

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
<b>Vote:</b>	5 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Bates, Kruse, Morse, Shields, Monnes Anderson
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Brian Nieuburt, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/4, 4/13

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) and county partners to implement Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families programs (Programs) by October 1, 2012. Allows DHS, the Oregon Health Authority or the Housing and Community Services Department to enter into contracts and make payments to eligible Programs. Describes services Programs may provide. Requires that services provided by Programs be culturally competent and include evidence-informed or evidence-based practices. Requires DHS to establish by rule client-focused functional outcomes measures for Programs and allows measures to be used as a basis for funding and contracting. Requires Programs to develop and implement training and continuing education curricula. Allows Programs to seek private and public funding. Requires DHS to report annually to the Governor and the Legislative Assembly on progress. Creates the Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families Program Fund and continuously appropriates moneys. Requires DHS to seek approval or renewal of federal waivers necessary to access federal savings accrued as a result of the reduction in costs of foster and substitute care for children in DHS' custody. Requires DHS and juvenile courts to include in their reasonable efforts considerations, whether services offered by the Programs are most likely to prevent or eliminate the removal of a child from the child's home or most likely to make it possible for the child to safely return home. Requires DHS to adopt rules. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- The program in Jackson County
- Goal of returning children to their families
- Importance of program and community collaboration
- Role and importance of performance-based contracting

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** Removes definition of "juvenile court" and adds definition of "performance-based contract." Removes definition of "reasonable efforts." Removes requirement that courts include a written explanation of why the court did not believe the placement of the child and the referral of the child and the child's family to a Program was in child's best interests.

**BACKGROUND:** DHS may, in its discretion, accept custody of children and may provide care, support and protective services for children who are dependent or neglected, who have mental or physical disabilities or who for other reasons are in need of public service.

Senate Bill 964-A requires DHS and county partners to implement Programs to provide family preservation and reunification services for children in the custody of DHS. The goal of these programs is to foster collaboration between state and community programs and resources to try to help children remain safely with their families, thereby reducing the number of Oregon children in foster care.

4/20/2011 3:32:00 PM

*This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.*