

Subject: RE: OIS training outside DD
Date: Monday, December 4, 2023 at 8:15:07 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: Scott Sleeman
To: Sen Gelser Blouin
CC: Sarah Ramirez, Ruth Walton, Pat Allen-Sleeman, Shockley Caitlin, Lymburner Melissa, Carole Searle, Tina Desouza, OIS

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Hello Senator Gelser Blouin

Thank you for sending me your concerns and questions. I appreciate the opportunity to discuss and bring clarity to the program Dynamic Life.

In April I was approached by an Independent Instructor (this classification allows O.I.S. Instructors to teach to multiple entities) about using our curriculum with a program that supports children with significant mental health issues and some who are intellectually developmentally disabled (the program was Dynamic Life). The information I was given was that Dynamic Life staff would be working with these children who would be possibly living together in the same living arrangements or staff would be working with both populations. I stated that I would need to get consultation as O.I.S. is contracted and funded through ODDS. After discussing with ODDS and the O.I.S.-Steering Committee (a body of professionals that provide assistance to the O.I.S. Project), I believed that allowing Dynamic Life to utilize our General Level curriculum to teach to their staff would benefit the children they were supporting. This curriculum is a minimum of a 12-hour workshop over two days and is based in Positive Behavior Support and Person-Centered Practices. The Physical Skills Techniques taught in this workshop involve body mechanics, Evasion and Escape Techniques. There are no restraints taught in this level of our curriculum.

On Friday, November 17th, I was informed that Dynamic Life was restraining children, with O.I.S. Protective Physical Interventions (restraints) without those techniques written into a Positive Behavior Support Plan. In addition, I was told that the Independent Instructor that had approached me in April was the individual providing this instruction to Dynamic Life. I immediately forwarded this information to the Chair and Vice-chair of the O.I.S.-SC and contacted the Instructor. I placed this information on the agenda for the O.I.S.-SC meeting being held Tuesday, November, 21st. I also requested the instructor to attend to discuss their decision/behavior of teaching Protective Physical Skills (PPIs) to Dynamic Life staff without those techniques being approved by the O.I.S. Project, the O.I.S.-SC, or written into Positive Behavior Support Plans. In the discussion with the

O.I.-SC, the Instructor in question also had a District Manager from Child Welfare attend. The Instructor stated they had received approval from DHS to teach the restraints to Dynamic Life. The O.I.S. Project does not work directly with any other State entity other than ODDS. No other State entity had communicated with myself, the Project Manager, in utilizing these O.I.S. PPI techniques. If someone from those State entities would have communicated with me, they would have immediately received the response, absolutely not. In addition, the Instructor in question knew they should have communicated with me on what they were being told they could provide to Dynamic Life staff. That communication did not occur.

The outcome of the O.I.S.-SC discussion with the Instructor was to immediately suspend their ability to teach any further workshops. The O.I.S.-SC also informed the Instructor and the Child Welfare representative in attendance, that all O.I.S. PPIs taught to Dynamic Life staff were immediately to stop and that all staff were to be issued a General Level Certificate which does not allow them to use PPIs (restraints). During this discussion, the O.I.S.-SC learned that there were two other Independent Instructors providing training to Dynamic Life. The following day we sent those Instructors an email directing them to immediately stop any further workshops with Dynamic Life. The O.I.S.-SC also requested they attend the January O.I.S.-SC meeting to discuss the direction they were provided in teaching these workshops. The January O.I.S.-SC meeting is the 16th of the month.

I want to assure you Senator that what this Instructor chose to provide to Dynamic Life is not supported in O.I.S. values, principles, or evidenced practices that we teach within the O.I.S. system. All PPIs within the O.I.S. curriculum that are taught to staff working with children are within the direction of SB 710, which is also now a Statute. Placing a child in a headlock or dropping them to their knees is absolutely not within our curriculum. As for the wall, we only use a wall for **support** if the staff cannot manage the child without a stable surface. In addition, all O.I.S. Instructors know that teaching PPIs to staff working with children must have a Functional Behavior Assessment and a Positive Behavior Support Plan before those techniques may be utilized with a child. The O.I.S. system has worked diligently in assuring our system is in compliance with the Statute.

Again, thank you for communicating with me. If there is any concern I have not addressed, please let me know and I will clarify further.

Thank You
Scott Sleeman MA, NADD-CC, CCTP
Project Manager
Oregon Intervention System (O.I.S.)

From: Sen Gelser Blouin <Sen.SaraGelser@oregonlegislature.gov>
Sent: Saturday, December 2, 2023 2:14 PM
To: Scott Sleeman <ssleeman@asioregon.org>
Subject: OIS training outside DD

Dear Scott,

I hope this email finds you well.

I have a constituent (a child) who has been in the care of an organization called Dynamic Life. The child is not currently DD Eligible and the child does not have a behavior evaluation or a behavior support plan. Nonetheless, the child has allegedly (according to the child's advocates) been placed in at least 6 restraints in less than a month. Reportedly, this included a headlock, dropping the child to the knees and the use of a wall. These were described as OIS approved restraints which did not make any sense to me for a variety of reasons—including that I thought any intervention taught by OIS must be connected to an intervention plan.

One of the leaders of the organization that is credited with their training and with leading their "psych program" is someone I know as worked in the DD system and that I believe is a certified OIS instructor. When I asked ODHS if OIS had authorized training for physical interventions with kids in a non-DD setting I was told that permission had been given. (It's worth noting that the setting in which this occurred was certified foster care—a setting in which the use of physical restraint is prohibited). I expressed my confusion about this. I was also confused as what was described wasn't consistent with SB 710 or OIS philosophy as it related to the physical actions themselves or the level of escalation/danger that led to the restraints. Further, my understanding was that ODHS approved OIS training as previously constituted which did include the very specific restrictions about who could be trained in physical interventions, which children/adults could be subject to those interventions and who could provide that training.

I wanted to check in with you to see if there has been a change in OIS standards as it relates to requiring behavior evaluations and behavior support plans before any physical intervention is implemented? I also wanted to be sure that you were aware that this organization is using the name of your program in describing its own qualifications. Do you place any requirements on your certified instructors as to who they may train? Is there any oversight of the award of certification to those who take training besides the individual instructor? In other words, is it possible there are other people that are certified that are training in ways that are not consistent with OIS but are offering certificates to people that may cause regulators to believe they have qualifications they do not?

Here is a recent article about the program: <https://www.opb.org/article/2023/11/20/oregon-foster-care-children-sent-to-unlicensed-short-term-rental-homes-millions-for-religious-nonprofit/>

Thank you!
Sara

Senator Sara Gelser Blouin

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Senate Majority Whip

Chair, Senate Human Services Committee

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