

#### PROBLEM

An increasing number of Oregon children and youth involved with DHS Child Welfare, have been placed in treatment settings within other states. Placement of youth outside of the state of Oregon is not in the best interest of children, youth and families and is not in line with Child Welfare's principles and values. Child Welfare is committed to reunification efforts, community-based care and youth and family centered case planning.

It is known that over the past few years, Oregon's intensive treatment system has declined and there are less safe and therapeutic services and resources for youth with specialized and complex needs. DHS is committed to working with system partners to address capacity and continuum of care needs.

#### SCOPE

- Timeline: 60 days
- Ensure safety and well-being of all children and youth
- Confirm the needs of each child and youth and ensure they are met
- Gather necessary information to launch comprehensive planning
- Engage system partners in solutions

#### FINDINGS

1. Children and youth are in appropriate levels of care based on assessed and identified needs
2. Oregon does not currently have capacity for the immediate transition of children and youth
3. Additional licensing oversight of out of state programs was needed and will be implemented ASAP through increasing licensing and Child Welfare personnel resources
4. Process for approving placements was revised to include Child Welfare Director approval
5. Oregon providers continue in their commitment and desire to be part of the solution
6. Oregon providers need the state's assistance to expand capacity and operate sustainable trauma informed programs

#### APPROACH

In March of 2019, DHS launched initial action steps necessary for the creation of a comprehensive plan to ensure Oregon can meet the intensive needs of children youth currently placed out of state. This 60-day strategy identified and was limited to the *initial* required steps to achieving the goal of serving children and youth in Oregon.

- ✓ Complete on-site facility safety reviews of each out of state program
- ✓ Conduct face to face visits with each child and youth placed out of state
- ✓ Assess individual child and youth clinical needs and appropriate level of care
- ✓ Identify Coordinated Care Organization enrollment barriers
- ✓ Ensure coordination with the Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) for youth who are identified as I/DD eligible
- ✓ Create information legislative public webpage
- ✓ Convene Oregon substitute care providers to identify needs and solutions to address capacity needs
- ✓ Convene the CCOs and OHA to ensure participation in ongoing planning and solutions

#### NEXT STEPS

The initial action steps outlined have been completed. Ongoing conversations with OHA and CCOs have been scheduled. DHS is creating a comprehensive plan based on the findings of the 60 – day action items, capacity research conducted by the Office of Research, Reporting, Analytics and Implementation (ORRAI) and information gathered from CCOs, providers and OHA. Our next steps:

- A case specific plan will outline the current placement and therapeutic needs of each youth with efforts focused on safe, appropriate and timely transitions to Oregon.
- Comprehensive plan to build capacity across the continuum of care based on DHS capacity research and OHA data and analytics
- Child Welfare will closely monitor the care, safety and care plan status of each child and youth placed out of state