

Oregon Office of Public Defense Services

PARENT CHILD REPRESENTATION PROGRAM

ADVANCING LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN TO PROMOTE POSITIVE OUTCOMES

PCRCP, a pilot program of the Oregon Office of Public Defense Services, aims to improve outcomes for families through high quality representation of parents and children in juvenile court proceedings.

REDUCED CASELOAD FOR LAWYERS

PCRCP lawyers will have a caseload of not more than 80 cases. Lawyers will be expected to have frequent client contact, attend all case-related meetings, conduct independent investigations throughout the life of the case and advocate at all court hearings at every stage of the case, including shelter care hearings.

GREATER OVERSIGHT

Observe OSB Performance Standards.
Provide data and engage in regular reviews with the Office of Public Defense Services.

TRAINING & SUPPORT

Multidisciplinary trainings.
Partner collaboration.

INDEPENDENT SOCIAL WORKERS

Social workers will work directly with PCRCP lawyers to support parents and children in a variety of ways including: gathering information, connecting clients with services, and developing recommendations for alternative service plans.

BASED ON WASHINGTON STATE MODEL

Started in 2000, results include increased family reunifications and reduced time to permanency.

KICKOFF AUGUST 2014

LINN & YAMHILL COUNTIES

Linn & Yamhill have been selected as pilot counties. Selection was based on opportunities for improvement within the county and the willingness of attorneys and system partners to implement practice changes to improve outcomes for families involved in juvenile court proceedings.

GOALS

1. Ensure that parents and children have meaningful representation at all stages of the case, including shelter hearings.
2. Provide competent, effective legal representation throughout life of the case.
3. Reduce the number of children in foster care.
4. Reduce the time to achieve permanency.
5. Increase the number of children who are safely reunified with parents.

A NATIONAL MOVEMENT

Started in 2008, and maintained by the American Bar Association Center on Children and The Law, the National Project to Improve Representation for Parents Involved in the Child Welfare System works to ensure that the child welfare process is fair and just for all families. Though not a funding source, the National Project provides a wealth of information and inspiration!

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Office of Public Defense Services

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