



CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON  
Fifteenth Judicial District

Martin E. Stone  
Judge

Coos County Courthouse  
250 N. Baxter  
Coquille, Oregon 97423

February 4, 2020

Dear Chair Sanchez, Vice Chair Bynum, Vice Chair Sprenger and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am the Presiding Judge of the Fifteenth Judicial District (Coos and Curry Counties). I write to convey our District's strong support of HB4040. A Family Treatment Court in Coos County could serve up to 30 families by providing wrap-around services for parents on the road to recovery and children at risk due to substance abuse and addiction at home. Those services would be supported by intensive judicial involvement and oversight of individual cases by our experienced juvenile judge and staff. Coos County has been identified as a pilot county for a Family Treatment Court and we are prepared to make that investment of resources with your support.

There is an acute need for tailored responses to parents who, due to addiction, place their children at risk and face the possibility of termination of parental rights. In Coos County, for example, we currently have 133 families who are in the juvenile court system, and of those 83 percent are touched by addiction in some way.

Family Treatment Court will provide an alternative to traditional case management in child welfare cases. Well-functioning Family Treatment Courts combine substance use treatment, child welfare services and judicial involvement under one umbrella. Treatment services tailored to the individual parents will be identified and offered. Court appointed advocates will be assigned for the children. A judge familiar with the case will monitor the progress of the parents and schedule regular case management meetings. Parents will have frequent check-ins with the judge to monitor progress and address barriers. Outcomes should include higher rates of participation in substance abuse treatment, family reunification and less time for children in foster care.

We have contacted many of the community partners who will be part of a Family Treatment Court, including DHS, ADAPT, CASA and defense attorneys, and they support the creation of this specialty court. If the legislature funds the program at the level our District has proposed, we should be able to adjust our docket so that our existing juvenile judge can oversee this specialty court.

I urge you to support HB4040. I am confident that investment in a Family Treatment Court will have positive results for families and our community.

Sincerely,

Martin E. Stone  
Presiding Judge