



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



**Oregon Department of Human Services**

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February 1, 2021

Representative Anna Williams, Chair  
Representative Gary Leif, Vice Chair  
Representative Ricki Ruiz, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Human Services

Re: Follow up from the January 27, 2021 ODHS Informational Meeting

- 1. Request:** Representative Noble requested data on reporting volume to the Oregon Child Abuse Hotline given the pandemic.

**Response:** The attached Comparisons Reporting Sources 2019-2020 report covers that information. Early analysis showed a dramatic drop in calls to the hotline. However, after significant outreach to mandatory reporters the volume of reports increased significantly. Examples of this outreach are included below and are available at: [Family Wellbeing Assessment](#) and [Guidance for Helpers in a Virtual Environment](#).

- 2. Request:** Representative Noble requested an update on ODHS Child Welfare hiring efforts for caseworker positions, which started before COVID-19.

**Response:** Hiring efforts have continued and overall, ODHS Child Welfare caseworker staffing is at 91.47% of position authority. Further data showing the hiring and separation trends is attached and titled SSS1 Workforce Data.

- 3. Request:** Representative Noble requested information on how trauma being experienced by the ODHS Child Welfare workforce is being addressed.

**Response:** ODHS Child Welfare is addressing trauma in the workforce using the Critical Incident Stress Management evidence based model. Through this model trained facilitators coordinate both group and individual support sessions for all classifications of ODHS Child Welfare staff across the state. Facilitated peer support promotes connections and understanding between participants to address trauma and stress. Through this process, the types of trauma impacting staff have been collected and include; isolation and loss of connection with others, racial injustices, political concerns, workload, and general overwhelm. This information is informing continuous improvement efforts in order to address issues and retain the workforce.

- 4. Request:** Representative Sanchez asked for a comparison of 2019 and 2020 Temporary Assistance for Domestic Violence Survivors (TA-DVS) program data and the impact COVID-19 has had.

“Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe”

**Response:**

- From July 2019 – June 2020, there were 5,784 families approved for the TA-DVS program with 3,608 families using payments to support their safety plan. On average, families used \$982 of their \$1,200 grant.
- From July 2018- June 2019, there were 6,689 families approved for the TA-DVS program with 3,818 families using payments to support their safety plan. On average, families used \$893 of their \$1,200 grant.
- Factors contributing to underutilization of grants include the difficulty of finding housing within the eligibility period and restrictions on the funding. Some of those restrictions include prohibiting the grant be used to cover legal fees, paying ongoing or reoccurring costs, or the purchase of vehicle.
- When stay-at-home restrictions were implemented in March 2020, the TA-DVS Program experienced a decrease in domestic violence cases. This does not mean that there is less domestic violence or that it has decreased in severity. In fact, of the reports we are getting, the severity has increased, which may be a result of victims having less opportunity to seek help. We have enclosed a document titled TA-DVS Data in Relation to COVID-19 that breaks down data from March to October 2020 and provides comparisons between 2019 monthly data and 2020 monthly data.

- 5. Request:** Representative Noble asked for information on ODHS Vocational Rehabilitation partnerships with non-profits in Polk, Marion, and Yamhill Counties.

**Response:** Partnerships are core to the work of VR as services are individualized to help each eligible person receive services that are essential to their employment success. It is this individualized approach that means a tailored network of non-profit and business partnership opportunities unique to each community.

Specific to the communities in Polk, Marion, and Yamhill Counties VR has existing partnerships with the following nonprofits that operate in these regions.

Alliance Services – Providing Attendant care and employment services.

Henderson House – Providing outreach and support for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

MV Advancements – Providing residential and employment opportunities to adults with disabilities.

Provoking Hope – Providing addiction recovery and wrap around services.

Project ABLE – Providing peer-to-peer support for individuals recovering from mental health and co-occurring issues.

Youth Opportunity Program – Which operates the Chehalem Youth engagement program for youths age 16-24.

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