



**Safely Reducing the Number of Oregon Children in Foster Care  
January 5, 2009 8:30 am—5:00 pm, Salem Red Lion Hotel: 3301 Market St. NE**

**Kim will get summary of statements from DHS**

Focusing on Deschutes County

Convener: Renee Windsor, *CCF Board Chair*

Participants: Jan Davidson, Corina Chinchon, and Pat Carey, *DHS*, Pam Fortier, *CASA*, Sarah Johnson and Hilary Saraceno, *CCF*

***Applying the Statewide goals in Deschutes County and connecting to our existing planning work***

The Oregon Solutions – Deschutes County team will focus on:

- Increasing relative placements by 50%
- Reduce children entering care by 10%
- Increase foster care exits by 20%
- Maintain or reduce current child re-abuse rate/neglect recurrence at ?

By focusing on the above goals, the team expects to safely reduce the number of Oregon children in foster care by 20% in 2011

**Strategies:**

1. Fully implement Family Find in Deschutes County
  - Capitalize on the DHS funded Relative Search Coordinator position.
  - Expand Family Find to all ages but target children that have been in foster care for 13-18 months with children at 25 months or more as the highest priority.
  - Review best practices and learn from other counties that have implemented Family Find
2. Fully implement the Oregon Safety Model
  - Train community organizations about how to incorporate OSM into their practices to improve the ability for children to stay safe at home and exit foster care sooner to a safer home.
3. Make child welfare decisions based on high-quality data
  - Create an “Annual Portrait” with data that will be utilized by all child welfare organizations to increase consistency

## ***Getting to Action***

Kith and Kin classification: What is the working definition of Kith and Kin?

Currently there is no distinction of kith within the existing data. In order to track these placements, DHS needs to be able to distinguish non-relative placements. Maria Duryea explained that there is not a clean method for tracking these placements. DHS would need to create a new service code and train field staff to enter this code in the system.

DHS and Deschutes County CCF will conduct 2 trainings on Oregon Safety Model

Jan, Corina, and DHS Caseworker(s), along with Pam and CASA volunteer(s) will initiate pilot cases with Family Find in order to develop a long-term sustainable system for Family Find

Line up training Family Find training with Kevin Campbell

Meet with Jackson County to review lessons learned with Family Find by February 2009

Better understand the opportunities around federal and private funds, in particular the federal Family Connections Grant to determine if Deschutes County should develop a grant partnership with CASA

Deschutes County CCF Child Abuse Task Force Annual Portrait due in February 2009

Review the new DHS *Relative Placement Policy* (currently in draft form, final version TBD)

## **Other Potential Oregon Solutions team members and how they can contribute**

Courts/Presiding Judge – gain support to help implement Family Find strategy

Community Review Board (CRB) - ??

Faith Community – explore ways to provide support for families

Adults that have experienced the foster care system – feedback on strategies

Foster Care Parents – feedback on strategies

Mental Health Providers – explore opportunities to keep children safe at home

Attorney Jennifer Kimball - ?

## **Next Steps:**

- Refine potential team members list and desired commitments before asking them to join the Oregon Solutions team
- Better understand what success looks like for Oregon Solutions team
- Plan for a meetings in mid-February and mid-March