



Oregon Commission on Children and Families Government to Government Report 2009

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The Oregon Commission on Children and Families (OCCF) is the largest umbrella advocacy group for children and families in Oregon. 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 the Oregon tribal communities.

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 directly with in its relationship with Oregon tribal communities.

Reconnecting Families

Melissa Sampson-Grier, Reconnecting Families Coordinator for the Commission, is one of the project leads on the current Casey Partnership to "Safely Reduce the Number of Oregon Children in Foster Care." Through her work on the Casey Partnership, Melissa has represented the Commission at:

- **The 2009 N8V Summit** - To address issues of the disproportionate rate of minority youth in child welfare and the juvenile justice system through strengthening collaboration and communication. The Oregon tribes invited DHS, urban native programs, judges & community partners to assist in developing local plans to implement in their communities as well as a central office team that identified statewide training as a priority.
- **Decision Point Analysis (DPA) Workgroup** - Through the Casey Partnership a decision point analysis (DPA) is being conducted under contract with Portland State University. This analysis includes a series of community-based focus groups to better understand the role that race plays in the decisions made by child welfare professionals, courts, and other key stakeholders.
- **Equity Task Force Meetings** - In January 2009 the Governor signed an executive order creating a task force to recommend strategies aimed to reduce disparities for children of color and their families who are involved in the child welfare system.
- **Rule Advisory Committees** - Melissa has participated on Rule Advisory Committees for Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA), Relative Rule & Rate Redesign as a community partner to DHS.

- **Relative Work** - Melissa participated in eight Casey county team meetings to assist in planning and identifying technical assistance/training needs focusing on work with relatives. The Casey Partnership sponsored a statewide Family Finding training in July 2009 featuring Kevin Campbell, a national family finding expert. More than 120 representatives from DHS, Commissions, eight county teams, community partners & tribal child welfare agencies were in attendance.

Community Comprehensive Planning

One of the Commission's statutory responsibilities is to convene and facilitate Comprehensive Community Planning for Children and Families every six years. The plans recognize the interdependence of communities to develop and maintain strong and caring communities that also support healthy children, youth and families. Recognizing this interdependence, the legislation directs state agencies and local communities to plan together and provide coordinated services that address issues facing all the children, youth and families in the county, including native children, youth and families throughout the counties.

Currently local communities and counties are implementing strategies developed in their planning process. The state commission and staff support Local Commissions in engaging and involving tribal communities that want to participate. As the local plans are implemented and analyzed, the State Commission for Children and Families uses outcome data to develop and drive its state plan, including an intentional focus on native families and tribal communities.

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 & 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 to Commission membership this year. We have previously had a member representing the Coquille Indian Tribe. The Commission is working with both tribes through the Casey

Family Foundation project 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.

Healthy Start

Healthy Start Family Support is a voluntary home visitation/family support program offering services to all new families during the prenatal period and/or at the time of birth. OCCF supports local Healthy Start programs as they implement best practice standards. In 2007, Healthy Start became accredited by Healthy Families America, a best practice home visiting program model. 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.

Healthy Start has a tribal member on its statewide Advisory Committee. This group provides direction for program planning and implementation throughout the state, and reviews the cultural sensitivity analyses of local programs, making suggestions for improvement. Each local program has an Advisory Board, made up of diverse community members. Some local boards include tribal members.

- **Burns Paiute (Harney)**

Harney County actively recruits families from the Paiute tribe by giving information about the program to the Tribal Health Department. DHS also refers families to Healthy Start who are having their first baby.

- **Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (Yamhill/Polk)**

Currently the Healthy Start coordinator for Yamhill/Polk Counties is teaching a parenting class to teen parents at Grand Ronde. The class began October 5th and will end November 9th. The coordinator has organized Debra Driscoll from OSU Extension to present on budgeting, Polk County Public Health to present on nutrition and childhood diabetes, and a counselor from the tribe to field discipline issues. This demonstrates great collaboration!

- **Confederated Tribes of Siletz (Lincoln)**

Lincoln County receives all of its information of births and pregnancy from the local doctors and hospitals. The tribe *does* know of Healthy Start and can make referrals, but this does not often happen, and needs to happen on a more frequent basis.

- **Confederated Tribes of Umatilla (Umatilla)**

Healthy Start has a MOU with the tribe for the WIC program and the Head Start program. They are new with Healthy Start and will be incorporating that piece into the MOU as well.

- **Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (Jefferson/Wasco primarily)**

Wasco finds out about first-birth families almost exclusively through their prenatal provider referral system and relies on those referrals for their outreach.

- **Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw (Coos)**

Information is still pending.

- **Klamath Tribes (Klamath)**

Healthy Start 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 result in referrals to the program. HS 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

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, 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.

The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde CASA program is a federal, not a state program. However, Director Angela Fasana, and Program Manager Julie Boekhoff have attended Oregon CASA Director meetings and trainings offered by OCCF-CASA. Julie has attended the SVRT (Sustaining Volunteer Recruitment training, a NCASAA curriculum) in the spring of 2008 in Newport, and the May 2009 training for Volunteers Supervisors and Program Managers in Eugene. Both attended the recent OCDN three- day meeting in Sisters, where they presented a recording of the Canoe Family, the history of the Confederated Tribes and presented each of us attending with a bead necklace they had made.

On September 30, Barbara Hansel, CASA Training Specialist, visited the Grand Ronde offices to assist with policy and procedures documents and to consult on volunteer matters. They have requested documents relevant to their National CASA certification as well, and we have forwarded these to them. Angela Fasana served on the CASA Redesign team assembled by OCCF, which met for three or

four sessions before disbanding to move to a facilitated discussion of issues raised. Angela again participated in the two-day facilitated discussion. Her expertise and generosity have been of tremendous benefit to the CASA Redesign.

Juvenile Crime Prevention

OCCF administers state and federal funding dedicated to reducing juvenile crime and improving the juvenile justice system.

Jessie Ickes, Tribal Prevention Coordinator, was hired in 2008. She has been involved in attending the SB770 Government – to – Government Education, Public Safety and Health and Human Services Cluster Meetings. She has also attended all of the quarterly Tribal Prevention meetings. In December the quarterly Prevention meeting will be held in Salem and will be jointly hosted by OCCF and DHS.

State Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) Funding:

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. Each tribe received a \$54,635 grant for the 2005-2007 biennia. These grants help to pay for activities identified in the juvenile crime prevention plans prepared by each of the tribes for review and approval by the JCPAC. State law requires the plans to focus on youth who are at high risk of becoming involved, or further involved, in the juvenile justice system. Please see the table below for JCP funded activities. David Fullerton member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde was appointed by the Governor to serve on the JCPAC.

Federal Delinquency Prevention and Juvenile Justice Funding:

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.

Tribal Workgroup on Juvenile Crime Prevention and Juvenile Justice:

The chairs of JCPAC and JJAC have appointed JCPAC members David Fullerton and Rodney Cook to co-chair a JCPAC Tribal Workgroup. Three main issues have been identified for the Tribal Workgroup to address at this time. They will meet and develop recommendations to the JCPAC and JJAC on: 1) The formula for allocating JCP state funds to tribes for the 2011-13 biennia; 2) Approval of the 2009-11 Tribal JCP Plans and 3) Use of the federal funds for tribal programming. Other topics will be assigned as they are identified.

Tribal JCP Activities, 2009-2010

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 to be used are:

- Talking Circles
- Tribal Crafts
- Tribal Family Activities
- Tribal Youth Conferences

Other programs to be provided by the Juvenile Services Coordinator:

- Positive Family Involvement
- Community Leadership
- Cultural and Traditional Programs
- Mentor Relationship Building
- 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
- 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.

- Youth Mentoring Trip
- Snow Camp
- Camp Ta Nae (culture camp)
- Family Camp
- Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drugs-free New Years Eve
- Positive Family Involvement
- Community Leadership
- Cultural and Traditional Programs

- Healthy Relationship Building
- Individual Skill Development

Tribal Best Practices:

- Talking Circles
- Tribal Crafts
- Tribal Family Activities
- Tribal Youth Conferences

Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians

Dr H. Henderson, a psychiatrist, will assess, treat and make appropriate referrals for each client and their family. Ms. Lee VanBeuzekom, LMFT will provide individual and family therapy for each client and their family and make referrals as is indicated. The family therapist will provide in-home services and 24-hour availability for each client and their family. Data will be reported to JCP through JCP risk screens and interim reviews provided on each youth served.

Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

Tribal youth in the six-county area will 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.

Parent Classes (including youth and families)

After School and Weekend Alcohol and Drug Free Activities:

- Youth Canoe Family – Tribal Best Practices
- Girls Health Education Group – Evidence Based Best Practice
- Culture Classes – Tribal Best Practices
- Mentoring
- Sports/Recreational Skill Building Activities promoting healthy lifestyles
- Academic Skill Building Opportunities (Tutoring)
- 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 things as: 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.

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

To 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.

State-administered Federal Funding:

Oregon receives annual grants of federal Title II Formula Grant and Title V Delinquency

Prevention Grant funds from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Grant amounts are based on the state's youth population and Congressional budget approval.

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) and OCCF distribute funds for local projects to eligible applicants, including tribal governments, on a competitive basis.

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.

The Oregon Commission on Children & Families allocated a total of \$8,600 to each of the nine tribes who have elected to participate in the grant program for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. 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.

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