

Budget Note:

The Department of Human Services, Department of Justice, Oregon Judicial Department, and Public Defense Services Commission shall work collaboratively, at both the state and local levels, to solicit input on, develop, and implement strategies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Oregon's juvenile dependency systems and to determine the appropriate level of legal services. Potential strategies should include standardizing forms, streamlining processes, conforming practices, and adopting administrative or court rules. The agencies are expected to identify and begin implementing strategies no later than July 1, 2018. Options for providing more effective and cost-efficient legal and other services should also be reviewed and analyzed. The agencies will submit a joint report on the progress of these efforts to the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means or the Emergency Board by October 2018. In addition, each agency shall include an update, in its budget presentation to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means during the 2019 session, on its specific roles, activities, strategies, and costs to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Oregon's juvenile dependency system.

From: [HB 5006 A Budget Report and Measure Summary](#) p. 37-38

RECOMMENDED STATEWIDE STRATEGIES:

1. Develop a pilot program, utilizing the resources of Plan B judges, that creates effective judicial led settlement conferences.
 - a. In every dependency case in which a Petition for Jurisdiction has been filed, the Court shall set a Mandatory Settlement Conference prior to the date for the Jurisdictional Hearing in order to afford all parties and their counsel the opportunity to attempt to resolve the matter by stipulation without the necessity of Jurisdictional Hearing.
 - b. In every dependency case in which a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed, the Court shall set a Mandatory Settlement Conference prior to the date for the TPR Trial in order to afford all parties and their counsel the opportunity to attempt to resolve the matter by stipulation without the necessity of TPR Trial.
2. Establish a schedule for shelter hearings so they consistently occur at regularly scheduled times each day and provide parents an opportunity to meet with their attorney prior to the proceeding
3. Develop a written policy that prioritizes the timeliness of juvenile dependency matters and includes a commitment to reduce delays by restricting the availability of continuances and elevating the priority of juvenile dependency matters on court dockets.

DHS will ensure that timely discovery/information is available to the court and parties prior to hearings.

Local Model Court/Dependency Improvement Teams will work collaboratively and use data to inform decision making, plan for system improvement, and evaluate efforts inform decision making, plan for system improvement, and evaluate efforts.