



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Human Services

Office of the Chief Financial Officer

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April 3, 2016

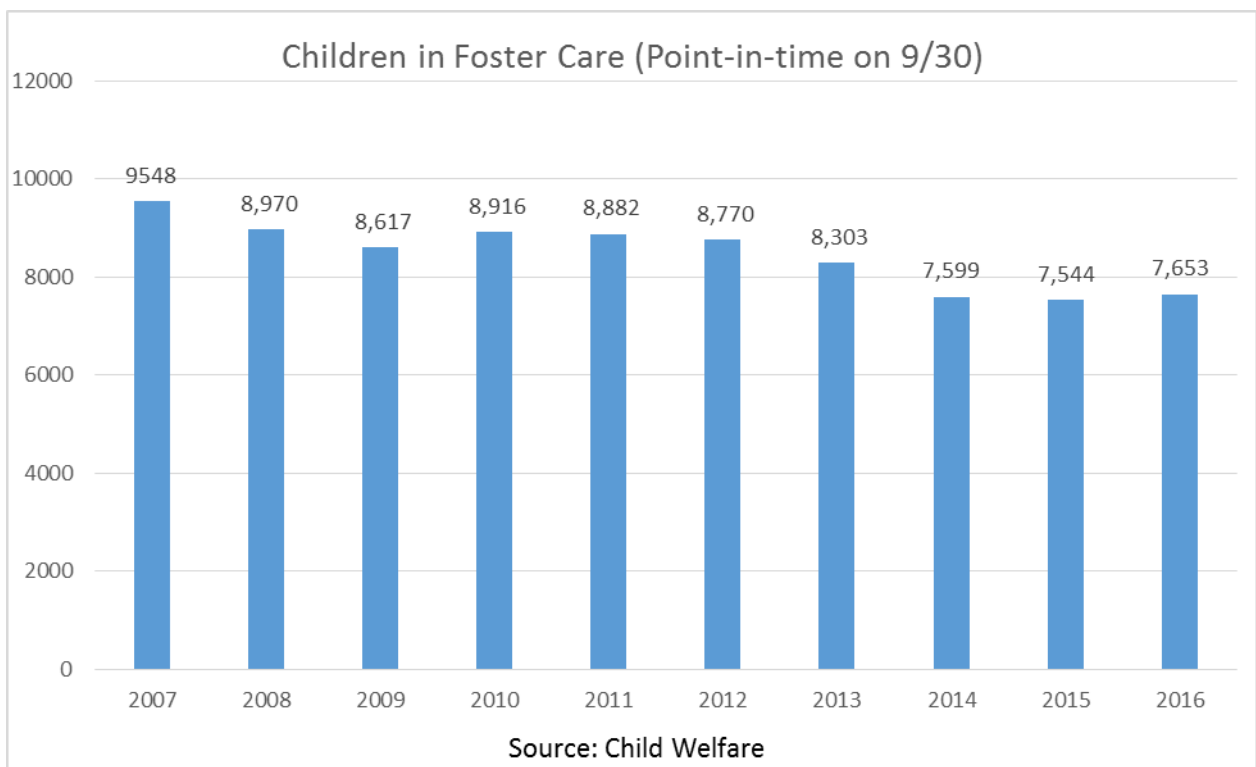
TO: Co-Chair Senator Steiner Hayward
Co-Chair Representative Rayfield
Human Services Subcommittee members



FR: Department of Human Services

RE: Child Welfare Day One Questions.

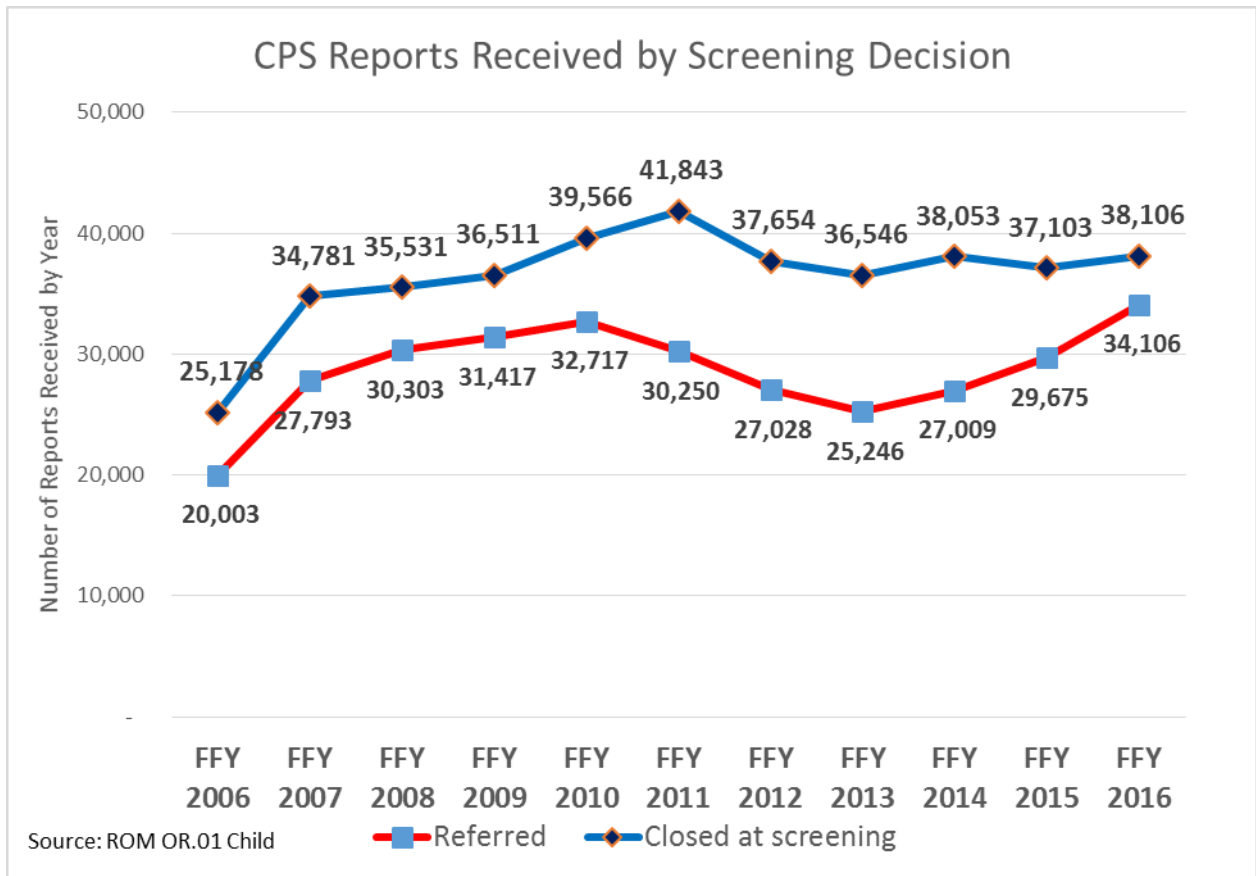
1. Please provide a trend line for children in foster care for the last several years.



2. Please provide the Homeless and Runaway report. Below is a link to the report.
http://www.co.marion.or.us/BOC/MWHI/Documents/SubcommitteesMaterials/MWHI_PublicSafety/2016-08AUG25_Oregons%20Runaway%20and%20HomelessYouth%20-%20An%20Overview%20and%20Strategic%20Framework%20-%20FINAL_1.pdf

3. What is the trend of calls by screening decision?

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"



4. What is your policy on reunifying with family vs. non-family?

Placement of Foster Children

Placing a child into a substitute care setting can be traumatizing for the child regardless if the placement is with a relative, friend of the family or non-related foster parent. It is important that the child be placed through “Placement Matching” efforts to determine the most appropriate placement available for a child.

Oregon statute directs several things that must be considered in placement matching ORS 419B.192

- (1)there shall be a preference given to placement of the child or ward with relatives and persons who have a caregiver relationship with the child
- (2) ...the department shall make diligent efforts to place the siblings together
- (3) In attempting to place the child or ward pursuant to subsections (1) and (2) of this section, the department shall consider, but not be limited to considering, the following:
 - (a) The ability of the person being considered to provide safety for the child or ward, including a willingness to cooperate with any restrictions placed on contact between the child or ward and others, and to prevent anyone from influencing the child or ward in regard to the allegations of the case;
 - (b) The ability of the person being considered to support the efforts of the department to implement the permanent plan for the child or ward;

- (c) The ability of the person being considered to meet the child or ward’s physical, emotional and educational needs, including the child or ward’s need to continue in the same school or educational placement;
- (d) Which person has the closest existing personal relationship with the child or ward if more than one person requests to have the child or ward placed with them pursuant to this section; and
- (e) The ability of the person being considered to provide a placement for the child’s or ward’s sibling who is also in need of placement or continuation in substitute care.

As a result of these complexities as well as additional ones that may include; age, gender, sexual orientation, language, race, behavioral, or medical needs it is necessary to have an adequate supply of Certified, trained and available foster families for children and youth across the state.

Oregon does not have a standardized methodology, nor do other states at this time, to determine what an adequate supply of available foster families within the community means. Developing a “Right-Sizing” model of an adequate supply of foster parents per community may help in recruitment of foster families, but developing a methodology that can take into account all the various factors of children, families, communities and Oregon statute may prove less than ideal.

Oregon often utilizes a simple approach of stating we need at least two foster homes for each child so there is some level of choice and matching abilities. If there are approximately 5500 children in family foster care with this approach in mind Oregon would benefit from having roughly 11,000 foster families available for the care of children. That would be an increase of an additional 7,119 families from the current pool of 3,881 families certified on 9/30/16.

5. What would it take to get to 100% of the workload model?

<u>Classification Types</u>	<u>Total</u>
Office Specialist 2	88
Principal Exec./Manager C	38
Social Service Specialist 1	134
Social Service Assistant	27
Office Manager 3	10
Human Services Specialist 3	10

GF \$42,317,593
FF \$14,064,622
TF \$56,382,215
307 positions
307.00 FTE

All priced at step 2 for 24 months with a 75%GF /25%FF match which assumes no availability of new TANF. Includes S&S.

6. Please provide an overview of Differential Response.

Oregonians agree that children who stay safely at home with their families have the best chance to thrive. Children are safer and families stronger when DHS, communities and families work together to identify and provide for the families' needs as early as possible.

Differential Response is a family centered approach for families struggling with issues of child abuse or neglect. Differential Response includes two tracks, an Alternative Response and a Traditional Response.

In all counties in the state, whether they are practicing DR or not, when Child Welfare receives a report defined by law as child abuse or neglect and the report requires assessment by the department, a response timeline of 24 hours or 5 days is assigned. Safety decisions are made in all counties (those practicing DR and those who don't) through completion of a comprehensive CPS assessment based on the Oregon Safety Model.

In counties practicing DR, after the screener determines a report meets criteria for assignment, as defined by Rule, they then make a determination on whether the report is assigned as a Traditional or an Alternative Response. Child Welfare Screeners make the track assignment decision based on information received from the reporter, a review of the CPS history, and information from collateral sources. However, an Alternative Response is encouraged for most cases that do not allege severe harm. Approximately half of the assigned assessments in DR counties have been assigned Alternative Response and of those approximately 10-15% have switched to Traditional Response when needed.

What's the same in both Alternative and Traditional Response?

1. Safety, Permanency & Well-Being of Children
2. Family focused
3. Strengths based through engagement
4. DHS, Community and Family Partnership
5. Comprehensive CPS Assessment of reported concern
6. Identification of moderate to high needs
7. Assess family strengths and needs
8. Provision of services post-CPS assessment after case is closed when 6 & 7 apply
9. Unsafe children are protected through child welfare intervention

What are the differences between AR and TR assessments?

Alternative Response	Traditional Response
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Reports do not allege severe harm	Reports allege severe harm
Joint first contact with support person/community partner offered	N/A
More often allows for pre-arranged contact with families	More often requires unannounced contact
No disposition	Disposition of founded, unfounded or unable to determine
No central registry entry	Central registry entry for founded disposition

Alternative Response provides more opportunity to partner with families and community to solve family issues related to abuse and neglect. Removing dispositions and recognizing family as the experts of their own families are two parts of Alternative Response.

When child protection workers are assigned a case of abuse or neglect in the Alternative Response, they generally call ahead to set up a time to meet with the family to complete a comprehensive safety assessment to determine if the child is safe. The family will be asked if there are any people of support they would like to accompany the CPS worker on the first visit.

The Traditional Response is for the most serious reports of child abuse or neglect. These cases also receive a comprehensive safety assessment. A finding as to whether abuse or neglect occurred must be made.

Whether the assessment is Traditional or Alternative, when the child is determined to be safe and the family is determined to have moderate to high needs, a service provider may also assess the family’s strengths and needs in order to help the family determine what services and community connections may be helpful to them after the CPS assessment is closed. Moderate to High Needs means: The child(ren) are safe but the family conditions, behaviors or circumstances are likely to have a negative impact (not judged to be severe) on the child’s physical, sexual, or emotional/behavioral development or functioning over the next year without intervention. And that short-term targeted services can reduce or eliminate the likelihood that negative impact will occur.

When a child is found to be unsafe in either response, DHS will work with families to protect children. Foster care is the last resort and is used only when attempts to keep children safe at home have been exhausted.

There are some optional components of the CPS assessment process in Differential Response.

They are:

- whether the family opts to have a support person at the first visit with family or beyond;
- whether the family opts to have a Family Strengths and Needs Assessment conducted with a community service provider when their children have been determined to be safe and their family has moderate to high needs; and
- whether the family, with safe children and moderate to high needs, wishes to be connected to services in the community either paid by child welfare or not.

For visual depictions of the differences and similarities between Alternative Response and Traditional Response CPS Assessments in Differential Response counties please go to:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/CHILDREN/DIFFERENTIAL-RESPONSE/Documents/Flowchart-Ar.pdf>

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/CHILDREN/DIFFERENTIAL-RESPONSE/Documents/Flowchart-Tr.pdf>

In counties not practicing Differential Response, there is not the option to offer the Family Strengths and Needs Assessment or provide paid/contracted services to a family with a safe child and moderate to high needs after the CPS assessment is closed. In those counties, they may make referrals to non-contracted community services, but the CPS worker then closes the case because the children were determined to be safe therefore no safety threats for Child Welfare to continue to monitor and help manage.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric Luther Moore
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