



## **Elkhorn Adult Foster Home**

1455 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Baker City, OR 97814  
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Chair Beyer, members of Senate Committee on Business and Transportation,

My personal experience working with Oregon's **Office of Small Business Assistance** and **Ruth Miles, Small Business Advocate**:

October 2014 the Oregon Employer Council (OEC) held their quarterly conference in Baker City. Ruth was at the event as a featured speaker as well as to network with the small businesses of Eastern Oregon.

Before the afternoon session on the second day she came and sat by me and introduced herself. I asked her if she could tell me in one sentence what a *small business advocate* could do for me a small business owner. She said without hesitation, "*I help small businesses deal with logjams they might have with Oregon's business requirements.*"

I asked her if she would be able to help me with an ongoing awkwardness we have getting required criminal checks through for potential employees for Adult Foster Homes. She asked several questions and asked me to send her an email on Monday morning which I did.

Wow, I was impressed. My experience of working with *the government* had become jaded for a variety of reasons. I thought, this is too good to be true. The afternoon session hadn't started yet so I brought up another logjam situation. Right there beside me she whipped out her phone and put a call in to our local representative Cliff Bentz and left him a message. He returned the call later in the day. This five minute encounter with Ruth was the highlight of the three day OEC conference!

Ruth sent periodic updates as she worked through the *logjam* of the slowness in getting criminal checks done for potential AFH employees. Getting to the root of the problem and implementing solutions took time, but it was impressive her commitment, resourcefulness, thoroughness and communication. She made a huge difference!

I have referred several small business owners in the area to Ruth and all of them have had satisfying outcomes.

The now Governor, then Secretary of State, Kate Brown, was brilliant in creating this position to put a positive and real face on government. Ruth is the perfect person for the job.

In July 2015 I closed my Adult Foster Home after seven years in the business, however I continue the work of elder caregiving. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call.

With gratitude,  
Pam Peyron