

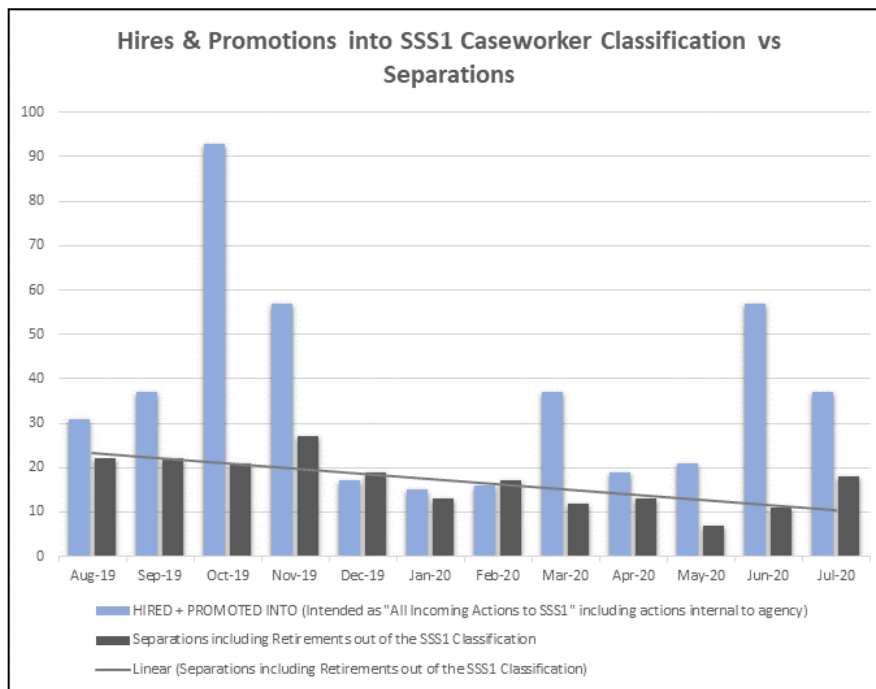
# Oregon Child Welfare Program Update

## House Interim Committee on Human Services – September 21, 2020



Presented by Rebecca Jones Gaston, MSW  
ODHS - Child Welfare Director

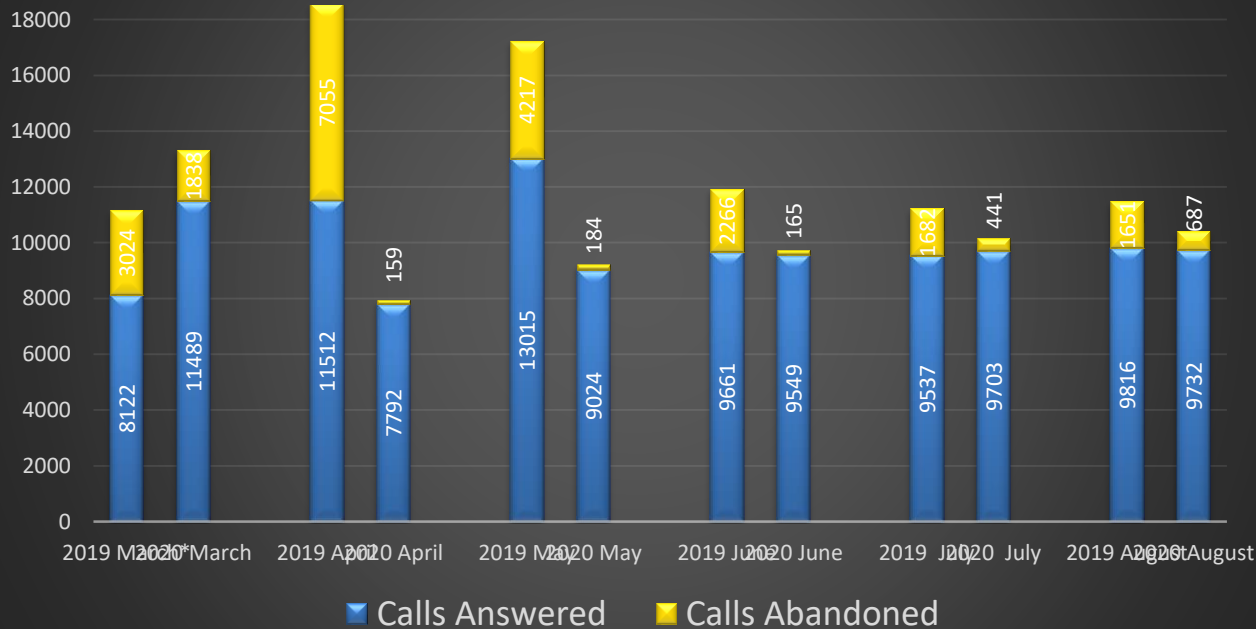
# Recruitment & Retention



- Despite barriers created by the pandemic, Child Welfare hired and trained more than 200 caseworkers since March.
- Fewer separations in the same time period, a net increase of over 118 SSS1s since the stay-at-home order.

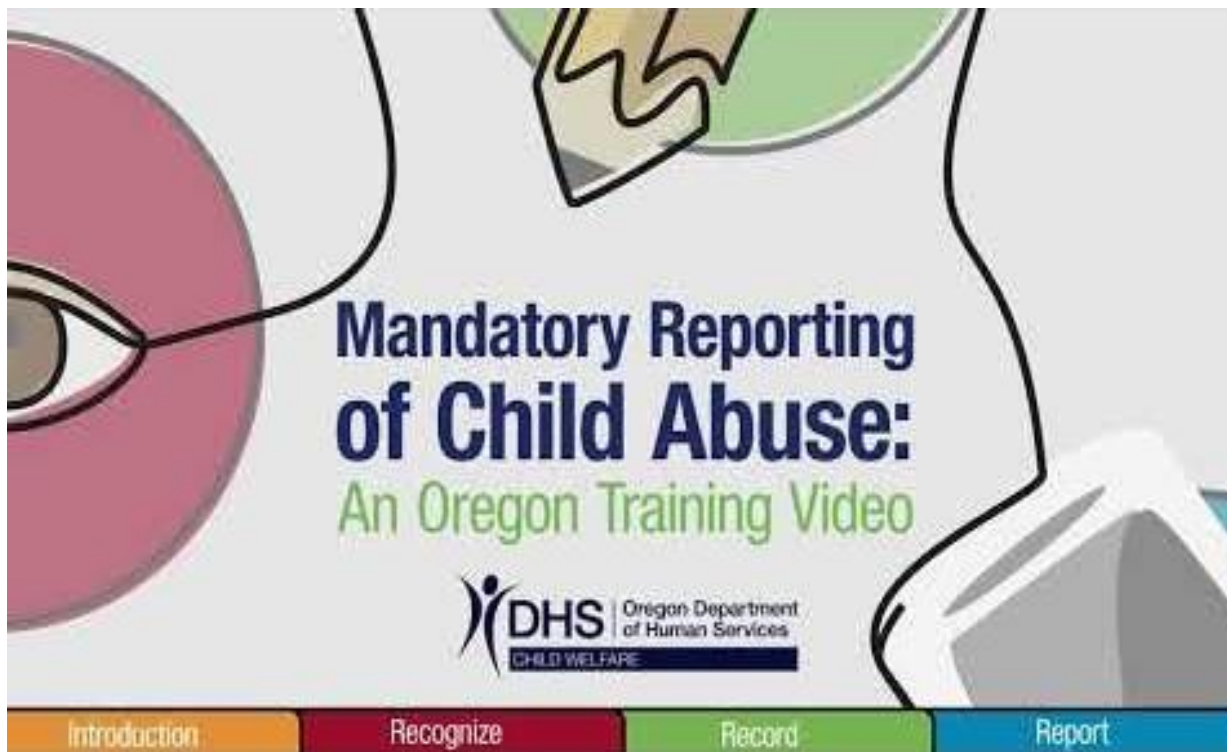
# COVID-19 Response: Hotline

ORCAH Call Volume March-August 2019 and 2020



- ORCAH completed statewide implementation on April 4, 2019 (March 2019 data does not include District 2-Multnomah County)
- Roughly 40% of calls received at ORCAH are not reports of child abuse or concern for child safety
- 78% of callers are mandatory reporters who had decreased contact with families during the pandemic
- Average wait time in August 2020 was 2.37 minutes

# COVID-19 Response: Hotline



- ODHS has collaborated and partnered with multiple stakeholders, internal staff and community partners to update all tools and resources for reporting child abuse.
- This summer, ODHS engaged critical mandatory reporters (educators, child abuse intervention centers (CAICs) and LEA) to provide input on training

# COVID – 19 Testing

## DHS Child Welfare COVID 19 Tracking - Testing for Children in DHS Custody

181

Number Tested\*

Awaiting Results

4

Negative

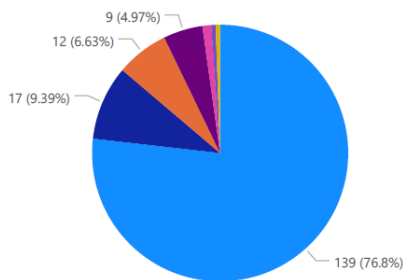
162

Positive\*\*

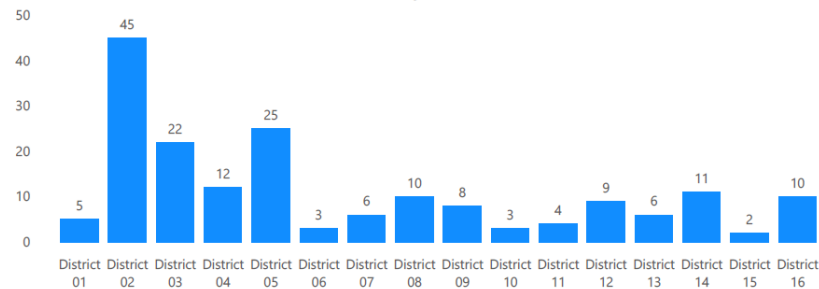
15

Race

• White • Black or ... • America... • (Blank) • Declined • Native ... • Unable t...

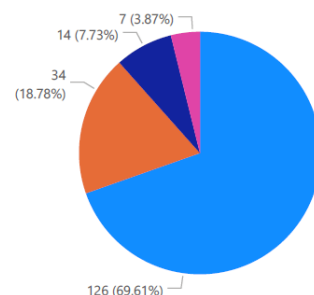


Tests by Location



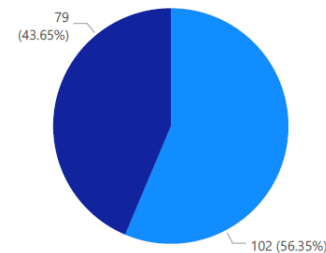
Ethnicity

• Non-Latinx • Latinx • No Response • Undetermined



Gender

• Male • Female



As of the morning of 9/16/2020:

- 181 youth in care have been tested for COVID-19

Of those:

- 162 have tested negative
- 15 tested positive
- 4 are awaiting results

\*Data indicates unique number of children tested - if child tested multiple times, data reflects most recent results \*\*Positive case is also represented on DD reports

# COVID-19: Wildfire Response

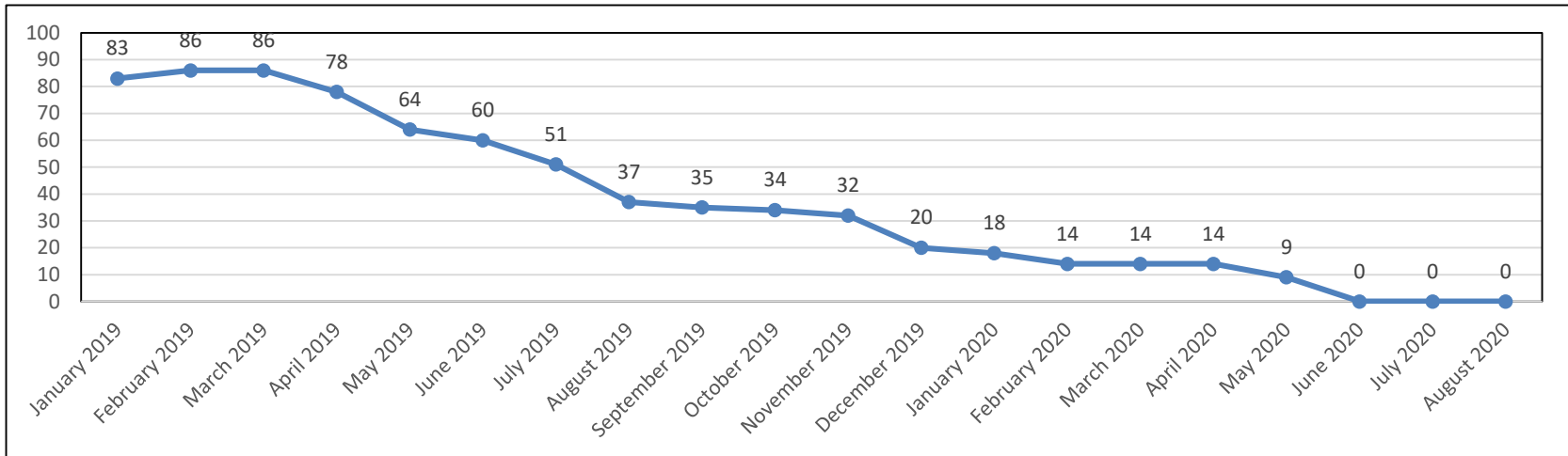
## **Impact to children in ODHS Care as of 9/16/2020:**

- Children impacted in Level 3 (“Go Now”): 95
- Children impacted in Level 2 (“Be Set”): 109
- Children impacted in Level 1 (“Be Prepared”): 676
  - These numbers include 9 counties; Clackamas, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Linn, Lincoln, Marion, Multnomah and Washington
- CW has contacted all evacuated families to assure those in level 3 zones evacuated safety, and is providing resources to impacted families.

## **Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS) Providers**

- Two residential providers were evacuated in the Clackamas and Molalla areas and have now been able to return to their primary locations.

## Out-of-State Placements of Children in Foster Care



- Oregon Child Welfare is proud to report that as of June 2020 there are no children placed in out-of-state programs.
- All children previously placed out-of-state were moved to appropriate placements within Oregon.
- This achievement is possible thanks to the support from the Legislature, Governor, and our system partners to increase Oregon's in-state treatment capacity.
- There are currently no contracted out-of-state residential treatment providers.

Questions?

For further information please contact:

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