

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. [Policy I-B.1 Monitoring Child Safety](#) describes the requirements for contact with children and caregivers Policy I-E.3.1 [Placement Matching](#) outlines the nature of the work while children are placed away from their birth family. I-C.4.1 [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.
- Read the Policy on [Placement Matching](#)
- 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>

Discoveries:

- *What paperwork is provided to foster parents at placement?*
- *What trainings looked interesting to you or would you refer your foster parents to?*

Working With Caregivers, cont...

Tasks / Assignments:

- 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.
- Read the following policies:
 1. Policy I-B.1, Monitoring Child Safety,
 2. I-E.3.1 Placement Matching and
 3. I-C.4.1 Medical Services Provided Through the Oregon Health Plan.Using this information answer the questions in the Discoveries section.
- Find out how medical cards and clothing vouchers are provided to foster parents.

Discoveries:

- *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 substitute care?*
- *What is the timeframe for caregivers to receive medical and dental information from the caseworkers?*
- *What is the timeframe for obtaining medical and dental assessments for children in substitute care?*
- *What is the timeframe for obtaining mental health assessments for children in substitute care?*
- *Who is the contact person in your office for medical cards?*
- *How much is provided for clothing vouchers and what are the requirements? Who is the branch contact person for medical cards?*

