



Jackson County Collaboration in Support of Families

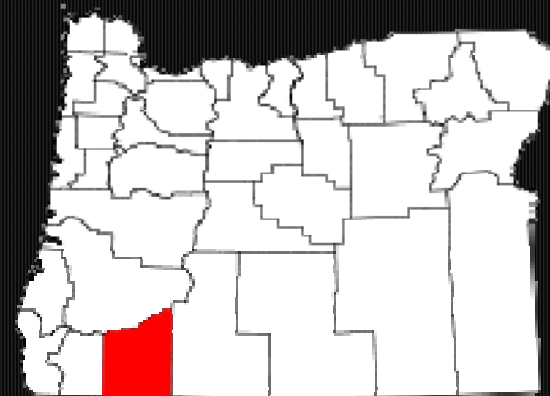
Putting the Pieces Together
September 2011

- Honorable Patricia Crain
 - Pam Bergreen
 - Rita Sullivan, Ph.D.

OREGON: Area 98,381 sq. miles
Population: 3.8 million



JACKSON COUNTY OREGON
Area 2,802 sq mi **Pop 203,206**



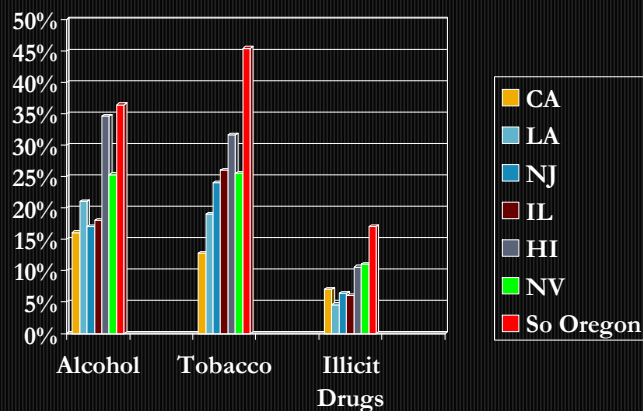
Substance Abuse

- One of the primary reasons that parents become involved in the child welfare system and foster care.
- National estimates average 70% linking abuse/addiction to child welfare involvement.
- In Jackson County 80% of cases filed result from parental substance abuse.

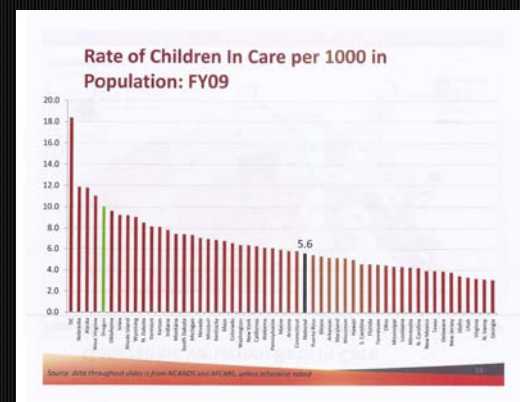
Use in pregnancy

- Southern Oregon pregnant women ranked among the highest among the 40 States involved in 4P Screening for using substances harmful to fetuses
- 55 percent of women screened used harmful substances during pregnancy (Chasnoff 2010)

National vs. Local Rates of Positive Screens



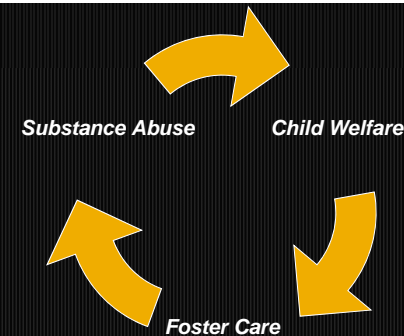
Oregon Foster Care Rates Relative to the Nation



Why keep children with substance abusing parents?

- Most children will be returned
- If not, moms will likely have another child
- Little changes with separation other than degrading the parent/child relationship
- Growing concern about the number of foster care placements with greater understanding of the poor child outcomes results

Breaking the cycle



An Investment In Recovery

Chemical dependency is treatable, but to be successful treatment must:

- be comprehensive and relevant
- be immediate
- be of sufficient duration and
- support the individual/family through the recovery process.

Our New System of Care is Predicated on the Notion That:

Parents who can enter treatment more quickly and who are supported by the court, child welfare and treatment systems during their substance abuse treatment, are more likely to successfully complete treatment and remain with, or be reunified with, their children.

Attachment

Maintenance of parent/child attachments are critical for both the positive outcomes it produces and the avoidance of the negative impacts that occur when attachments are disrupted.

Cost Savings of Treatment

By even the most conservative estimates, **\$1** invested in treatment returns **\$5 to \$7** in savings growing out of reduced drug-related chronic unemployment, crime, child abuse, domestic violence, medical expenses and other costly social problems.

A Last Resort

- Clearly, childrens' best interests lie in the preservation of their attachment ties, and repeated ruptures of such ties constitute a severe trauma (Y. Gauthier et. Al, 2004)
- Fostering a child is always the last resort decision because of the potential trauma to the child, including infants.
- A fostered child normally should keep contact with the biological parents to whom he or she should return as soon as possible, except when contraindicated due to serious concerns about the child's safety.

Negative Effects of Foster care



- u Higher rate of PTSD than combat vets
- u Higher degrees of incarceration
- u Poverty
- u Homelessness
- u Suicide
- u Drug Abuse
- u More detrimental than remaining in a troubled home.

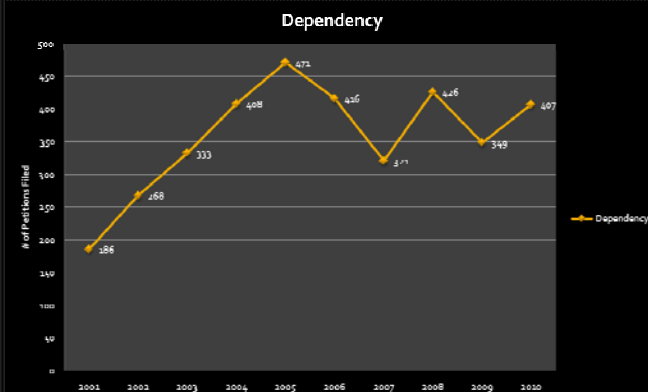
Separation damages

- Foster children frequently suffer from developmental delays; severe behavior problems often lead to repeated displacements in addition to the separation from the biological family.

Intergenerational impacts

These experiences, when carried into adulthood, are expressed in the form of: chronic attachment disorders, faulty acceptance of social conventions, diminished capacity for bonding as parents, and repeated cycles that place the next generation of children at risk.

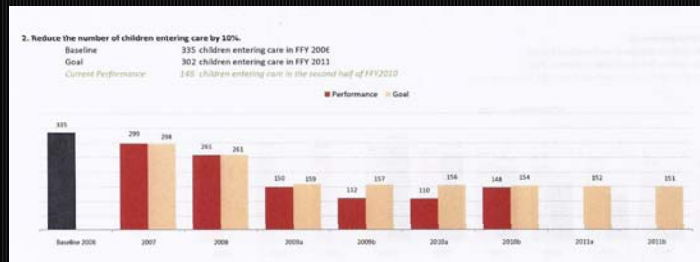
Jackson County Dependency Petitions, 2001-2010



Foster Care Reduction

- Despite the increase in open cases we have reduced foster care consistently with safety between 45 and 50 per cent over 2007 rates.
- Currently -- 230; 2007 -- 460

Jackson County – Children entering care



How did we do this?

- Leadership
- Legislative interest
- Collaboration
- Housing opportunities
- 2 ACF Grants
(housing, dyadic treatment, pairing treatment and child welfare staff on investigations, attendance at shelter hearings, etc.)

Leadership

- Jackson County had leaders willing to listen to what we were learning about children and foster care.
- They then became champions to change the way children are handled in the child welfare system.

Legislative Interest

- Find a legislative champion and work with her/him in developing a legislative understanding of the financial and human benefits over time.

Collaboration Partners

Our efforts are conducted in partnership with:

- Child Welfare
- OCF (Walker)
- OnTrack
- The Courts (Dependency)
- Family Nurturing Center
- Foster Parents Assoc.
- CASA
- Commission on Children and Families
- Public Defender and District Attorney
- Media

Deliberate and strategic collaboration to:

- Achieve what we knew could not be realized in isolation.
- This has required not an inward view, which we have all been paid to do – to look at how we survive to reach our goals. Instead, we have looked outward and found the power of working together.

Collaboration: First step

- Identify the goal as one that all partners are willing to fight for.
- For us, it was to improve permanency outcomes for children.
- This led to the development of common outcomes, which we cannot achieve without everyone's input.

Collaboration: Second Step Form an Advisory Committee

- Must be composed of top level staff who can make needed system changes and find ways to remove or move around barriers to accomplish outcomes.
- Must represent all partners contributing to the outcomes, whether paid for in the grant or not, and with equality.
- Cannot overstress the importance of this, because --

Collaboration: Third Step Need support at all levels

- Managers not only make decisions, but are connected to, and can influence:
 - Community members/agencies
 - State level administrators
 - The legislature

AND

- Very importantly, they can disseminate data, which is required to keep local and statewide partners interested and moving the project forward.
- Demonstrating progress toward outcomes empirically is the best motivator we know to keep high level management engaged.

Cross Pollination

- We all know the power in others carrying your message for you.
- This allows us to reach multiple constituent groups at multiple levels.

The Right Time

- We had a very high placement rate.
- We had a very high substance abuse rate.
- We had core resources that could be expanded and enriched.
- The Community Family Court reinforces our efforts.

Confluence of factors, including:

- Oregon's Child Safety Model
- New leadership in DHS and state Child Welfare Division
- Two of Southern Oregon's legislative delegation were in powerful leadership positions.
- We have an supportive Bench and a very effective Community Family Court.
- We have an incredible Child Welfare branch.
- Award of two federal grants from the Children's Bureau.

RPG and Family Connections

- **Preservation:**
 - *The Regional Partnership Grant*
- **Reunification:**
 - *The Connecting Families Grant*

Two Fundamental Goals

- **Front-end intervention:** Implement services that will allow our Child Welfare staff and judges to keep children safely together without any period of removal.
- **Family connections:** If children **must be removed**, keep the biological parents substantively involved in the child's life while learning to be good parents.

RPG Grant Targets Preservation

Services include:

- Case Management
- Mental Health
- Child dev. assessments
- Bonding and attachment work
- Family reunification plan
- Reconnecting Families
- Visitation Center services
- Health screening/monitoring
- Center/home-based child therapeutic interventions
- Contingency fund

Family Connections Targets Reunification

Services include:

- Case Management
- Mental Health
- Child developmental assessments
- Bonding and attachment work
- Family reunification plan
- Reconnecting Families
- Visitation Center services
- Health screening/monitoring
- Center/home-based child therapeutic interventions
- Contingency fund

Child Welfare Staff

- Were committed to family-centric care before the grant.
- Have embraced *Partners in Parenting* as a universal model for the practice of foster care for all children.
- Understand that child outcomes are dramatically improved when families are preserved or reunited as soon as safety concerns permit.

OCF-Walker Fund Partnership

- Provided funding for critical core services of:
- Home Program Beds
- Whole Family Beds
- Healthy Babies Outreach
- From which ACF funding was leveraged

Treatment Provider: OnTrack, Inc.

- We have long term relationships within these partnerships
- HOME and DADS – parent with child residential treatment
- Whole Family
- Emergency Housing/Permanent Housing

Front-end efforts to keep families together

- Treatment specialists go out with Child Welfare workers.
- In collaboration, Child Welfare and Treatment staff develop a service plan.
- Staff attend shelter hearings and ask the judge to support the plan.

Judicial Support

- Our judges were an insulated and neutral 3rd party until treatment courts allowed them to step out of the box.
- This paved the way for our permanency efforts. Our judges would not have felt as comfortable participating if treatment courts had not provided an experience wherein their roles were very different from those in traditional courts.
- The treatment courts were a prerequisite that allowed judges to become team players in this project.

Giving judges options

- In order for our efforts at remaking systems to work, we have to give the judges the service options required to implement new practices under new philosophies.
- They have to be willing to “force” system change...and are in the position to do it.

Family Nurturing Center Services

- Developmental assessment and child/family based intervention services

Partners in Parenting – Mentoring Foster Care



OnTrack is partnering with Child Welfare to recruit and train foster care parents who will agree to work closely with biological parents in those cases in which children must be temporarily removed.



CASA

- Provides ongoing support to the child and family throughout the process.
- Reconnecting Families – identifies family members who may be of assistance.

Public Defender

- Immediately recognized the value in this process for clients.
- Helped craft policies and practices that protected clients, while moving system changes forward.
- Joined the Advisory Committee and remains active.

District Attorney

- Works on clinical solutions with us in Court.
- Joined the Advisory Committee and has remained active.
- Contributes solutions to legal "barriers."

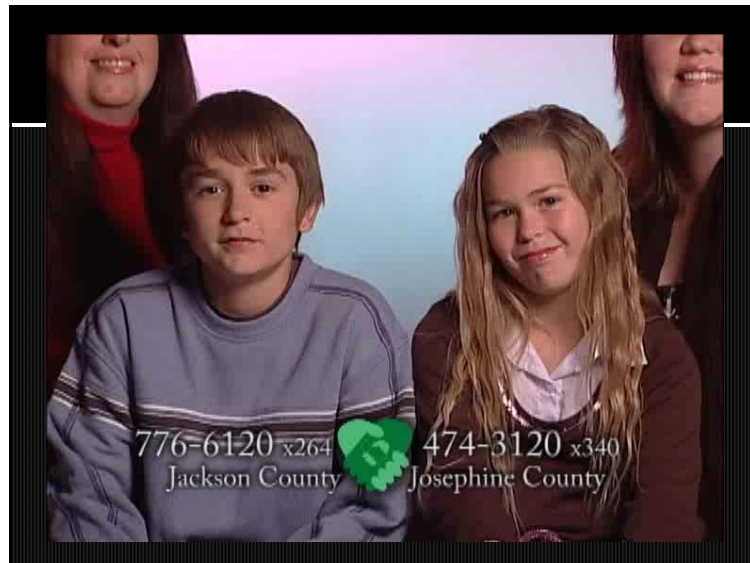
Media

- KOB Channel 5 started the Southern Oregon Meth Project, which won a national broadcaster's award for community service.
- The station has invested extensive resources into creating and broadcasting messages that align with and promote our goals.

Media also.....

- KOB Channel 5 matched us for every spot we bought to get the message out in general, and to recruit for Partners in Parenting.
- The station placed spots at the best times possible (i.e., during the Olympics) and committed the best talent to the project.





Housing – Core

Realizing the importance of safe and sober housing, OnTrack has developed:

- Emergency housing – King Street and 11th Street Apartments
- Transitional housing – Grape Street, Alan's House/Fairfield Place, Parallel House, West Main Apartments
- Permanent homes – Stevens (50 units) and Sky Vista (63 units)

King Street Emergency Housing



Treatment housing – Whole Family



Grape Street Transitional Housing



Permanent housing – Sky Vista



Stevens Place



Where do we go from here ?

- Increase housing units
- Increase number/ types of families served
- Trauma informed system of care
- Foster care mentors

Generations



Sustainability

70th OREGON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY-2011 Regular Session

Senate Bill 964

Sponsored by Senator BATES, Representatives BUCKLEY, ESQUIVEL, RICHARDSON; Senators KRUSE, MONNIES ANDERSON, MORSE, SHIELDS, WINTERS, Representatives FREEMAN, GREENLICK, THATCHER, THOMPSON

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Requires Department of Human Services and county partners to implement Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families programs to provide family preservation and reunification child welfare services. Allows department to enter into contracts with and make payments to eligible programs. Directs department to seek federal approval to access federal savings accrued as result of reduction in costs of foster and substitute care to reinvest in programs under Act. Includes programs' services in definition of "purchase of care."

Creates Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families Program Fund. Continuously appropriates moneys in fund to department for specified purposes.

Requires department and juvenile court to include in reasonable efforts considerations and determinations whether preservation and reunification services provided by programs are most likely to prevent or eliminate removal of child from child's home or most likely to make it possible for child to safely return home.

Requires department to adopt rules.

Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

- 1
- 2 Relating to child welfare services; creating new provisions; amending ORS 418.480, 418.485 and
- 3 418.495; appropriating money; and declaring an emergency.
- 4 Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

Legislation

- Targets statewide implementation
- Will require federal waiver request
- Passed the legislature with two party support and testimony of Child Welfare administrators, judges, foster parents, and participating families

How do you judge success?

- Healthy families
- Continued movement toward family models
- System change
- Reduction in intergenerational transmission
- Long term sustainability

Happy family

