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## **The Task Force on Legal Representation in Childhood Dependency Proposed Work Plan**

State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

### **Task Force Goals and Structure**

As provided by SB 222, the goal of this Task Force is to promote the best possible outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system by recommending:

- 1) A model of representation for children, parents, DHS and the state in dependency cases; and
- 2) The resources necessary to support this model.

To accomplish this goal, the Task Force will assess current practices in Oregon, models used by other states, and best practices identified by national experts. SB 222 also instructs the task force to look at smaller related issues. To tackle these requirements the task force will break into voluntary subcommittees to handle these issues, including:

- Performance Standards
- Models for Crossover Cases
- Quality Assurance / Outcome Measures
- Unlawful Practice of Law
- Alternative Models

Additional committees may be created as issues arise.

### **Task Force Agenda**

The task force is charged with giving final recommendations to the legislature in July 2016 to coincide with deadlines for 2017 legislative and budget concepts. To meet this deadline the task force will meet monthly starting October 2015. The meetings will be divided into three sections: Background, Discussion, and Finalization. A preliminary outline is provided below.

- I. **Background** - Review of national models, presentations on current system, and identification of system-wide obstacles.
  - a. **October 28** - Child Welfare, Outcome-Oriented Processes, and the National Perspective
    - i. Location: Marion County

- b. **November 23 (1:30 pm-4:30 pm)** - Survey of the Current Practice in Oregon's 36 Counties
    - i. Location: Marion County
  - c. **December 14 (9:00am-12:00pm)** - Identify and Review Obstacles to Good Outcomes
    - i. Location: Multnomah County
    - ii. Optional Opportunity to sit in on Dependency Proceedings
- II. **Discussion of proposals and options** - Crafting solutions, proposing alternatives, and talking about the sub-issues and committee work.
- a. **January 22 (9am- 12pm)** - Identify How to Overcome Obstacles and Modify Best Practice Models to Meet the Needs of Oregon Kids and Families. Brainstorm solutions and proposals.
    - i. Location: Linn County
    - ii. Optional Opportunity to sit in on Dependency Proceedings
  - b. **February 18 (1:30pm - 4:30pm)** - Report Out from Subcommittees: Brainstorm and Solution Proposals.
    - i. Location: Marion County
  - c. **March 16 (1:30pm - 4:30pm)** - Discuss and Refine Solutions for Parents and Children
    - i. Location: Jackson County
    - ii. Optional Opportunity to sit in on Dependency Proceedings
  - d. **April 21 (1:30pm - 4:30pm)** - Discuss and Refine Solutions for DHS and the State
    - i. Location: Marion County
- III. **Finalize Recommendations** - Draft, review and edit language, ratify the report and recommendations, and plan for implementation.
- a. **May 11 (1:30pm - 4:30pm)** - Delineate a Final Set of Recommendations.
    - i. Location: Marion County
  - b. **June 16 (1:30pm - 4:30pm)** - Review Draft of Proposed Report and Recommendation Language. Discuss necessary changes or modifications
    - i. Location: Marion County
  - c. **July 21 (1:30pm - 4:30pm)** - Finalize Recommendations and Discuss Plans for Implementation.
    - i. Location: Marion County