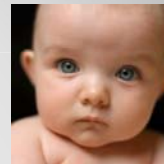




# Coos County Zero to Three Court Program “Babies Can’t Wait”

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## Zero to Three Program is:

- Collaborative project with community partners to improve outcomes for high-risk infants, toddlers and their families.
- A Family Dependency Court
- One year pilot project – started October 1, 2007
- Uses existing resources with no outside funding.



## Current Pilot Caseload:

5 Families:

- 6 Children
- 5 Mom's
- 5 Dad's

All five families have their children in their care

Two of our cases are Indian Child Welfare Act cases



## Out of the ten parents:

- 4 have alcohol or drug issues
- 5 have prior criminal charges
- 1 is currently awaiting a deportation hearing



### Criteria to be in the Zero to Three Program:

- Current open juvenile court dependency case
- Current open child welfare case
- All children in family age 0-3
- Decision made in consultation with Child Welfare Case Worker, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, and the Court Team



### Services provided to participants may include:

- Parenting Support
- Child Development Information
- Mental Health Treatment
- Drug & Alcohol Treatment
- Domestic Violence Treatment or Prevention Programs.
- Child Visitation



### Program Requirements:

- Attend court once a month
- Dedicated DHS child welfare case manager
- Legal representation – if requested
- Counseling sessions
- Drug and alcohol treatment – if needed
- Parenting classes and home visiting programs
- Roadmap (strengths-based/goal-setting) meetings
- Advancement through program stages (via parents petition to the courts) culminating in graduation



### Our Goals:

- Improve outcomes for infants and toddlers in the foster care system.
- Decrease inter-generational recurrence of abuse/neglect
- Enhance and better coordinate services for children and their families
- Reduce the number of placements and obtain permanency sooner for infants and toddlers



### What has worked so far:

- Frequent contact between parents and children
- Community visits
- Foster parents as mentors
- Thinking “outside the box”




- Attention to a family’s cultural values, educational and socioeconomic circumstances
- Psychotherapy
- Sessions help parents learn to link childhood difficulties to their current parenting practices through play and parent-child interactions
- Goal is a secure parent-child attachment



- Create a support system
- Wrap-around services
- Accountability
- Engaging the whole court team at meetings
- Collaboration and coordination of care



- Consistency of having one:  
Judge  
DHS/CW worker  
Therapist  
Same attorneys
- Dedicated team of people
- Frequent communication



## Future Program Goals:

- Add more families after our one year pilot project is complete in October
- Search and apply for grant funding
- Continue to look for creative and innovative ideas from other programs around the country



## We wish to acknowledge and thank those who made this program a reality:

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- Dale Helland, Director, South Coast Head Start
- Carolyn Jacobson, MOM's Program Director, Bay Area Hospital
- Robert More, Housing & Emergency Services Director, Oregon Coast Community Action
- Frances Smith, Administrator, Coos County Public Health
- Lauren Sproul, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Coos County Mental Health Children's Program
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- Ginger Swan, Director, Coos County Mental Health
- Twila Veysey, Court Appointed Special Advocate Program Director
- Kassie Wynveen, Supervisor Early Intervention, South Coast Education Service District

### Thank you to our Court Team:

- Judge Richard L. Barron, Coos County Circuit Court
- Bridgette Bagoy, Court Appointed Special Advocate Supervisor
- Teresa Bennett, Court Program Coordinator
- Beth Brooks, Child Welfare Case Manager
- Joel Curelo, Attorney At Law, Coos County Consortium
- Megan Jacquot, Attorney At Law, Coos County Consortium
- Stacey Lowe, Attorney At Law, SW Oregon Public Defender
- Al Neubauer, ADAPT Program Director
- Lauren Sproul, LMFT, Coos County Mental Health
- Janice Winstead, ADAPT

### For more information contact:



[www.cooscurrycourts.org/ZTT](http://www.cooscurrycourts.org/ZTT)

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