ORPARC Celebrates – National Adoption Month & Adoption Day!

November, National Adoption Month and Saturday, November 21st, National Adoption Day are special times here at ORPARC! We recognize and celebrate Oregon’s wonderful adoptive families, and the dedicated professionals who support them - while also bringing awareness to the many children in foster care still waiting to find permanent, loving families. Learn more about the national efforts at www.ChildWelfare.gov/adoption or www.NationalAdoptionDay.org.

2015 Shoulder to Shoulder Conference
Strengthening Children & Families

Please join us at the 17th Annual Shoulder to Shoulder Conference at the Red Lion Hotel on the River in Jantzen Beach. There is a Pre-Conference Event on Sunday, October 25th and the full conference will occur on Monday, October 26th. Registration and scholarships applications opened on August 17th. Registration cost is $65.00 by October 16th and $85.00 on/after October 17th. Continuing Education Credits and Certificates of Attendance are available. Professional and adoptive/foster/kinship parent scholarships are available.

Conference Registration: www.stsconference.com/registration
Conference Scholarships: www.stsconference.com/scholarships

Message from Adoption/Guardianship Assistance Unit

Successor Guardians

Hello from the Oregon DHS Central Office Adoption and Guardianship Assistance unit! Did you know that up until recently, children in Guardianship Assistance could not retain the subsidy payments if their Guardian(s) were to pass away or become incapacitated? Unlike Adoption Assistance, which could resume if a child was re-adopted, Guardianship Assistance eligibility ended with the death of the court-appointed guardian.

Recent legislative changes have created an avenue for children to retain these supportive payments! It is referred to as naming a Successor Guardian. There are several things that have to happen in order for the child to remain eligible for Guardianship Assistance payments:

1. The successor legal guardian must be named in the Guardianship Assistance Agreement PRIOR to the death or incapacity of the court-appointed guardian.
   a. Unlike initial subsidized guardianship criteria, successor guardians do NOT have to meet the definition of a “relative.”

Continued on page 2
Successor Guardians

Continued from page 1

2. The court-appointed guardian(s) must have died or become incapacitated.
3. The successor legal guardian and other adults living in the successor legal guardian’s home must pass a fingerprint based criminal and child welfare background check conducted by the Department of Human Services (DHS). The background check criteria DHS will use is the same criteria used to approve foster and adoptive applicants when the child is in the Department’s custody.
4. The successor legal guardian and the Department must negotiate and enter into a new written Guardianship Assistance Agreement.
5. The court will need to appoint the new guardian by court order.
6. Payments will end until all these tasks are completed.

If you have a child receiving Guardianship Assistance payments, and you would like to name a successor guardian, contact your Guardianship Assistance Coordinator!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Guardianship Assistance</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Support Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caseload Distribution by Last Name of the Guardian Family</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-G</td>
<td>Beckie Luckman, 503-945-6729</td>
<td>Karen Cremer, 503-945-6642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H-P</td>
<td>Scott Wickline, 503-947-5311</td>
<td>Courtney Nichols, 503-947-5092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q-Z</td>
<td>Bonnie Klohs, 503-947-5371</td>
<td>Sue Bakke, 503-947-5312</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** The above assignments are expected to change with an anticipated influx of work related to these guardianships, but they are current as of today.

What’s new in the ORPARC Library

Visit [www.orparc.org/library](http://www.orparc.org/library) for more information

Books, DVDs and CDs for Adults/Professionals
- The Best of Questions & Answers with Heather T. Forbes (6 CDs)
- Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) for Teens (DVD)

Books for Children
- Detective Punybutmighty and the Case of the Drool Monster
- I’m So Mad

Welcome Michael Plumb!
New Adoption Assistance/Guardian Assistance Coordinator

ORPARC welcomes Michael Plumb as the newest Adoption Assistance/Guardianship Assistance Coordinator. Michael began his career with DHS Child Welfare in August 2003 as a Social Service Specialist in Marion County specifically providing services to families under the Indian Child Welfare Act. In June 2008, Michael left casework to assist with the development and implementation of ORKids and served as the lead business analyst supporting CPS, Well-Being, Permanency, ICPC, Tribal Affairs, Post Adoptions, Federal Policy Planning and Resources, Field Services, and Research and Reporting. In addition to his experience, Michael graduated from PSU in 2007 with a Master’s degree in Social Work. He is excited to be in a position that not only provides consultation but allows him to work directly with adoptive and guardian families. He began his new position on June 8th. Welcome Michael!

Donated Books for Adults/Professionals
- 200 Ways to Raise a Girl’s Self-Esteem: Indispensable Guide for Parents, Teachers & Other Concerned Caregivers
- Birthbond: Reunions Between Birthparents and Adoptees—What Happens After
- Failing at Fairness: How Our Schools Cheat Girls
- How to Prepare Your Child for Kindergarten
- Raising a Daughter: Parents and the Awakening of a Healthy Woman (First Edition)
- The Stories Children Tell: Making Sense of the Narratives of Childhood
- What Every Parent Needs to Know about 1st, 2nd and 3rd Grades: An Essential Guide to Your Child’s Education

Welcome Michael Plumb!
New Adoption Assistance/Guardian Assistance Coordinator

Online Adoptive Parent Support Group

The ORPARC Online Parent Group is a welcoming, private web-based forum for Oregon’s adoptive and assisted guardianship families eligible for ORPARC services. Members can connect with other parent peers in a safe and convenient environment, moderated by ORPARC Family Support Specialists. Ask questions, share experiences, offer suggestions, and celebrate the joys of parenting while supporting one another through the challenges. To join or for information about this private Facebook group, please contact Arah Gould at agould@nwresource.org or orparc@nwresource.org.
Trainings are held in accessible locations. Auxiliary aids and alternative forms of written materials are available to persons with disabilities. Spanish language interpretation available upon request. Please request these services two weeks in advance.

Therapeutic Parenting

Tuesday, September 15, 2015 • 6:00-8:30 pm • Astoria
Department of Human Services
450 Marine Drive, Suite 210, Astoria, OR 97103
Presented by Denise L. Best, M.A., LPC, on behalf of ORPARC

Join Denise Best for parenting insight on understanding children with extra needs:
- Understand the impact of brain development on mastery of developmental tasks; "Can’t" vs. "Won’t"
- Learn to identify behavioral triggers & de-escalate/help regulate emotions based on brain dysfunction
- Gain insight into children’s model of the world, better attune to the child’s needs, decrease anxiety, and feel success
- Acquire interventions for the “top 5” behaviors: lying, stealing, sibling aggression, elimination issues and sexual acting out

No registration necessary. This training will be held at the Clatsop County Foster/Adopt Support Group. Contact Suzanna Vermeul-Wilson at 503-325-9179.

The Art of Grieving:
Healing & Growing through Change

Monday, October 26, 2015 • 1:30-3:00 pm
2015 Shoulder to Shoulder Conference • Portland
Registration: www.stsconference.com
Presented by Denise L. Best, M.A., LPC

A colleague once summarized her own process as “It feels like grief has a life-force of its own…it comes and goes no matter what I do.”

Grieving is a necessary process to reconcile a loss and be able to fully engage in life again. The grief process is extremely unique to each individual and can become complicated. In this workshop, we will cover normal vs. pathological grief responses in children based on age, indicators to look for when it’s time to seek help, and critical techniques to help a child and caregivers move through the grief process.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD):
Understanding a Brain-based Approach

Monday, September 21, 2015 • 6:00-8:00 pm • The Dalles
Columbia Gorge Community College
Lecture Hall, 3rd Floor, Building 2
400 East Scenic Drive, The Dalles, OR 97058
Collaboration between ORPARC & Swindells Resource Center

Please join Eileen Devine, Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), as she shares her expertise on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), a brain-based physical disability with behavioral symptoms. Eileen’s program will include information and tools regarding:
- A brain-based approach to living with, caring for, and working with individuals and families impacted by FASD
- Research-based best practices for helping people with fetal alcohol exposure

Eileen is a practicing LCSW and mother of a child with FAS. She believes that individuals living with FAS can be empowered to understand the impact of FASD and develop skills to live full and meaningful lives. This workshop is based on the curriculum created by Diane Malbin through FASCETS, an internationally known training model about FASD/NB disorders and the brain-based approach.

Building a Child’s Healthy Mind

Monday, October 19, 2015 • 9:00 am-3:00 pm • Redmond
Central Oregon Community College, Redmond Campus
SE College Loop, Redmond, OR 97756
Collaboration between ORPARC & Swindells Resource Center

Join us for this free symposium for families and caregivers. It will help enhance awareness and identify strategies and resources that respond to a child’s co-occurring mental health and developmental disability diagnoses.
- Building a Child’s Healthy Mind: A Psychiatric Physician’s Perspective—9:00-11:00 am: Dr. David Conant-Norville, Child and Family Psychiatrist and Co-founder, Vice President and Clinical Director of Mind Matters PC, will share his knowledge of the child’s developing brain, and psychiatric & developmental diagnoses and available treatments for children.
- Panel Discussion—11:15 am to 12:15 pm: Panel of medical doctors, county developmental and mental health staff, school personnel, family advocates and mental health professionals will join Dr. Conant-Norville to answer audience questions.
- Behavioral & Developmental Health Resource Fair—12:00-3:00 pm: Visit the resource fair where you can speak with and obtain information from several agencies and service providers.
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren with Special Needs
Friday, October 9, 2015 ♦ 8:30 am to 1:00 pm

Free event for grandparents of children who experience developmental disability and mental/behavioral health challenges. This event will help kinship guardians identify strategies and resources that support healthy growth and resiliency. Register by calling 503-215-2429 or 1-800-833-8899 ext. 52429. Limited childcare is available. Call 503-215-5400 secure childcare. Visit page 7 of this newsletter for more event details.

Federal Adoption Tax Credit for Special Needs Adoptions

Families who finalized the adoption of a child with special needs in 2015 can claim the full adoption tax credit of $13,400 whether or not they had any expenses. A child with special needs is a U.S. foster child who receives adoption subsidy or adoption assistance program benefits. The 2015 adoption tax credit is NOT a refundable credit. Nevertheless, families are encouraged to submit IRS Form 8839 (“Qualified Adoption Expenses”) with their 2015 taxes even if they do not have tax liability because the credit can be carried forward up to five (5) additional years, and families might benefit later if their tax situation changes or if the credit is made refundable in the future. Please visit www.orparc.org for more adoption tax credit updates in the near future.

Senate Introduced Bill That Would Make Adoption Tax Credit Refundable

On April 15, 2015 Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) and Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) introduced the bipartisan Adoption Tax Credit Refundability Act of 2015 (S. 950), a bill that would make the adoption tax credit fully refundable to ensure more families would benefit from this support since many adoptive families with lower or moderate incomes do not benefit from the credit currently. Visit the following sites to learn more about efforts surrounding the Adoption Tax Credit:
- http://adoptiontaxcredit.org
- https://www.facebook.com/AdoptionTaxCredit

2015 Angel in Adoption
Congratulations David Udlock!

Oregon DHS Caseworker David Udlock, East Branch has been honored by Congressman Senator Merkley’s office as his “Angel in Adoption” recipient for 2015! David’s exemplary commitment in going above and beyond for children and families, in addition to his longstanding and unmatched role in leadership of the annual “Shoulder to Shoulder” Conference, has earned him this merit. The Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute’s Angel in Adoption program helps federal legislators to recognize individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the field. Held annually in Washington D.C., this year’s Angels in Adoption gala will be on Wednesday, October 7th. Congratulations David – we are very proud of you!

Webinar
Understanding Grief and Loss
Thursday, October 2nd ♦ 11:00am-12:30pm (Pacific)

Kris Faasse, LMSW, ACSW, Senior Vice President of Clinical Operations, Bethany Christian Service, will educate us on the basics of the grieving process. Special attention will be given to some common implications for birth parents and adopted children of various ages. Participants will explore the science, research, and experience of grief and loss in the context of adoption. This 90-minute webinar will include some time for Questions & Answers with the expert. In order to attend the webinar session, you must register by September 30th.
Community Resources, Trainings & Events

Center for Improvement of Child and Family Services
PSU Child Welfare Partnership • www.cwpsalem.pdx.edu

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<tr>
<td>Morning NetLink Trainings</td>
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<td>Caring for the Sexually Abused Child</td>
<td>October 15</td>
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<td>Strong Parents/Strong Children</td>
<td>November 19</td>
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<td>Caregivers and Caseworkers Teaming</td>
<td>December 17</td>
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<td>The Important Role of Dads</td>
<td>September 17</td>
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<td>Evening NetLink Trainings</td>
<td>5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Emotional Intelligence: What It Is, Why We Need It</td>
<td>October 6</td>
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<td>Self-Harm: Putting the Puzzle Pieces Together</td>
<td>November 19</td>
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<td>Living Under the Influence of Addiction</td>
<td>December 8</td>
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Fetal Alcohol & Other Neurobehavioral Conditions: Understanding & Application of a Brain-Based Approach
Presented by Diane Malbin, Nancy Hall and Nathalie Brassard

October 15-17, 2015 • 9:00am-4:00pm
The Mark Spencer Hotel, 409 SW 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97205
$395.00 for parents/$495.00 for professionals; Some partial scholarships available
Registration: Contact Wendy Temko, 503-621-1271, wtemko@fascets.org
This workshop provides information about Fetal Alcohol and other neurobehavioral conditions (FA/NB), and the effects of alcohol and other drugs on behaviors of children, adolescents and adults. FA/NB are brain-based conditions with behavioral symptoms. The workshop will provide current research and a framework to support application of a brain-based approach. The goal is to increase understanding, reduce frustration, expand options and enhance collaboration across systems.

Page 5
NACAC Webinars

NACAC has a series of webinars on key topics for adoptive & foster parents, which cover trauma, managing feelings and behaviors, acting out, food issues, adoption tax credit, FASD, and more. Certificates of attendance are available for paid webinars. $15 per webinar for NACAC members and $20 for non-members. Visit www.nacac.org for more information. Webinars include:

- Adoption Tax Credit (1.25 hours)
- Healing from Food Insecurity: Beyond the Stash (1.5 hours)
- Helping Children Heal from Trauma: What Parents/Caregivers Need to Know (1.67 hours)
- Helping Children Manage Feelings and Behaviors (1.5 hours)
- “I’ll Tell Them When They’re Older Because...” Talking to Children about Their History (1.25 hours)
- Parenting Children Who Have Been Prenatally Exposed (1.5 hours)
- Parenting the Hurt Child (1.0 hour)
- The Teen Years: Brain Development, Impact of Trauma on Growth, Strategies (1.5 hours)
- Understanding The Acting-Out Behavior of Your Adopted Children (1.5 hours)

Autism Society of Oregon ♦ 1-888-Autism-1 (288-4761) ♦ www.autismsocietyoregon.org

Oregon has one of the highest rates of autism in the U.S. If you haven't already, you will meet someone with autism. People with autism want to lead fulfilling lives and make a meaningful contribution to society. Together, we can make that happen. Visit www.autismsocietyoregon.org for more information about ASO and support groups in Oregon.

Wings for Autism®

The Port of Portland, TSA, and The Autism Society of Oregon are hosting a Wings for Autism event at Portland International Airport with Alaska Airlines Saturday, September 26th ♦ Portland International Airport ♦ Arrive between 1:00-2:00pm

Wings for Autism is an airport “rehearsal” designed for individuals with autism spectrum disorders, their families and aviation professionals to alleviate some of the stress that families who have a child with autism experience when traveling by air. The program provides families with the opportunity to practice entering the airport, obtain boarding passes, go through security and board a plane. The event also gives airport, airline, TSA and other personnel the opportunity to observe, interact and deliver their services in a structured, learning environment. Contact Caitlin Davis at 202-617-3265 or davis@thearc.org for more information.

Oregon Consortium of Family Networks (OCFN)

Families building community; Creating futures

OCFN is a project of the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Office of Developmental Disability Services

1. Central Oregon Disability Support Network (CODSN): Deschutes, Crook and Jefferson counties, 541-548-8559, dianna@codsn.org
2. Creating Opportunities: Polk, Yamhill and Marion counties, 503-559-3674
3. Families Engaging and Thriving Together: Douglas County, 541-670-2750, jill@featt.org
5. Families for Community: Jackson and Josephine counties, kimberly@familiesforcommunity.org
6. ROCCOS Family Network: Gilliam, Wheeler, Morrow, Grant, Harney & Lake counties, dana@roccosfamilynetwork.org
7. Families Connected: Lane County, 541-343-5256, laura.dahill@arclane.org

OCFN consists of 7 family-driven organizations around the state that help connect families and build communities for children and youth who experience disability. Each of these networks creates opportunities for families to connect in many ways such as through fun activities in the community, one-to-one conversations, small group conversations, or through learning/training activities. Contact the Family Network in your area for information.
Visit [www.providence.org/classes](http://www.providence.org/classes), click on “Find a class or event,” click on “REGISTER” and search by class name or location to register. If you have any questions or need assistance registering, please call the Providence Resource Line at 503-574-6595 or 1-800-562-8964, Monday-Thursday, 8:00am-6:30pm, or Friday, 8:00am-5:30pm. You may also email [ORREGHealthEducation@providence.org](mailto:ORREGHealthEducation@providence.org).

### PORTLAND

**Developing Our Children’s Skills**  
Tuesdays, September 29-November 3 • 6:00-8:00pm  
Swindells Library  
830 NE 47th Avenue, Portland, OR 97213  
Six-week parenting class for families and caregivers of children with special needs. The program provides parenting strategies in a highly interactive group setting. Register by telephone at 503-215-2429 or 1-800-833-8899 ext. 52429. Class fee is $50.00.

**Grandparents Raising Grandchildren with Special Needs**  
October 9, 2015 • 8:30am-1:00pm  
Providence Portland Medical Center, Social Room  
4805 NE Glisan Street, Portland, OR 97213  
Join us for this free event for grandparents of children who experience developmental disability and mental/behavioral health challenges. It will help kinship guardians identify strategies and resources that supports healthy growth and resiliency.  
8:30am-1:00pm: Grandparents Resource Fair  
9:00-10:20am: A Grandparent’s Perspective  
10:40am-12:00pm: The Art of GRANDparenting

**Sibshops with Swindells Resource Center**  
October 17, 2015 • 9:30am-12:00pm  
Swindells Resource Center, Multipurpose Room,  
830 NE 47th Avenue, Portland, OR 97213  
Sibshops with Swindells Resource Center are lively, pedal-to-the-metal, award-winning celebrations of the many contributions made by brothers and sisters of kids with special needs. The Sibshops model mixes information and discussion activities with new games designed to be unique, offbeat and appealing to a wide ability range. Sibs ages 8-12! Please join us for this day of celebration of you.

### NEWBERG

**Developing Our Children’s Skills**  
Mondays, September 14-October 19, 2015 • 6:30-8:30pm  
Newberg Medical Center  
1001 Providence Drive, Newberg, OR 97132  
Six-week parenting class for families and caregivers of children with special needs. The program provides parenting strategies in a highly interactive group setting. Register by telephone at 503-215-2429 or 1-800-833-8899 ext. 52429.

### THE DALLES

**Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD): Understanding a Brain-based Approach**  
September 21, 2015 • 6:00-8:00 pm  
Columbia Gorge Community College, Lecture Hall  
3rd Floor, Building 2  
400 E Scenic Drive, The Dalles, OR 97058  
*Collaboration with ORPARC. See description on page 3.

**Child’s Healthy Mind Symposium**  
(Presentation, Panel, Resource Fair)  
October 19, 2015 • 9:00am-3:00pm  
Central Oregon Community College—Redmond  
Community Education Room  
SE College Loop, Redmond, OR 97756  
*Collaboration with ORPARC. See description on page 3.

### Webinars for Adoptive Families

Adoption Learning Partners’ webinars offer helpful support on timely topics and feature the leading experts in the field of adoption. The experts at Adoption Learning Partners present the latest research, draw on real life experience and provide answers to your questions. Visit [www.adoptionlearningpartners.org](http://www.adoptionlearningpartners.org) ➔ “catalog” ➔ “Webinars”
Adoption Mosaic

After 10 years of serving the adoption community, Adoption Mosaic will be closing its doors. The organization is proud to have supported so many members of the adoption constellation—adoptees, adoptive and prospective adoptive parents, first parents, family members and friends—through a message of inclusion, acceptance and diversity.

Adoption Mosaic invites you to a **Farewell & Thank You Party** to celebrate the many community members and volunteers that have served the organization. Light snacks and beverages will be provided.

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**The Children's Program—Fall 2015 Groups, Classes & Workshops**

To register call 503-977-0877 or visit [www.childrensprogram.com](http://www.childrensprogram.com) • 7707 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, OR 97219

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<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Anger Management Strategies for Parents of Grade Schoolers</td>
<td>Saturday, 11/07 • 10:00am-12:00pm &amp; 1:00-3:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginners AD/HD Group for Ages 7-12 (Weekly Format)</td>
<td>2 Parent Meetings: Mondays, 10/19 &amp; 12/14 • 7:00-8:15pm</td>
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<td>De-Stress and Chill: Stress Reduction Class for Middle School Girls ..........</td>
<td>1 Parent Meeting: Wednesday, 10/07 • 5:00-6:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mindfulness for Parents</td>
<td>3 Sessions: Wednesdays, 01/13-01/27/2016 • 6:00-7:15pm</td>
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<td>Mind Target for 6-8 Grade Boys: A Class to Learn to Focus Attention ..........</td>
<td>1 Parent Meeting: Wednesday, 02/03/2016 • 5:00-6:00pm</td>
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<td>Parenting Anxious Children: Strategies and Support</td>
<td>2 Parent Meetings: Tuesdays, 10/20 &amp; 01/05/2016 • 5:00-6:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Media: What Every Parent Should Know</td>
<td>Monday, 10/26 • 6:00-8:00pm</td>
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**Adoptive Families**


**Adoption Costs: What to Expect and How to Meet Them**

**Thursday, September 24, 2015 • 10:00-11:00am**

Adoption costs can range from $0 to more than $50,000.

What are the expenses associated with each route—domestic newborn, foster adoption, and international—and how are families financing their adoptions?
Oregon Family to Family Health Information Center

The Oregon Family to Family Health Information Center (HIC) provides information to families who are navigating the complex world of special health care needs. We are family members ourselves, who have first-hand experience raising a child or youth with a chronic health condition, developmental delay or disability, or emotional/behavioral challenges. For more information, call 1-855-323-6744, email contact@oregonfamilytofamily.org, or visit www.oregonfamilytofamily.org.

- North Coast ........................................ Danielle Caplinger, caplinge@ohsu.edu
- Mid Coast ........................................... Signe Miller, millesi@ohsu.edu
- Southern Coast ........................................ Tracie Skinner, skinner@ohsu.edu
- Willamette Valley .................................. Tami Montemayor, montemay@ohsu.edu
- Portland Metro ...................................... Shauna Signorini, signorin@ohsu.edu
- Hood River .......................................... Marisa Marquez, marquez@ohsu.edu
- The Dalles ......................................... Aaron Bowman, bowmanaa@ohsu.edu
- Klamath Falls .................................. Valerie Smith, smithva@ohsu.edu
- Umatilla/Morrow .................................... Sharyn Smith, smithsh@ohsu.edu
- Malheur County ................................. Brandy Ragus, ragus@ohsu.edu
- Russian-speaking (all Oregon) ............... Galina Burley, burley@ohsu.edu
- Spanish-speaking (all Oregon) .......... Teresa Gomez, call 503-931-8930

Oregon Technical Assistance Corporation
3886 Beverly Avenue NE, Building I, Suite 21, Salem, OR 97305-1373
☑ 503-364-9943 (telephone) ☑ 503-364-1939 (fax) ☑ www.otac.org

Oregon Technical Assistance Corporation (OTAC) promotes full participation in community life for individuals with disabilities, seniors and their families through the delivery of training, technical assistance and related services. If you are interested or would like to speak to someone about an OTAC training program, please contact OTAC at the numbers listed above or visit www.otac.org. Some OTAC trainings have a cost to participants. Registration and information at www.otac.org ➜ Click on “Training Information.”

Oregon Intervention System: OIS-P (“Parent”)

September 16th • 9:00am-5:00pm • Medford
October 13th • 9:00am-5:00pm • Grants Pass
OIS-P is only for families supporting children and adults who experience intellectual and develop-mental disabilities in the home setting. People who are paid to provide supports in the home, whether they are personal support workers, kids in home support providers, families receiving brokerage funds, foster care or agency staff require G Level Certification. OIS-P training is at no cost.

Behavior Specialists Network Event

October 12th • Grants Pass • Free Event
Session 1: Trauma & Identity (9:00am-12:30pm): This session focuses on the nature of identity development, strategies for supporting people with IDD in this developmental task, trauma among people with IDD, and weaving trauma informed care into identity development.
Session 2: Standards & Best Practices (1:30-4:30pm): The afternoon presentation will focus on OAR content related to behavior consultation, Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Support Plans. In addition, we will review the recommendations of the behavior work group submitted to ODDS. *This session is for Behavior Specialists only.

Oregon Intervention System: OIS-G (“General”)

October 7-8th • 9:00am-5:00pm • Salem • $90/person
OIS-G is a 2-day, 16-hour, introductory workshop that provides participants with the following: An introduction to Positive Behavior Support (PBS); Information about how behavior affects us all, and the things that affect behavior; Assessing the messages behind challenging behaviors; Ways to work through power struggles, conflict, and stress; Development of your own personalized stress-management plan; Reasonable responses to challenging behavior, including specific physical intervention and escape techniques.

Person Centered Thinking

October 7-8th
9:00am-4:30pm • Salem
The training is a foundation for those who support people with disabilities or participate in providing ongoing supports of person centered plans and services. $250.00 per person.
Family and Community Together (FACT) is a family leadership organization for individuals and their families experiencing disability, working collaboratively to facilitate positive change in policies, systems, and attitudes through family support, advocacy, and partnerships.

September 15... An Introduction to County Developmental Disability Services (CDDP) .................................................. 6:30-8:30pm .......... Portland

September 19... FACT Special Education Regional Conference for Families, Educators & Community Partners..... 8:00am-4:30pm .. La Grande

October 17 ...... Beaverton City Library Family Resource Fair ................................................................. 10:00am-1:00pm Beaverton

The National Center for Child Welfare Excellence (NCCWE) offers cutting edge Best Practices Resources to State, Tribal, and other publicly supported child welfare agencies to promote family-centered practices that support the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and youth while meeting the needs of their families. Resources are provided in the following formats, free of charge:

- **NCCWE Weekly Update:** This electronic weekly newsletter containing six brief items related to child welfare is sent to subscribers via email each Wednesday.

- **NCCWE Toolkits:** Each web-based toolkit focuses on a different child welfare topic and includes an organizational self-study, provides information and resources, and highlights promising practices and policies.

- **NCCWE Hot Topics:** Our website offers a range of recent high quality family-centered practice and child welfare publications and resources, topically arranged.

- **NCCWE Webcasts:** Focusing on a wide range of family-centered practice and permanency planning related issues, these videos are broadcast and then archived on our website.

- **NCCWE Webinars:** Focusing on a wide range of safety, permanency, and well-being policy and practice issues, these live events are offered for those working, involved, or interested in child welfare (and are then archived on our website).

- **NCCWE Information Packs**
  - Deportation and Child Welfare in Mixed Status Families with Unauthorized Parents and Citizen Children
  - Emotional and Psychological Well-Being of Children in Foster Care
  - Expanding Health Insurance for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care
  - Impact of Parental Incarceration and Child Welfare
  - Latino Youth in the Child Welfare System
  - Pregnancy Prevention for Youth in Foster Care
  - Transgender Youth in Child Welfare Settings
Community Resources, Trainings & Events

Oregon Family Support Network

Serving Benton, Clackamas, Central Oregon, Lincoln, Lane, Polk, Yamhill, and Washington counties
1300 Broadway Street NE, Suite 403, Salem, OR 97301
① 503-363-8068 • ② 1-800-323-8521 • ③ www.ofsn.org

September 4 Game Night .......................... 6:30-9:30 pm Hillsboro
September 9 Family Support Group Facilitation .......................... 9:00 am-3:00 pm Salem
September 15 Wraparound Family Partner Orientation .......................... 9:00 am-12:00 pm Salem
September 18 Youth Mental Health First Aid .......................... 8:30 am-5:00 pm Hillsboro
September 19 504 Plan or IEP? .......................... 9:00 am-12:00 pm Newport
September 19 IEP Basics .......................... 1:00-4:00 pm Newport
September 22 Family Driven Care .......................... 12:00-4:00 pm Salem
September 25 Adult Mental Health First Aid .......................... 8:30 am-5:30 pm Eugene
October 2 Game Night .......................... 5:30-8:30 pm Hillsboro
October 5 PDS (Peer Delivered Service) .......................... 9:00 am-5:00 pm Medford
October 6 PDS (Peer Delivered Service) .......................... 8:00 am-4:00 pm Medford
October 7 PDS (Peer Delivered Service) .......................... 8:00 am-4:00 pm Medford
October 8 PDS (Peer Delivered Service) .......................... 8:00 am-4:00 pm Medford
October 9 PDS (Peer Delivered Service) .......................... 8:00 am-4:00 pm Medford
October 16 Youth Mental Health First Aid .......................... 8:30 am-5:00 pm Salem
October 21 IEP Basics .......................... 5:30-8:30 pm Corvallis
November 6 Game Night .......................... 5:30-8:30 pm Hillsboro
November 12 504 Plan or IEP? .......................... 5:30-8:30 pm Corvallis

Improving Safety, Permanency and Well-Being for LGBTQ Youth

Wednesday, September 23th
10:00 to 11:15 am PDT

Register at https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4983652269020410881

Please join us for this informative webinar for anyone parenting or providing services for relatives, foster and adopted children and youth. Included will be an overview of what we know about:

- LGBTQ youth in out of home care
- the impact of family rejection
- their struggle for inclusion and safety when in care
- lack of affirming resource families
- double-standards applied to behavior, sexuality, etc.
- the essential role of support and affirmation in helping youth thrive

Presented by Ellen Kahn, Director of the Children, Youth & Families Program. Since 2005, Ellen Kahn has served as Director of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation’s Children, Youth & Families Program. In her role, Ellen provides national leadership and expertise in public education and advocacy efforts to achieve full equality for LGBT families. Under Ellen’s leadership, HRCF launched three highly successful, innovative programs that promote fair and inclusive policies and practices; All Children—All Families; Welcoming Schools; and the Youth Well-Being Project, which features the annual Time to Thrive conference to support LGBT youth. Ellen is sought out as an expert on LGBT adoption, speaking at numerous national and regional conferences, and provides training for child welfare and adoption professionals.

Page 11
As your open adoption reaches the teenage years, things may start to change. Here's how to handle it.

In preparation for adulthood, teens begin to separate from their parents and peer relationships become more important. Teens want more control over their lives. What does this mean to a teen's relationships with her birth parents? What are the common scenarios as an open adoption enters the double digits?

**Wanting Less Contact**

Tina had an open relationship with her birth mother, Linda. Linda joined Tina's family for monthly Sunday dinners and called to chat with Tina between visits. When she turned 14, Tina began to ask her mother to make excuses for her when Linda called — though she spent much of her free time on the phone with friends. Tina’s mother felt caught in the middle, and she wanted to keep Linda from being hurt. She also worried that Linda would blame her for Tina’s withdrawal. She also worried that Linda would blame her for Tina’s withdrawal. Linda’s desire for continued closeness was bumping up against Tina’s need for distance from the adults in her life. This pulling away, while hard for Tina’s parents, was even harder for Linda, who didn’t have the luxury of those tiny moments in an adolescent’s life when they seek connection.

If you notice changes in the way your teen talks about, or relates to, her birth parents, it's time to start a dialogue. If she wants to change the type or frequency of contact, help her find a way to do that with no misunderstandings. Tina eventually told her birth mother that she would prefer emailing and texting to weekly phone calls, with the understanding that the families would still meet for monthly dinners.

**Questioning Identity**

Jim, 15, met his birth mother, Darlene, when he was nine years old. His parents opened his adoption to satisfy his curiosity about his birth parents. Jim and Darlene kept in contact through phone calls and e-mail, with occasional visits. Out of the blue, Jim began to express anger at Darlene. He found her religious beliefs ridiculous. She wouldn’t answer questions about his birth father or his relinquishment. During counseling, it became clear that Jim was struggling with issues of identity.

If your teen is pulling away from birth family, do not hesitate to reach out to them. Remind them about the way all teens begin to relate differently to the adults they’re close to. Reassure them that you will always support their involvement with your child, and stress the importance of patience as you all navigate your teen’s adolescence.

**Wanting More Contact**

Mary, 16, wanted more contact with her birth mother, Nancy, and she wanted more privacy about their relationship. She resented her parents arranging visits, and said that she should be allowed to drive alone to spend the weekend with Nancy whenever she wished. Besides their fear of allowing a new driver to travel three hours alone, Mary’s parents objected to this plan because of Nancy’s struggle with alcohol abuse. When they stated their concerns, Mary accused them of being “jealous” and “threatened” by her relationship with Nancy.

If your teen wants more involvement with birth family, determine what is right for her — not what’s right for you. Your feelings may be interfering with your ability to agree to something appropriate. On the other hand, if your teen is trying to circumvent your input, enlist the birth parents’ support to set appropriate boundaries and communication. For example, make certain that you can count on the birth mother to tell your teen that plans must be discussed with and approved by you. If the birth parents have difficulty adjusting to your teen’s need for changes in the relationship, or if they undermine your authority, do not hesitate to suggest that they seek professional help from someone who specializes in adoption.

Regardless of the situation, you must remain in charge. This includes monitoring your teen’s relationship with the birth family, to ensure that it remains healthy and safe, while maintaining your own positive relationship with them. That being said, parents should adjust their expectations in accordance with their teen’s feelings and need for input into decision-making.

*The above article was reprinted with permission from Adoptive Families Magazine. Visit [www.adoptivefamilies.com](http://www.adoptivefamilies.com) to view more resources on this topic or subscribe to the magazine.*