

Memorandum

PREPARED FOR: Senate Committee on Rules and
Executive Appointments

DATE: September 10, 2024

BY: Leslie Porter, Legislative Analyst

RE: Legislative Review of Executive Appointments



GOVERNOR'S CHILD FOSTER CARE ADVISORY COMMISSION

The Governor has appointed the following individual to the Governor's Child Foster Care Advisory Commission, subject to Senate confirmation:¹

New Appointee

Alex Island of Portland

Term

October 1, 2024 – June 30, 2028

Statutory Authority

[ORS 418.041 \(2023\)](#).

Statement of Economic Interest²

Not required.

Composition³

The commission consists of 13 Oregon residents, including:

- current or former foster parents and foster children, (HAWASH, RICHARD);
- family members of current or former foster parents and foster children;
- biological parents involved in the foster care system;
- representatives of organizations that advocate issues of concern to the foster care system (ALEXANDER, HEISLER);
- representatives of entities with experience and interest in, and responsibility for, the provision of care to children in the foster care system (**ISLAND**, TOURÉ, STEFFANY, WELCH);
- members of the Oregon State Bar with expertise in family and juvenile dependency law (DREHER);
- representatives of law enforcement and district attorneys;
- former employees of the Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Authority and Department of Justice, who were responsible for the administration and oversight of child welfare and foster care systems, including former caseworkers and former court appointed special advocates (SALAZAR);

¹ [Or. Const. art. III, sect. 4](#); [ORS 171.562 and 171.565 \(2023\)](#).

² [ORS 244.050 \(2023\)](#).

³ [ORS 418.041 and 418.043 \(2023\)](#); [ORS 182.100 \(2023\)](#) for affirmative action policy; [ORS 236.115 \(2023\)](#) for diversity criteria.

- Judicial Department representatives (HARRIS-JAQUOT); and
- representatives of federally recognized Indian tribes and organizations serving Native Americans.

Appointees serve four-year terms. Any Judicial Department member is appointed by the Chief Justice and serves at their pleasure. The commission meets at least once every three months. The commission selects its chair and vice chair.

Duties⁴

The commission advises the Governor and the directors of the Department Human Services (DHS), the Oregon Health Authority, and the Oregon Youth authority, and makes recommendations for legislation. It also studies and reports on:

- legal and policy issues;
- accountability measures and outcomes;
- improving internal DHS operations;
- improving the availability of foster care and finding alternatives to foster care;
- the promotion of responsible statewide advocacy for children in foster care; and
- ongoing review of foster care providers and barriers to providing quality care.

The commission also considers reports, findings, and recommendations that have been or will be issued by legislative and agency task forces, work groups, and committees that have undertaken to study, review, or oversee the foster care system. It also establishes advisory or technical committees to aid its work and adopts rules to carry out its function.

⁴ [ORS 418.044 \(2023\)](#).



Governor's Child Foster Care Advisory Commission

Agency: **Governor's Office**

Policy Area: **Human Services**

Authorization: **ORS 418.041**

Board Admin: **Ellyn Bell**

Min Members: **11** Max Members: **13**

Address:

Term Length: **4** Term Limit: **2**

, **OR**

Senate Confirmation Required?: **Yes**

Ellyn.Bell@odhs.oregon.gov

Current Appointments

Salazar, Deian JA Term(s): **2/16/2024 - 6/30/2027**

Position Number: **1**

Alexander, Malik Term(s): **7/1/2024 - 6/30/2028**

Position Number: **3** **2/16/2024 - 6/30/2024**

Ms Harris-Jacquot, Megan L Term(s): **9/28/2022 - 6/30/2026**

Judicial Representative

Position Number: **4**

Mr Dreher, Casey S JD Term(s): **4/19/2021 - 4/18/2025**

Member of OSB

Position Number: **5**

Steffany, Seema Term(s): **2/16/2024 - 6/30/2027**

Position Number: **6**

Mr Toure, Mamadou Term(s): **7/1/2022 - 6/30/2026**

CASA Representative

Position Number: **7** **3/1/2021 - 6/30/2022**

Mrs Heisler, Pamela L Term(s): **7/1/2022 - 6/30/2026**

Member of an advocacy org related to foster care

Position Number: **8** **11/25/2019 - 6/30/2022**

Hawash, Jessica Term(s): **2/16/2024 - 6/30/2027**

Position Number: **9**

Richard, Alicia A Term(s): **5/14/2021 - 5/13/2025**

Former Foster Youth

Position Number: **10**

Welch, Jamie Term(s): **9/28/2022 - 6/30/2026**

Nonprofit Providers Representative

Position Number: **11**

Island, Alex

Term(s):

10/1/2024 - 6/30/2028

Lived experience w/guardianship and the family court system

Position Number: **13**

Vacant Positions

Pos	Former Member	Appointed By	Term Begin	Term End
2	Gallo, Nick	Governor	9/28/2022	6/30/2026
2	Dr Powell, Tracy M PhD	Governor	11/25/2019	6/30/2021
2	Mr Wagner, William "Bill" R	Governor	7/1/2017	6/30/2021
2	Mr Wagner, William "Bill" R	Governor	12/19/2016	6/30/2017
Pos	Former Member	Appointed By	Term Begin	Term End
12	<i>No prior appointments</i>			