

# Representing the whole family

The Parent Child  
Representation Program

**Bridget Budbill,**  
**Legislative Director**

2021



# In Oregon, we believe that supporting children and adolescents means supporting the whole family.

This is why the Oregon Office of Public Defense Services (OPDS) provides a multidisciplinary model of legal representation for families involved in the court system. The Parent Child Representation Program (PCRCP) serves parents, adolescents and children impacted by the child welfare and juvenile delinquency systems, with the mission of increasing safety and stability for Oregon families.

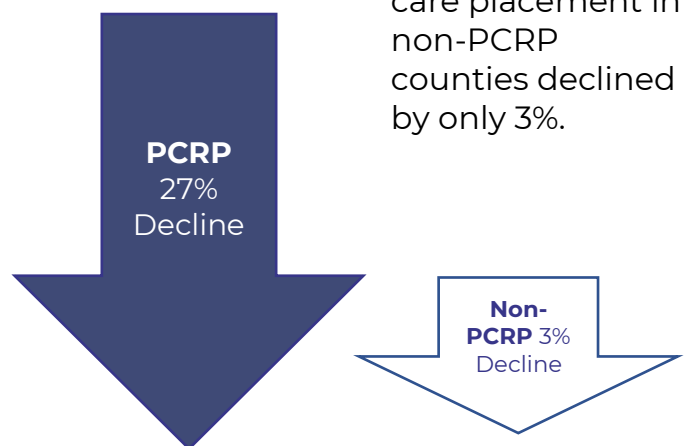
## PCRCP is high-quality multidisciplinary juvenile representation

- 1. Attorneys maintain reasonable workloads.** Attorneys have frequent client contact, attend case-related meetings, conduct independent investigations and advocate at court hearings at every stage.
- 2. Attorney-social work case manager teams in 10-15% of cases.** Social work case managers work with PCRCP attorneys to engage parents and children. Using a trauma-informed and culturally sensitive approach, case managers develop tailored service plans and address underlying social needs.
- 3. Enhanced OPDS oversight and accountability.** Attorneys provide monthly caseload and activity data and engage in regular reviews.
- 4. OPDS Training and Program Support.** OPDS provides specialized trainings and technical assistance for attorneys and case managers.

## PCRCP is effective at improving outcomes for Oregon children, youth and families

The PCRCP aligns with evidence-based models of high-quality representation that reduce use of foster care, expedite permanency, limit court contact and create state cost savings.

- 1. The PCRCP reduces use of foster care.** After two years of implementation, **use of foster care placement in PCRCP counties declined by 27%** while use of foster care placement in non-PCRCP counties declined by only 3%.



Children in PCRCP counties spend **3.5 fewer months** in foster care than other foster children statewide.

**2. PCRP achieves permanency for families.** A child in a PCRP county is **13% more likely to achieve permanency within 12 months** of removal than a child in a non-PCR County.

**3. PCRP reduces adolescent contact with the juvenile delinquency system.** On average, juvenile delinquency cases in PCRP counties **reach disposition one month sooner** than cases in PCR counties.

Juvenile delinquency cases in PCR counties are **13% more likely** to be dismissed than delinquency cases in non-PCR counties.

Adjudicated youth in PCR counties are **61% less likely** to face a probation violation than like youth in non-PCR counties.

**4. PCRP achieves cost savings.**



By expediting permanency, **shortening foster care stays by 3.5 months** and lessening the length and likelihood

of juvenile proceedings, the PCRP benefits affected families and avoids the fiscal and social costs of foster care placement and court contact.

**Current Counties Benefiting from PCR:** Linn (2014), Yamhill (2014), Columbia (2016), Coos (2018), Lincoln (2018), Multnomah (2020), Benton (2021), Clatsop (2021), Douglas (2021) and Polk (2021).

## Client Spotlights: PCR Increases Client Engagement and Addresses Interrelated Needs:



**In “Janet’s” words:** “When my Case Manager came on the case everything changed. I felt understood, valued and acknowledged. I had hope again. If it wasn’t for him, I wouldn’t have been heard and I 100% believe my family would still be in the system.”



**Jolie’s story:** PCR client “Jolie” had a history of homelessness, drug addiction and system involvement. Initial attempts to engage Jolie failed. With the PCR team’s steadfast support and coordination with her probation officer and caseworker, she completed chemical dependency treatment, mental health services, parenting class and accessed a housing voucher. Jolie visited her children at every opportunity while completing her service plan, and her children were returned home.



**Greta’s story:** “Greta” was houseless and without social supports when DHS suggested placing her child in foster care. Meeting her at the first court hearing, Greta’s PCR attorney immediately engaged a case manager. The case manager sought out housing and supports to prevent family separation. The team located a family shelter in another county that accepted Greta and her child, where they were able to safely remain together.



**Shari’s story:** “Shari” was a “crossover youth,” simultaneously navigating a delinquency and dependency case. She was 14 when she met her PCR team. The team became a constant for Shari: visiting her in residential treatment, connecting her with services while transitioning back into the community, and actively advising her through the legal process. The team’s support helped Shari persevere and successfully attain her GED, complete probation, secure full-time employment and obtain housing.