

Department of Human Services

Child Welfare Programs Differential Response

Lena Alhusseini, Child Welfare Director



What is Differential Response?

“Safe Children - Strong, Supported Families”

Differential Response is a family-centered approach for families struggling with issues of child abuse or neglect.



Why Differential Response?

- Child Safety
- Family Preservation
- Safe and Equitable Reduction of Children in Foster Care



Alternative and Traditional Tracks

Traditional Response (TR)

The most serious reports of child abuse or neglect.

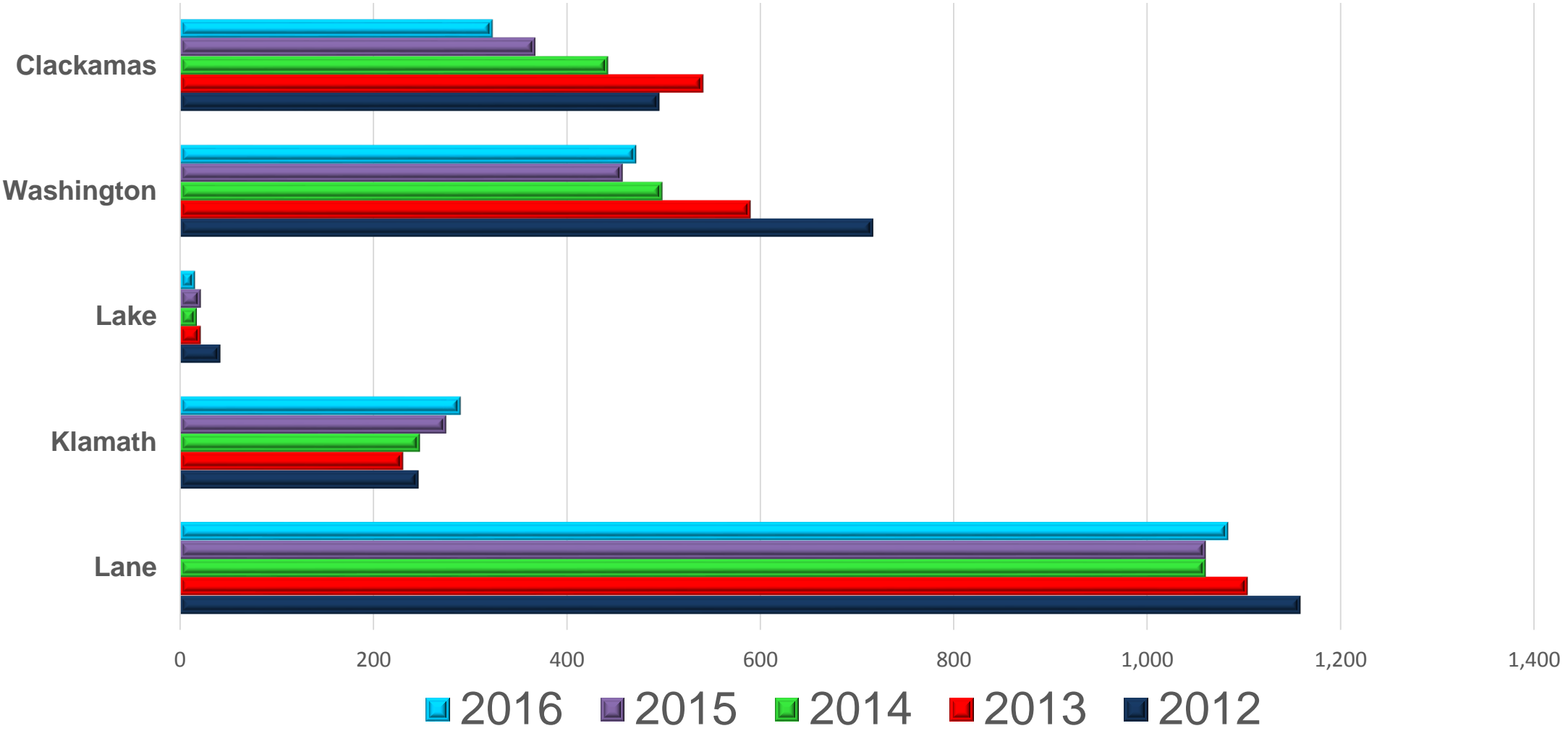
Alternative Response (AR)

Removing dispositions and recognizing family as the experts of their own families are two parts of Alternative Response.

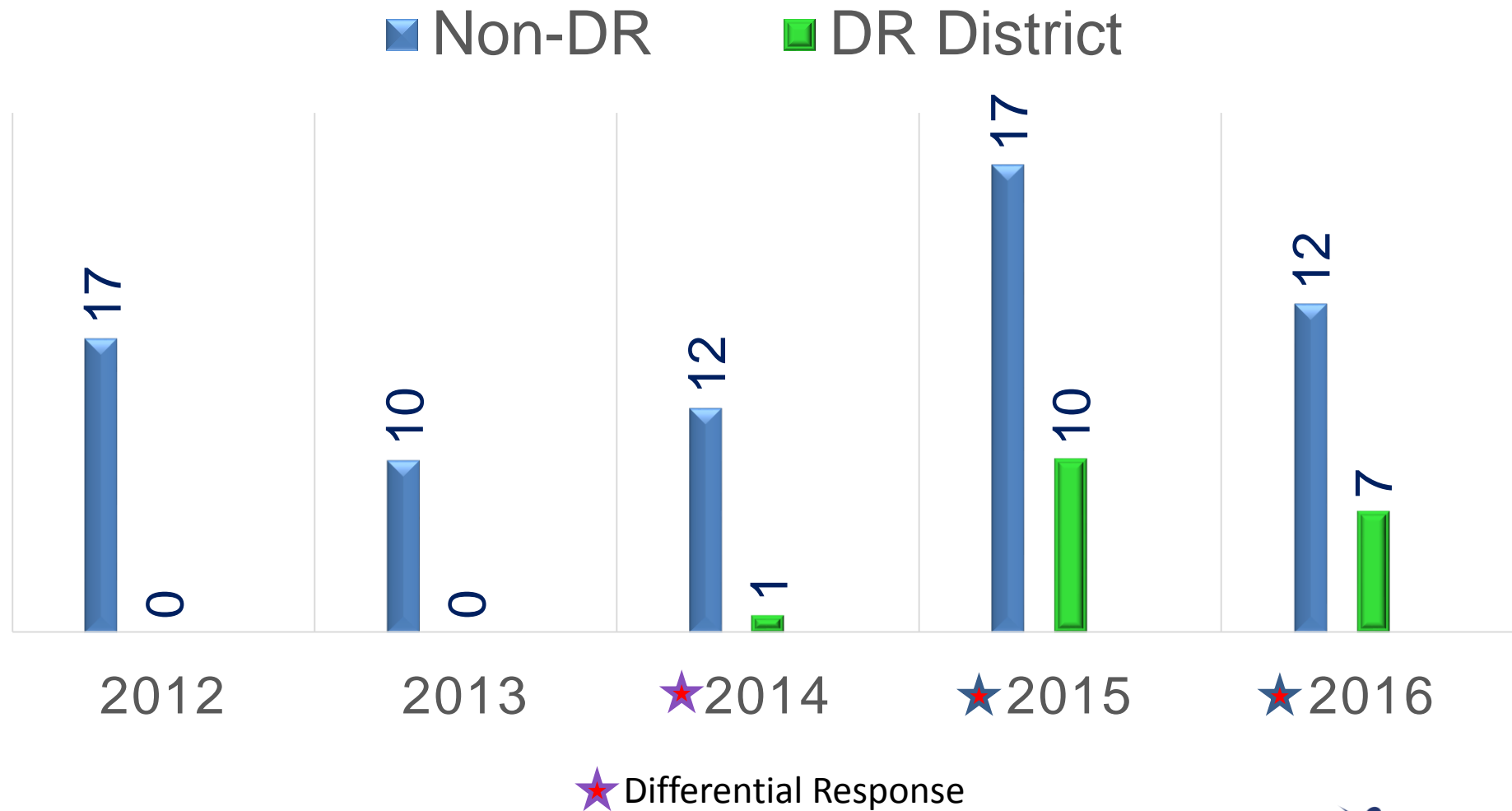
Early Oregon Findings

- Children are just as safe in DR counties as non-DR counties
- Child safety is not diminished
- Families, workers, and community partners are satisfied
- No statistically significant differences in re-reports, recurrence of abuse or child removal

Children in Foster Care (DR Counties)

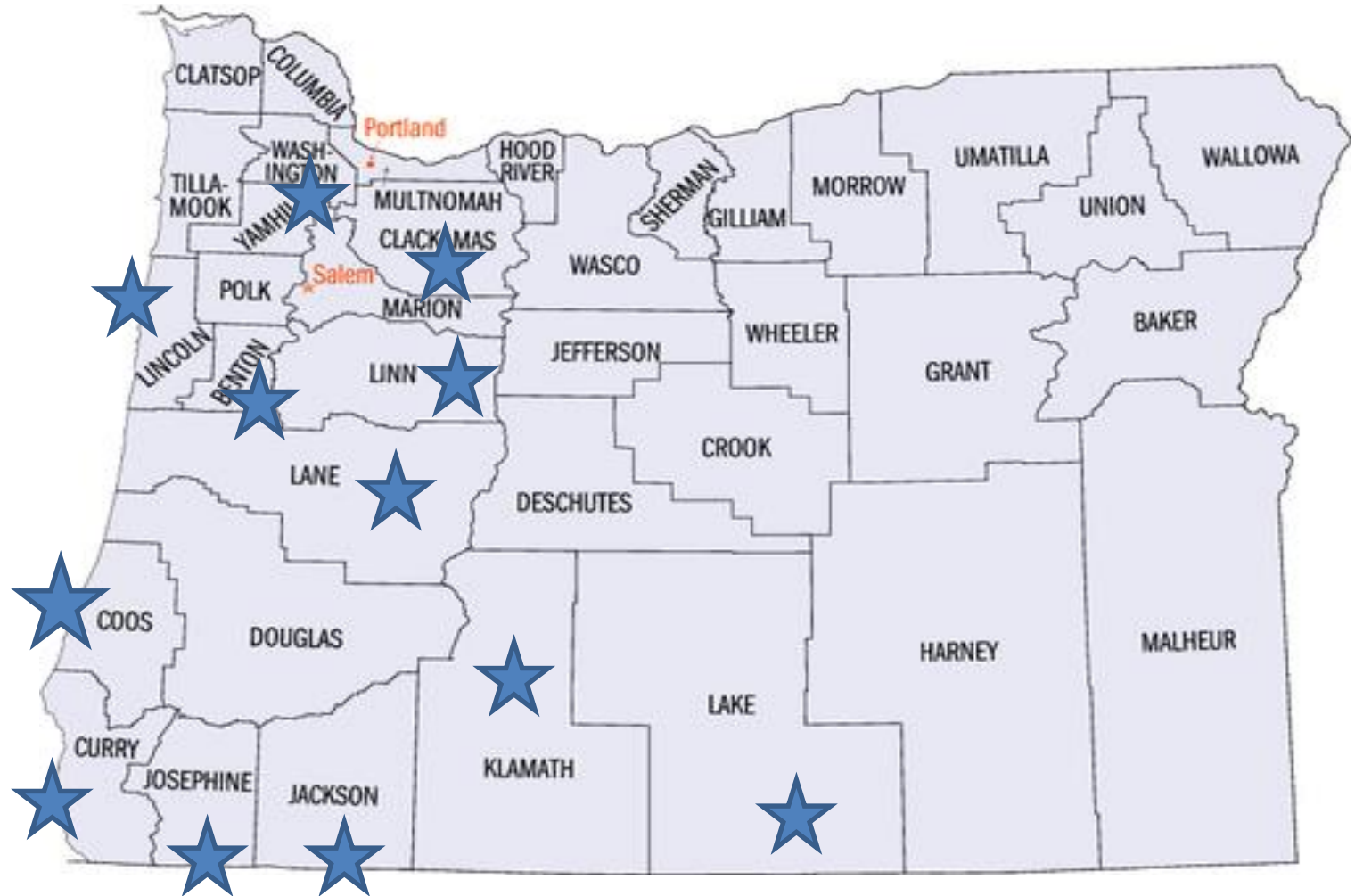


Child Fatalities Due to Abuse/Neglect



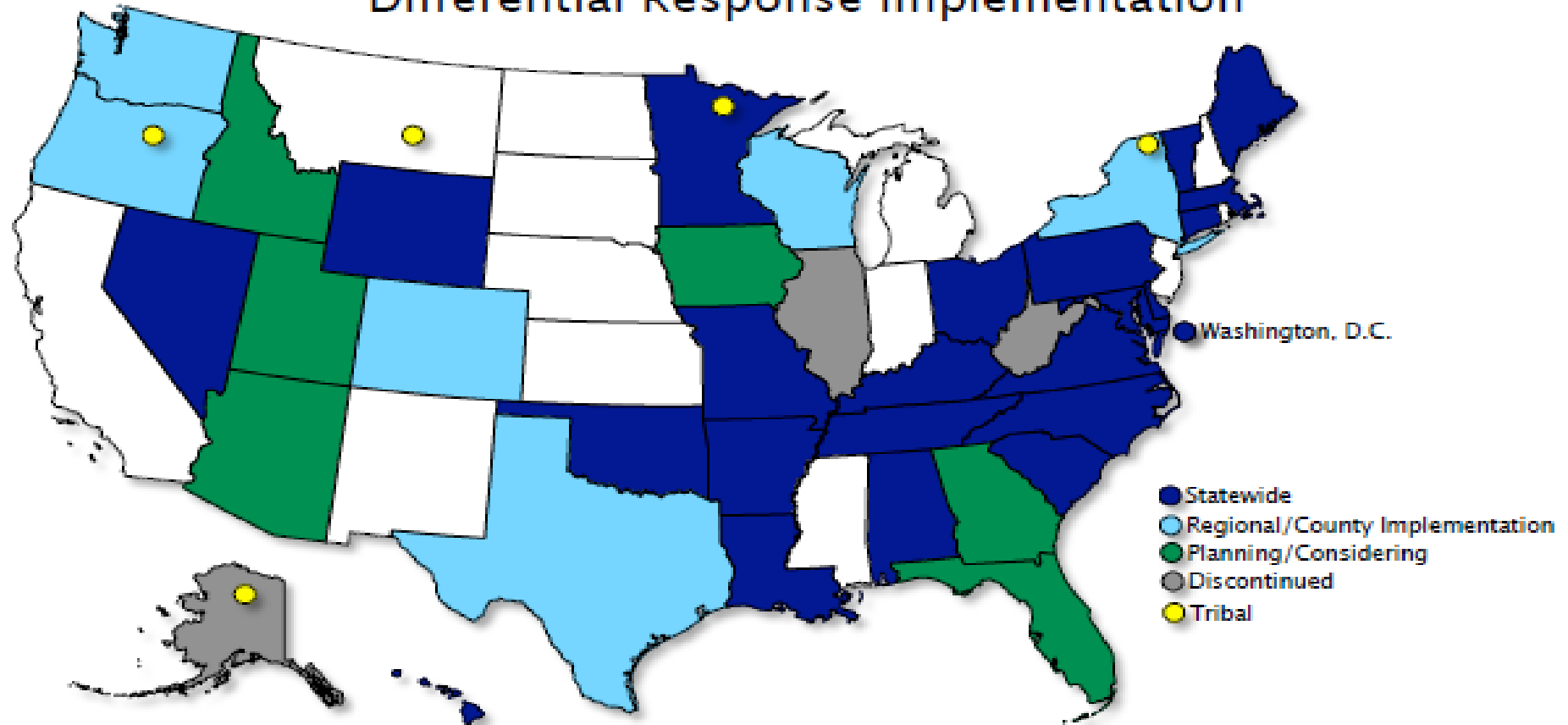
Differential Response in Oregon

- ★ Lane
- Klamath
- Lake
- Linn
- Benton
- Lincoln
- Washington
- Josephine
- Jackson
- Coos
- Curry
- Clackamas



Nationwide

Differential Response Implementation



THE KEMPE CENTER FOR THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT



Differential Response Implementation

- Staged Implementation
- Implementation Science
- Evaluations
 - Process
 - Outcomes
 - Cost Analysis
- Community Engagement



Community Engagement



Benefits of Practice Change

- ✓ Keeping children safe in their home when appropriate
- ✓ Positive relationships with community partner organizations
- ✓ Workers feel supported with the increased training
- ✓ Families say they feel positively engaged



Child Safety Outcomes

Today...

- Children are just as safe in DR counties as non-DR counties
- Child safety is not diminished
- Community partners and Tribes are more satisfied
- No statistically significant differences in re-reports, recurrence of abuse or child removal

Next 3 years...

- Re-reports reduced over time
- Re-abuse reduced over time
- Foster care entry reduced over time
- Long term costs neutral
- Reduce disproportionality

Lessons Learned

- Take time to plan and prepare
- Solicit & use stakeholder buy-in
- Facilitate peer-to-peer learning
- Ensure service availability & strengthen community relationships
- Implementation of change is a developmental process



Challenges

- Staffing Shortages/ Workload
- Fidelity to Oregon Safety Model
- Fidelity to DR Model
- Fidelity to Screening
- Accountability
- Culture Change
- Improved Data



Moving Forward...

- ✓ Child Safety
- ✓ Screening
- ✓ Family Strengths and Needs Assessment
- ✓ Coaching/Support



Contacts

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DHS Differential Response

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/CHILDREN/DIFFERENTIAL-RESPONSE/Pages/index.aspx>

Child Welfare Data Book

<https://www.oregon.gov/DHS/CHILDREN/CHILD-ABUSE/Pages/Data-Publications.aspx>

Oregon Child Welfare Data Set

https://rom.socwel.ku.edu/Oregon_Public/MyHome.aspx

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