

Obstacles and Stepping Stones: A Child's Adoption Journey, Oct. 2017

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*What systems and people help children and families involved in the child welfare system?

*Note the checks and balances in the system:

*How complicated is the child welfare system? Check one:

Very complicated Highly Complicated Extremely Complicated

Resources:

Post Adoption Support:

Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center offers services at no cost to:

- Oregon DHS Adoptive families
- Oregon Assisted Guardianship families
- Oregon Families who have adopted through any state's child welfare system

<http://www.orparc.org>

Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) is a caregiving model for children from foster care and adoption. TBRI is an attachment based, evidence based and trauma informed intervention that is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children. TBRI uses Empowering Principles to address physical needs, Connecting Principles for attachment needs and Correcting Principles to disarm fear-based behaviors.

TBRI info., videos & books are available through ORPARC & TBRI's website:

<https://child.tcu.edu/#sthash.w8UunBDU.dpbs>

"Empowered to Connect" is a TBRI based live simulcast conference for foster and adoptive parents, caregivers, teachers, mental health providers, professionals and others who work with children who have experienced trauma. It will be held April 13 and 14, 2018 at sites around the state and country.

Empowered to Connect welcomes host sites.

<https://showhope.org/our-work/pre-post-adoption-support/empowered-to-connect///>

TBRI Practitioner Scholarships:

The Empowered to Connect conference will include an announcement about 150 TBRI Practitioner Training scholarships for September of 2018. THIS IS AMAZING!!! Please email Francine Florendo at Francine.Florendo@state.or.us and put "TBRI" in the subject line if you are interested in learning more about the Practitioner Training scholarships. Applications for these special scholarships will be due in mid-May 2018.

Directory of Professionals who have completed the Adoptive & Foster Family Therapy Certificate Program:

<https://sites.google.com/pdx.edu/therapistdirectory/home>

Learn about how you can foster and adopt children in foster care:

Contact the [Oregon Foster Care and Adoption Information Line: 1-800-331-0503](tel:1-800-331-0503)
Información por estado sobre crianza temporal y adopción de Oregon: 1-800-331-0503

Adoption Services in Oregon:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/CHILDREN/ADOPTION/Pages/index.aspx>

Child Abuse and Child Protective Services:

What you can do about child abuse, DHS booklet explains Child Protective Services to community members

<https://apps.state.or.us/Forms/Served/de9061.pdf> Courts CRB Concurrent

Case Planning Steps and Time Lines:

<http://www.courts.oregon.gov/programs/crb/news/Documents/2-ConcurrentPlanningStepsandTimeline.pdf>

DHS Child Welfare Data 2016:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/CHILDREN/CHILD-ABUSE/Documents/2016-cw-data-book.pdf>

Camp to Belong supports siblings separated in foster, guardianship and adoptive families through a week of camp to promote positive ongoing relationships for lifelong connections. <http://camptobelongoregon.org>

Overview of Adoption & Oregon's Child Welfare System

Department of Human Services

Francine Florendo, MSW

October 2017

Learning Objectives:

- Understand key goals for Oregon's child welfare agency, Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Cultivate a framework for child welfare casework & adoption practice by DHS
- Value key players & how they can work with child welfare to benefit children long-term
- Notice checks & balances in child welfare

Key Goals in Oregon Child Welfare

- Increase # of children who remain safely at home after abuse or neglect.
- Eliminate disparate treatment & over-representation of children of color in foster care.
- Increase placements & connections with family, siblings, relatives & others children know.
- Increase # of children leaving foster care to reunite with parents, be adopted or have permanent guardianships.

Key Goals in Oregon Child Welfare

- Decrease length of time in foster care.
- Meet medical & behavioral health needs of children in foster care in a timely & culturally appropriate manner.
- Provide services that support placement stability & are culturally & linguistically specific to children & families.
- Eliminate abuse in foster care.

Oregon Safety Model

- Requires safety assessment & management at all stages of a case.
- Emphasizes child safety by focusing on overall family conditions, rather than simply on whether an incident of abuse happened.
- Provides a comprehensive assessment of parents' abilities to act in a protective capacity. Identifies conditions for safety within the family, conditions for return & provision of needed services.
- Focuses on safety threats using safety threshold criteria to identify whether a safety threat exists.

Fast Facts for FFY 2013

Child Protective Services

- 64,305 reports of abuse & neglect were received
- 27,644 reports were referred for investigation
- 6,900 completed investigations were founded for abuse or neglect—involving 10,630 victims
- 49 % of victims were younger than 6 years old

(Federal Fiscal Year percentages are rounded figures)

Fast Facts for 2013 cont'd.

Foster Care

- 12,113 children spent at least one day in some kind of foster care with an average of 8, 447 children in care on a daily basis.
- 43% in family foster care are with relatives.
- 63% of children in care on 9-30-13, had two or fewer placements.
- There were 4,299 homes certified family foster homes.

Fast Facts for 2013 cont'd.

Foster Care

- 80% of children with siblings were in foster care with another sibling (Sept. '13)
- Over 434 children in care were in professional shelter programs or residential treatment settings on an average daily basis
- 1,405 youth received independent living program services
- 59% of children in foster care were reunited with their families

Family Stress Factors as a Percent in Founded Abuse 2013

Parent/caregiver alcohol or drug use	45%
Physical abuse of spouse/fighting	32%
Parent/caregiver involvement with LEA	26%
Family Financial Distress	19%
Parent/caregiver mental illness	13%
Head of household unemployed	13%
Parent/caregiver history of abuse as child	10%
New baby/pregnancy	10%
Inadequate housing	6%
Heavy child care responsibilities	2%

Fast Facts for 2013 cont'd.

Family Services

- In FFY 2013, 8,003 children were served in their homes , exclusive of children in post care who were on a trial home visit.
- 35% of children served with an in-home case during the year received services beyond case management & safety assessment services.

2013 Fast Facts DHS Adoptions & Guardianship

- 817 children had adoptions finalized; 29% of those children are ethnic minorities.
- 92 % children who were adopted & had siblings also adopted during the year were adopted by the same family of one or more siblings.
- Only 4% of adoptions disrupted before finalization.

2013 Fast Facts DHS Adoptions & Guardianship

- DHS works with private agencies for recruitment & placement in adoptive
- 313 children exited foster care to guardianship
- Most guardians are relatives
- 98% children adopted received adoption assistance
- Of adoptions finalized in FFY 2013, the median time to achieve legal adoption is 36 months

Ages of adopted children in FFY 2013

Age	Number	Percent
less than 3 years	169	21%
3-4 years	227	28%
5-8 years	259	32%
9-10 years	63	8%
11-13 years	69	8%
14 & older	30	4%

(Rounded percentages)

Special needs of adopted children finalized in FFY 2011

Identified Special Need	#	Percent
Emotional condition	672	92%
Mental condition	38	5%
Physical condition	49	7%
Visual or hearing impaired	15	2%
Other condition	434	59%

DHS Practice Impacted by Internal & External Factors

- Oregon Safety Model
- Federal laws & timelines to Permanency
- State laws
- Juvenile Court oversight
- International laws & Conventions

THE LIFE OF A CASE: Gavin, age 6

Gavin, age 6



Photo courtesy of Robb Scharetg, scharetgpictures.com

Safety Threshold Criteria

Safety Threat =
ALL 5

- Imminence
- Out of Control
- Vulnerable child
- Observable
- Severity

Conditions for Return

Written statement identifying what must happen for a child to return home:

- This information **MUST** be provided to the parents.
- The conditions should become part of the court order to assure that all parties to the case are well informed about the basis for the reunification decision.

Wide Range of Services for Birth Parents

Examples:

- Relief nurseries
- Parent coaching & navigation
- Housing access assistance
- Parenting training
- Drug free housing support
- Intercept services
- Family finding services
- Front end intervention & support
- Youth transition & mentoring

What signs may indicate the impact of abuse on Gavin?

- Discuss in small group—be brief



Row 7

Characteristics of parents

- Small group discussion--Note two parent characteristics you want for children who have suffered abuse & neglect.



Row 12

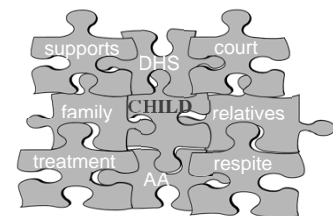
Who makes legal decisions for a child in care?

- Discuss in small group. Did you have other ideas about this?



Row 14

It takes a whole team to make an adoption **SUCCESSFUL!**



Questions?

➤ Thank you!

