



Presentation to the Senate Committee on
Human Services, Mental Health and Recovery

CHILD WELFARE OVERVIEW

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Presentation Outline

- **Who we are**
- **Carrying out the Vision for Transformation Areas of Work**
- **Supporting families and promoting prevention**
 - Oregon Child Abuse Hotline
 - Safety
 - Permanency
 - Treatment Services
 - Interstate Compact Placement of Children
 - Youth Transitions
 - Independent Living
- **Our staff and data infrastructure**
 - Tribal Nations and ORICWA
 - Child Fatality Prevention and Review
 - Equity, Workforce Development and Training
 - Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System
 - Family First
- **Thank you/ Questions**

Who We Are

1. Highlights from the past biennium
2. Vision for Transformation

We are Child Welfare

- The Child Welfare Division's mission is to ensure every child and family is empowered to live a safe, stable and healthy life.
- ODHS Child Welfare Division is part of a larger statewide social safety-net system that works to support children and families and communities.



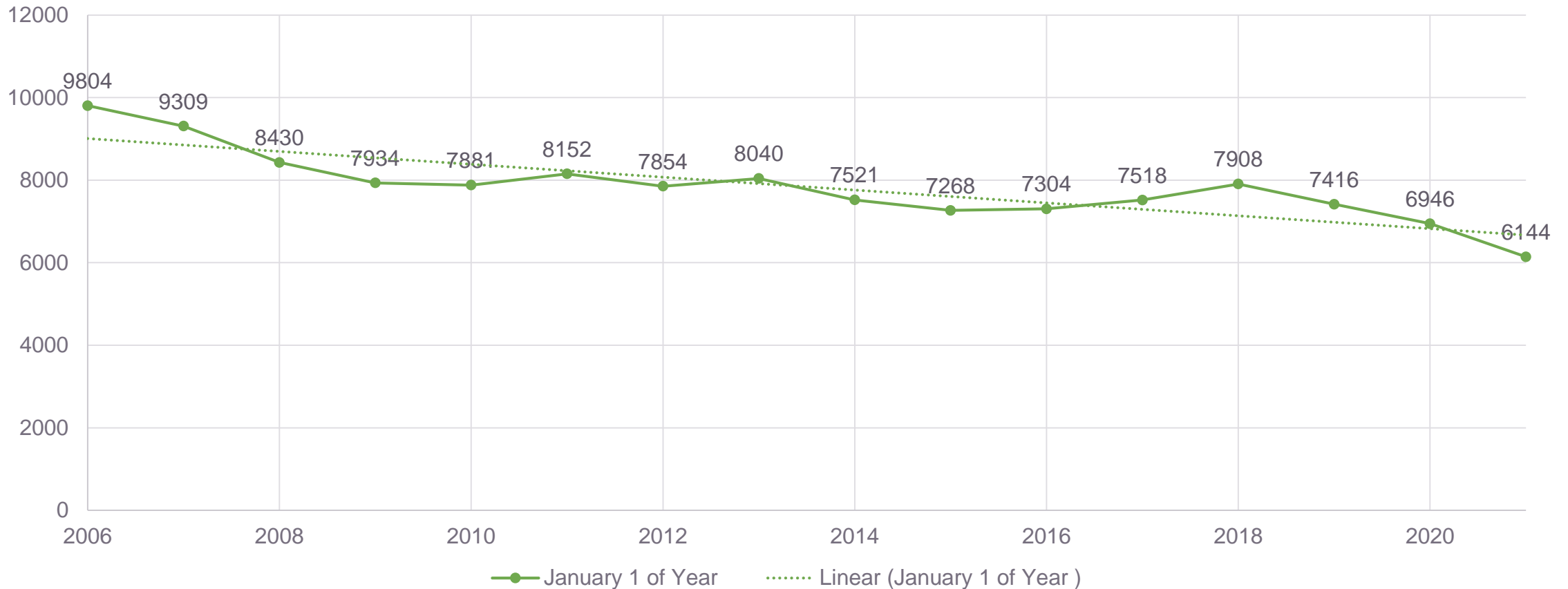
Child Welfare: Highlights (data as of December 31, 2020)

- Children in foster care remain on a downward trend (**6,296**) **lowest number in about 15 years**
- Children in out-of-state placements **remain at 0**
- Overall, the division's **caseworker staffing is at 91.47% of position authority**
- Average wait times at the Oregon Child Abuse Hotline (ORCAH) continued to stay low with an **average of 3.37 minutes** despite call volume increases.
- The use of Temporary Lodging has been **reduced by 66%** over the last 12 months.
- Launched the implementation of **ORICWA** (Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act)
- Created leadership role – **Deputy Director for Equity, Training and Workforce Development**



Lowest number of children in foster care in 15 years

Foster Care Caseload January 1 by Year



About the Vision for Transformation

- Vision for Transformation brings equity and an anti-racist lens to every aspect of our work.
- The Vision for Transformation is the spirit of what we believe the child welfare system can and should be in Oregon.
- We envision a child welfare system built on our mission, core values, and a belief that children do best growing up in a family and in their community.
- The Vision for Transformation was created through collaborative discussions with our workforce, community partners and Tribal Nations.



Three Guiding Principles of the Vision for Transformation

1. Supporting families and promoting prevention

2. Enhancing our staff and infrastructure

3. Enhancing the structure of our system by using data with continuous quality improvement



Carrying out the Vision for Transformation

1. Who we serve
2. How we serve

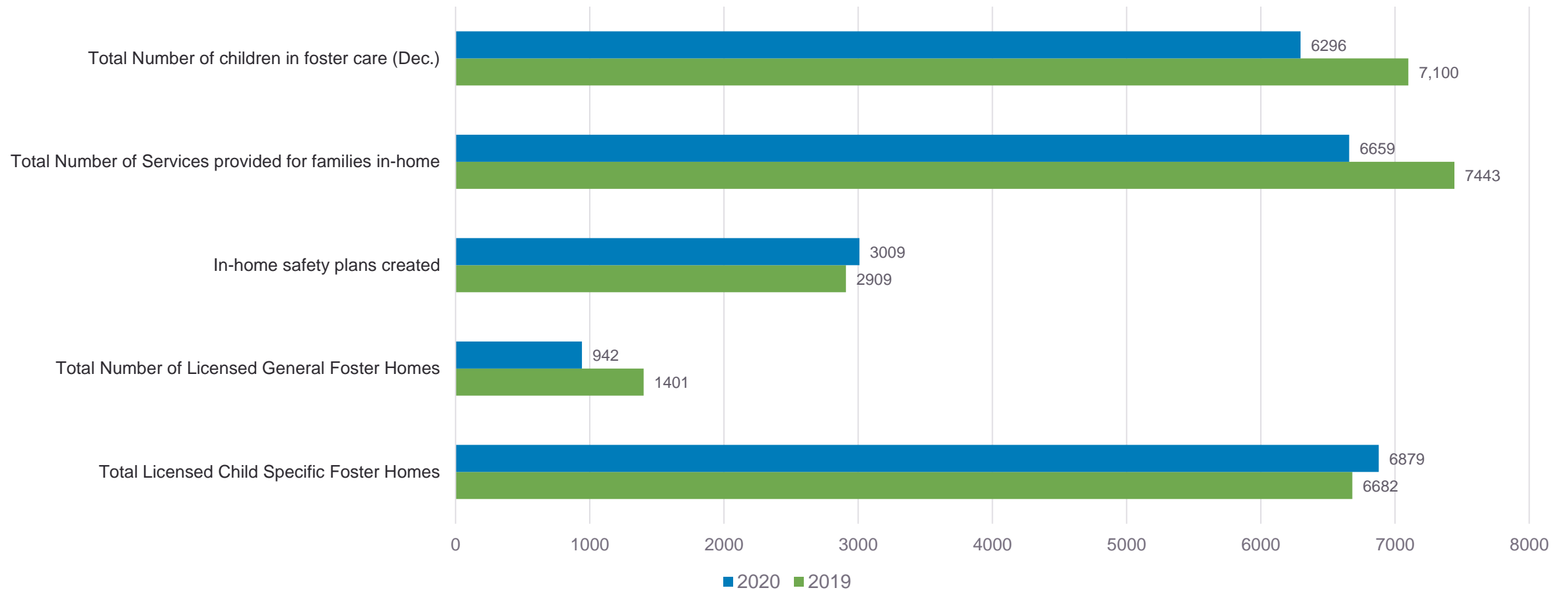
Who We Serve

- All 36 counties in Oregon
- Children and Young Adults
- Biological and Kin Families
- Foster Parents and Caregivers
- Community Partners
- Tribal Nations
- Providers



We provide services for children and families

Who We Serve and Services Provided (2019 and 2020)

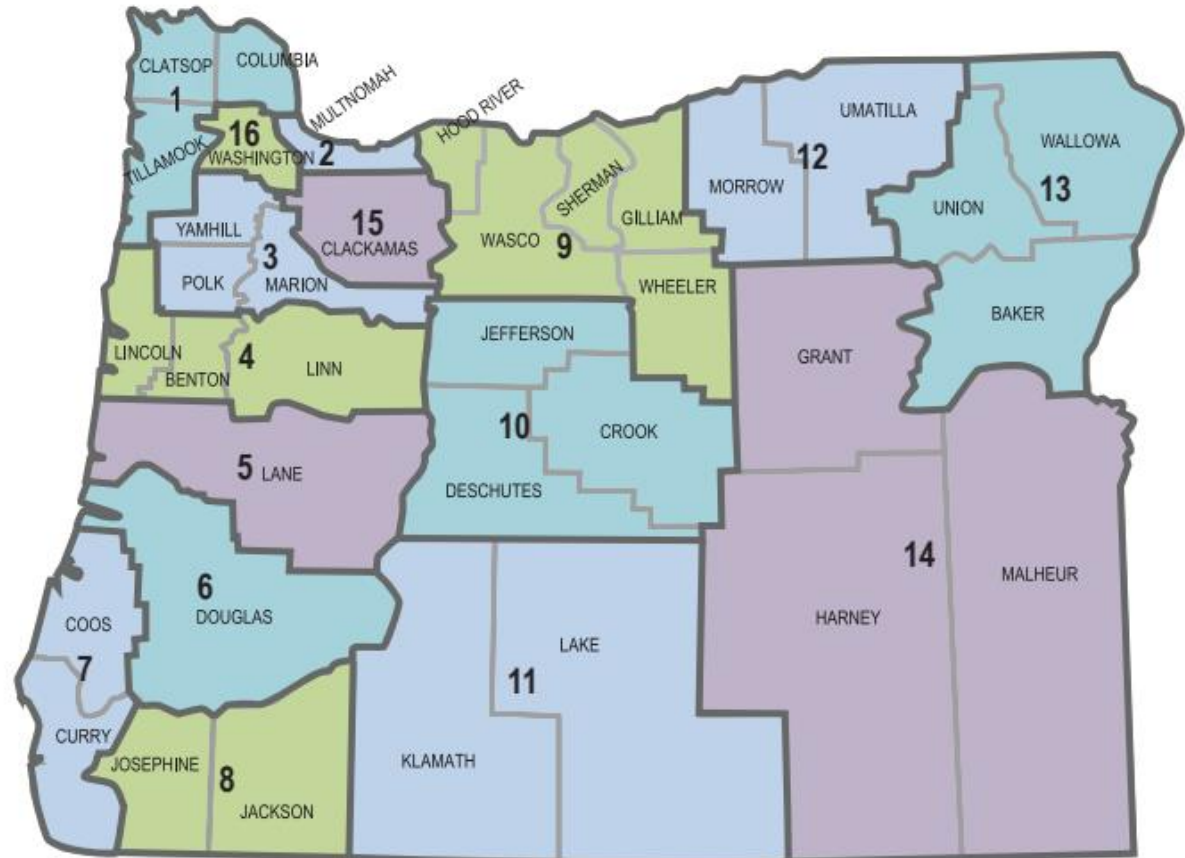


Child Welfare Division Core Areas of Work

Oregon Child Abuse Hotline	Child Safety: Child Protection Services	Permanency: Foster Care, Reunification, Adoption, Guardianship	Youth Transitions Program
Fatality Prevention and Review	Health and Wellness	Foster Parent Recruitment & Retention	Treatment Services
ICPC Interstate Compact for Placement of Children	Policy: State and Federal	Equity, Training, & Workforce Development	Business & Operations Contracts, ORKIDS

Staff Structure

- 3,223 authorized FTE from Legislatively Adopted Budget (2019-21)
- 74 offices including central, district, branch, satellite, and visitation locations
- Services provided by ODHS Child Welfare staff in partnership with community partners and organizations



Supporting families and promoting prevention

1. Oregon Child Abuse Hotline
2. Safety Program
3. Permanency Program
4. Treatment Services
5. Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children

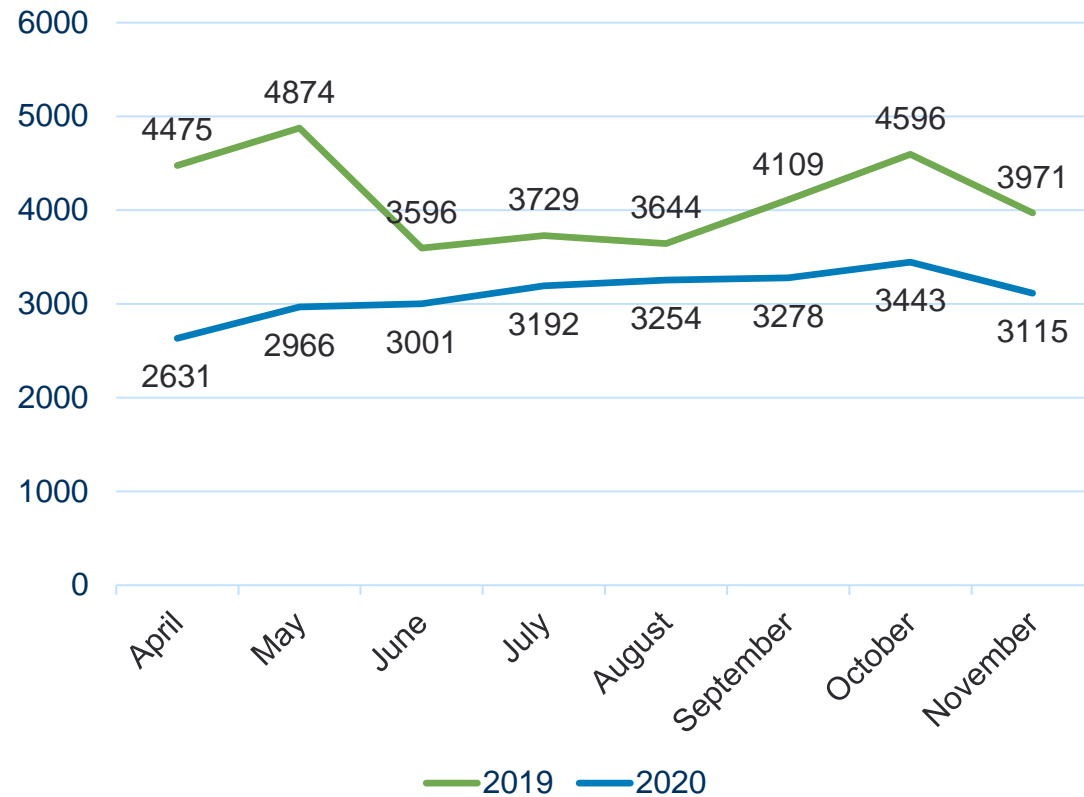
Oregon Child Abuse Hotline (ORCAH)

- First point of contact for community or people concerned about children's safety
- Educating mandatory reporters that poverty does not equal abuse
- Report child abuse at 1-855-502-SAFE (7233)

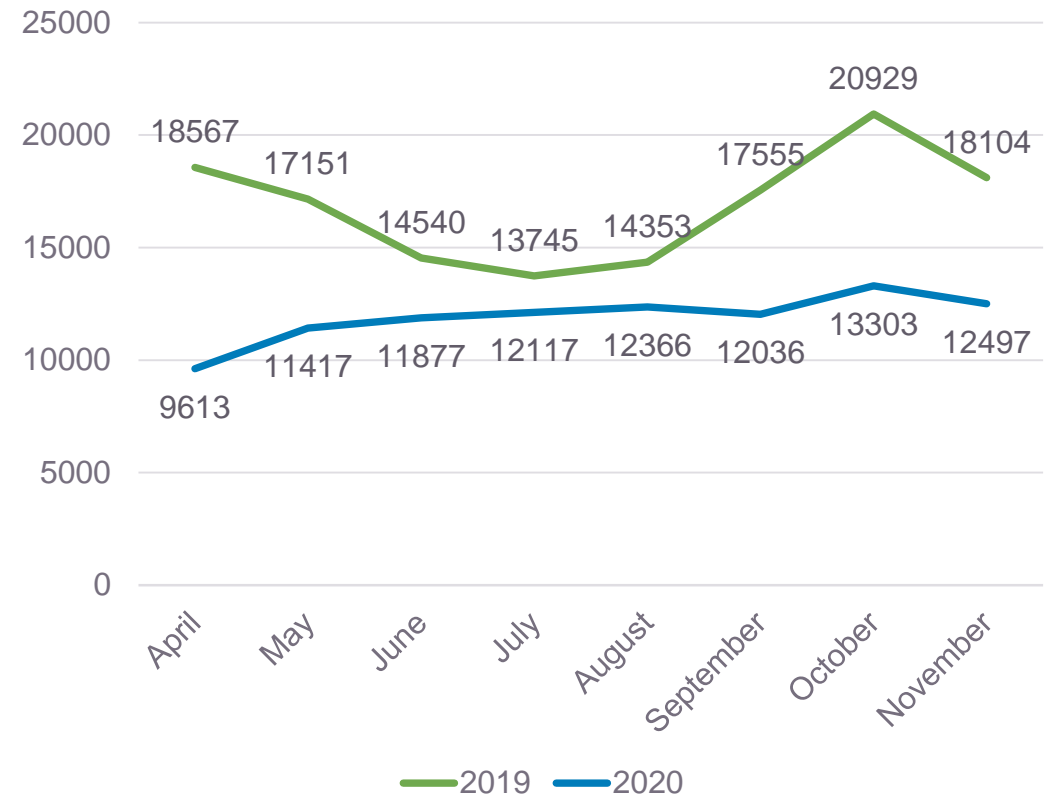


Maintaining Access to ORCAH

Assigned Screening Reports 2019 and 2020 April-November



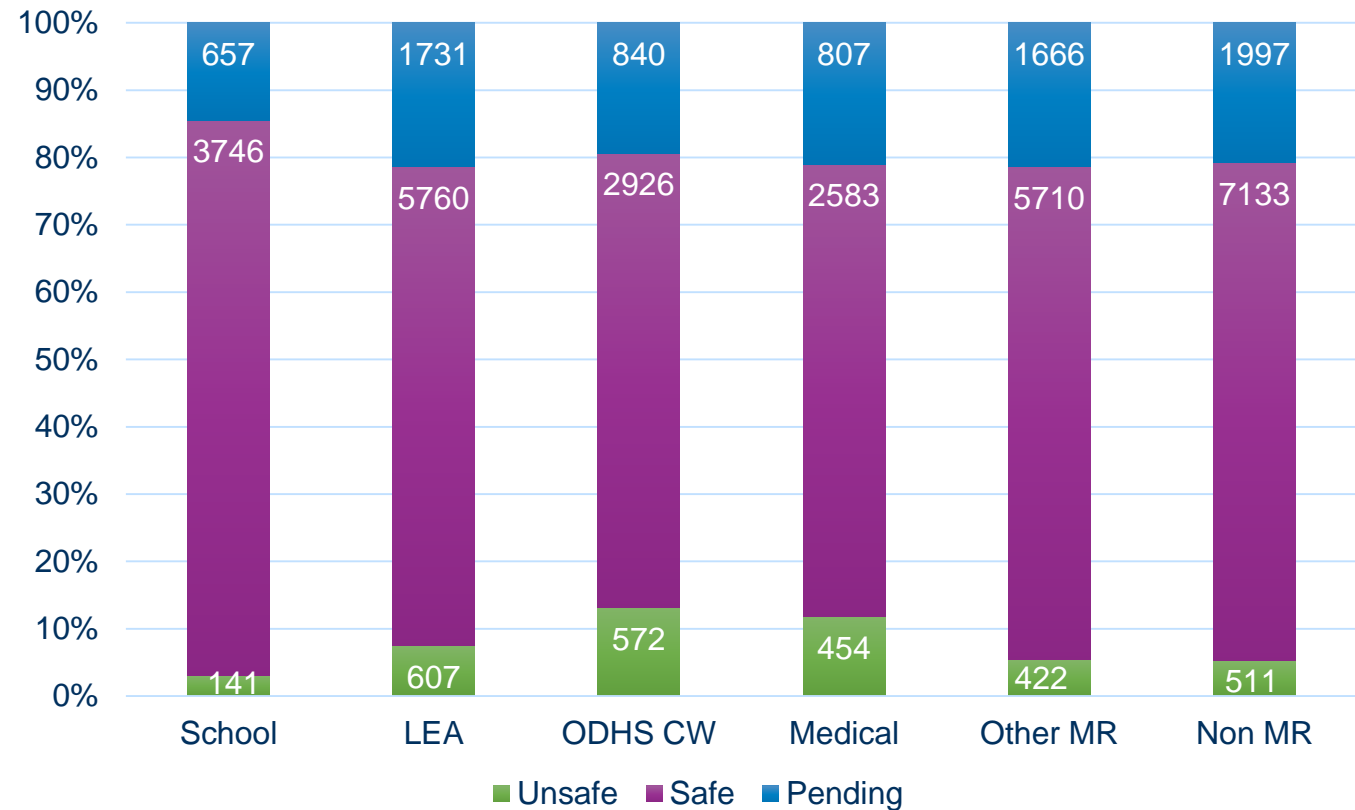
ORCAH Contacts 2019 and 2020 April-November



Safety Program

- Comprehensive **child safety assessments**
- **Goal is to keep child in a home** safely and provide supports to families
- **Foster care should be the last option for intervention**

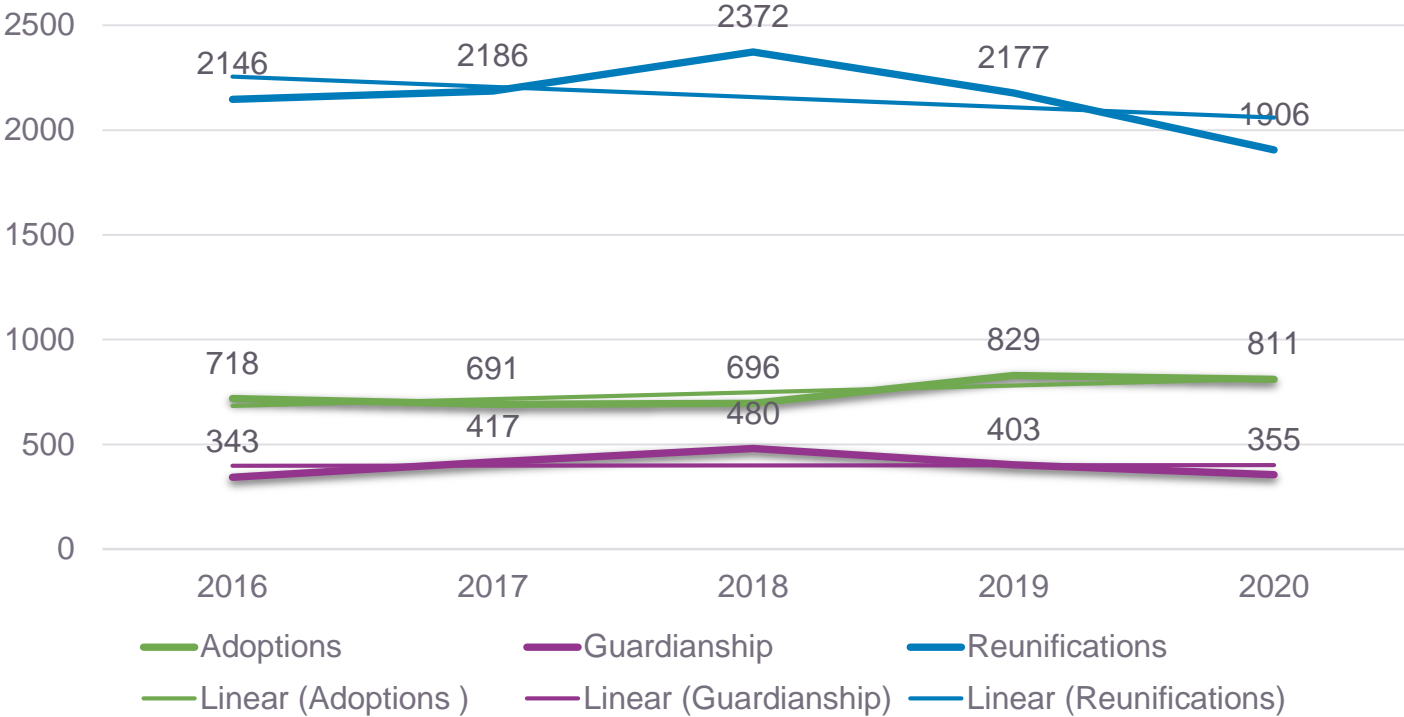
2020 Safety Decision by Reporter Type



Permanency Program

- **Supporting families in reaching permanency as quickly as possible**
- **Permanency looks like:**
 - A child reuniting with biological parent(s)
 - A child being adopted
 - A child being placed in guardianship
- **Post-Adoption Services**
- **Agency continues intentional focus on reunification and permanency.**

Finalized Adoptions, Guardianship and Reunification



Treatment Services

- **Treatment Services recognizes children who need higher-level behavioral health services need therapeutic supports where they live with families or through a treatment stay, when medically necessary.**
- **Services Include:**
 - Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS)
 - Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP's)
 - Community level shelter care.
- **Focused Opportunities for Children Utilizing Services (FOCUS)**
 - Services to support children where they live to meet the child where they're at to prevent disruptions to higher level care

Treatment Services Team

Residential
Resource
Consultant Team

Treatment
Program Analyst

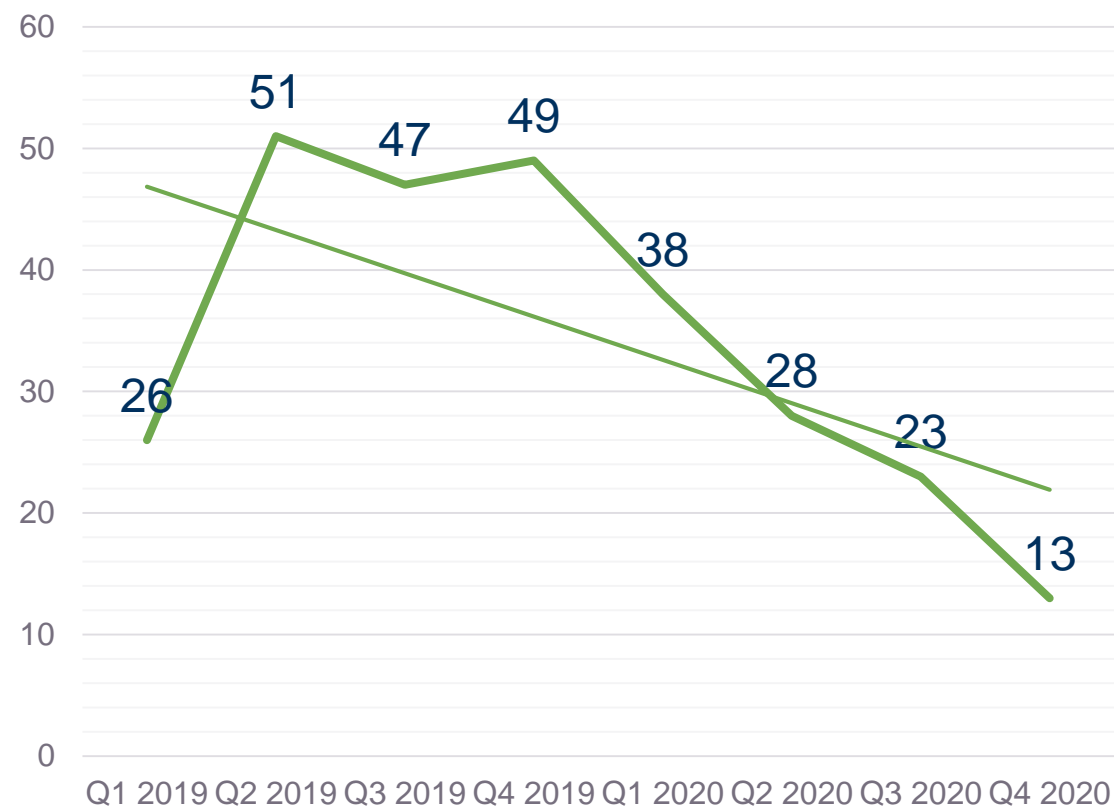
FOCUS
Committee

Logistics Team

Treatment Services

- **All children are now served in Oregon and there are no approved out of state providers.**
 - Contract with Sequel Youth Services was cancelled July 2020.
- **Worked to maintain bed capacity throughout 2020. Gained 25 beds with a net loss of 17 beds.**
- **Tailor expansions based on individual needs.**
- **Incredible effort to reduce use of temporary lodging.**
- **Several plans in 2021 to continue to shift to more in-home services.**

Quarterly Unique Youth Entering Temp Lodging



Independent Living Program

- **In the federal fiscal year, Oregon served:**
 - 1,753 youth in 2019
 - 1,572 youth in 2020
 - Working to connect teens and young adults with relational systems of support as they transition to living independently.
- **Additional support for young adults was provided during the COVID-19 pandemic**
 - Independent Living Housing Subsidy Program
 - Chafee Housing Program



Youth Transitions

- Programs for young adults transitioning out of foster care
- We help young adults with life skills such as:
 - Connections to life-long relationships
 - Getting an ID
 - Successfully graduating high school
 - How to pay taxes
 - Balance a check book
 - Getting into college
 - Financial Literacy
 - Getting an apartment (CHAFEE)

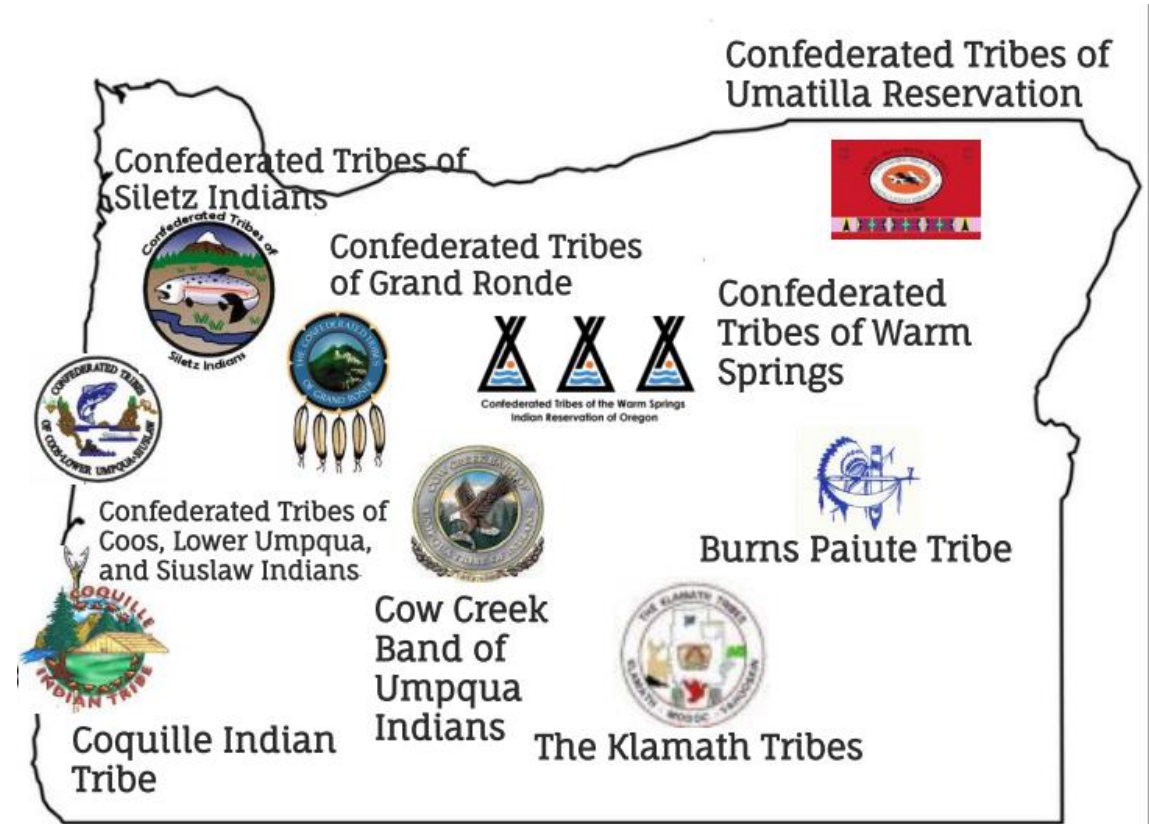


Our staff and data infrastructure

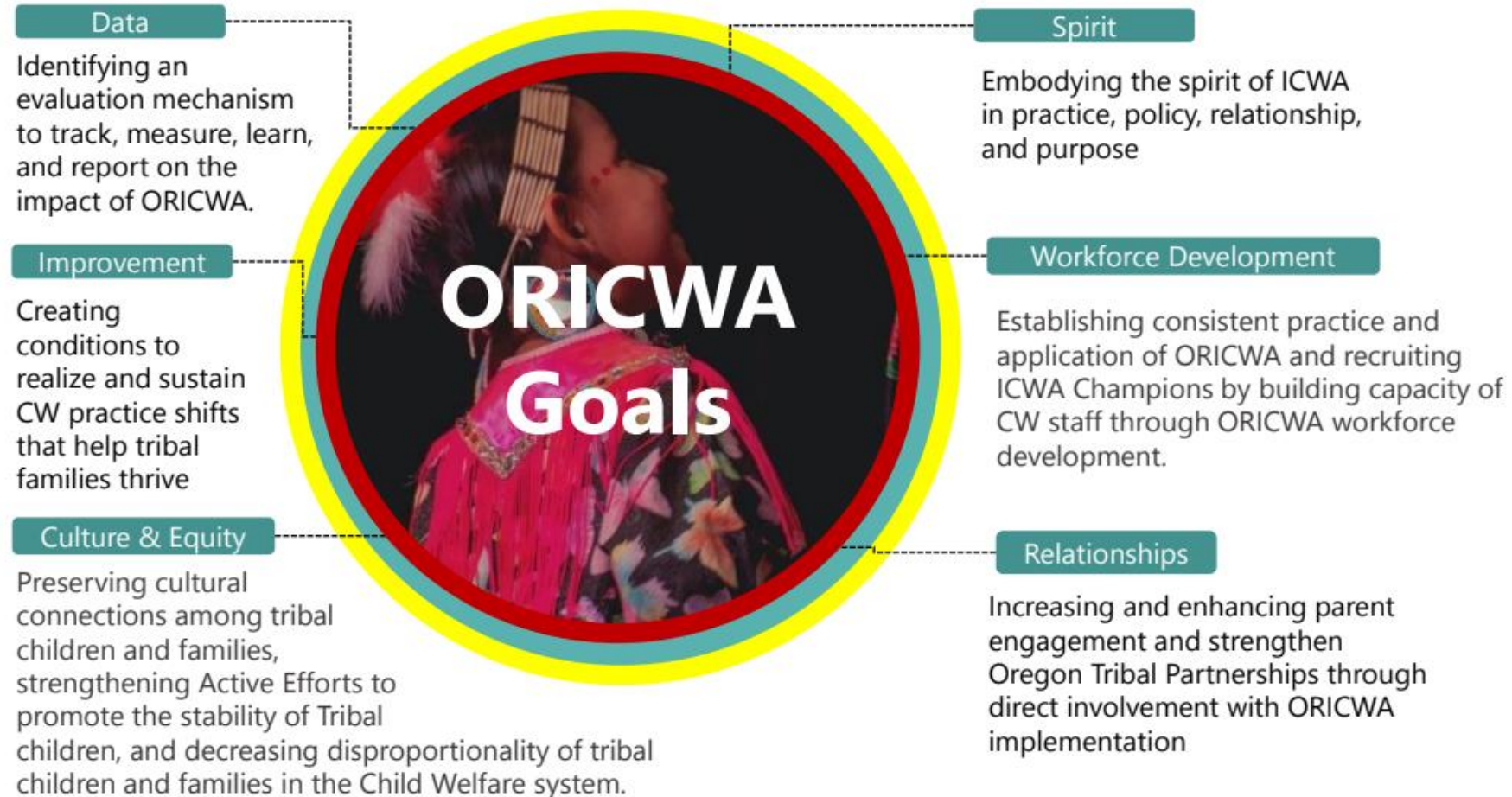
1. ORICWA and Tribal Nations
2. Child Fatality Prevention and Review Program
3. Equity, Workforce Development and Training
4. Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System
5. Family First Prevention Services Act

Partnering with Tribal Nations

- Honor and support our **Government-to-Government relationship**
- **Tribal Affairs Baskets of Work**
 - Tribal Consultations and Partnership
 - Program, Practice and Policy Development
 - Training and Capacity Building
 - Resource Management
 - Research and Data
- **Quarterly meetings with Indian Child Welfare Advisory Council**



Oregon Indian Child Welfare Act (ORICWA) began Jan. 1



Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC)

- ICPC program handles placements of children coming into and going out of Oregon.
- Despite barriers and slowdowns associated with the pandemic, Oregon ICPC kept the work moving even as some other states completely shut down their ICPC work.
- Planning for National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise (NEICE)



Child Fatality Prevention and Review Program

- **Child Fatality Prevention and Review Program**
 - New program implemented on February 1, 2020 to increase independence and transparency of child safety and fatality reviews through the Critical Incident Review Team (CIRT) process
- **Participated in the National Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management Conference**
- **Three large prevention efforts**
 - Safe sleep for infants
 - Suicide prevention
 - Responding to chronic neglect



Equity, Workforce Development and Training

- Intentional work to weave equity into all work and build capacity to lead with equity
- Focus on hiring and training Child Welfare caseworkers. Current caseworker staffing is at 91.47% of position authority
- POP: 16 FTE focused on equity, workforce well-being, training deliverables for staff and resource parents
- Workforce and Training Assessment and Planning
- Realignment with Portland State University
- Building internal training capacity
- Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)



Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) Implementation

- OR-Kids, the state's information - case management system, is being updated to meet the new federal CCWIS regulations
- Goal to improve ODHS Child Welfare's infrastructure and processes to better enhance and support our work force
- Monolithic Model → Module Model
- Complete transition scheduled for second quarter of 2024
- Partially funded by federal government, Administration of Children and Families (ACF)

CCWIS Modernization Program

CCWIS
certification
by ACF for
OR-Kids

Data
Quality
Program to
improve
accuracy

Easy to
Use/
Training
Program
for End
Users

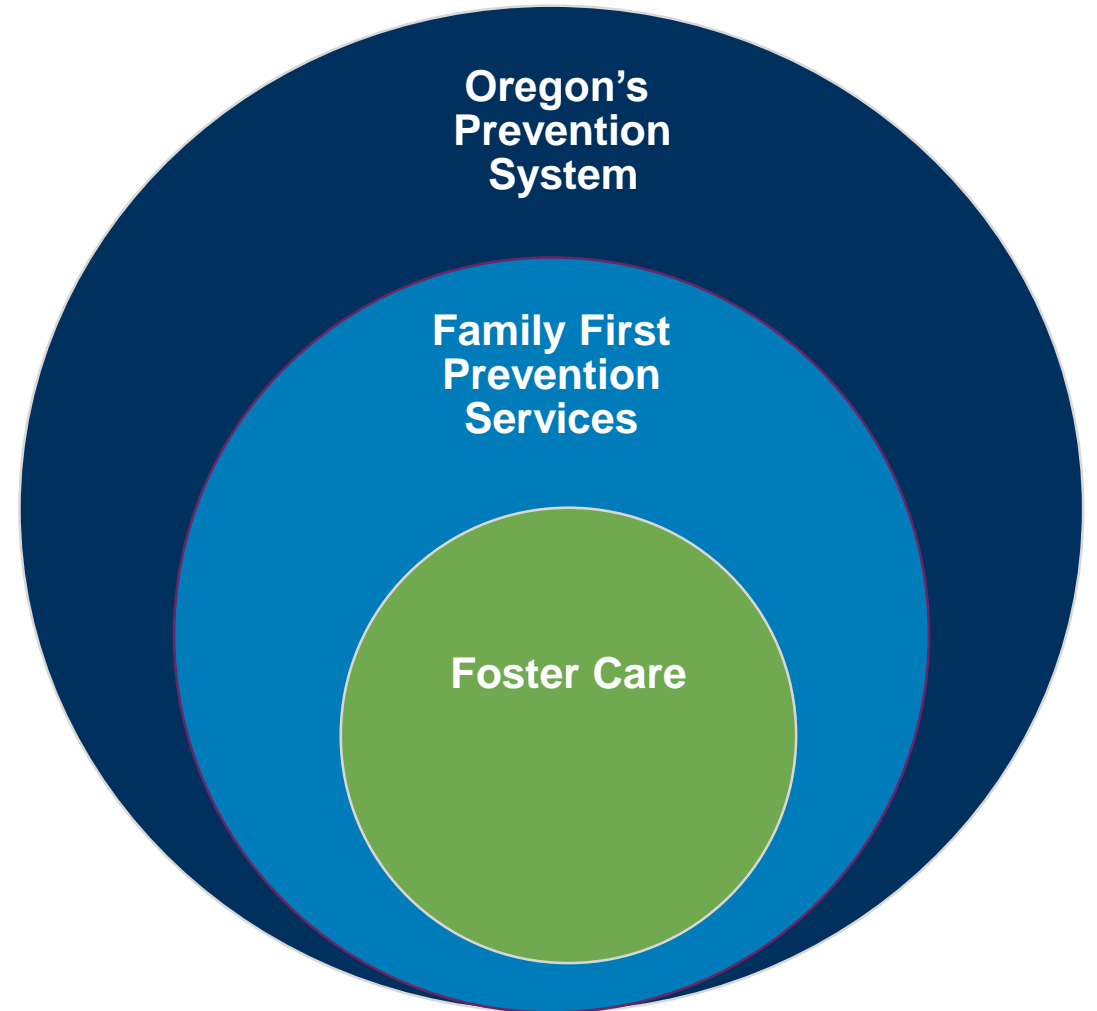
Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First)

- Federal legislation passed in 2018
- Expanding the use of Federal Title IV-E funding to include services to prevent the need for foster care
- Also created specific requirements for congregate care placements
- Submitted Oregon Family First Prevention Plan for federal review in November 2020



Family First Within Oregon's Prevention System

- Oregon's Child Welfare transformation is built on trauma-informed, family and community-centered and culturally responsive services focused on engagement, equity, safety, well-being and prevention
- One tool to support Oregon families
- Cross-agency prevention system
- Build infrastructure to serve children at home with their families



Choosing a path forward





Thank you
