



Date March 24, 2017

TO: The Honorable Senator Sara Gelsler, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Alan Olsen, Vice Chair  
Committee on Human Service

FROM: Carolyn Acevedo, Co-Director  
Marta's House/Klamath Crisis Center  
Community Based Advocacy

SUBJECT: SB 942

For the record, my name is Carolyn Acevedo; Co-Director of Marta's House/Klamath Crisis Center & a member of the Steering Committee for Klamath County Differential Response, successfully completed & closed Child Welfare case (2004), a member of the Parent Advisory Council, Domestic Violence Council for OHA/DHS & Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. I am here to testify in support of SB 942 regarding Differential Response in the State of Oregon.

In my experience, I had called Child Welfare asking for help did not receive any until months later when I had a founded case against me, which would later keep me from being able to be a Pre-School Teacher that was my focus in schooling at that time. I successfully completed all requirements and my case was closed. I went on to become a domestic violence/sexual assault advocate and finished my schooling with a Bachelor Degree in Business Management. As a recipient of the Oregon Child Welfare system, I have a passion for bringing the ground truth to the Policy, Training, and Directors of Oregon's Child Welfare system.

Klamath County is one of the pilot counties that implemented Differential Response (DR); I was on the steering committee locally and also received the training in DR. The unique & flexible pieces with DR are that at screening a decision is made to go with a Traditional Response(TR) vs Alternative Response (AR same as DR). If at any time during an AR a piece of information comes light that seems to be abuse or neglect, the case is immediately transferred back to TR with court intervention.

As a collaborating agency with Child Welfare, I work every day with co-case managed families and now my direct staff as well. Families feel respected and heard when a Child Welfare worker calls them and states that a home visit/further assessment needs to happen and they are asked



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who they would like to have at the meeting for support. The first one I worked with thought it was a joke or a trick to get them to the Child Welfare building to take their children. I explained the new process with DR and they were very open and willing to move forward. That family did not have to have a TR or opened case.

I see DR as a very useful tool in the Oregon Child Welfare System with huge potential to save time, money and energy in the already overwhelmed court and foster care system for the state while still keeping children safe. Keeping children safe and out of the foster care system is a huge benefit & less traumatic for the children. DR also has the ability to keep the parent from having a founded case that could potentially disable the parents' ability to move forward, which in turn disables the family.

Thank you for your time and openness to hear this information. I am happy to answer any questions you may have in regards to DR and the ground truth as I have witnessed it.

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