

# Children's Justice Act Grant: Final Report

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## 1. **Project Name:** The Teens Project

2. **Description of Project Activities:** The goal of this project was to assist agencies and organizations who are involved in the handling of case of adolescent abuse and neglect by educating professionals on how to serve adolescents more effectively. The project consisted of four separate components: 1. develop a core curriculum focused on issues unique to *adolescent* maltreatment, 2. promote the dissemination of the core curriculum to a multi-disciplinary group of teen workers through a training summit, 3. to develop resources to assist multi disciplinary child abuse teams (MDTs) as they strive to better serve maltreated adolescents and 4. to develop a web-based training resource for youth workers.

### Core curriculum development

The curriculum development component began with a significant research phase. National and international curricula detailing best practices for working with youth were collected and reviewed. The team reviewed over 50 curricula and many more books and journal articles. In addition, the team convened an advisory board of professionals who work with youth. These board members provided valuable insight regarding curriculum content and design. (See appendix A for a list of team members.) The project team also held a youth focus group to get input from youth in the juvenile dependency and delinquency systems.

After the research phase was complete, the groups synthesized the research, selecting the most pertinent and relevant components which would be adapted for the curriculum. The final curriculum product, titled *A Curriculum for Trainers: Putting The Pieces Together--Supporting Adolescent Success*, incorporated many pieces of the research and spanned the following five topics: adolescent brain development, building relationships with youth, cultural considerations when working with youth, transitions, and unique needs of youth. The curriculum utilized a "train the trainer" format including group activities, video clips, and slide shows so that an individual could pick up the curriculum and train others within his or her organization. The curriculum can be accessed at: <http://www.cwpsalem.pdx.edu/teen/curriculum.html>.

### Training Summit

The training summit was held on July 31, 2007 in Salem, OR. The theme of the day-long summit was "Putting the Pieces Together--Supporting Adolescent Success." The summit was a resounding success and had over 130 attendees representing a variety of youth-serving organizations and agencies from around the state. (See appendix B for a list of attendees.) Attendees heard from experts in the fields of science and youth work regarding best practices for working with adolescents. In addition, attendees received training on how to effectively deliver the *Putting the Pieces Together* curriculum to their respective organizations. As a result of the summit, over 130 people were trained as "trainers" on the teen curriculum.

### MDT resources

The need for resources specific to the investigation of adolescent abuse was suggested in a research paper written for a prior CJA grant project.<sup>1</sup> The paper posited that, for a variety of reasons a bias against reports of adolescent abuse and neglect exists in Oregon. The paper recommended development of a sample protocol MDTs could adapt to use when investigating adolescent abuse and neglect cases and an evaluation tool to measure MDT effectiveness in order to reduce bias in the investigation process.

The resources developed for MDTs as part of the Teen Project included an evaluation tool, a sample adolescent abuse and neglect protocol, and a list of model policies and additional resources. Each resource is firmly rooted in research principles and best practices. These resources were compiled into *A Workbook for Improving MDT Investigations*, which can be accessed at <http://www.cwpsalem.pdx.edu/teen/MDT.html>. The resources have been distributed to each MDT in Oregon and the resource developers will provide technical assistance to the MDTs as needed.

### Web-based resource

The final component of the project focuses on the use of technology to deliver the materials to a broader audience than the summit attendees and MDT members. In order to accomplish this goal, the project team developed a “Teen Project” website, which can be accessed at: <http://www.cwpsalem.pdx.edu/teen/>. This website contains *A Curriculum for Trainers: Putting The Pieces Together--Supporting Adolescent Success* and *A Workbook for Improving MDT Investigations*.

Additionally, the project team developed individual, web-based training modules which focus on the most pertinent parts of the *Putting the Pieces Together* curriculum. The idea of the modules is that a single individual will be able to access the module, and, in a short period of time, and without leaving his or her desk be able to learn the essential parts of that particular curriculum topic. The team plans to service the website for at least a year and is hopeful that it will enable teen workers from across the state to receive current, relevant, and research-based information on how to best serve maltreated youth.

### **3. Describe the impact on the system serving abused and neglected children.**

As a result of these projects, adolescent abuse is more likely to be noticed, reported and effectively investigated. The curriculum development and training summit enabled 130 youth workers to adjust their practices to better work with teen victims of abuse and neglect. The MDT resources provide guidance to every MDT in Oregon on how to better account for the role adolescent development plays both in the investigation process and in the service delivery process. The web-based training ensures continuous dissemination of expert knowledge to organizations and service providers across the state. The website itself serves as a central hub for information on working with maltreated adolescents. In addition, an article summarizing the “Teen Project” was published in the Juvenile Rights Project’s *Reader*, which is disseminated statewide to

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<sup>1</sup> To review the paper, see McFarlane and Miller, *Promoting Community Protection of Adolescents* (2004), [www.jrplaw.org](http://www.jrplaw.org).

professionals working in the juvenile delinquency and dependency systems. The reader article can be accessed at: <http://www.jrplaw.org/documents/JRPReaderV4I4.pdf>.

**4. Did the activity result in the expected changed and improvements?**

Due to the timing and schedule of this project, the pieces of the project which would enable the greatest change, the teen summit and MDT resources, were completed in the past couple of months. This is because, for much of the grant period, the activities focused on research, developing best practices, and curriculum development. As a result, empirical evidence which supports the changes and improvements is lacking.

However, anecdotal evidence points to significant system change as a result of this project. For example, one teen summit participant reported that the information learned at the summit will change the way she works with teens. Another participant was extremely grateful to learn about how to more effectively represent his teen clients in juvenile court. A third participant explained that as a result of the summit she will be a better mentor for her teen mentees.

**5. Describe any barriers or problems encountered during project implementation.**

This project's implementation was relatively smooth. The primary difficulty was developing an appropriate scope for the curriculum development. The project team anticipated this difficulty and created an advisory board and youth advisory board. The team solicited feedback from youth involved in the juvenile dependency and delinquency systems and adults working within these systems. Advice from youth and the advisory board was essential to the project team in clarifying the scope of this part of the project.

**6. If the project was not completed or there were significant changes in the project as originally proposed, please discuss issues involved and outcomes.**

**7. Total amount of funds expended to date. Do you expect to expend all requested projects funds?**

The project team expended \$125,000 on this project over a one year period which was all of the funding associated with the grant project.

**8. Other comments:**

Thank you for the opportunity to work on this project. The project team has been inspired and encouraged by the overwhelmingly positive feedback we have heard from youth workers across the state.

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Agency: Juvenile Rights Project

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**Appendix A:** Advisory Board Members (note: identifying information has been removed from this list)

First Name	Employer	category
Kathy	Outside IN	Social Services
Wayne	Multnomah County Juvenile Department	Juvenile Justice
Kristen	Oregon DHS, CPS consultant	DHS
Phil	Oregon DHS, TANF	Social Services
Julie	Juvenile Rights Project, Inc	Teen Advocacy/Legal
Diane	Independent Living Program	Teen Advocacy
Don	Oregon Foster Parent Association	Foster Parents
Jennifer	McMinnville School District	Education
Bob	Oregon Advocacy Center	Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities
Stephanie	CJA Grant	GRANT committee
Dan	Wallowa Co	Dist attny
Karen	Oregon Youth Authority	Juvenile Justice
Sam	Family Involvement Team (FIT) of Mult. Co.	Substance Abuse

**Appendix B:** Summit Attendees (note: identifying information has been removed from this list)

<b>1st name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>city</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>category</b>	<b>number of youth they work with</b>
Karianne	Lincoln County Health & Human Services	Newport	OR	school staff, parents, community member, youth, etc	300+
Jennifer	Polk HALO Program	Independence	OR	Co-workers	0-20
Bruce	R.Y.R.P GOBHI/EOHSC	Burns	OR	Family Care Coordinators	0-20
Barbara	Southwestern Oregon Community College	Coos Bay	OR	Parents and Agency personnel with parenting in the	21-50
Christine	Christie Care	Lincoln City	OR	Skills Builders	0-20
Marcy	Catholic Community Services	Salem	OR	ILP Providers	0-20
Phillip	Trillium Family Services - Children's Farm Home	Corvallis	OR	Robin Sischo	21-50
sue		salem	or		No select
Dona	OR Dept. of Education	Salem	OR	Public School Homeless Liaisons	151-200
Sharon	cascadia	portland	OR		0-20
Steve	Oregon Youth Authority	Salem	OR	Foster Home Certifiers	0-20
Susan	Umatilla County Public Health	Hermiston	OR	peer staff members who do home visits, Clinic staf	21-50
Jennie	Marion County Juvenile Dept.	Silverton	OR		0-20
Melissa	CASA	Portland	OR	Wraparound team	0-20
Holly	Trillium Family Services	Portland	OR	psychiatric nurses and child and adolescent specia	0-20
Holly	Trillium	Portland	OR		21-50
Megan	Casa for Children	Portland	OR	CASA volunteers	51-100
Susan	Clackamas Women's Services	Milwaukie	OR	co-workers and use when working w/teens	21-50
Susan	Lifeworks NW	Beaverton	OR	Interns and Youth CD team	0-20
Lori	Harney County Juvenile Department	Burns	OR	partners coalition members	0-20
Cori	Chamber of Commerce	Salem	OR	Business Volunteers working with High School Stude	201-300

Cheryl	Grande Ronde Hospital	La Grande	OR	ER staff	0-20
Richard "Scott"	ODE - Baker City	Baker City	OR	Local youth between the ages of 14 -18 seeking emp	0-20
Kathy	Deschutes County Health Dept.	Bend	OR	co-workers	0-20
Windy	Family Recovery Inc YES House	Corvallis	OR		21-50
Kelly	Doyle Law PC	Portland	OR		0-20
Anna	CARES Northwest	Portland	OR	Forensic & Field Interviewers in Oregon and beyond	300+
Robin	Marion County Juvenile	Salem	OR	other counselors and line staff	0-20
Faye	Marion County Juvenile	Salem	OR	Juvenile Department	51-100
Marieka	CARES NW	Portland	OR	DHS, LEA, child interviewers	51-100
Tina	Jefferson County Victim Assistance	Madras	OR		0-20
rachel	New Avenues for Youth	Portland	OR		0-20
Susan	Family SkillBuilders	Portland	OR	Parents and teens involved with Child Welfare	101-150
Nick	DHS	Portland	OR	Foster parents and coworkers	21-50
Erica	DHS	Portland	OR		0-20
Kevin	DHS - Foster Care Manager	Salem	OR		No select
Heather	Benton County Mental Health	Corvallis	OR	Interns, Counselors, Juvenile Dept. Staff, Drug Co	0-20
Anna	NAMI	Portland	OR	Families with teens	0-20
Wendy	Lifeworks NW	Portland	OR	Peers & coworkers	0-20
Veronica	The Job Council	Medford	OR	folks on my team	0-20
Maria	Powerhouse Mentoring Program	Portland	OR	volunteer mentors who work w/teens in foster care	21-50
Miranda	Girls of Our Future (My Sisters' Place)	Newport	OR	Teens	300+
Wendy	Marion County Juvenile Departmetn	Salem	OR		No select
Janet	Silverton Together	Silverton	OR	mentors and parent education faciltators	21-50

Meg	Dept. of Human Services	Portland	OR		0-20
Phyllis	DHS	Salem	OR		300+
Kelly	Marion County Juvenile Department	Salem	OR	Adjudicated youth	0-20
Yao Hui	Harney Behavioral Health	Burns	OR		0-20
Rosemary	DHS, Independent Living Program	Salem	OR	ILP Contractors, DHS caseworkers	201-300
Karen	Grant County Victim Assistance	Canyon City	OR	Middle and High School Students	101-150
Marie	Community Services Consortium	Newport	OR	Youth Casemanagers	0-20
celia	oya	mcminnville	OR		0-20
Doreen	Silverton Together	Silverton	OR	Safety Net Team, Services Coordinating Committee	21-50
leila	CARES NW	Portland	OR	teens seen at CNW and through our prevention progr	0-20
Robin	Victim Assistance	Salem	OR	volunteer victim advocates	101-150
Jan	Wraparound Oregon and NAMI	Portland	OR	parents	21-50
Gary	Oregon Youth Authority Training Academy	Woodburn	OR	OYA Staff	300+
Federico	CCS - Street Vision	Salem	OR	employees	0-20
Debra	Jefferson Peer Court	Jefferson	OR	youth and adult volunteers	21-50
Anna	Children's Advocacy Center	Medford	OR	Other staff and volunteers	21-50
Darin	Clackamas County Juvenile Dept.	Oregon City	OR	Juvenile Probation Staff	300+
Melanie	Frontline Defense	Salem	OR	law clerk	0-20
Jane	Options Counseling/ChristieCare Solutions	Waldport	OR	Members of my team who can not attend	0-20
Glenda	State of Oregon DHS Child Welfare	Portland	OR	DHS caseworkers	0-20
Erik	Benton County Juvenile Drug Treatment Court	Corvallis	OR	Program staff and participants	0-20
Lee Ann	Oregon Family Support Network	Corvallis	OR	Professionals, interns, family, also work directly	0-20
Michael	Marion County Youth and Family Treatment Court	Salem	OR	Youth and Family Drug Court teams	0-20

Shari	McCloud EmancipationHome/Youth Progress Assn.	Portland	OR	Youth on Parole & Probation	51-100
Molly	Marion County Victim Assistance	Salem	OR	Victim Advocates	21-50
Kathy	CARES NW	Portland	OR	co-workers (medical providers)	0-20
Julie	Juvenile Rights Project, Inc.	Portland	OR	attorneys	21-50
Patty	District Attorney's Victim Assistance Division	Salem	OR	Victim Advocates	0-20
maria	oya	mcminnville	OR		0-20
Amy	Juvenile Rights Project	Portland	OR	attorneys	21-50
Marisa	New Avenues for Youth	Portland	OR	TH Staff and Case Management	0-20
Jill	Deschutes County Mental Health	Bend	OR	child & family therapists	21-50
Skip	DHS Child Welfare	Eugene	OR	coworkers in my unit who all work with teens	0-20
Phillip	Lifeworks Northwest	Portland	OR	Peersand co-workers	0-20
Melissa	Looking Glass Youth and Family Services	Eugene	OR	Fellow co-workers	0-20
deborah	CARES NW	vancouver	WA		No select
Terryl	Student MHCC Mental Health/ Juvenile Track 2nd yea	Portland	OR	Other class mates and the juvenile I work with for	21-50
Janina	Jefferson Behavioral Health	Grants Pass	OR	Professionals working with adolescents in a variet	51-100
Brienne	Deschutes County	Bend	OR	Team members	0-20
Lawrence	DHS	Salem	OR	Oregon City Youth Casemanagers	21-50
Jeff	Pridgeon Bjornsen & McCrum LLC, Attorneys	Newport	OR	Juv Ct Improvemnt Project team members	0-20
Tanya	Family Recovery Nonprofit, Inc. (Db a YES House)	Corvallis	OR	staff of residential and outpatient treatment	21-50
Julie	DHS - Child Welfare	Portland	OR	Others in my branch who weren't able to attend.	0-20
Dr. Leo	Life Directions	Salem	OR	Young Adults 13-35 years old	201-300
Patricia	CARES Northwest		OR		No select
Theresa	Oregon Family Support Network	Oregon City	OR	Colleagues at OHSU and Clackamas County who work w	51-100

Drew	Community Services Consortium	Lebanon, OR	OR	Other teachers in my building	No select
Colleen	CASA for Children	Portland	OR		51-100
Chris	Marion County Juvenile	Salem	OR	Staff I work with	0-20
Robin	Community Services Consortium YouthBuild	Lebanon	OR	Youthbuild Staff and members	0-20
Don	Northwest Human Services, HOST Youth & Family Prog	Salem	OR	Youth Workers, Adolescent Mental Health Therapists	21-50
Zak	New Avenues for Youth	Portland	OR	Fellow staff members/community members	0-20
Laura	New Avenues for Youth	Portland	OR	outreach team	0-20
Karen	My Sisters' Place	Newport	OR	Teen Mentors	51-100
Shannon	Polk County Independent Living Program	Dallas	OR	Youth	21-50
Matt	Abuse Recovery, Ministry & Services	Scappoose	OR	Youth Workers	0-20
Velinda	Options Counseling	Portland	OR	In-home therapists working with teens and families	0-20
Karissa	Oregon National Guard Counterdrug Support Program	Salem	OR	Youth ages 12-21	300+
Donald	Linn County Juvenile Drug Court	Albany	OR	no	0-20
Sarah	Yes House	Corvallis	OR		0-20
Amanda	Integrated Services Network	Salem	OR	Youth transitioning out of foster care	51-100
Corinne	Jewish Family & Child Service	Portland	OR	others in my agency	0-20
Peter	OSLC Community Programs	Eugene	OR	foster parents, therapists	21-50
Stephanie	Oregon Department of Human Services	Salem	OR	N/A (CJA Grants Coordinator)	0-20
Brandy	Oregon Family Support Network	Corvallis	OR	Staff, Parents, youth	0-20
Mary	New Avenues for Youth	Portland	OR	My Staff of Residential Counselors	0-20
John	U. of Phoenix,, MAED Secondary Education	Redmond	OR	Redmond High School Teachers	0-20
Jodie	CPRDT	Troutdale	OR	Staff	21-50
Pauline	LifeWorks NW	Tigard	OR	Interns, Counselors and Therapists	0-20

Lynne	Lifeworks Northwest	Beaverton	OR	Independent Living Program youth	51-100
Tiffany	Cascadia Bridgeway	Salem	OR		0-20
robert	oregon national guard counterdrug	salem	OR	youth ages 12-21	300+
Holly	Wheeler County	Fossil	OR	CCF Commission members and Community School teache	0-20
Alicia	David Douglas Schools	Portland	OR	other counselors	No select
DaNette	CASA-Voices for Children	Corvallis	OR	Staff & Volunteer CASAs	21-50
Teresa	Oregon National Guard Counterdrug Support Program	Salem	OR	Other facilitators of our program	0-20
Toni	Benton County Health Dept.	Corvallis	OR	teens, fellow home visiting nurses	51-100
Karen	Southwestern Oregon Community College	Coos Bay	OR	Parents of teenagers and teen parents	101-150
Cindy	Systems of Care	Hillsboro	OR	Teens in transition	21-50
Tracy	Benton County Health Department	Corvallis	OR	Benton County Assist Team	0-20
Natalie	Independent Living Program, LifeWorks NW	Beaverton	OR	colleagues, other community partners/members, fost	21-50
Nicole	State of Oregon DHS Child Welfare	Portland	OR	DHS Caseworkers	0-20
Curt	DHS/CWP	Portland	OR	co-workers	0-20
Rebecca	Community Action Drug Prevention Network	Salem	OR		0-20
Tiffeny	Options Counseling	Newport	OR		No select