

# CPS Time



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## Greetings from the CPS Unit

**With the 2009 legislative session over** and most legislators packing up to go home, the central office folks are trying to get back to business as usual. We are excited to announce the publication of the CPS newsletter. The CPS newsletter will provide tips and articles about various practice discussions involved in the tough work that child protective service workers do every day, and we are hoping to increase communication between central office and the field.

We very much want this to be an interactive affair. We would love to hear what is going on in your areas, boast about some of the good work being done out in the local field offices, hear your stories and share trainings that you have attended. The newsletter will always have a tips section and an outstanding CPS worker section. Consultants will all share what is happening in their areas, as will the drug and alcohol and domestic violence coordinators. Central office updates will also be included. We hope to have a guest writer each newsletter to share wisdom about particular practices.

We welcome your feedback and recommendations about how to make this newsletter most beneficial to you. ~



# Outstanding CPS worker: Leslie Lanier, Jackson County



**Josh Miller, who supervises Leslie Lanier,** wrote to the CPS Unit about Leslie and her work. Here is what he had to say:

“I supervise a CPS worker who has done an amazing job in our intake unit. Leslie Lanier is excellent with client contact, organization and her written work. She loves new challenges and is always striving to learn more. We give her some of our most challenging cases and she finds a creative way to work successfully with the family.

“She not only does a great job with her own work but she prioritizes teamwork. She is so efficient with her work that she often makes time to mentor new workers or fill in for our court worker.

“The thing I think I value the most about Leslie is that she doesn’t just do her assigned job, she tries to make this position better for families and for the people who take on this difficult work. She will often run new ideas by me that help improve the quality of our social work and the ability to manage our huge workload. She is an amazing asset to our agency and somehow demonstrates how to be a great mom to six kids at the same time.”

*CPS supervisors and program managers: The “Outstanding CPS Worker” article will be an ongoing feature of this newsletter. If you know of an outstanding CPS worker, please tell us about him or her. Send an e-mail to [lisa.zacharias@state.or.us](mailto:lisa.zacharias@state.or.us) and describe what makes this person special. The CPS Unit will review all your nominations. ~*

## Screening tips

**How many times** have you, as a screener, heard, “Don’t put anything on the 60 case”? A 60 case refers to an adoption subsidy case. If an adopted family is receiving adoption assistance they will have a case open within the FACIS system and the worker ID will be a 60 ID. Screeners have been trained to never ever ever ever ever put a new intake on a 60 case. There is one exception with this: If the worker ID is 60DZ, this indicates a guardianship case; new intakes are put on those cases. So, never, ever ever ever ever put a new intake on a 60 case UNLESS it is a 60DZ case.



# Cheryl O'Neill, coordinator, Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault Program

**Cheryl O'Neill served as executive director of Womenspace**, the primary domestic violence agency in Lane County, from October 2004 until February 2009. Before that she worked for a short time as the Womenspace assistant director. Prior to holding that position, she worked for more than four years as the coordinator of the Lane County Domestic Violence Council. Previously, she worked as the first legal advocate in the Stop Violence Against Women Project — a collaboration between Legal Aid, the University of Oregon Law School, Womenspace and Sexual Assault Support Services. Cheryl first entered the field in the early 1990s as a volunteer, answering the crisis line and then facilitating a support group; she was then hired as the rural outreach worker in Junction City.

At DHS, Cheryl is the newest member of the CPS team. Her work supports child welfare's efforts to keep children safe by helping ensure adequate services for domestic and sexual violence survivors throughout Oregon. Cheryl primarily monitors the grant funds that DHS passes through to domestic and sexual violence programs across the state. These funds support programs that provide services to every county in Oregon. She participates in statewide



*Cheryl O'Neill, coordinator, Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Program*

strategic planning related to the distribution of these funds, as well as the standards of performance expected from programs receiving these funds. Cheryl also directly monitors grant compliance through monthly statistical reporting and yearly on-site visits. She also provides technical assistance to programs when needed.

## DV/SA news from Cheryl's cube

### Questions about domestic violence?

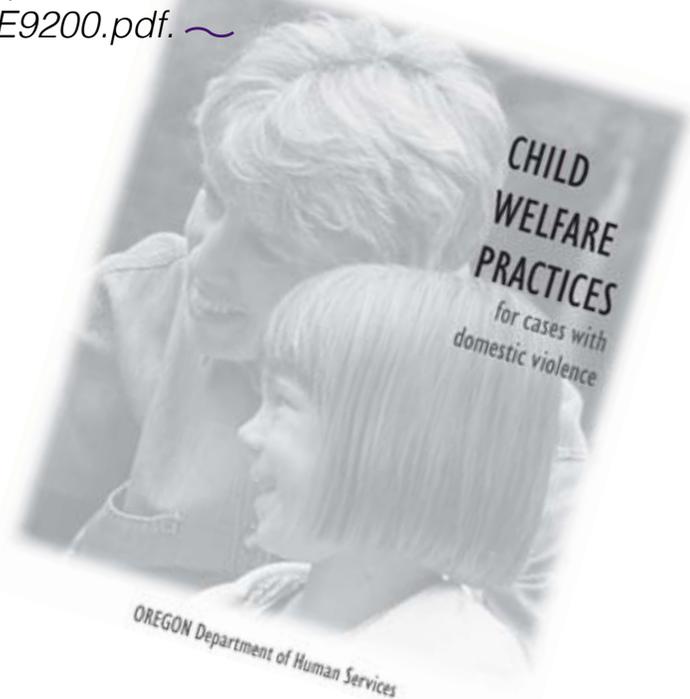
Don't forget the practice guidelines! By clicking [here](#), you can find the current *Child welfare practices for cases with domestic violence* (DHS 9200).

These practice guidelines incorporate a wealth of expertise. They also offer some useful tools in the resource section. Starting on page 49, you can find examples of helpful interview questions ranging from screening through assessment. Information on protective orders can be found starting on page 61. Services for people choosing violence starts on page 68 with a description of appropriate intervention strategies and ends with a list of things to look for that indicate real change. The practice guidelines end with a two-sided intervention flow chart.



Watch for the new and improved practice guidelines to be released soon. They are being updated with more current information and designed to work within the parameters of the Oregon Safety Model.

The practice guidelines can also be accessed from the Child Welfare Practices for Cases with Domestic Violence link on the Child Welfare Staff Tools page at <http://dhsforms.hr.state.or.us/Forms/Served/CE9200.pdf>. ~



## Minor victims sex trafficking (MVST) proposal

### **A confluence of opportunities for sex trafficking**

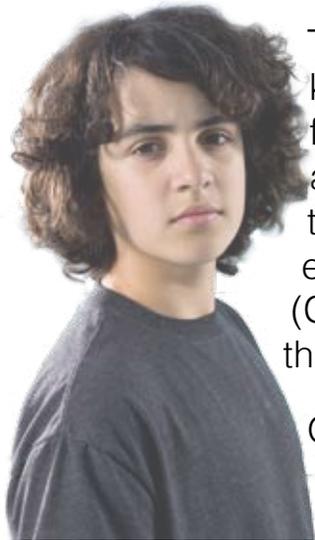
makes Multnomah County an excellent choice to test the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) curriculum, and to implement a project

to improve the community's response to CSEC (commercial sexual exploitation of children) victims and perpetrators.

The Trafficking Victim Protection Act of 2000 defines any minor, including U.S.-born or legal residents, involved in commercial sex acts as victims of trafficking (Shared Hope International, 2008). Since its passage, the Pacific Northwest has seen a significant number of suspected and confirmed cases of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and forced labor.

Multnomah County is particularly attractive to traffickers because it is a port of entry; it is also along the I-5 corridor, which is known to have a high level of human trafficking; and its large agricultural industry makes it a haven for coerced labor activity and sexual exploitation of individuals for commercial gain.





The I-5 corridor is also a known transport artery for illegal drugs, which adds to the danger that commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) victims face and the difficulty of intervention.

Oregon's commercial sex industry has proliferated in recent years. Portland now has more strip clubs

per capita than any other U.S. city. Portland has a particularly high prevalence of sexual exploitation of children/youth because of its location along the I-5 corridor approximately halfway between San Diego, Calif., and Vancouver, British Columbia; downtown Portland being the destination for many runaways from other areas of Oregon, Idaho and Southwest Washington; and Portland's high level of unemployment, which has led to an increase in runaway/homeless youth and sex work as a potential source of income.

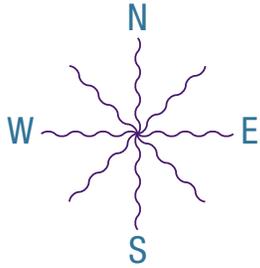
Along with the rest of the United States, Oregon is experiencing an extraordinary economic disruption, with high rates of layoffs and business closings leading to its May 2009 unemployment rate of more than 12 percent, the second highest in the nation. The stress of this level of economic disruption has created a ripple effect across Multnomah County's families, with increased rates of parent/teen anxiety and trauma-related mental illness, increased rates of family homelessness due to foreclosure or inability to pay rent, and reduced employment opportunities for youth as adults compete for the minimum wage jobs that would have been filled by youth.

Local, state and federal law enforcement officials in Multnomah County have worked the last year on more than 50 sex trafficking cases involving both domestic and international victims. This is believed to be only a fraction of suspected activity in Oregon. There have also been two known homicides in Multnomah County in the last five years of young women involved in sex work/pornography. Local law enforcement agencies have also seen an increase in illegal drug dealing by persons that may have been coerced into drug dealing by their traffickers.

Multnomah County jurisdictions face two main challenges in identifying and rescuing trafficking victims. First, service providers and law enforcement professionals must be trained to identify, investigate and refer victims for assistance. Second, trafficking victims themselves are often unaware they are victims of a federal crime and, as such, entitled to benefits.

Thus, a primary problem in Oregon is ignorance of human trafficking issues by providers, law enforcement officers and the victims themselves. In addition, there are serious barriers to prevention, prosecution and protection of CSEC, including unidentified or misidentified victims; professionals that are not knowledgeable about CSEC; victims that are uncooperative in investigations out of fear and coercion; and a lack of safe and appropriate services or secure and safe housing (SHI, 2008; Mukasey, et al., 2005). ~





## CPS around Oregon

### What's happening in Multnomah County?

*by Karen Gibbs, part-time CPS consultant, District 2, and Kirsten Brown, part-time CPS consultant, District 2*

- Newly trained CPS workers are receiving follow-up consultation with CPS consultants.
- CPS consultants provide some one-on-one trainings for CPS workers regarding interviewing as well as help with documentation and writing dispositions.
- Teen and CPS units meet together regularly to problem-solve minor victim of sex trafficking situations as they arise.
- CPS consultants are conducting monthly CPS reviews throughout the state to provide qualitative and quantitative feedback. Additional strengths and areas to improve are discussed at CPS Unit meetings.
- Monthly CPS Unit meetings have included specific trainings on the following:
  - » Unexplained injury — how to coordinate with doctors, attorneys, courts;



- » Documenting CPS dispositions;
  - » Non-court vs. court cases — how to decide about cooperative parents in voluntary cases, but restricting parent access requires court sign off;
  - » Juvenile sex offenders and safety planning;
  - » Threat of harm sex abuse case planning and coordination;
  - » Meetings with permanency units to review pertinent CIRT findings as they relate to return home planning.
- Bimonthly high-risk staffings occur with DAs, CPS supervisors and permanency supervisors.
  - CPS supervisors and program managers meet monthly to discuss current CPS concerns and to plan increased district-wide communication.
  - The Threat of Harm Sexual Abuse practice guideline book for DHS staff is in the draft stage. Using these guidelines, staff members throughout the state have been trained at CPS quarterlies, supervisor quarterlies and program manager meetings.

*Karen has worked for DHS for more than 10 years. She came to Oregon from Arizona where she spent five years as a child interviewer, working for the child welfare system and specializing in sexual abuse allegations. Prior to joining the CPS Unit, she was a supervisor at the Multnomah County Child Welfare Hotline. Karen enjoys cheering at baseball games and soccer games for her three children. The CPS Unit appreciates Karen's expertise in sexual abuse cases, her organizational skills and her ability to quickly problem-solve situations.*

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*Kirsten has worked for DHS for almost 15 years. Prior to coming to the CPS Unit almost six years ago, she was a caseworker in various offices in Multnomah County, working mostly as a CPS worker. Kirsten enjoys yoga, bike riding, running and spending time with her busy little 3-year-old. The CPS Unit appreciates Kirsten's expertise in chronic neglect and adolescent cases, and her thoughtfulness and thoroughness in problem-solving and brainstorming various projects/case staffings.*

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## What is happening in the western region?

*By Pam Hurley, CPS consultant, Districts 1, 3, 4, 15 and 16*

- CPS reviews are occurring in a few counties throughout the state, including Columbia and Linn, to provide qualitative and quantitative feedback, strengths and areas to improve, and to report back to local offices for group learning.
- OSM trainers have been coaching in the local offices.
- Threat of harm sex abuse training has been presented at unit meetings.
- The multi-county screening meetings include screening supervisors from the Clackamas, Multnomah, Marion and Washington counties and District 1, and meeting to discuss screening consistency and issues within these counties.
- Newly trained CPS workers are receiving follow-up consultation.
- Chronic neglect summits were held.
- Pam was a presenter at the domestic violence conference regarding working

collaboratively with advocates, Self-Sufficiency and other community partners.

- District 4 local child welfare offices (Benton, Lincoln and Linn) are meeting regularly with court staff to discuss court vs. non-court cases.

*Pam has worked for DHS for 12 years. She came to the CPS Unit more than five years ago from a CET position. She has worked in various counties, including Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas, and has held various casework positions. Pam enjoys traveling to exotic areas and having Sunday morning pancakes with her granddaughter. The CPS Program Unit appreciates Pam's expertise in ICWA law and father issues as well as her critical thinking and knowledge of policy when staffing cases, particularly in making screening decisions.*

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## What is going on in the eastern region?

*By Carolyn Snider, CPS consultant, Districts 9, 10, 12, 13 and 14*



- Training presentations and practice discussions in local offices have included threat of harm sex abuse cases, protective actions, appropriate safety service providers and cooperative cases.
- OSM trainers have been coaching in the local offices.
- Local legal communities have been receiving OSM training.
- MDTs are participating in Karly's Law training.

- Case staffings are occurring jointly with both the CPS and FBS consultants for both CPS and ongoing units.
- Chronic neglect summits have included presentations concerning the approach of the Oregon Safety Model in assessing chronic neglect.
- Newly trained CPS workers are receiving follow-up consultation.

*Carolyn has worked for DHS for 11 years. She joined the CPS Unit six years ago after working ongoing and CPS caseloads in Klamath and Baker counties. Carolyn enjoys volunteering on mission trips in foreign countries, spending time with her family and planning her upcoming wedding this fall. The CPS Unit appreciates Carolyn's logical thought process, her cultural competencies and her ability to give notable white elephant Christmas gifts.*

- DHS assisted with planning the Child Abuse Awareness Month community event, which hosted more than 500 participants over a lunch hour.
- CPS reviews are occurring in a few counties throughout the state, including Jackson and Klamath, to provide qualitative and quantitative feedback, strengths and areas to improve and report back to local offices for group learning.

*Dana has worked for DHS for more than 22 years. He has worked for the CPS Unit for slightly more than 10 years. Prior to consulting, he was in the intake unit in the Jackson County Child Welfare Office. Dana enjoys co-parenting his live-at-home son who is finishing his last year at Southern Oregon University. The CPS Program appreciates Dana for his knowledge of domestic violence cases, his flexible and caring nature, his expertise on difficult cases and his really nice motorcycle jackets.*

## What is going on in the southern region?



*By Dana Brown, CPS consultant, Districts 5, 6, 7, 8, and 11*

- Training presentations and practice discussions in unit meetings have included non-court/cooperative cases and chronic neglect.
- OSM trainers have been coaching in the local offices.
- Newly trained CPS workers are receiving follow-up on-the-job consultation.