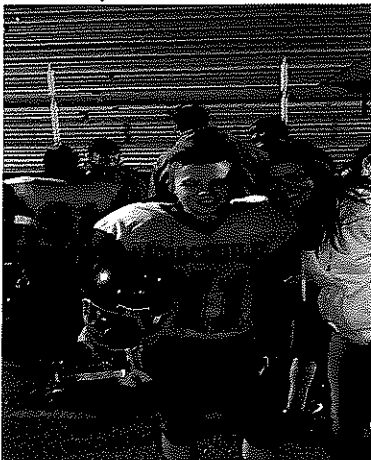


February 28 2013



Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee On Human Services, 2013 Oregon Legislative Session,
Attention: Sen. Alan Bates, Co-Chair and Rep. Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair.

My name is Lisa Butler and I am here today in support of the Statewide Children's Wraparound Program.

I am a recovering Meth addict. Eight years ago I got my three children taken away and put in DHS custody. After I got clean and got my children back, I realized that my 8 year-old-son had extreme behaviors that were dangerous and disturbing.

His therapist suggested he would qualify for a program called New Solutions, a wraparound program. New Solutions was able to get him into the Child Development and Rehabilitation Center at Dornbecher Children's Hospital, where he was diagnosed with fetal alcohol and drug effect. At that point our team began working hard on developing natural supports and making connections for us in our community.

Because wraparound works with the whole family, the Wrap program was able to send me to three-day training with Diane Malbin called "Trying Differently Instead of Harder," a training for caregivers of children with fetal alcohol and drug effect. This training taught me about my son's disability and how to work with him. Our wrap team was also very successful in working with his school by raising awareness and helping to implement the strategies that would work for him. However, the peer delivered services gave me the support I needed—without judgment, through a difficult time in my life. It helped me realize that I could parent this child, that I had a voice and that my voice can make a difference.

The most important thing the Wrap program did for me was the peer support I received—empowering us to parent this child. It gave us a voice, resources, and a place to be with people to collaborate with, to find solutions, to be a strong, successful, functioning family.

It's been four years now since we graduated from the high fidelity wraparound program. My son has been in a self-contained classroom, an Emotional Growth Center, since first grade. He is now in eighth grade, mainstreamed for 95 percent of his day. He plays organized sports, is building healthy friendships, and is involved in our community, things we never thought he would be able to do.

The peer support I received inspired me to help others. I am a peer support specialist with the Oregon Family Support Network.—I want to give back to others who are going through the same thing my family went through and give them the same hope and support I needed.

Lisa Butler
Salem OR