



Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association

Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments

www.ojdda.org

- Faye Fagel, President
- Torri Lynn, President Elect
- Joe Ferguson, Treasurer

OJDDA
609 W. 10th St
Medford, OR, 97501

February 26, 2014

Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Support House Bill 4156A

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is an important system partner to juvenile departments, as many juvenile justice involved youth have prior involvement with DHS, or are currently "crossover youth" who are duly involved with both the child welfare and the juvenile justice systems. Both agencies have a shared interest in ensuring the rights and needs of children are met while concurrently ensuring that limited public resources are utilized in an effective and efficient manner.

In general, both currently and historically, DHS caseworkers appear in court without counsel in many types of child welfare related hearings and proceedings.

We understand the concerns related to budgetary impact raised by DHS with regard to enforcement or potential enforcement of ORS 9.320, which requires state agencies to appear in court proceedings with counsel.

OJDDA agrees with the approach DHS has taken in working with other key stakeholders in the development of HB 4156A. This bill offers a temporary legislative solution that maintains the status quo, allowing time for DHS, stakeholders, and policymakers to have a full discussion about the ramification of the enforcement of this statute and potential mitigations. OJDDA urges your support of HB 4156A.

For Further Information Contact: Lara Smith, 503-804-9750