



Oregon Commission on Children and Families 2010 Government to Government Report

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The Oregon Commission on Children and Families is an entrepreneurial catalyst that brings critical community partners together to get better outcomes for children and families. It is the commission's vision that all Oregon's children and youth will be safe, healthy, well-educated, employable, and valued contributors to their communities. Created by legislation in 1993, and further defined by SB555 in 1999, OCCF promotes positive outcomes for children and families through a process driven by local decision-making.

The Commission is responsible for statewide planning, standards setting and policy development, and provides communities with research-based best practices on which to base local programs for children and families.

OCCF is working with the tribes through its partnerships with state tribal liaisons and tribal representatives on issues that better the lives of Oregon's children and families. Respect of tribal ways and sovereignty are among OCCF's highest concerns when working with Oregon's tribal communities.

Due to the broad range of issues that OCCF is involved in regarding children and families in Oregon, there are three Government-to-Government Clusters that are attended by OCCF employees. Iris Bell, Deputy Director, has attended the Health and Human Services Cluster meetings. Jessie Ickes, Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Tribal Prevention Coordinator, attends the Public Safety Cluster meeting and Marilyn Miller, the Local Commission Liaison and Community Schools Initiative specialist, attends the Education Cluster meetings.

Reconnecting Families, Community Comprehensive Planning, Title IV-B (2), Healthy Start, Juvenile Crime Prevention and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) are among several programs and initiatives that OCCF works with directly in its relationship with Oregon tribal communities.

Reconnecting Families

Melissa Sampson-Grier is the Community Engagement Coordinator for the Safe & Equitable Foster Care Reduction partnership in Oregon. As the Community Engagement Coordinator, Melissa provides technical assistance and support to the eight county teams and Tribal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Programs. She represents the team on the ICWA Advisory Committee, Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP) Statewide Committee, Native Caring Committee and Equity Task Force. Through her work with the Equity Task Force, Melissa supported the work on the Tribal Task Force recommendations. In an effort to increase urban Indian engagement, Melissa attended community forums at the Native Youth & Family Center, as well as the Native American Rehabilitative Association. She is also a member of the Native American Strategic Planning Committee for District 2. She represents OCCF on the design team for *Knowing Who You Are* which is a Casey Family Programs curriculum designed help child welfare professionals explore race and ethnicity, preparing them to support the healthy development of their constituent's racial and ethnic identity. Melissa also presented at the 2010 State ICWA Conference in October.

Community Comprehensive Planning

Counties completed their biennial updates to their six-year Community Comprehensive Plans. Many of the counties are partnering with their local tribal communities to learn about issues affecting children and families in those communities. These partnerships create mutual understanding and opportunities to address community needs. The Juvenile Crime Prevention Plans are being incorporated into the County Comprehensive Plans.

Umatilla County: The county and tribe view each other as community partners. A tribal representative actively serves on the Commission on Children and Families (CCF). The CCF involves the tribe in all that the Commission does -- whether it is comprehensive planning or other activities. The county and tribe are active partners in the Umatilla County Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking and Drugging, the Safe Kids Coalition, the Early Childhood Partnership Team, the Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee, and the Umatilla County Wraparound Team (a grassroots collaborative effort of the ESD, schools, government and non-profit agencies and parents).

Douglas County: The Cow Creek Tribe has given financial and ongoing support to the Roseburg Rotary Foundation/Douglas County CCF "Build Our Kids" Search Institute 40 Assets Campaign.

Coos County: Coos County Commission on Children and Families welcomed Dottie Garcia, a representative from the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians to Commission membership this year. They previously had a member representing the Coquille Indian Tribe. The Commission is working with both tribes through the Casey Family Programs (Safe and Equitable Foster Care Reduction) to decrease the number of children in foster care, including native children. The Coquille Indian Tribe sponsored the Coos Commission director in attending a conference last summer focusing on native children in foster care.

Harney County: Harney County has a strong relationship with the Burns Paiute Tribe. The Burns Paiute Tribe has been a key partner and this collaboration and coordination has resulted in a successful partnership for Harney County. As a sovereign nation located on the reservation in Burns, the tribe provides many services to its tribal members, such as juvenile crime prevention, law enforcement, child welfare, drug and alcohol treatment for adults and youth, and social services. Yet the Burns Paiute Tribe and Harney County in general take a cooperative, coordinated, and complementary approach to prevention. Where the

Tribe can offer services for community parenting classes, such as the use of its meeting facilities, it does so. Harney Behavioral Health cross training between tribal and county agencies has increased and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) reflect this trend. Harney Behavioral Health, the Community Action Team, and the Burns Paiute Tribe continue to work together to fund staff for mental health services at the reservation.

Jefferson County: With the approval of Warm Springs Tribal Administration, Jefferson County established priorities for continued family based services including the development of improved Kindergarten readiness skills and greater capacity for health and dental prevention activities.

Healthy Start

Healthy Start/Healthy Families Oregon is a voluntary home visitation and family support program offering screening and outreach services to all first-time families during the prenatal period and/or at the time of birth. High risk families are offered intensive home visiting services. OCCF supports local Healthy Start/Healthy Families programs as they implement the Healthy Families America best practice standards for home visiting. One of the essential elements of the Healthy Families model is cultural competency. Each local Healthy Start program is required to develop an annual Cultural Competency Review that examines all aspects of service delivery with the goal of ensuring that the program is culturally competent. The Cultural Competency Review is approved by the local Healthy Start Advisory Board, which recommends steps to address any issues discovered through the review. The state and local advisory boards are made up of diverse community members. The state Healthy Start/Healthy Families Advisory Committee and some local advisory committees have a tribal member. The advisory groups provide direction for program planning and implementation throughout the state, and review the cultural sensitivity analyses of local programs, making suggestions for improvement. Some local boards include tribal members.

Healthy Start Tribal Activities:

Burns Paiute Tribe (Harney)

Harney County actively recruits families from the Paiute Tribe by giving information about the program to the Tribal Health Department. The Department of Human Services also refers families to Healthy Start/Healthy Families who are having their first baby.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (Yamhill/Polk)

The Healthy Start/Healthy Families supervisor for Marion and Polk County is teaching a parenting class at Grand Ronde. She has organized several other

community partners to offer classes for parents, demonstrating great collaboration.

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians(Lincoln)

Lincoln County receives all of its information of births and pregnancy from the local doctors and hospitals. The tribe is familiar with Healthy Start/Healthy Families and has the opportunity to make referrals.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation (Umatilla)

Healthy Start/Healthy Families has a Memorandum of Understanding with the tribe for WIC, Head Start and Healthy Start/Healthy Families.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (Jefferson/Wasco primarily)

Healthy Start/Healthy Families in Wasco County learns about first-birth families almost exclusively through its prenatal provider referral system and relies on those referrals for its outreach.

Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians (Coos)

Coos County has been working to bring a Tribal Member onto their team.

The Klamath Tribes (Klamath)

Healthy Start/Healthy Families works with many enrolled members of the Klamath Tribes and also has a number of other programs and collaborations with Tribal Administration and Tribal Health Services, which frequently results in referrals to the program. Healthy Start/Healthy Families regularly trains on issues of cultural sensitivity in its work with members of the tribes. It is a very strong relationship.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

Federal and state laws mandate that the court shall appoint a CASA for every abused and neglected child involved in a dependency case. In 1987, the Oregon Legislative Assembly enacted what is now ORS 419A.170, mandating appointment of a CASA for each of these children. A CASA is a trained citizen volunteer supervised by a CASA program, and subject to the direction of the court. A CASA volunteer's primary responsibility is to represent the best interest of the child and work to assure that each child safely returns to or finds a safe and permanent family as soon as possible. Volunteers are required to complete a pre-service training of at least 30 hours that includes the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde CASA program is a Tribal, not a state program. However, Director Angela Fasana is welcome at and attended the Oregon CASA Director Network (OCDN) meetings offered by OCCF-CASA in the spring of 2010 and is participating in the OCDN statewide strategic planning process. Angela and Program Manager Julie Boekhoff co-presented a workshop

on CASA and coordinated a CASA information booth with Michael Heaton of the National CASA Association and OCCF-CASA at the 28th Annual *Protecting Our Children: National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect* in April 2010. At the request of OCCF-CASA, Angela was invited to become a member of the Oregon Children's Justice Act Task Force (CJA). CJA focuses on improving the handling of dependency cases. Also on a national level, the National CASA Association hosts a quarterly conference call networking opportunity and a monthly newsletter to Tribal CASA programs nationwide. That group extended an invitation to state directors in states with Tribal programs, and OCCF has been participating in order to improve technical assistance to programs in Oregon.

Juvenile Crime Prevention

OCCF administers state and federal funding dedicated to reducing juvenile crime and improving the juvenile justice system. The Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Committee (JCPAC) appointed by the Governor and staffed by OCCF allocates general fund to each of the nine federally-recognized tribes in Oregon. The Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) is also appointed by the Governor and staffed by OCCF. It is responsible for developing and implementing annual plans for Formula Grant Funds received from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. JJAC advises the JCPAC. The plan includes funding to address tribal programming in delinquency prevention and juvenile justice. David Fullerton, Social Services Manager, The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, represents the nine federally recognized tribes on both JCPAC and JJAC.

Jessie Ickes, JCP Tribal Prevention Coordinator, is working with each of the nine tribes to develop strong prevention services to reduce the numbers of tribal youth entering the county and state juvenile justice system. Jessie also supports tribal efforts to reduce Native American youth contact with the juvenile justice system and provides technical assistance on evidence-based practices and culturally appropriate approaches.

The JCP Tribal Prevention Coordinator keeps the Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee abreast of the issues affecting tribal youth. The gang assessments undertaken by three of the tribes—Umatilla, Grand Ronde and Warm Springs—revealed that youth gang activity is emerging in Oregon. A standing Tribal Subcommittee of the JJAC has been formed and will oversee the Tribal issues and how they affect DMC in the state. In January 2010, the JJAC made a decision to award formula grant funds to the nine federally recognized tribes to support their juvenile crime prevention efforts.

In addition to the JCP Tribal Prevention Coordinator position, Oregon includes tribes with the entities eligible to apply for Formula Grant funds during annual competitions. Tribes are also eligible to apply for funding directly from the federal

agency under the Tribal Youth Program. The JCP Prevention Coordinator provides assistance to tribes in preparing applications.

Title II Funds distributed to Tribes:

The Burns Paiute Tribe

Project Title: Teaching, Learning and Mentoring Together

The Tribe started a Powwow Club for the youth to come and learn about the different styles of powwow dancing, different songs and the teachings of being a dancer. Adult mentors are helping with this process. The group meets once a week for dancing and three times a week for sewing.

Confederated Tribes of the Coos – Lower Umpqua – Siuslaw Indians

Project Title: Reconnecting At-Risk Tribal Youth

The program is able to meet on a weekly basis with youth during the after-school program. The youth enjoy working together to enhance their community and help out elders and families. The youth are able to be productive members of the tribe. Many of the family conflicts that were present in the beginning seem to be resolved. There are many youth who are now able to sit down and talk with their parents and work out their differences. School attendance is increasing and more youth are participating in the program.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Project Title: Grand Ronde Juvenile Crime Prevention

Three youth with suicidal attempts/ ideology participated in the Oregon Nine Tribes week-long suicide conference which included the Native HOPE curriculum. Seven youth participated in the Tribal Canoe Journey, which promotes community and cultural perseverance, drug, alcohol, tobacco and violence-free lifestyles. For 2.5 weeks, youth traveled by water and land camping in various Indian communities to share their songs and dances. Canoe Family meetings, water safety classes and various activities take place throughout the entire year.

The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians

Project Title: Siletz Tribal Youth Mental Health Program

The goal of this project is to integrate mental health services into other tribal programs that serve tribal youth and families. It also addresses youth and family mental health issues more adequately, utilizing a holistic service system. The Tribal Youth Program (TYP) Advisory Board uses a mental health wraparound model and integrates mental health services into other tribal programs that serve youth and families.

Another goal is to increase outpatient mental health services at each area office. During this reporting period, clinical services were provided at each area office, including individual and family therapy services. School based mental health

services were provided in Siletz at the Siletz Valley School. Mental health services were also provided to tribal youth in the state and county juvenile justice system. The mental health provider attended quarterly OYA Native American advisory meetings and worked with youth in the state and county juvenile justice system.

A third completed goal was to increase protective factors of tribal youth and their families and provide services that impact risk factors. The project's objective was to work in conjunction with other programs to develop positive community activities for Siletz tribal youth.

Program staff provided adventure-based mental health activities in the community and facilitated one raft trip with tribal youth. Mental health program staff attended the tribal culture camp and facilitated a ropes course, kayaking activity, and icebreakers. Twenty-eight youth participated in culture camp activities. Program staff also trained tribal staff in facilitating the ropes course. Furthermore, program staff took youth to the Department of Justice Tribal Youth Summit in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The youth summit is a three-day youth leadership conference, which targets leadership development and critical youth issues such as teen dating violence, substance abuse, suicide, delinquency and gang involvement.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Project Title: Tribal Court Juvenile Prevention – Lost and Found Prevention Groups

Children participate in drum making, archery, canoeing, camping and language classes. There are cognitive behavioral skill-building classes that youth in group settings participate in. These include discussions of a variety of real life topics. There are service learning projects that reinforce the value of community and the importance of contributing to something greater than the self; all youth participated in these projects. Tribal youth have a chance to explore and share their cultural heritage. During a day trip, hosted by Chief Bill Burke, he explained to Tribal youth historical sites and events as they related to Tribal history. Once the school year began, activities for youth have been provided on Thursday's after mandatory tutoring at Cay-uma-wa. Students are monitored for school attendance and are required to attend school as well as have good behavior at school in order to participate in any fun activities scheduled on the weekends.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

Title: Community Counseling Center

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is using the money to support Dr Loye M. Ryan, Ed.D. She is a psychologist who worked with several JCP clients who were referred to her.

Coquille Indian Tribe

Project Title: Coquille Youth Tribal Prevention Programs

This project allowed Tribal Youth to purchase supplies for cultural activities that increased their cultural identity and self-esteem. This was done through Camas gathering, Spruce Root digging, Sedge gathering and canoeing. Each activity began with a prayer and an explanation of Tribal protocol, such as how to gather, replenish and process materials. Tribal youth reported an increase in protective factors such as cultural knowledge and Tribal pride. Tribal elders and adults with cultural knowledge provided mentoring.

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians

Cow Creek is currently in the application process.

The Klamath Tribes

Project Title: Tribal Families School Engagement Program

The first meeting had 30 people in attendance. One JCP risk assessment was done. A dinner and Tribal speaker were scheduled for November. The speaker addressed higher education as a value, followed by a discussion on the attainability of this goal. Youth and parents were told that local Native Americans have pursued degrees in higher education despite setbacks in their family, economics, legal systems and employment. Four more youth have been referred to the program and are scheduled for JCP screenings.

Juvenile Crime Prevention Advisory Committee (JCPAC) Tribal Programs:**The Burns Paiute Tribe**

The JCP program works closely with the Burns Paiute Tribal Police, Tribal Juvenile Court, Tribal Prevention Programs, the Harney County Juvenile Department, Harney County Schools and local groups such as Harney Partners for Kids and Families, the Drug-Free Communities Activities, and Community Action Team.

Tribal Best Practices in use include Talking Circles, Tribal Crafts, Tribal Family Activities and Tribal Youth Conferences.

Other programs to be provided by the Juvenile Services Coordinator include positive family involvement, community leadership, cultural and traditional programs, mentor relationship building and individual skill development.

Confederated Tribes of Coos Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians

Services are provided by the Tribe's Health Services Division through its Community Health Program.

The following prevention/intervention programs will be provided for the at-risk tribal youth: Youth Snow Camp – Tribal Best Practice; Youth Camp Ta Nae (in

coordination with the Coquille Indian Tribe) – Tribal Best Practice; Monthly Prevention Activities; and Canoe, Kayak and/or Rafting Activities – Tribal Best Practice

Coquille Indian Tribe

The Juvenile Crime Prevention grant provides after school and summer school activities for youth ages 10-17. The After School Program becomes a full day summer program when school ends. The After School Program partners with numerous organizations within and outside the tribe to assure the needs of the youth are identified early and appropriate intervention occurs. Activities include a Youth Mentoring Trip, Snow Camp, Camp Ta Nae (culture camp), Family Camp, Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs-Free New Years Eve, Positive Family Involvement, Cultural and Traditional Programs, Healthy Relationship Building, and Individual Skill Development.

Tribal Best Practices include Talking Circles, Tribal Crafts, Tribal Family Activities, and Tribal Youth Conferences.

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians

Dr H. Henderson, a psychiatrist, assesses, treats and makes appropriate referrals for each client and his or her family. Individual and family therapy for each client and his or her family will be provided and referrals made as indicated. The family therapist will provide in-home services and 24-hour availability for each client and family. Data will be reported to JCP through JCP Risk Screens and interim reviews provided on each youth served.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Tribal youth in the six-county area receive JCP Services provided by tribal and community partners coordinated through the Tribal Youth Prevention Program. It will encourage the use of contract providers, mentors, other community volunteers and community resources. These include Parent Classes (including youth and families).

After School and Weekend Alcohol and Drug Free Activities include Youth Canoe Family – Tribal Best Practices; Girls Health Education Group – Evidence Based Best Practice; Culture Classes – Tribal Best Practices; Mentoring – Evidence Based Best Practice; Sports/Recreational Skill Building activities promoting healthy lifestyles; Academic Skill Building opportunities (Tutoring); and Teen Parenting opportunities.

The Klamath Tribes

The Prevention Team, a part of the Klamath Tribal Health and Family Services Behavioral Health Unit, is committed to creating and implementing programs and services that will improve the wellness and education of their youth and community. The Prevention Coordinator is responsible for overseeing the JCP program. The coordinator works with the police, courts, DHS, probation officers,

schools and families to design programs, activities and individual interventions to prevent and reduce juvenile crime among the tribal youth.

Cultural activities are designed to encourage the development of leadership skills, thereby enhancing protective factors while reducing at-risk behaviors including such activities as the 30th Annual NW Confederated Tribes Youth Leadership Conference, Cultural Leadership Camp in Grand Ronde, engagement of youth in tribal activities and work projects that allow them to complete community services hours in a meaningful way and sponsorship of at-risk youth in summer arts programs at Ross Ragland Theatre in Klamath Falls.

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

The Delinquency Prevention Coordinator will be the liaison to the multidisciplinary teams, juvenile departments, tribal programs, mental health providers, alcohol and drug treatment programs, schools and community leaders to provide services to at-risk youth. The Delinquency Prevention Coordinator will complete the JCP Risk Screen Assessment and within 30 days of completion will put in place a prevention plan for the individual which will include culturally appropriate and community-based diversion oversight under the umbrella of the Lincoln County Juvenile Department to Siletz tribal youth. The Prevention Plan will be a road map for youth, parents/guardians and staff to make referrals to appropriate cultural best practices and community resources.

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation – Tribal Court

The court will provide intervention services to court-involved youth and preventive services for other tribal youth through the collaborative efforts of Tribal Court Juvenile Department, Lost and Found Outreach Services and Tribal Recreation Department.

The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs will be utilizing the grant funds under the Juvenile Crime Prevention funds to pay for a portion of a full time adolescent substance abuse treatment specialist. This position will be part of a larger effort to implement a full service Juvenile Department that provides case management, probation, community service, diversion programs and readily accessible treatment services. The tribe is taking this approach in order to address a rapidly increasing service need in the community for juvenile delinquency, to provide an integrated service package to youth and to reduce the number of youth in the Juvenile Court system through prevention and early intervention with respect to substance abuse and mental health problems

Title IV-B (2) Promoting Safe and Stable Families

The 1997 Adoption and Safe Families Act approved by Congress amends Title IV (B) to add additional components for time-limited family reunification services along with adoption promotion and support provisions. The amendment increased funding and also changes the name from Family Preservation and Support to Promoting Safe and Stable

Families. The 1997 Act was reauthorized in 2001 for a period of five years and again increased funding.

Participating tribes submitted plans to OCCF for funding. Tribal plans continued much of the work from 2005 - 2006 which included methods and services to support families at risk of children being placed in foster care; to assist families in the process of reuniting with children who have been in foster care; and families who have adopted, or plan to adopt, children out of foster care. This funding has been a key piece for tribes to continue family preservation and support programs that meet the cultural needs of their members.

Respectfully submitted,

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