

# Policy Transmittal Office of Child Welfare Programs



Lacey Andresen, Deputy Director, Child Welfare Practice & Program

**Authorized Signature**

**Number:** CW-PT-20-010

**Issue Date:** June 1, 2020

**Topic:** Foster Care Safety and Wellbeing Review Procedure Update

**Transmitting (check the box that best applies):**

- New Policy   
  Policy Change   
  Policy Clarification   
  Executive Letter  
 Administrative Rule   
 Manual Update   
 Other:

**Applies to (check all that apply):**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> All DHS employees                     | <input type="checkbox"/> County Mental Health Directors                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Area Agencies on Aging: {Select type} | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aging and People with Disabilities    | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Developmental Disabilities Services (ODDS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self Sufficiency Programs             | <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children’s Intensive In Home Services           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County DD program managers            | <input type="checkbox"/> Stabilization and Crisis Unit (SACU)                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support Service Brokerage Directors   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify):                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ODDS Children’s Residential Services  |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Child Welfare Programs     |   |

<b>Procedure Title:</b>	Safety and Wellbeing Reviews
<b>Procedure Manual</b>	Chapter 8 Section 13 (New Section)
<b>Effective Date:</b>	June 1, 2020
<b>Web Address:</b>	<a href="http://www.dhs.state.or.us/caf/safety_model/procedure_manual/Oregon-DHS-Child-Welfare-Procedure-Manual.pdf">http://www.dhs.state.or.us/caf/safety_model/procedure_manual/Oregon-DHS-Child-Welfare-Procedure-Manual.pdf</a>

**Discussion/Interpretation:** In 2016 a statewide protocol was developed to enhance collaboration among staff to help ensure the safety, health and wellbeing needs of children and young adults were being met while temporarily placed in relative or foster care. The implementation of this protocol varied greatly throughout the state and after further analysis of the process, updated procedure has been created to guide future practice, for implementation by July 1, 2020. The Safety and Wellbeing Review procedure is now located in Chapter 8 Section 13 of the procedure manual. This procedure guides the formal review process for the Department, when there is an issue of concern, closed at screening, allegation of abuse, or rule violation regarding a currently certified or prospective Foster Parent, Relative

Caregiver and/or Adoptive Family. This review provides increased communication and collaboration among staff to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing needs of children and young adults are being met on an ongoing basis. This process is designed to be a comprehensive review, not incident-based, which illuminates the complexity of current family circumstances, to better support our foster parents, relative caregivers and children and young adults in care, to guide the interventions which may be needed.

**Implementation/Transition Instructions:** If the Safety and Wellbeing Review process has not been developed within your district/local branch, please develop and implement this by July 1, 2020. For districts/local branches with an existing process, please review the information to identify any processes which may require adjustment and implement any modified practices by July 1, 2020. To further support your local branch process, please consult with your foster care coordinator.

**Training/Communication Plan:** N/A

**Local/Branch Action Required:** See Implementation

**Central Office Action Required:** N/A

**Field/Stakeholder Review:**  Yes  No

**If Yes, Reviewed By:** PARC and Policy Council

*If you have any questions about this policy, contact:*

Contact(s): Foster Care Coordinator

Alicia O'Quinn / Alicia.OQUINN@dhsosha.state.or.us / 541-732-4046

Melanie Parent / Melanie.PARENT@dhsosha.state.or.us / 503-945-6635

Sally Vegara-Clement / Sally.VERGARACLEMENT@dhsosha.state.or.us / 541-889-9194 ext. 346

Katrina Husbands / Katrina.A.HUSBANDS@dhsosha.state.or.us / 503-945-6393

Janna Owens / Janna.M.OWENS@dhsosha.state.or.us / 971-301-1981