

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON**  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**March 30, 2005 Hearing Room D**

**8:30 A.M. Tapes 71 - 73**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:           Rep. Billy Dalto, Chair**

**Rep. Tom Butler, Vice-Chair**

**Rep. Carolyn Tomei, Vice-Chair**

**Rep. Gordon Anderson**

**Rep. Deborah Boone**

**Rep. Kevin Cameron**

**Rep. Mitch Greenlick**

**STAFF PRESENT:           Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator**

**Pamella Andersen, Committee Assistant**

**MEASURES/ISSUES HEARD:**

**Oregon Alliance for Child Advocacy - Informational Meeting**

**HB 2640 – Public Hearing**

**HB 2362 – Public Hearing**

**These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.**

<b>TAPE/#</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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## TAPE 71, A

004 Chair Dalto Calls the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m. Opens the informational meeting on Oregon Alliance for Child Advocacy.

### Oregon Alliance for child advocacy – INFORMATIONAL MEETING

013 Mary Monnat President, Oregon Alliance for Child Advocacy. Explains the Alliance and its services.

053 Janet Arenz Executive Director, Oregon Alliance for Child Advocacy. Submits and reviews written testimony on child advocacy (**exhibit a**). Introduces Clark Luster, explaining his background and work.

080 Clark Luster President and CEO, Kansas Children's Service League. Relates his experience that children's issues cross party lines. Discusses his experiences in Kansas, stating desperation combined with strong leadership provokes change. Notes large, tripled increase in adoptions with a dissolution rate of less than two percent compared to twelve percent nationally.

175 Chair Dalto Inquires why adoptions fall apart.

176 Luster Reports there are many possibilities, noting the average age of adopted children is eleven years old, sibling groups need to be kept together, sometimes there is a poor match, families dissolve, people don't understand the challenges and commitment, etc. Reports Kansas case workers now provide 24-hour responses and foster parents are paid at a rate double the previous amount. Comments one critical outcome is kids are no longer in mental health programs and groups homes, but are in foster care and are adopted.

224 Chair Dalto Questions how much the amount paid to foster families influences the outcomes.

230 Luster States people do this type of work because of their heart. Notes the goal is to pay enough money that the foster parents don't want to walk away when things get tough. Reports paying a foster parent costs less than a treatment program and allows children to remain connected to their daily lives. Discusses structure of the Kansas system, noting costs were not reduced, but they have better outcomes. Relates the mechanics of the Kansas process and creative components that have been introduced into the system to move children toward permanency.

Explains the system is designed around achieving outcomes, and explains how the contractor's rate is reduced based on how long it takes for a child to be released from the system. Discusses the portrait gallery the League moves around the state to motivate people to consider adoption.

- 403 Rep. Butler Asks if Kansas was the first state to enter into a pilot program with federal funds.
- 425 Luster States he is unsure.
- 435 Rep. Butler Asks about medical provisions for special needs children in foster care.
- 437 Luster Responds each child has a Medicaid card, the Department of Education takes care of special education, and mental health costs and in-patient residential costs will be paid by Medicaid in the future.

**TAPE 72, A**

- 003 Rep. Butler Questions whether there is a warning system if the state does not see the outcomes they are seeking from a contractor.
- 010 Luster Reports the contractors meet quarterly with the state and the state can take corrective action if needed.
- 019 Rep. Butler Inquires about therapeutic foster care.
- 021 Luster States the League created a model of trained families who can take tough kids and increased payment to them, intensified training, and reduced their caseworker's workload.
- 037 Arenz Clarifies the Alliance is not promoting a particular model, but seeking to look at ideas and pitfalls and develop reasonable expectations for outcomes. States in Kansas the private sector assumes all the risks and must demonstrate effectiveness.
- 099 Chair Dalto Asks Luster what role methamphetamine plays in Kansas.
- 101 Luster Relates methamphetamine is a serious problem particularly in the rural areas. Elaborates on responses within their state.

115	Chair Dalto	Requests comparison between Kansas and Oregon in terms of the number of methamphetamine-affected kids that enter the foster care system and how their needs are addressed within the League's model.
114	Luster	Reports their program is geographical, so all problems within their area have to be addressed.
122	Rep. Cameron	Asks what issues Florida encountered.
140	Luster	States Florida erroneously thought they had trained people to do the work when they privatized. Notes the new, inexperienced staff created chaos, judges were brought into the process too late, and state workers remained state employees rather than becoming contractors. Changes have been made to balance the program, and state employees are doing prevention, now. Reiterates the importance of communicating with all parties early, and to ensure there is a prepared workforce.
170	Arenz	Interjects some non-profit organizations failed as a result of this process.
179	Rep. Anderson	Questions whether private contracts work.
186	Luster	Believes they work in terms of outcomes, but transitions are difficult. States motivators and incentives are necessary.
194	Rep. Anderson	Inquires regarding the categories of children that were adopted and requests a comparison to Oregon.
203	Luster	Discusses Kansas numbers. Explains the changes the new contract will make with caseworker stability and contractor follow-up.
226	Arenz	Provides comparison with Oregon, stating she does not know the number of children facing adoption.
236	Rep. Anderson	Asks who the private adoption and foster care contractors are.
237	Arenz	Elaborates there are options through the juvenile justice system, and Department of Human Services (DHS). Mentions three agencies in Portland that have private foster care beds.

247	Rep. Greenlick	Inquires how much money was added to the Kansas system by caseworkers handling both child protective services and adoption.
257	Luster	Replies the state-side staff has been reduced by attrition and re-directed toward prevention, but he is unsure of the dollars.
270	Rep. Greenlick	Requests an idea of the magnitude of dollars.
275	Luster	States Kansas has \$125 million in total contracts. Elaborates.
281	Rep. Greenlick	Asks if Oregon could provide a more effective adoption model if they found that much money.
298	Arenz	Lists other services Kansas also provides to children.
323	Chair Dalto	Closes the informational meeting on Oregon Alliance for Child Advocacy. Opens the public hearing on HB 2640.

**hb 2640 – PUBLIC HEARING**

329	Sandy Thiele-Cirka	Administrator. Summarizes HB 2640.
340	Bruce Bishop	Oregon Association of Treatment Centers (OATC). Submits and reviews written testimony in support of HB 2640 ( <b>exhibit b</b> ), noting it will treat residential and day treatment providers alike with respect to accessing liability insurance.
373	Rep. Tomei	Requests clarification of the existing situation.
376	Bishop	Explains it would allow them to join a pool to access lower cost coverage.
385	Chair Dalto	Reports there is no known opposition to this bill, and the committee will be seeking to remove the subsequent referral.
405	Larry Tang	Polk Adolescent Day Treatment. Mentions the present substantial rate increases this will preclude.
408	Thiele-Cirka	Requests clarification regarding the reference to HB 2254 on Bishop's written testimony.

- 412 Bishop Clarifies his wish to connect this testimony to the original bill, to bring continuity.
- 418 Chair Dalto Charges Bishop to seek rescindment of the referral.
- 427 Chair Dalto Closes the public hearing on HB 2640. Committee stands at ease from 9:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Opens a public hearing on HB 2362.

**hb 2362 – PUBLIC HEARING**

- 455 Bob Joondeph Executive Director, Oregon Advocacy Center. Submits and reviews written testimony in support of HB 2362 (**exhibit c**).

**TAPE 71, B**

- 002 Joondeph Continues testimony. States the goal is to develop a task force to review how funding and resources can be redesigned with integration for greater efficiency.
- 026 Mark McKechnie Social Worker, Juvenile Rights Project. Submits and reviews written testimony in support of HB 2362 (**exhibit d**). Discusses Wraparound Milwaukee. Notes the Project works with children with complicated issues, and does so with lower costs due to outcomes and the drastic reduction in hospital care. Discusses costs of three specific clients who have been institutionalized.

Committee stands at ease 9:55 to 10:05 a.m.

- 173 Rep. Greenlick States HB 2362 creates a task force, and asks the purpose in creating a task force rather than just making suggestions to change the system.
- 186 McKechnie Relates the objective is to have a group design changes and complete the task, not study the problem.
- 208 Joondeph Confirms need for a firm plan with support of governmental leaders.
- 223 Rep. Greenlick Reiterates need for a bill that moves in a direction to improve the system.
- 225 McKechnie

Mentions submitted written testimony of Judge Nan Waller (**exhibit e**), who is also interested in developing a similar approach to Wraparound Milwaukee.

- 275 Rep. Boone Requests explanation of the Wraparound program.
- 277 McKechnie Explains the program and the incentives to provide preventive services earlier.
- 295 Jim Russell Director, Mid-Valley Behavioral Care Network (BCN). Testifies in support of HB 2362. Notes need of collaboration and removal of barriers.
- 334 Rep. Greenlick Requests an explanation of what the coordinated plan will look like.
- 368 McKechnie Notes the pooled fund in Minnesota and the need to borrow benchmarks from other states on how to coordinate services and funding effectively.
- 408 Rep. Butler Asks if there is a state with an effective model Oregon can borrow while the study is being conducted.
- 418 McKechnie Replies each state is unique in how they address these issues and some models could not be adapted to Oregon.
- 445 Joondeph Discusses statutory structures of other states, and need to obtain buy-in from agencies involved.

**TAPE 72, B**

- 003 Rep. Butler Asserts if Oregon's statutory structure is not designed to accomplish the job, changes need to be made.
- 028 Rep. Anderson Reads into record a recommendation by George Longden (**exhibit F**).
- 054 Madeline Olson Assistant Administrator, Office of Mental Health & Addiction Services (OMHAS), Department of Human Services (DHS). Submits and reviews written testimony on HB 2362 (**exhibit g**), noting concern regarding the necessary funding for staff to implement the requirements. Because of the intricacies of funding and the federal strings attached, the Director would need additional staff expertise.

- 112 Kristen Anderson Parent of mentally ill child. Submits and reviews written testimony in support of HB 2362 (**exhibit h**). Relates mental health issues of her nine-year-old son. Notes the costs to the community and that lack of coordination of services prevents her son from receiving the services he needs. Recommends the bill be amended to design coordination rather than study the issue.
- 161 Jimmy Boyer Uncle of mentally ill youth. Reads testimony of mentally ill niece and her experiences (**exhibit i**). Supports HB 2362.
- 237 David Hitt Brother of mentally ill adult. Submits and reviews written testimony in support of HB 2362 (**exhibit j**). Shares story of personal and family recovery following drug use and loss of parental rights. Notes the people who helped them through recovery. Relates the experience of his mentally ill brother who has been in and out of the mental health system with no coordination of treatment, no continuing team and no structure.
- 358 Bruce Bishop Oregon Association of Treatment Centers. Testifies in support of HB 2362. Recommends an amendment.
- 416 Angela Kimball Parent of mentally ill child. Submits and reviews written testimony in support of HB 2362 (**exhibit k**). Relates personal experiences.
- 446 Jeanne Schultz Director, Oregon Family Support Network. Submits and reviews written testimony in support of HB 2362 (**exhibit l**). Lists valuable outcomes of streamlining.

**TAPE 73, a**

- 015 Chris Krenk President and CEO Albertina Kerr Centers. Submits and reviews written testimony in support of HB 2362 (**exhibit m**). Elaborates on the possible outcomes of the task force.
- 056 Janet Urton Parent of mentally ill children. Submits and reviews written testimony in support of HB 2362 (**exhibit n**). Notes her experiences as a parent of mentally ill children and an educator.
- 075 Chair Dalto Inquires how HB 2362 will further coordination of services for her children.
- 082 Urton



States the bill would allow creation of a blueprint for action that allows flexibility of funding and programming.

- 105        Jessica Stevens        Service Employees International Union (SEIU). Testifies in support of HB 2362. Recommends a representative of employees be included in the task force. Addresses Rep. Butler's earlier question about the intervening 18-month period. Discusses concept of funding following children rather than individualized contracts.
- 125        Randy Franke        Coalition of County Children and Families Commissions. Testifies coalition has not taken a position on HB 2362. Recommends legislative team makeup. Notes there is no coalition member on the committee in the bill.
- 165        Chair Dalto        Closes the public hearing on HB 2362. Adjourns the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

**The following prepared testimony is submitted for the records without public testimony:**

- Angela Kimball        Written testimony from Catherine Mains in support of HB 2362 (**exhibit o**).
- Angela Kimball        Written testimony from Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs in support of HB 2362 (**exhibit p**).
- Janet Arenz        Written testimony in support of HB 2362 (**exhibit q**).

**EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

- A. **Oregon Alliance for Child Advocacy, written testimony, articles and reports, Janet Arenz, 10 pp**
- B. **HB 2640, written testimony, Bruce Bishop, 1 p**
- C. **HB 2362, written testimony, Bob Joondeph, 2 pp**
- D. **HB 2362, written testimony, Mark McKechnie, 5 pp**
- E. **HB 2362, written testimony of Judge Nan Waller, Mark McKechnie, 3 pp**
- F. **HB 2362, email testimony of George Longden, Rep. Gordon Anderson, 1 p**
- G. **HB 2362, written testimony, Madeline Olson, 2 pp**
- H. **HB 2362, written testimony, Kristen Anderson, 2 pp**
- I. **HB 2362, written testimony of his niece, James Boyer, 1 p**

- J. **HB 2362, written testimony David Hitt, 2 pp**
- K. **HB 2362, written testimony, Angela Kimball, 2 pp**
- L. **HB 2362, written testimony, Jeanne Schultz, 1 p**
- M. **HB 2362, position paper of Children's Array of Psychiatric Programs, Chris Krenk, 2 pp**
- N. **HB 2362, written testimony, Janet Urton, 2 pp**

**The following prepared testimony is submitted for the records without public testimony:**

- O. **HB 2362, written testimony of Catherine Mains in support, Angela Kimball, 1 p**
- P. **HB 2362, written testimony of Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs in support, Angela Kimball, 1 p**
- Q. **HB 2362, written testimony, Janet Arenz, 1 p**