

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Hearing Room Tapes 4 - 7

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rep. John Meek, Chair Rep. Judith Uherbelau, Vice-Chair Rep. George Eighmey Rep. Bill Fisher Rep. Patti Milne Rep. Kitty Pi

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Mann, Committee Administrator Pamela Berger, Committee Assistant

TOPIC HEARD: Childrens Services Division (CSD) - foster care overview

These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation mark report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

TAPE 4, SIDE A

001 CHAIR MEEK: Calls the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

EIGHMEY: Would like follow-up from the Children & Families Commission on the breakdown by age for Level 7 children

MEEK: Will be looking further into that

Childrens Services Division Foster Care Overview

030 KAY TORAN, ADMINISTRATOR, CHILDRENS SERVICES DIVISION (CSD): Submits and reads written testimony (EXHIBIT A)

Members view pictures of children who are or have been served by CSD

TORAN: Submits and explains information pertaining to child abuse and neglect (EXHIBIT B) and information on the Oregon Family Unity Model

210 MARY BLANKENSHIP, CSD, SOCIAL SERVICES SPECIALIST: Explains role as a caseworker -child abuse -young, drug addicted parents

Members view pictures of abused children

BLANKENSHIP: Explains process that CSD goes through once child abuse has been reported

TAPE 5, SIDE A

028 -family preservation

075 CHRIS POLOTTAI, CSD, SOCIAL SERVICES SPECIALIST: Explains role as a caseworker 108 -safety plans

230 TORAN: In response to Eighmey, talks about measuring improvements in a child's life -national organizations gather data to help det

is for kids (biological family) 290 -in response to Snodgrass, discusses parent partnering with CSD; success

rate

POLOTTAI: Need to strengthen the family decision making approach in determining what needs to happen to keep child with the family

350 BLANKENSHIP: I review many aspects of a parent's situation (i.e. longevity of drug abuse treatment, reoccurrence of involvement wit

380 TORAN: In response to Snodgrass, "not sure if we need more restrictive laws; we need to rely on professional judgment call and the

TAPE 4, SIDE B

-in response to Piercy, we look for family members to care for child first before placing in foster care -in response to Uherbelau, 1/3 of c

030 POLOTTAI: In response to Meek, clarifies about family foster care; on a

temporary basis the state can be the best placement for a child, but not on

a long-term basis

MEEK: Would like to spend time this session looking into permanent foster care placement

TORAN: Prefers adoption over permanent foster care

070 GARY SHURTZ, FOSTER CARE DIV., CSD: In response to Uherbelau, discusses

statistics

080 TORAN: We look at circumstance of relatives to make sure if it is a safe place for the child 107 -in response to Piercy, fami

118 JUDGE JOHN LOWE, Juvenile court judge, discusses roles within the system -removal of a child from the home is very intrusive -as a j

324 EIGHMEY: Describes his experiences as a volunteer lawyer for children -need to change administrative rules to allow more flexibility

LOWE: Agrees that it is costly to bring in people to do evaluations for children; don't want to shortcut 420-in response to Uherbelau, w

CASA program due to administrative costs

TAPE 5, SIDE B

-in response to Piercy, the few cases that I see that are not necessary are those having miscommunication, usually divorce cases 050 -in

the family is dependent on the abusive spouse 106 -Measure 11 120 -in response to Milne, discusses guidelines when seeking placement w

150 TORAN: In response to Milne, discusses extended family placements

MILNE: Need to follow-up

TORAN: Confidentiality issues

LOWE: In response to Meek, describes how he handles requests for involvement in determining placement by family members

CHAIR MEEK: Recesses the meeting at 10:16 a.m. -re-convenes meeting at 10:26 a.m.

TORAN: Introduces Everett and Tim, both in foster care

275 EVERETT: Am 17 years old, been in foster care for two years; currently in group home -CSD has helped guide me in obtaining my GED - budgeting) 325 -in response to Piercy, best part of being in my group home was the support I received in accomplishing goals in my life -fo  
TAPE 6, SIDE A

004 -in response to Meek, have been involved in system for two years

010 TIM: Am 14 years old -in long term foster care -been in there for six years -plan on going to college -in response to Eighmey, am i

EVERETT: CSD has helped me by giving me family support, helped me obtain skills in getting a job, and obtaining life skills 058-in response

TIM: Number of foster homes

090 PIERCY: Impressed with Tim and Everett

TIM: In response to Piercy, felt confused when changes in foster care occurred -hopeful that I can reunite with my sister

EVERETT: Didn't feel that I fit into my previous foster homes -structure in group home has benefited me -in response to Eighmey; further di

175 JIM DYER, FOSTER PARENT: Discusses role as foster parent -relationship with CSD -need for more foster parents -shelter care -low se  
to be aware of 320 -aggressive children 340-challenges -medical needs; medical cards -length of stay

TAPE 7, SIDE A

010 -foster parents alone will not be able to "save" a child, it takes many people's involvement -in response to Uherbelau, discusses se

FISHER: Comments

110 DYER: Limitations of a foster parent 130 -in response to Eighmey; discusses religious issues with foster children

156 CHAIR MEEK: Adjourns the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Submitted by, Reviewed by,

Pamela Berger Tom Mann Committee Assistant Committee Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY:

A - Testimony - Toran - 4 pp B - Child Abuse & Neglect - Toran - 48 pp C - Family Unity Model - Toran - 6 pp