

Legislative Members:
Senator Jeff Kruse
Senator Floyd Prozanski
Representative Duane Stark
Representative Kathleen Taylor

Staff:
Adrian (Addie) Smith



Non-Legislative Members:
Hon. David Brewer
Hon. Patricia Crain
Hon. Daniel Murphy
Fredrick M. Boss
Valerie Colas
Nancy Cozine
Lois Day
Mimi Laver
Leola McKenzie
Angela Sherbo
Matt Shirtcliff
Joanne Southey
Lynn Travis
Rod Underhill

The Task Force on Legal Representation in Childhood Dependency Overview of SB 222

State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 971-273-8570
Email: Adrian.Smith@oregon.gov

The task force shall propose legislation and make recommendations that ensure that:

- a) Attorneys for parents and children in juvenile court proceedings have workloads that allow the attorneys to provide client-centered; competent and effective legal representation through the entirety of the proceeding
- b) Attorneys for the state and the DHS are available to provide competent, effective and efficient legal representation in juvenile court proceedings
- c) Judicial and attorney resources are sufficient to avoid unnecessary delays that inhibit the resolution or conclusion of juvenile court proceedings
- d) Oregon statutory law is consistent with the models for legal representation proposed by the task force

The task force shall:

- a) Examine the use of **performance standards** unique to each role within the juvenile court system as a way to create and ensure statewide consistency in practice
- b) Make recommendations regarding the development and enhancement of existing **performance standards**
- c) Examine the **unique needs and resources within each jurisdiction and statewide**, and develop plans to work with partners and stakeholders at the state and local levels to adopt programs policies and intergovernmental agreements designed to ensure efficient legal representation and produce improved outcomes for children and families in juvenile court proceedings

- d) Examine and make recommendations regarding the **number of attorneys, paralegals and other staff and overhead capacity necessary** to provide sufficient representation for the state, DHS, and children and parents who are in dependency proceedings
- e) Develop a plan to assist counties that want to implement procedures designed to reduce delays within the juvenile court system, avoid duplicative efforts, identify potential efficiencies in **crossover cases** and encourage cost-effective case resolution
- f) Conduct Surveys of:
 - o **Each county** in the state to identify models of representation, effective practices, stages of juvenile court proceedings at which children and parents are represented and related outcomes
 - o **Other states** to identify models of effective representation and funding that lead to improved outcomes for children and families
- g) Review statutory and case law related to the unauthorized practice of law and consider the application of such laws in juvenile court proceedings
- h) Identify the following:
 - o **Statutory changes** needed to support proposed models of legal representation
 - o The **benefits of legal representation** to the state, DHS, and children and families in juvenile court proceedings
 - o The **obstacles** in counties statewide **to providing legal representation** to the Department of Human Services
 - o **Optimal attorney caseload levels and other resources** necessary to provide appropriate legal representation in juvenile court proceedings