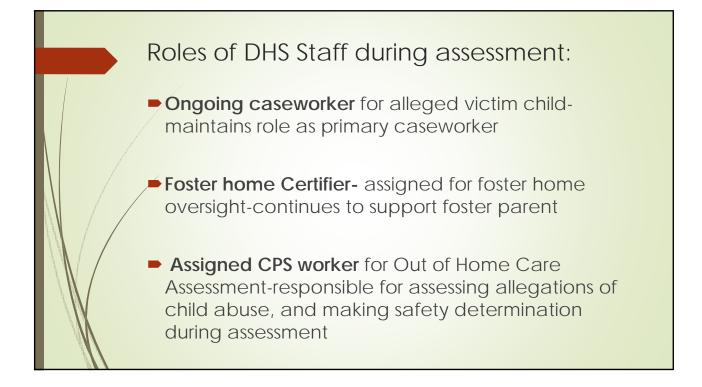
For children in DHS Care:

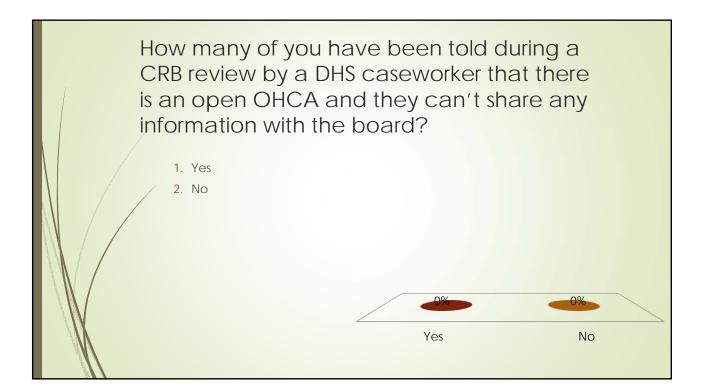
Children AND young adults Expanded abuse types





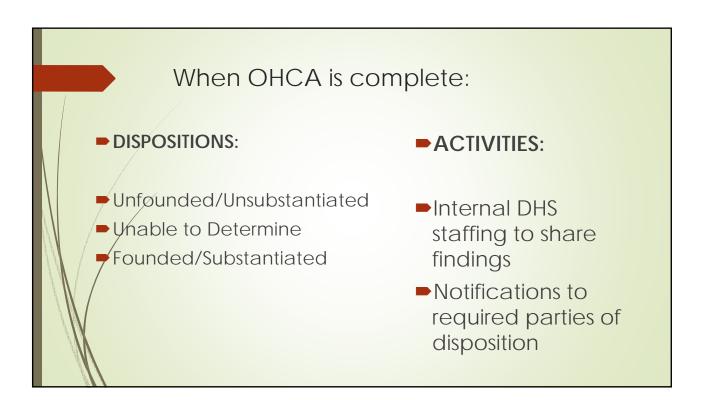






What if abuse is happening in care?

- If children are determined to be unsafe, DHS will intervene to manage safety. Can be temporary safety plan, removal from foster home.
- Abuse or neglect may occur, but children might still be "safe" by DHS rules.
 Next steps will be developed by child's caseworker and certifier.



Some Opinions from Foster parent on out of home care assessments

Alone

"The state doesn't have our back when there is an allegation made against us."

Not heard

"DHS jumps to conclusions about what has occurred in the home and fails to listen to what we (foster parents) have to say."

Stressful

"The process is too long, too stressful and don't feel it is appropriate when you have a long standing good relationship with the department."

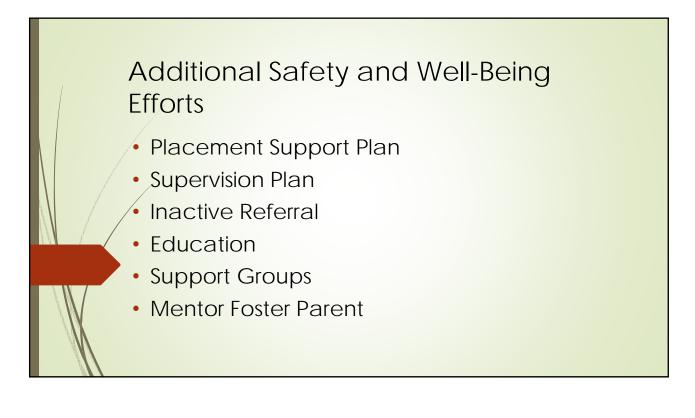
High-level overview of efforts to ensure safety throughout the life of the case...

Case plans

Face-to-face contact by child's caseworker Face-to-face contacts in DHS-CW certified foster homes by certifier

Certification and Safety Review committee

- Provides a formal review structure for Foster and/or Adoptive Families, prospective or certified, by the Department when an issue of concern, allegations, or rule violation occurs.
- This review provides a foundation for increased communication among staff and multiple program areas.
- It is intended to assist in the documentation and coordination of follow-up action by the Department.



Average Daily Foster Care Population in 2017: An average of 7,831 children were in foster care on a daily basis. Of these: An average of 5,773 children were in family foster care. Of those, 48.3 percent (about 2,787 children) were placed with relatives. An average of 775 children were on trial home visit. An average of 311 children and young adults were served in treatment foster care through Child Welfare Behavioral Rehabilitation Services programs or Oregon Health Authority psychiatric treatment settings. The remaining 972 children were in other types of foster care placements such as developmental disability placements, pre-adoptive placements, and independent living.



Ways for you as board members to engage Foster Parents, relative caregivers and youth in a trauma informed manner during a CRB.