



Introduction

Greater Oregon Behavioral Health was appointed as the fiscal agency of the Foster Plus award in mid 2019. The term of the award is through June 2021, and was executed on September 30th, 2019 by the Oregon Department of Justice. The objectives in the award are to develop and facilitate a collaboration of proctor agencies in Oregon. GOBHI is excited to have the opportunity to lead this collaborative, and believe this could fundamentally change the partnerships between proctor foster agencies that contract with ODHS in Oregon. The following is a report of activities, accomplishments, and challenges from June 2020 - August 2020.

Activities and Accomplishments:

- Routine Convenings: Meeting the requirements of Exhibit A, Part 1, 2. Objectives, monthly collaboration meetings have been scheduled through the remainder of the duration of the agreement, June 2021. Participation by agencies is required in the MOU, and is offered in person, by video, or by phone.
 - Communications Strategies:
 - New video resources and photography have been completed In collaboration with subcontractor Brink Communications, that are inclusive and meet the goals of Exhibit A, Part 1, 3. Communications Strategies.
 - In August, we discussed the next round of advertising media that will be released in November. We are currently discussing language related to relief foster care and how we navigate that messaging during the unique challenges of COVID-19. We expect finalized language to be developed in October of 2020.
 - Binti Implementation: All 11 Foster Plus are engaged and operating in Binti. Frankly, we could not have foreseen how valuable Binti would end up being during the
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COVID-19 outbreak, as it allows for families and agencies to upload their documents from home safely.

- Expected outcomes:
 - Inquiries increased by 10%: As mentioned in Exhibit A, Part 1, 6.a a baseline of inquiries from calendar year 2018 has been collected from CCA's that were tracking the data at the time. The average was 8.9 inquiries per agency during calendar month in 2018. The average inquiries per agency in Q1 2020 was 13.33, a nearly 50% increase. This goal has been met and exceeded.
 - Certified proctor providers increased by 10%: After discussion with Child Welfare regarding the number of foster homes, Foster Plus refined the reporting of their proctor foster homes to those only available to ODHS Child Welfare youth. This number was solidified in February 2020 with a number of 160 certified foster homes that were either serving, or were available to serve Child Welfare youth.
 - Update August 2020 - 151 certified foster homes. This is a clear reduction in the number of certified foster homes. There are two major factors in this reduction. The closure of a region by a Foster Plus agency redacted this number, and many other families have taken themselves offline for the duration of the pandemic.
 - Foster Plus would like to begin a discussion about this expected outcome, as the pandemic is not likely to disappear prior to the end of the contract period.
 - For reference, ODHS Child Welfare during FFY 2019 suffered a reduction in regular certified foster homes of 153 homes, with a total of 1519 remaining, a just over 10% reduction in overall homes. This of course was prior to COVID-19 and the unique challenges presented.
 - Foster Plus feels that our current reduction in homes of less than 6% outperforms the likely numbers of ODHS regular certification homes, though that number is not readily available to the public.
 - Recruitment Brand and Technology: Foster Plus is an established brand in Oregon. In an effort to continue to build the brand, Foster Plus provided a

gift to all currently certified Foster Plus families during the month of May as an appreciation gesture. We believe that this outcome has been met and will continue to be improved and refined.

Successes:

In the first half of 2020, we have seen major strides made by the group as referenced above. There has been increased collaboration between agencies at levels that previously were not present. We are working together to improve practice not only in the recruitment of foster homes, but in the practice of supporting foster homes and facilitating healing in the youth we serve.

We have been successful in unifying our agencies to move beyond partnership in recruitment, and have been able to put aside historical distrust to work together toward a common goal of supporting children in care.

Challenges:

By far the largest challenge has been adaptation to COVID-19. On the recruitment front, we have had to shift all recruitment efforts to virtual methods, which cuts down on exposure, and removes individuals who are less tech savvy from seeing our message.

Further, on the certification of homes, Foster Plus have seen foster families choose to stop accepting referrals until the pandemic is ended, or families that are not interested in being certified until the spread is reduced. This could impact our outcomes long term, but we are hopeful that will not be the case.

Looking Forward:

Foster Plus messaging continues to meet our goal of increasing the number of inquiries that we are generating as Foster Plus agencies. The relationship between the increase of inquiries to the number of certified homes remains unclear, as we know the foster care journey often takes years before finally moving forward into certification. That two year period since the launch of Foster Plus came in May 2020, in the middle of a global

pandemic. We are monitoring how this may impact growth of foster families in the short and mid term.

The uncertainty in society will be challenging to navigate in the coming months, and we will continue to be agile in meeting the needs of providers, agencies, and the youth we serve. Additionally, we anticipate stopping our advertising in the run up to the presidential election in November, meaning we will suspend advertising beginning October 1st through the election in November. After the election, new media will roll out across all formats to refresh branding.

We look forward to our continued partnership and supporting the well-being of young Oregonians! If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Rodakowski', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Adam Rodakowski, MSW