



Oregon

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ORS 418.485 and 418.580

Report to Legislative Assembly for 2014

Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families Programs

Department of Human Services - Child Welfare

May 15, 2014

The Department of Human Services is submitting this report to the Legislature as required by Senate Bill 964 enacted in the 2011 Regular Legislative Session and now part of Chapter 418 of the Oregon Revised Statute. This report relates to the Strengthening, Preserving, and Reunifying Families (SPRF) programs being implemented throughout Oregon. The specific requirements of the report are as follows: The Department, in consultation with programs, shall report annually to the Governor and the appropriate interim committees of the Legislative Assembly that address child welfare issues on the progress toward and projected costs of full implementation of ORS 418.575 to 418.598. This report consists of updated information regarding implementation; program funds and allocation; and program outcomes and evaluation.

Status on Implementation:

As of April 24, 2014, the Department has executed contracts with county partners in 19 counties (Columbia, Tillamook, Multnomah, Yamhill, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Lane, Douglas, Coos, Jackson, Josephine, Deschutes, Klamath, Lake, Umatilla, Malheur, Clackamas, and Washington) and has developed and implemented services consistent with those outlined in ORS 418.580.

Each county that has implemented the SPRF program has developed their individualized service array through facilitated meetings with county partners and program staff. The intent of the meetings was to identify gaps in current service provision and to build capacity in services already being rendered. Once the gaps were identified, proposals were written regarding the specific services identified in the community meetings. A variety of community partners had representatives at meetings in the counties and provided valuable input and planning of the service array for the individual counties including: Judicial Department, Tribes, law enforcement, county employees, faith based organizations, school districts/education, drug and alcohol and mental health programs, parent programs, etc.

"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"

The following list provides an overview of the available services and the counties where the service is being used:

- Navigators: Specialists to help navigate social service agencies. (Multnomah, Lane, Clackamas, Tillamook, Coos, Klamath, Lake)
- Parenting: Father, Culturally Specific, and Intensive parenting classes. (Multnomah, Lane)
- Parent Mentoring: Specialists to reinforce parenting behaviors, supportive services. (Tillamook, Clackamas, Umatilla, Josephine, Jackson, Multnomah, Lane, Klamath, Deschutes, Coos, Washington)
- Relief Nursery: Daycare, parenting, support services. (Umatilla, Jackson, Coos, Malheur, Clackamas, Deschutes)
- A&D Treatment: Inpatient/Outpatient services that focus on multi-dimensional issues such as parenting, DV services, and a relief nursery. (Umatilla, Clackamas, Jackson, Tillamook, Lane, Deschutes, Yamhill)
- Housing: Short-term & Emergency Housing services. (Umatilla, Josephine, Jackson, Multnomah, Malheur, Clackamas, Tillamook, Lane, Columbia, Yamhill, Deschutes, Washington, Benton)
- Front End Interventions: Specialists (Alcohol and Drug, Mental Health, Domestic Violence, and human service generalists) responding with CPS workers. (Clackamas, Umatilla, Josephine, Jackson, Malheur, Linn, Tillamook, Columbia, Lane)
- Life Skills Coaches / Home Visitors: Provides similar services as Navigators. (Umatilla, Josephine, Multnomah, Coos, Tillamook, Lincoln)
- Reconnecting Families: Specialists used to engage families and conduct relative searches for additional familial resources/placements. (Josephine, Jackson, Lane, Coos, Washington)
- Trauma Services and therapeutic services: Intensive services to trauma affected families and children. (Multnomah, Columbia, Clackamas, Jackson, Tillamook, Lane)
- Family visitation: (Josephine, Jackson, Umatilla, Tillamook, Deschutes, Lincoln)

Currently, there are 84 active SPRF contracts, 7 in the contracting phase and close to execution. Six additional counties have their SPRF program proposals approved and are moving into the contracting phase.

To date, there are 11 counties yet to implement the SPRF program in their community. These 11 counties are finalizing their gaps and needs analysis and working closely with their community partners in developing an enhanced service array and provision within their communities. Those counties are:

- District 9: Gilliam, Hood River, Wasco, Wheeler and Sherman

- District 13: Union, Baker and Wallowa
- Morrow
- Grant
- Harney

We are projecting for statewide implementation, with all 36 counties entering into direct client service contracts to be complete by the end of June 2014.

Program Budget & Allocation:

Initially when Senate Bill 964 was passed and initial counties were selected, the focus was on identifying the gaps in service array and filling those gaps with service contracts without an allocation methodology. Because it was not possible to predict the level of need, the initial counties were not given a set amount of dollars as a limit. This approach to developing contracted services is unique to this service provision and requires a new assessment of service needs as implementation begins in each county. We hoped to get a picture of the need that we could then use to predict the need in other counties. What we found was the need exceeded the budgeted amount, so for counties that implemented subsequent to the initial counties, we developed an allocation methodology that provides a budget for each county. Each county budget allocation is based on the population of families served by Child Welfare. This includes 50% of their total account of families who are served in their home, 25% of substitute care/children in foster care cases and 25% of Child Protective Services assigned referrals/open assessments.

We anticipate expending the total SPRF funding this biennium which includes costs associated with statewide implementation of 36 counties for direct client services and program administration and evaluation.

Program Outcomes & Evaluation:

Child Welfare's overarching goal is the safe and equitable reduction of children in foster care. The four vital components of this work is the design and implementation of Differential Response; statewide implementation of the Strengthening, Preserving and Reunifying Families (SPRF) program; fidelity to our practice model (Oregon Safety Model) and hiring additional Child Welfare staff approved by the Legislature.

In an effort to understand outcomes associated with implementation of the SPRF program, we will measure the following data at the statewide level, quarterly for each county that has implemented. Those goals are:

- Increased percentage of children reunifying with their legal parents.
- Reduction in length of stay of children in the foster care system.
- Reduction in the number of children entering the foster care system.
- Reduction in the percentage of repeat maltreatment within six months
- Reduction in the percentage of foster care reentry within 12 months
- Increased percentage of children maintaining in family home/keep family intact
- Decreased disproportionality

We are in the process of solidifying specific contracted service outcomes for the SPRF program that are based on service type and category within each county. This work is in process and is foundational for our overall ability to monitor, administer and report on outcomes associated with the SPRF program.

Please contact Stacy Lake at 503-945-5915 or stacy.l.lake@state.or.us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you.