



## Chief Justice Honors Agents of Change

Chief Justice Paul J. De Muniz honored four Citizen Review Board members during the Volunteer Recognition Dinner at the 2008 CRB Annual Training Conference, "Every Day Counts."

**Jann Sparks**, from Washington County, was honored for establishing and working with the Sparkle Fund, a non-profit agency created to provide children access to important childhood markers like prom dresses and letterman jackets.



Jann Sparks

**Mary Hill** in Clackamas

County has in the last year used her other volunteer experiences with the senior center and food bank to be an educator, and by default, an active recruiter for the CRB. By her efforts Mary has been able to fill two vacancies on boards in Clackamas and has recruited several more applicants. It is clear that our active volunteers are our best recruiters and Mary is an admirable example. In her role of educating others Mary extended an invitation to her Senator, Kurt Schrader, so that he would know firsthand of the important work of the CRB program.

**Cynthia MacKay**, of Linn County, was recognized for

her tireless commitment to her work in the CRB. Cynthia serves on all four boards in Linn County, and probably reviews more cases than some of our staff! She has developed her own system to track cases, and consistently demonstrates her sincere dedication to her work.

**Heather Eason**, a now two-time Agent of Change Award recipient, was recognized for taking the lead in furnishing one of the visitation rooms at DHS when the Beaverton Branch in Washington County moved. See the article on page two for more information on this project.



Mary Hill with Benjamin Hazleton



Chief Justice De Muniz at the "Every Day Counts" CRB Volunteer Recognition Dinner

Inside this issue:	
Our Reviews	2
Visitation Room	2
Volunteer Spotlight	3
New Board Members	3
Online Training Availability	4
First Voucher Released in Bend, OR	5
Sibling Placement in Foster Care	6
Kinship Care	6

## Our Reviews

Beginning in July 2008, we will be conducting case reviews in a consistent and standard manner across the state. A similar effort was initiated in July of 2005 after surveying DHS, the court and volunteer board members regarding how the CRB could improve its practice, including the Findings & Recommendations document. That original process was known as the Findings Driven Review. Like the earlier initiative this endeavor will use the findings (required by law) as a guide for reviewing the case. In making this change, we expect to improve practice; principally in regard to the fairness, openness, and integrity of the review process for all parties or participants.

The hallmark of the new review process is making each finding immediately following discussion

of the information related to the finding, and before moving on. In using this method, parties have greater opportunity to be heard at the time when their information is most critical. As such, the review is more fair and equitable for all parties. Also, by concluding each finding before moving on, the decisions of the board show open and clear connections between discussions and decisions. This is especially important for people who may not regularly attend CRB reviews.

This initiative is focused on the structure or process of the review, not the content. It is not intended to prescribe the discussion or analysis of a board in making any given finding; however, using the findings as a guide for the review makes it clearer what information needs to be discussed and when. In

short, having a consistent process and structure for discussion will lead to greater integrity in both the review process and the Findings & Recommendations made by the boards.

In preparation for implementation, the program staff have developed a training that is being offered both at our annual conference in April and regionally in May and June. Additionally, staff will work with individual boards throughout the fall to ensure that boards feel supported in this important change.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this change, please contact Benjamin Hazelton at (503) 731-3270 or

[Benjamin.C.Hazelton@ojd.state.or.us](mailto:Benjamin.C.Hazelton@ojd.state.or.us)

## Washington County Board Members Donate Visitation Room

Have you ever seen a bunny fly? You can now in a new visitation room in the new Beaverton DHS office.

When the Beaverton DHS branch planned to move into new offices, Heather Eason, a Washington County board member, wanted to give something for the children, and she came up with the idea of sponsoring a visitation room. Heather hoped to create a better, friendlier place for children to visit their families. She proposed the idea to the Washington County board members who donated over \$1,000 for a visitation room. Heather had planned to have a work party with board members, but when she was given a last minute notice from DHS that the building would be opened over a

weekend for decorating she ended up doing virtually all of the decorating herself, including the painting of the bunny flying a plane.

The Beaverton DHS branch has now moved into its new offices and there are a number of beautiful new visitation rooms, but the best room is the one donated by the CRB members. You can't miss it, it's the one with the flying bunny.

-Submitted by Clayton Kubota



The visitation room before decorating.



The visitation room after decorating.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Board Member Named Citizen of the Year

On January 21, 2008, Umatilla County board member, John Nichols, received the Athena Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year Award for his invaluable work in his community.

John Nichols moved to Athena Oregon from Southern California 20 years ago in order to be the pastor of the Athena Baptist Church. Several years ago John started and currently leads "24-7," a community youth group. Middle and high school students from all over the area are involved in this dynamic youth group. Many at-risk youth have found direction because someone cared and took the time to provide a place where they could meet. Due to this

group, many youth have moved away from drugs, alcohol, bad relationships, and other negative influences.

John also leads the Athena Community Choir and remains an active supporter of the Athena Weston School District. John has also provided counseling to numerous people in the community and no one is charged for the service or turned away. John and his wife, Lynette have welcomed many people into their home that did not have a place to live. He also hosted an international exchange student. Athena is a better place to live and work, because of what John Nichols has given for nearly 20 years.

Congratulations, John! Thank you for being a valued member of Umatilla Board 2.

To see the East Oregonian article about our honored Board Member, [click here](#).



Athena Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, John Nichols

## Need a Good Laugh?

A first grade teacher presented the children in her class the first half of a well known proverb and asked them to come up with the remainder of the proverb. Some of their answers are below. It's hard to believe these were actually done by first graders. Their insight may surprise you.

1. Don't change horses.....until they stop running.
2. Strike while the.....bug is close.
3. It's always darkest before...Daylight Saving Time.
4. Don't bite the hand that .... looks dirty.
5. No news is..... impossible.
6. A miss is as good as a.....Mr.
7. You can't teach an old dog new ..... math.
8. If you lie down with dogs, you'll ....stink in the morning.
9. An idle mind is.....the best way to relax.
10. Where there's smoke there's .....pollution.



## Welcome Our New Volunteers!

Patrick Smit	Lane County	Brenda Vanderpool	Marion County
Betsy Fletcher	Lane County	Naomi Adams	Multnomah County
Kennyth Ann Friedrich	Lane County	Charles Wall	Multnomah County
Dennis Lees	Lane County	Mike Berglund	Union County
Eric Meyers	Lane County		
Christy Monson	Lane County		
Roz Slovic	Lane County		
Ned Brittain	Lincoln County		
Ann Andrews	Marion County		
Terrol Hoag	Marion County		



## Online Training Availability

Many of you have asked for on-line training in order to complete your training requirements and to learn more about the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

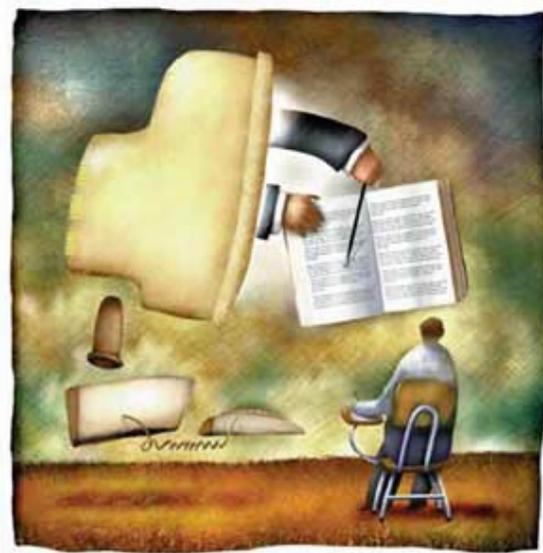
The Child Welfare Partnership at Portland State University has graciously agreed to let CRB members and staff utilize their on-line training courses dealing with Legal Foundations for Child Welfare Practice and the Multi Ethnic Placement Act.

The Legal Foundations course serves as an introduction to legal issues related to child welfare. The course is designed for workers new to the field. The course covers some basic concepts of law and the structure of hearings in juvenile court. It is intended to provide the student with definitions and information to begin to understand the legal work associated with child welfare practice.

The Multi Ethnic Placement Act course is designed to apply to all child welfare staff placing children in substitute care, including foster care and adoptions, as well as their supervisors, CETs or lead workers. The course is also applicable to child welfare staff that recruit, assess and train foster care and adoptive families as well as participate as committee members in deci-

sions regarding placement of children and selection of families to care for children.

To access these courses go to [www.psuonline.pdx.edu](http://www.psuonline.pdx.edu) and login to WebCT. Enter the username xcwpguest and the password 4444. PSU will not be monitoring the discussion boards, so you do not need to do those assignments and they won't be able to answer questions you might post. PSU has not updated the course to reflect any of the recent changes,



like the Oregon Safety Model, but the overall court/legal descriptions are the same.

Our sincere thanks to the Child Welfare Partnership for making this on-line training opportunity available to us.

The University of Oregon School of Law also has training posted on its website. Currently there are power point and audio presentations from six speakers who pre-

sented at the 2007 Oregon Child Advocacy Project Conference. Dr. Amy Dworsky provides an evaluation of the adult functioning of former foster youth, Michelle Benedetto discusses the legal issues that arise when youth age out of care, Dr Audrey Trainor and JRP attorney Brian Baker discuss the educational and legal problems of children graduating from special education programs, and Dr. Patricia Chamberlain, Dr. Leslie Leve and Attorney Pat Arthur present information on girls in the juvenile justice system. The website also provides links to other related resources and materials. The website address is <http://www.law.uoregon.edu/org/child/2007conference.php>.

“Knowing Who You Are” is a curriculum for social workers and stakeholders in the child welfare system that was developed by Casey Family Programs in 2006. It helps participants explore their own race and ethnicity, and prepares them to support healthy racial and ethnic identity development for youth in care. The curriculum includes a 23-minute video and a Web-based e-learning course. The video can be viewed separately. To access both go to [http://m1.casey.org/mk/get?\\_EC=hZWXuciAIW2mq5kjDJaUxY](http://m1.casey.org/mk/get?_EC=hZWXuciAIW2mq5kjDJaUxY)

-Submitted by Shary Mason, CRB Community Outreach and Training Manager

# First Voucher Released In Bend, Oregon Through Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program

(The following article is an April 30, 2008 press release from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)

HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt today announced the first vouchers for mentoring services for children of prisoners have been issued to a family in Bend, Oregon.

The voucher segment of the Mentoring Children of Prisoners program was created to expand access to mentoring services nationwide. The first two vouchers were released through a grant to the organization MENTOR from the Family and Youth Services Bureau in HHS' Administration for Children and Families. They will be used at Central Oregon Partnerships for Youth, a project of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office.

"Mentoring has been a long-standing priority of the Bush Administration," Secretary Leavitt said. "Because a mentor can change the life of a child forever, we committed to increasing the number of children who have access to this program."

Congress reauthorized the Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program in the [Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006](#). The act incorporated President Bush's proposal to allow the use of program vouchers to reach more



children of incarcerated individuals by authorizing a Voucher Service Delivery Demonstration Project.

In the first year alone, \$5 million in authorized funding will provide at least 3,000 vouchers for mentoring services for children of prisoners. In the second year, \$10 million has been authorized which will allow 8,000 vouchers to be provided. In the final year of the project, \$15 million will provide at least 13,000 vouchers to families of children of prisoners.

"Because of these vouchers, six and seven-year old brothers in Oregon will now be connected to stable adult role models through a mentoring relationship," said Daniel Schneider, HHS acting assistant secretary for children and families.

There are currently more than two million children with at least one parent in prison. Studies have shown that children with incarcerated parents are more likely than their peers to commit a crime. However, children involved in a mentoring relationship get better grades and are less likely to engage in harmful behaviors such as drinking or using drugs.

To learn more about the Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program, visit <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/youthdivision/programs/mcpfactsheet.htm>.

## **Stay informed!**

You can access information, articles, studies, and press releases like this one on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website at: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/>

## Sibling Placement in Foster Care

(The following article is from the May 2008 *Children's Bureau Express* [click here](#) to access the publication)

Placing siblings together when they enter out-of-home care is widely accepted as a best practice in child welfare in most cases. A new review of published research examined 11 studies on sibling placement conducted between 1998 and 2005 to gather further information on sibling placement, the benefits and challenges of conjoint placement, and theories guiding research on sibling placement. Overall, the results highlight the strong support that exists in favor of placing siblings together when they are removed from the care of their parents. The benefits associated with conjoint placement include:

- More harmonious relationships between siblings



- Fewer emotional and behavioral problems in preschool years  
Better mental health and socialization for female children  
However, placing brothers and sisters together often can be a challenging task for child welfare

workers. Current research indicates that larger sibling groups are more likely than smaller groups to be placed separately, because fewer foster homes are willing to accept multiple children and larger sibling groups are less likely to enter foster care simultaneously. Also, studies suggest that kinship homes are more conducive to maintaining conjoint placement.

The full study, "Research Review: Sibling Placement in Foster Care: A Review of the Evidence" by Karla Washington, was published in *Child and Family Social Work*, Volume 12(4), and is available from the publisher. [Click here](#) to access the full study.

## Kinship Care

(The following are excerpts from a *Center for Law and Social Policy* article entitled "Is Kinship Care Good for Kids" by Tiffany Conway and Rutledge Hutson, March 2, 2007. The complete article can be found at [www.clasp.org](http://www.clasp.org))

More than 2.5 million children are being raised by grandparents and other relatives because their parents are unable-for a variety of reasons- to care for them. Still some wonder whether kinship care is a good thing – and how we know this. The following facts address these often unasked but crucial questions:

- Children in kinship foster care have been found to experience fewer placement changes than children placed with non-kin foster parents.

- Multiple studies indicate the value of placing siblings together, when safe and appropriate. Perhaps equally as important, children in foster care consistently express the desire to be with their siblings. Research has shown that children in foster care are more likely to live with their siblings if they are placed with kin.



- Children in kinship care are more likely to report liking those with whom they live.

- Children in kinship care are more likely to report wanting their current placement to be their permanent home.
- Children in kinship care are less likely to report having tried to leave or run away.
- Children in kinship care are more likely to report that they "always felt loved".
- Research shows that children living with relatives are no more likely – and are perhaps less likely – than children living with non-kin foster parents to experience abuse or neglect after being removed from their homes.

# Examining Disproportionality at the National, State, and County Levels

(The following article is from the May 2008 *Children's Bureau Express* [click here](#) to access the publication)



A new study from the Casey-CSSP Alliance for Racial Equity in Child Welfare expands the field of knowledge about racial and ethnic disproportionality and disparities in the child welfare system by studying the phenomenon at the national, State, and county levels. The percentages and experiences of children within five racial and ethnic groups (American Indians/Native Americans/Alaska Natives; Asian Americans/Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders; Blacks; Hispanics; and Whites) were compared at three decision-making stages of the child protective process:

investigation, substantiated investigation, and placement into foster care.

Findings at the national level confirm that Black children and Native American children are overrepresented disproportionately within the foster care system. Also, children of all racial and ethnic groups, except White children, are represented at increasingly higher percentages in later stages of the child protection system, in contrast to White children, whose percentages

decrease further into the child protective process.

In addition to presenting results at the national level, the report examines disproportionality and disparity in four States (Minnesota, North Carolina, Texas, and Washington) and five counties. Several statistical tables are presented for each State and county along with a written analysis examining the patterns of disproportionality and disparity in that location.

The full study, *An Analysis Of Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality and Disparity at the National, State, and County Levels*, by Robert B. Hill, can be found on the Annie E. Casey Foundation website: [click here](#)

## Identification and Management of Child Molesters

(Information from a workshop presented by Corey Jewel Jensen)

**Myth** - Most offenders were molested as children.

**Fact** - Only 25 - 30 % of offenders were molested as children.

**Myth** - Child Molestations are over reported and many of the reports are false.

**Fact** - Only 5 % of the children who are molested report.

**Fact** - Of those reporting, most reports are true. Only 2 - 4% are false.

**Fact** - Only about 3% of offenders are caught and offenders commit an average of 128 crimes before they are caught.

**Myth** - Most of the time you can tell when an alleged offender is lying.

**Fact** - Most people have only a 50/50 chance of knowing if some-

one is lying. People who are trained to detach when talking to someone, such as a secret service agent or a psychologist, have a much better chance of knowing when someone is lying.

**Myth** - Offenders offend for power and control.

**Fact** - Research is finding that offenders were over involved in sexuality as children and this is imprinted on them. Offenders use sexuality to comfort themselves.

**Myth** - People who commit incest do not usually victimize people outside of the family.

**Fact** - Sixty-eight percent of men who commit incest also molest outside of the home.

**Myth** - Treatment takes approximately 2 years.

**Fact** - Treatment takes 5 to 10 years.

The problem is that the system over estimates the ability to cure.

**Myth** - Psychosexual evaluations are good evaluation tools.

**Fact** - Many psychosexual evaluations are really just a psychological. A penile plethysmograph is needed. Polygraphs should be part of treatment.

**Myth** - All treatment providers are certified.

**Fact** - Most treatment providers are not licensed or certified. There are no standards for treatment providers. Some counties have adopted standards. Boards should advocate for standards and ask about certification at reviews.

-Submitted by Stephanie Slayton



Oregon Judicial Department  
Citizen Review Board  
410 NE 18th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 503-731-3007

Toll Free: 888-530-8999

Fax: 503-731-3442

E-mail: [CRB.Volunteer.Resources@ojd.state.or.us](mailto:CRB.Volunteer.Resources@ojd.state.or.us)

In the life of a child.....  
Every Day Counts.

We're on the web:  
[www.ojd.state.or.us/crb](http://www.ojd.state.or.us/crb)



*Save the Date*  
*2009 Annual Training Conference*  
*April 24 - 25, 2009*  
*Location to be determined...*