

Working with Caregivers

Background Notes

Providing a safe, caring environment for children when unable to live with their parents is crucial to the well being of children involved with the child welfare system. Caregivers can either be relatives or non-related families and the children may remain in their care for a brief time or for extended periods, sometimes even until adulthood. Because of the demanding nature of caring for traumatized children caregivers must be prepared and supported during their involvement with DHS. Read the Divisions 40 and 70 in rule regarding the requirements for monitoring child safety and placement matching:

http://www.dhs.state.or.us/policy/childwelfare/cross_index.htm.

The rule entitled [Medical Services Provided through the Oregon Health Plan](#), describes the timelines for arranging medical, dental and mental health evaluations for children in placement. DHS places value on working with substitute caregivers in a respectful, collaborative approach that honors the work they are doing 24 hours a day with children in care and supports them to do the necessary care of the child.

Tasks / Assignments:

- Meet with workers in your branch who place children in care. Find out what information they provide to foster/relative caregivers at placement. Find out what paperwork is required to be provided to a foster parent at placement.
- Locate the Child Welfare Partnership calendar and identify trainings in your county available to providers. This can be located at:
<http://www.cwpsalem.pdx.edu/foster/index.htm>
- Choose one caregiver from your caseload and invite them to meet with you and discuss the child you have in their home and the training needs for caring for that particular child.
- Inform the caregiver of training available in your area that would be beneficial to the care of children in their home.
- Find out how medical cards and clothing vouchers are provided to foster parents and the amount of clothing vouchers provided.

Discoveries:

- *What paperwork is provided to foster parents at placement?*
- *What trainings looked interesting to you or for your foster parents?*
- *What is the contact requirement for foster/relative families?*
- *What approach is valued per Monitoring Safety policy in order to meet the varied needs of children in care?*
- *What is the timeframe to provide medical and dental information to caregivers and to obtain medical and dental assessments for children in care?*
- *What is the timeframe for referring children for mental health assessments?*