



An Introduction to:

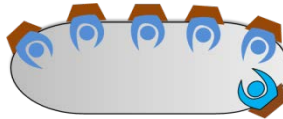
Issue-Focused CRB Reviews

This past year, two different assessments of Oregon’s child welfare system, the federal Child and Family Services Review ([CFSR Final Report](#)) and the Child Safety in Substitute Care Independent Review ([PK Report](#)), identified real deficiencies in the care that DHS provides to children in foster care, non-compliance with established policies and rules, as well as inconsistent efforts to engage parents in case planning. These findings are concerning because, as echoed in the PK report, there have been a number of similar reviews over the last decade, but little has been done. As the report concluded, “[t]he time to act is now.” CRB is a part of Oregon’s child welfare system, and must better use the review and monitoring authority granted in Oregon statute to ensure that DHS is making appropriate and reasonable/active efforts to safeguard the well-being of children in foster care. The Issue-Focused Review Model is one way that the CRB is improving its practice.



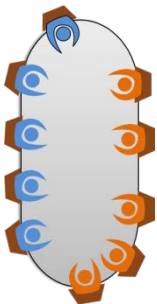
PREPARING FOR THE REVIEW

After reading all the materials and weighing the information relevant to each finding, board members make a preliminary determination, and write one or two sentences stating the reason for the “yes” or “no” finding.



BOARD MEETING TIME

While discussing key issues in the case, board members test their statements of reasons with each other and the field manager, resulting in a brief one or two sentence statement for every potential “no” finding: *“unless the information shared at the review indicates otherwise, we think there will be a ‘no’ on finding # because...”*.



DURING THE REVIEW

Boards focus on the key issues in a case rather than asking questions about every potentially relevant fact under each finding. The board is careful to demonstrate an understanding of the parties’ circumstances and what is happening with the case. Boards focus attention on the information they need to know to make a “yes” finding. If that information is not sufficient, boards already have language drafted to explain a possible no.