



To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Erin Gladstone, Probation and Parole Officer II

Date: April 4, 2017

Subject: Written Testimony Supporting SB 895 Relating to Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot (FSAP)

Senate Judiciary Chairman Floyd Prozanski, Co-Chair Senator Kim Thatcher, and members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly's Senate Committee on Judiciary, my name is Erin Gladstone and I am the Family Sentencing Alternative Program Probation Officer with Washington County Community Corrections. I am providing written testimony on behalf of Washington County Community Corrections.

Within the first year of the Family Sentencing Alternative Program (FSAP) Washington County has served 26 parents and 54 children. We had one revocation within that first year and have had one graduate of the program. DHS Child Welfare has returned custody to four of our parents which accounts for eight children being removed from the foster care system. Additionally, there are three parents successfully working a return home plan with DHS Child Welfare.

I would like to share a story of one of our FSAP parents; I will call her Aimee. When Aimee initially came into FSAP she was on her last chance with the Court and was somewhat resistant to the additional program requirements. Within the first month in the program Aimee received a call from Child Welfare that her son had been physically assaulted by the father in the home of his current guardian. She immediately reached out and received support from the FSAP team which resulted in her moving into the FSAP house with her son. This allowed what could have been a crisis situation to instead be an opportunity for her to shine under pressure. Aimee was supported by the FSAP team through the Child Welfare Court, assessment process, and was able to retain physical custody of her son.

Presently, Aimee has completed an intensive outpatient treatment program, is actively involved in the recovery community, has been employed steadily for nine months, and is completely self-sufficient. Aimee is our first graduate and recently had the guardianship that was in place through DHS Child Welfare dissolved. During her last DHS hearing the Judge suggested Aimee become a parent mentor due to the unique experience and perspective she has to share with other Child Welfare involved parents and also asked Aimee if he could attend her FSAP graduation ceremony.

The success of FSAP in Washington County is due in large part to the resources that have been made available as a result of the funding stream and the capped case load which allows for a more intensive supervision model. The participants initially receive weekly office visits and home visits, as well as case planning meetings monthly with the team (mentor, CADC, and Probation Officer) to celebrate achievements and establish goals to ensure forward momentum towards independence. The children that are in DHS Child Welfare custody are able to transition home to their parent in an FSAP funded stable, clean and sober house and maintain the same school to decrease the amount of trauma sustained during this time. The capped caseload also gives me additional time to attend a weekly staffing with the team, which includes a DHS Child Welfare liaison, and the freedom to be present at DHS Court hearings and any other support type appointments for clients.

I have had the opportunity to see a change in the children I visit weekly in the FSAP house. Initially, the children were afraid when I arrived as a law enforcement figure. Now they follow me around the house to get stickers and tell me about exciting experiences they have learned or done that week. It has been a growing experience for all of us.

The broadening of the eligibility criteria would allow for increased participation which would likely result in a decrease in the prison population and in the number of children entering the foster care system.

Thank you for your consideration.