



Oregon Network of
Child Abuse
Intervention
Centers

March 21, 2019

Chair Gelser
Vice Chair Heard
Members of the Senate Committee on Human Services

RE: Support for SB 1 and SB 221

The Oregon Network of Child Intervention Centers (CAICs) is a collaborative network of over 20 centers dedicated to ensuring quality, comprehensive services for all of Oregon's children who have concerns of abuse and/or neglect. When abuse has been reported or is suspected, CAICs provide a safe place where children can receive medical exams, forensic interviews, ongoing trauma-informed therapy, family support, and prevention services. We work closely with multidisciplinary team members and agencies serving each county – as outlined in ORS 430.747. These teams include local health department personnel, county mental health department personnel, designated medical professionals, law enforcement, department of human services, school officials, juvenile department representatives, child abuse intervention center staff, and others nominated by each local council.

The ONCAIC enthusiastically offers our support for SB 1 and SB 221, and would greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve on the Advisory Council outlined on SB 1, especially considering the diverse backgrounds of the children we serve and our rich history of collaborative efforts with our community partners.

We strongly feel that the proposed System of Care Advisory Council in SB 1, and the corresponding funding package in SB 221 will drive effective partnership and improve some underlying problems, such as lack of coordination and funding for programs that serve these vulnerable children and their families. We're especially supportive of the focus on cultural competence and cultural responsiveness and believe that embodying these goals will improve outcomes for all kids.

Our member Centers serve children from all backgrounds, and provide prevention, intervention and healing services to children and their families in communities across Oregon. When abuse is reported or is suspected, we believe every child should have access to experts no matter where they live. What we know though, is that children are slipping through the cracks every day, and oftentimes, do not have access to the "right care" that is needed for them to be successful. We agree with those supporting this bill that children will be well served through better statewide collaboration and a more comprehensive and strategic approach.

We often think of Child Abuse Intervention Centers as a community "hub" for children and their families—when there are concerns of abuse. The Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) response model works to ensure that effective and trauma-informed care of children and youth are at the



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center of all decision-making. Our services work to reduce trauma for kids by bringing all of the supportive systems to them, instead of putting the responsibility on the family to engage with all of the many services their child needs. When Centers are looking to expand or improve their services, they bring their ideas to the collaborative MDT who informs them of what the greater community needs.

At all levels we are built around prioritizing the experiences of children, in difficult and sometimes horrifying circumstances, and ensuring their experiences and needs drive the work of the professionals around them. Many of the entities who worked on these bills are important partners on their own local MDTs.

Notably, SB 1 and SB 221 offer support to youth that have been or will be accessing CAICs. Oftentimes, youth with specialized needs are victimized multiple times and access CAICs multiple times.

In recent years, CAICs have been expanding the services offered to include preventative services and services for healing, like trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TFCBT). Some Centers are offering therapy to youth who are not seen by the Center, but are dealing with trauma or grief and need specialized therapy. At the Network, we provide trainings to help expand expertise in the state, including Oregon Child Forensic Interview Training, and the advanced Project Ability training (for interviewing children with disabilities) and last year we focused on TFCBT with two training opportunities, and one advanced training on Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Problematic Sexual Behaviors held in December 2018.

We want to thank the advocates who worked extensively on these well-reasoned and crucial bills, and urge your support in passing SB 1 and SB 221. We know that these bills will result in better care for the children seen at our Centers and those who should be seen at Centers.

Due to our rich history of utilizing a collaborative approach built on the strengths of local communities across Oregon, as well as the necessary and expanding services we provide, we believe that a representative of the Network would make an ideal member of the System of Care Advisory Council. We think that a representative of the Network could fall under Section 2 (H) of SB 1: ***Three members who are representatives of agencies that provide different services and supports to youth and families of youth.*** We hope that we are granted the opportunity to participate in this important Advisory Council, and we thank the leaders who brought these pieces of legislation forward.

Sincerely,

Becky Jones
Executive Director
Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers