

## State of Oregon Child Welfare Program



*What's Out There to Help Kids Safely Return Home? An Overview of Intake, Screening, Assessments and Services for Parents*

### Department of Human Services/ Child Welfare Program (DHS/CWP)

The DHS/Child Welfare Program is Oregon's Child Protective Services agency, located within the Department of Human Services.

Our mission is to protect Oregon's abused and neglected children and to provide them with safe, permanent families.



## The Agency's Tasks

- To provide safety for children;
- To strengthen & preserve birth families;
- To provide permanency for children;
- To provide attachment for children;
- To assist foster/adoptive caregivers in meeting the needs of children in care.



## DHS services

- DHS directly provides services to help determine how and when to safely return children to their families.
- These include:
  - screening
  - Intake
  - Safety model assessment and plan development including “conditions for return” and “expected outcomes”

## Screening



- Screener receives a report that a child is in a dangerous situation or that abuse has happened.
- The screening team decides whether to assign the report to an Intake worker for investigation and whether it is an immediate response situation.

## Intake

- Intake worker investigates the allegations.
- Intake team makes the decision whether to work voluntarily with the family or file a Dependency Petition. Child may be placed in foster care or remain in the parent's home.
- Family referred for services



Oregon Safety Model  
Safety Threshold Criteria

Severe

Observable

Out of Control

Vulnerable

Imminence

(Must apply to at least on of the 16 identified safety threats)

\* Please see Handout

In Home Criteria

Is there a Willing and Cooperative Parent?

Are there resources necessary to assure the  
child's safety?

Is there a home like setting?

Is the home calm enough to allow safety service  
providers & activities to occur?

\*please see handout

## What is Abuse?

- **Physical abuse:** An injury cause to a child by non-accidental means.
- **Neglect:** Failure to provide adequate food, shelter, supervision, protection, etc.
- **Mental Injury:** Cruel statements or acts that severely impact the child's mental health.
- **Sexual Abuse:** Engaging in sexual behavior with a child.
- **Threat of Harm:** Dangerous situation that poses a risk to the child (ex: drug use, violent behavior)

## Child Protective Services Statistics From 2014 Data Book

### Child Protective Services

During Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014 (October 2013-September 2014), a total of 67,863 reports of abuse and neglect were received.

A total of 29,382 of received reports were referred for investigation. A total of 26,674 investigations were completed, which includes reports that were referred in the previous year<sup>1</sup>.

Of all completed investigations, 6,485 were founded for abuse or neglect and involved 10,010 victims.

Of all victims, 46.4 percent were younger than 6 years old.

Of all types of maltreatment incidences, neglect was the most frequently identified type of maltreatment (44.2 percent), followed by threat of harm (40.8 percent).

## More from 2014 Data Book

- Family Services
- At 46.1 percent, alcohol and drug issues represented the largest single family stress factor when child abuse/neglect was present.
- The next most common stressors were domestic violence (31.3 percent) and parent/caregiver involvement with law enforcement agencies (27.1 percent).
- During FFY 2014, a total of 6,453 children were served in their homes, exclusive of children in post-substitute care who were on a trial home visit.
- Of all children served with an in-home case during FFY 2014, 38.3 percent received services beyond case-management and safety assessment services while being served in-home.

## And More...

- A total of 11,443 children spent at least one day in some kind of foster care with an average of 7,811 children on a daily basis.
- A total of 5,526 children were in family foster care on an average daily basis, with 44.3 percent placed with relatives.
- Of the total children served in foster care, 69.7% were White, 5.6% were American Indian or Alaska Native, 16.2% were Hispanic, 6.7% were Black or African American, 1.2% were Asian or Pacific Islander, and 0.6% did not have race recorded.
- Of all children in care on September 30, 2014, over 55 percent (55.3) had two or fewer placements.
- A total of 373 children and young adults were served in either professional shelter programs or residential treatment settings on an average daily basis.
- A total of 1,484 youth received independent living program services.
- Of all children leaving foster care, 58.5 percent were reunited with their families.

## What are the most prevalent forms of abuse/neglect?

<u>Removal Reason</u>	<u>2012</u>		<u>2013</u>		<u>2014</u>	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
• Neglect Abuse	2,608	63.0%	2,381	63.8%	2,229	64.3%
• Parent Drug Abuse	1,818	43.9%	1,830	49.1%	1,587	45.7%
• Inability To Cope	554	13.4%	475	12.7%	499	14.4%
• Inadequate Housing	600	14.5%	447	12.0%	464	13.4%
• Incarcerated Parent	619	15.0%	471	12.6%	426	12.3%
• Physical Abuse	489	11.8%	427	11.4%	402	11.6%
• Parent Alcohol Abuse	506	12.2%	396	10.6%	312	9.0%
• Child's Behavior	349	8.4%	269	7.2%	280	8.1%
• Sexual Abuse	163	3.9%	126	3.4%	166	4.8%
• Abandonment	142	3.4%	127	3.4%	114	3.3%

## Stress Factors

<u>2014 Founded abuse stress factors</u>	<u>% of founded abuse</u>
Parent/caregiver alcohol or drug use	46.1
Domestic violence	31.3
Parent/caregiver involvement with LEA	27.1
Family financial distress	19.7
Parent/caregiver mental illness	15.5
Head of household unemployed	13.3
Parent/caregiver history of abuse as child	12.7
Child mental/physical/behavior disability	10.3
New baby/pregnancy	10.1
Inadequate housing	9.1

## Examples of Services

### System of Care Contracts

- Womenspace
- Parent Training
- CAFA Batterers Intervention
- Batterers Intervention
- Bridges2Safety Batterers Intervention
- South Lane Mental Health Batterers Intervention
- CCS Young Fathers Parenting
- Sex Offender Treatment
- Counselling
- Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor
- Peer Support
- Lift Plus Contract
- WFTC Enhanced Visitation Program

## More Services

- Strengthening Preserving and Reunifying Families (SPRF)
  - Strengths and Needs Assessment
  - SPRF CCS Housing
  - SPRF SVDP Housing
  - SPRF Shelter Care Housing
  - SPRF Supported Work Programs
  - SPRF FIND Program
  - SPRF Options Mental Health Specialist
  - SPRF OCP KITS
  - SPRF Pearl Buck Parent Mentor/IHSS
  - SPRF Pearl Buck Parent Support Group
  - SPRF Relief Nursery Navigator
  - SPRF Lift Plus SVDP



## And More...



- Foster Care Prevention
- • Rental Assistance (if homelessness is imminent and the family can sustain the rent)
- • Utility Assistance
- • Bus Passes
- • Tangible items – Examples Car Seats, Beds, Food etc...
- • Renters Rehab

## What about your county?

- Each county should have a similar list of services/service providers.
- The CRB Field Manager for your board can provide this information for each county.
- SPRF resources are being used differently in different counties.

How does this apply to

## **CRB REVIEWS**

How do we know which services should be provided?

- The first thing to look at and understand is the basis for jurisdiction for each parent.
- This may or may not be the same as DHS founded allegations or assessments.
- The services required of the parents must bear a rational relationship to jurisdiction.
- If there appears to be an issue that is not addressed in the basis for jurisdiction then a new petition would need to be filed.

## How do we know which services are being offered/required.

- The court will list out the requirements for the parents in the Disposition Judgment or Jurisdiction and Disposition Judgment. Sometimes the court will order the parents to comply with the DHS Action Agreement.
- The DHS Action Agreement or Letter of Expectation will outline the requirements for the parents including services.

## Determining the level of services

- For services such as drug and alcohol treatment, domestic violence, and mental health issues an assessment is required to determine the recommended treatment.
- There are generally levels or types of treatment recommended such as inpatient/outpatient, level 1, 2 or 3, etc.

## Psychological evaluations

- Psychological evaluations are appropriate for parents with mental health issues included in the basis for jurisdiction.
- Psychological evaluations may be requested by DHS and/or ordered by the court if a parent is not benefitting from services or if there are underlying factors impacting an issues such as substance abuse or domestic violence.
- A period of sobriety is generally required prior to a psychological evaluation.

## Parenting

- Parenting services are offered/required on the majority of dependency cases.
- Parenting services are generally offered as a group or class but can be individual.
- Sometimes parenting services are offered through a parent's drug and alcohol provider or mental health provider.
- Hands on parenting services or in home parenting services are available for special circumstances.

## Questions?

Thank you for your time and attention.

Please feel free to ask any questions or share any comments.

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