

Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries

MEASURE: HB 4165
EXHIBIT: 12
2012 SESSION RULES
DATE: 2/8/12 PAGES: 4
SUBMITTED BY: Sue Miller

Children's Relief Nursery
(Portland)

February 8, 2012

Family Building Blocks
(Salem)

Family Building Blocks at
Gracie's Place
(West Salem)

Family Development
Center
(Roseburg)

Family Nurturing Center
(Medford)

Family Relief Nursery
(Cottage Grove)

Family Stepping Stones
Relief Nursery
(Gladstone)

Maple Tree Relief Nursery
(Albany)

Juniper Junction Relief
Nursery
(Madras)

MountainStar Family
Relief Nursery
(Bend)

Old Mill Center Relief
Nursery (Corvallis)

Pioneer Relief Nursery
(Pendleton)

Relief Nursery, Inc.
(Eugene)

Treasure Valley Children's
Relief Nursery
(Ontario, Malheur Co.)

VOA Family Relief
Nursery (Portland)

TO: Honorable Members of the Oregon House ~~Education~~ ^{Human Services} Committee

I am Sue Miller, Executive Director of the Relief Nursery serving Marion & Polk Counties called Family Building Blocks. I am speaking for the Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries in support of HB 4165.

There are 15 Relief Nurseries throughout Oregon which serve many of the highest risk families with young children, under age 6, in our respective communities. While most of our work is focused on preventing maltreatment, we also work closely with DHS to support reunification efforts for their clients.

We focus on building successful and resilient children, strengthening parents, and preserving families. We provide therapeutic classrooms for infants through preschoolers, while supporting families with home visits, parent training, respite classes, and referrals to other community services. Some Relief Nurseries also offer mental health and drug and alcohol support programs.

In every community where a Relief Nursery is located, we are an integral part of the early childhood system, partnering to help high-risk families and children receive the services that they need. An independent study performed last year showed that of the families we collectively served from 2008-10, 99% avoided child abuse, child neglect, and the foster care system. We do indeed prevent bad things from happening to young children.

While there are more unknowns than certainties about the design of a new delivery system under the Early Learning Council, Relief Nurseries are committed to helping the redesign effort be successful. We share the state's determination and HB 4165's intent to serve more children without an increase in resources and to see improved outcomes in school readiness and subsequent reading achievement.

Relief Nurseries are committed to partnering with other agencies, both public and private, to help design a system that will best serve the needs of the various areas of the state. One size will definitely not fit all, and the legislation acknowledges that. We are fortunate to have many excellent early childhood programs in the state from which to draw for input and help

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in this tremendous undertaking. Finding ways to work more closely with the K-12 and healthcare systems in our communities also offers potentially enormous cost savings and positive client outcomes.

In our opinion, the possible benefits to children and families from designing a more cost effective system with clear outcomes far outweigh the potential challenges to us providers in implementing the changes. Bottom line is, we need to do what is best for our kids.

In conclusion, I would like to put on my Family Building Blocks' hat for a minute. When our Board voted Monday to endorse this legislation, they showed great interest in having our region be an "early implementer" or "early adapter" if the Legislature and ELC consider this option. We are prepared and, in fact, anxious to sit down with other early learning system providers in our area to craft a new service delivery system. Early childhood programs as well as our K-12 school system, county governments, and partners in the healthcare system have already begun discussions that lay the groundwork for redesigning our delivery system. We are excited to partner with you legislators as well as the Governor's office and state agencies to move this critical work forward. We are ready to go! Please support HB 4165 as a critical step in this process.

Thank you for your time today and for your commitment to the future of our children.



Sue Miller, Executive Director
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RELIEF NURSERIES

Oregon's Innovative Response to Families in Crisis

Relief Nurseries are a critical safeguard against child maltreatment.

Oregon's Relief Nurseries provide vital services to high-risk families with children under the age of 6 years. Participating families have at least eight risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect, and on average half of the families experience 16 or more risk factors. *These families are in crisis.*

The majority of families using Relief Nursery services are headed by a single parent living in poverty and facing a myriad of challenges raising their children. Parents enroll in Relief Nurseries hoping to break the intergenerational cycle of abuse and neglect.

Relief Nurseries keep children safe and families together.

Oregon's nationally recognized Relief Nursery model provides high-risk families with the intensive support they need for their children to grow up safe, healthy and ready for school. Children participate in therapeutic classrooms with low adult-child ratios, and families receive home visits that promote healthy parenting and child development.

Relief Nurseries address the diverse needs of families through assessment and individualized case management. All Relief Nurseries provide parent education, coaching and support through home visits and participation in group activities. Many Relief Nurseries also provide mental health care, counseling for domestic violence and support for adults recovering from addiction. Nurseries refer families to other early childhood programs for services not provided by Relief Nurseries.

OUTCOMES WE NEED RESULTS WE CAN TRUST

Relief Nurseries improve lives, save money and contribute to school readiness.

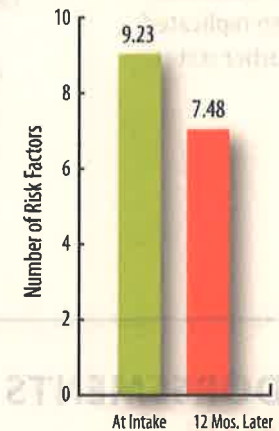
› **Relief Nurseries keep children safe in their homes.** An independent evaluation found that nearly all (98.6%) children enrolled in Relief Nurseries between 2008 and 2010 avoided foster care and continued living safely with their families.

› **Relief Nurseries substantially reduce family risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect.** In a 2011 study, the average number of mutable risk factors dropped from 9 to 7 in the 12 months after intake.

› **Relief Nurseries reduce the number of children in foster care.** A Portland State University study published in 2011 found that Relief Nurseries reduce foster care placements and help children exit the foster care system twice as quickly as those not receiving services.

› **Relief Nurseries enhance early literacy and increase school readiness.** In a recent evaluation of Relief Nurseries, the percentage of enrolled parents reading to their children at least three times per week increased from 32% before enrollment to 52% after 6 months.

Reduction In Mutable Family Risk Factors through Relief Nurseries



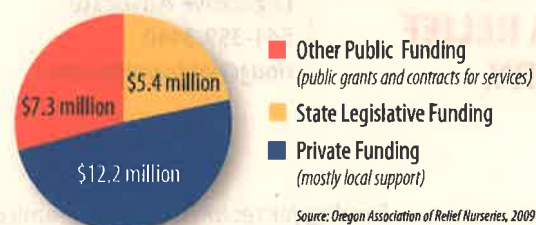
Average Risk Factors
Source: Green & Rodgers, 2011.

A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP THAT SAVES OREGON MONEY

› **Relief Nurseries are supported by their local communities.** Private fundraising more than doubled the legislature's contribution to Relief Nurseries in the 2009-11 biennium.

› A 2011 study found a nearly **4:1 return on investment** for Oregon Relief Nurseries. For each tax dollar spent, the state saved nearly \$4 in costs associated with child abuse, unemployment, criminal behavior and other social issues. Even more striking is that this high rate of return was realized in just three years.

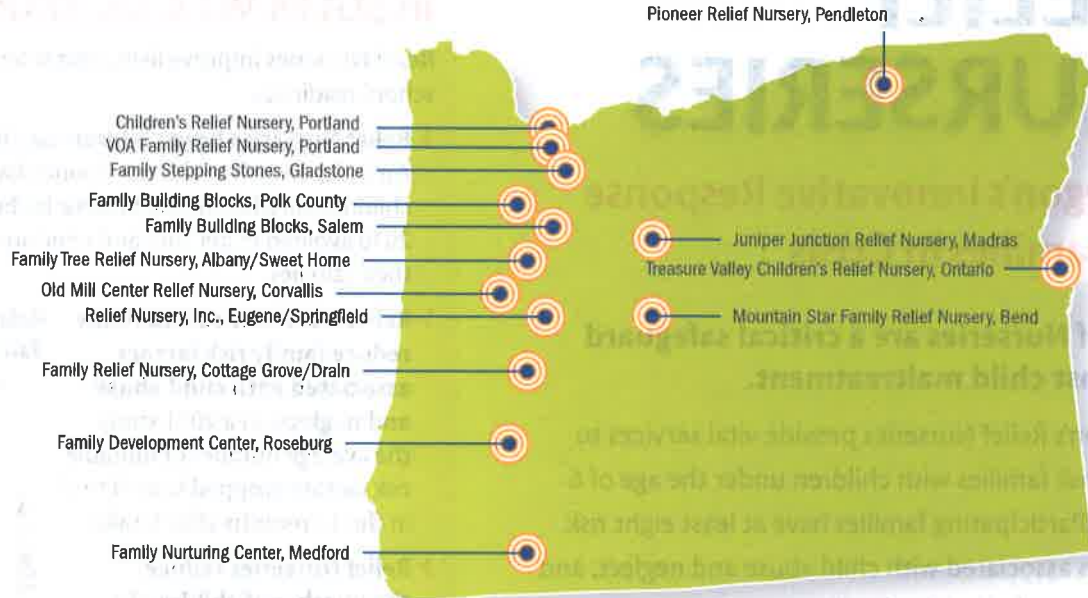
Funding for Oregon Relief Nurseries



Source: Oregon Association of Relief Nurseries, 2009-2011

15 COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED RELIEF NURSERIES ACROSS OREGON

The nation's first Relief Nursery was founded in Eugene in 1976. Since then, 14 additional Relief Nurseries have been established in Oregon, and the model has been replicated in other states.



ENDORSEMENTS JOIN US.

BUSINESS

Ross Carey, Regional President, US Bank, Salem
Ray Davis, President/CEO, Umpqua Holdings Corp., Roseburg
Allyn Ford, President/CEO, Roseburg Forest Products; Ford Family Foundation Board
Mike Hollern, CEO, Brooks Resources Corp., Bend
Alissa Keny-Guyer, Philanthropist and President, Penney Family Fund
Patricia Moss, CEO Bank of the Cascades, Bend
Wayne Pipes, VP Facilities & Development, Knowledge Universe

Jim & Jane Ratzlaff, Crane Creek Family Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation, Roseburg
Von P. Summers, Community Affairs, NW Natural
Ken Troutman, CEO, People's Bank of Commerce, Medford
Dick Withnell, President, Withnell Motors, Salem
Casey Woodard, Woodard Family Foundation, Cottage Grove

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mark Alexander, Interim Chief of Police, Ontario
Jim Burge, Chief of Police, Roseburg
Alex Gardner, Lane County District Attorney

Jerry Moore, Chief of Police, Salem
Randy Schoen, Chief of Police, Medford
Tom Turner, Lane County Sheriff

HEALTH CARE

Robert L. Dannenhoffer, M.D., CEO, Physicians of Douglas County
Janice Gratton, Consultant for Children & Families, Portland
Scott Johnson, Director, Deschutes County Health Services
Jim Lace, M.D., Salem
Rose Miller, M.D., Albany
David W. Willis, M.D., FAAP, Artz Center, Portland

EDUCATION

Maria Delapoe, Superintendent, Greater Albany Public Schools
Linda Florence, Superintendent, Ontario School District
Dan Forbes, Superintendent, Philomath School District
Sandy Husk, Superintendent, Salem-Keizer School District
Barbara Jorgensen, Interim Superintendent, Multnomah Education Service District
Dana Young, President, Treasure Valley Community College, Ontario

SEE FOR YOURSELF. VISIT A RELIEF NURSERY.

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