



OREGON
Alliance
of Children's Programs

1 February 2017

Senate Human Services Committee
Hearing on SB 243 * 244 * 245 * 246 * 636

Chair Gelser, Vice-Chair Olsen, and Committee Members --

Please find three attached documents that we have submitted as testimony for this hearing:

- Alliance positions on the bills and requested amendments
- Impacts of recent statutory and rule changes on providers
- Programs closing because of “The 3 R’s,” Rates, Regulatory oversight, and Risk.

While we are requesting amendments to SB 244 and SB 636, we are focusing our testimony on SB 636. Our requested amendments do three things, bulleted below. Overall, they allow providers to focus on continuous quality improvement – an evidence-based process that will support greater safety outcomes for children and more competent staff who make fewer mistakes.

- Amend the definitions in Substantiated and Unsubstantiated and eliminate Inconclusive as a finding.
Note that in our conversations with the licensing entities named in the next bullet, none of them has a system of investigative findings like these, and nothing at all like Inconclusive. We think these licensing entities have effective systems of investigative findings that raise the competency level of individuals and provide greater safety for patients and clients in their care.
- Add Letter of Concern and Letter of Reprimand to the findings.
Note that these amendments are modeled on remedial approaches to mistakes made in other child and patient safety organizations (ie we have had several conversations with the directors of investigations at the Oregon Medical Board, Oregon State Board of Nursing and the Oregon Board of Licenses Professional Counselors and Therapists (which include psychologists)).
- De-link “substantiated” finding for an individual from licensing penalties for organization who did not have a substantiated finding. The organization should not be closed because of a staff error.
Note that a nurse med-error doesn’t close the clinic and deny care for patients; a drunk airplane pilot doesn’t shut down an airline; or a school bus driver who has an accident doesn’t close down transportation for school children.

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Please don't hesitate to be in touch with me regarding these amendments. We would be very happy to talk about what we have learned and why we think modeling our pathways on what other high standards of care and safety exist in Oregon for children and vulnerable populations.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Arenz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Janet Arenz, Executive Director

The Alliance is a statewide nonprofit representing \$235 million in programs and services which touch the lives of 100,000 children each year. Our forty-four members support children, youth and families in child welfare, foster care, juvenile justice, mental health, addiction recovery and prevention; as well as populations in programs and services with intellectual or developmental disabilities, or who in the runaway and homeless youth system.

This year is our 100th anniversary. Our membership started by caring for children in orphanages in 1917. Through the century we have had great learning in science, medicine and technology which brought us into a world where very sophisticated tools now help direct us. Yet community leaders, families and the children themselves remain the most important guides in the work we do.