

# Annual Report 2024 - 2025



Oregon  
Alliance

*Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs*



# Message from the CEO



# Oregon Alliance

*Empowering Organizations,  
Transforming Lives*

## Dear Alliance Members, Partners, and Supporters:

As we reach the midpoint of the year and look ahead, I'm proud to share that the Alliance is moving forward with confidence, stability, and energy. With a strong new budget approved by both the Alliance and Center boards, steady leadership in place, and new board members adding fresh insight, we're well-positioned for what's ahead. We're moving forward—together. You can learn more about our boards on [our website](#).

This year's Oregon legislative session brought its share of victories and challenges—twists, turns, and bumps included. Like many of our peers, we navigated it all with determination. Thanks to our strong advocacy team and a growing network of engaged organizational advocates, we stood up for what matters most: the well-being of Oregon's children, youth, and families.

I remain deeply grateful for the work our members and partners do every day. Your commitment is the driving force behind this community we've built together. Thank you for your continued support—and for being the heart of the Alliance.

Sincerely,

Vera Stoulil  
Chief Executive Officer  
Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs  
Oregon Child & Family Center for Excellence

## Who We Are

The Oregon Alliance is the statewide voice for children, youth, and families. We bring together a diverse network of organizations that provide critical services—at home, in schools, in residential care, and throughout the community. United by a shared commitment to Oregon's young people, we partner with government leaders, allied professionals, and those with lived experience to shape smart policies, champion proven practices, and secure the resources that drive real impact.

## Our Mission

To help every child and youth thrive—and to build stronger, healthier families and communities across Oregon.

## Our Core Values

The Oregon Alliance's core values are centered around diversity, equity, belonging, inclusion, and accessibility. (DEIBA). We create, promote, and advocate for systems change, along with creating principles of respect, acceptance, and access to equitable services for the children, youth, families, and the communities at large that we serve.

## Numbers at a Glance



**32**  
Members & Partners



**Approx 7,000**  
Member Full-Time  
Employees



**\$250 Million**  
Impact



**4**  
New Members



# Advocacy 2024 - 2025

By Ellen Miller  
Alliance Government Affairs

The 84th Oregon Legislature declared “sine die” on July 27th, a mere 2 days before the Constitutional “sine die” deadline. Many were surprised by the early gavel drop, as several major issues remained unresolved, including funding for transportation infrastructure, wildfire liability reform, and Oregon’s youth behavioral health system improvements.

Still, there were key wins for youth and families. The legislature approved a historic \$11.4 billion K-12 budget for the next biennium. Notably, HB 5526—the ODHS budget bill—includes a 6% rate increase for Behavioral Rehabilitation Services and adds \$19.7 million for youth homelessness prevention and intervention, both now considered part of the ongoing service level.

## The Alliance in Motion

Alliance advocacy made a strong impact this session thanks to member engagement. Members helped shape policy, block problematic bills, and build powerful coalitions with hospitals, physicians, labor, and other youth-serving organizations.

The Alliance’s top priority this session was addressing reporting around restraints and seclusion, specifically HB 3835 and similar measures. The Alliance participated in tough conversations on the issues and participated in emotional public hearings. Although there was not a solution advanced this session, members should be proud of their efforts. Alliance leadership and members took the time to understand the legislative intent of bills and shared concerns early in an honest and open fashion. These efforts further solidify your reputation as a friendly and collaborative subject matter expert. This is one of Alliance’s greatest assets at the Capitol.

Many agree that this was a tumultuous legislative session. There were a record number of placeholder bills which resulted in lengthy technical amendments posted weeks or even months into session. Busy legislators struggled to have time to read amendments or comprehend the issues. Unfortunately, this caused difficulty in getting support for important legislation brought forward from coalitions and work groups who had spent countless hours working on in the interim, the time in-between legislative sessions. This happened in multiple policy areas including healthcare, energy, child welfare, water, wildfire, and transportation.

## Wins for all Oregonians

Still there were many accomplishments to celebrate. Legislative leaders are proud to have passed bills that protect most state core services, lower the cost of living, and expand the access to health care, housing, and public safety. At the same time, they acknowledge the work that remains unfinished. It was also the first time in several years that the Republicans did not protest and “walk out” to deny quorum. The Democrats were able to maintain quorum and achieve the legislature’s constitutional duty to pass a state balanced budget, despite it being a “cut” budget for a few agencies, most notably the Department of Transportation.

The next legislative session will begin January 20, 2026. This designated “short” session will be focused on budget adjustments in response to the federal budget. However, eyes are on Governor Kotek to see if she will call the legislature in to a special session before then to address the ODOT budget shortfall.

# Annual Summit

This year, the Alliance and the Oregon Child & Family Center for Excellence brought the Summit to the breezy

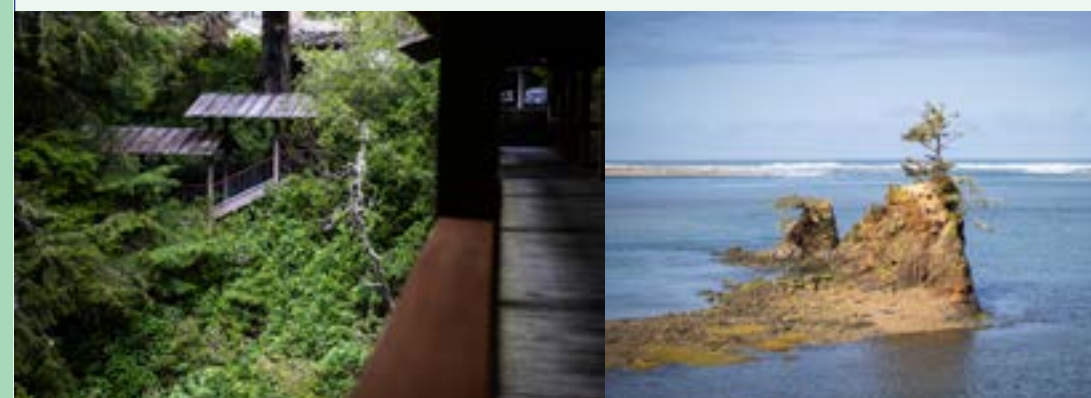
and beautiful Salishan Coastal Lodge in Gleneden Beach, OR. Our three-day event kicked off on Wednesday, May 9, with a Forest Therapy Walk session, followed by back-to-back State Agency and Youth Panels.

## “Care at the Core: Evolving Care Practices for People and Organizations”

Thursday brought along presentations by our Keynote speaker Arabella Perez and Secondary Keynote Speaker Casey Jackson, both of whom expanded on the theme of trauma-informed care in their presentations. Arabella and Casey addressed “Building Moral Resilience in the Workplace” and “Bridging Theory and Evidence-based Practices” in their respective presentations.

The rest of our Summit featured our Rose Otte Award Luncheon, more presentations and sessions that covered different trauma-informed care-specific topics and their solutions, and the addition of a new Friday agenda through mini work sessions following presentations by four individuals from our Alliance member organizations.

See you at the next Summit in 2026!



The 2025 Annual Summit was a great success with over 140 participants! Thank you to our incredible sponsors and attendees!





# Oregon Child & Family Center for Excellence



The Oregon Child & Family Center for Excellence supports children and families in Oregon by strengthening the programs, service delivery, and systems that contribute to their well-being. The Center’s mission and scope were crafted to meet the needs of these most vulnerable members of our communities, and our work continues to evolve to address new challenges.

**The Center for Excellence staff work with communities, providers, researchers, and government agencies to:**

- ✂ Create and deliver learning and training opportunities for the human services workforce.
- ✂ Bring together stakeholders to better understand and address challenges to youth success.
- ✂ Support service providers as they respond to new challenges and ever-changing needs.
- ✂ Investigate best practices for organizations and state agencies alike, to ensure the highest quality of care for children, youth, and families in Oregon.

The Center was designed with an ever-changing Oregon in mind. To date, its projects have included deep dives into child welfare programs, research efforts to more accurately measure the impact of residential care, and the development of effective trainings for human service sector staff. The Center has played and continues to play a variety of roles in these efforts; we collect and synthesize data, facilitate groups of stakeholders, and partner with government agencies to analyze policy approaches.



## FY 2024-2025 Grant Awards

Program	Granter	Description
Youth Well-Being Rural Connections Program	Willamette Health Council	To increase the number of trained Youth Mental Health First Aid instructors in Marion and Polk County rural communities.
Principles to Outcome Driven Practices	Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)	A pilot project Implementing a Theory of Change Framework in Residential Programs in collaboration with five residential providers (see page 6).
Professional Development for Service Providers in Douglas County	Ford Family Foundation, Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation, Roundhouse Foundation	Support Douglas County social service agencies with the professional development of their staff. Offerings will include Collaborative Problem Solving, Trauma-Informed Care, Leadership Training, and Youth Mental Health First Aid

# 2024 - 2025 Training by the Numbers



## New Trainings Offered in 2024/2025:

- Motivational Interviewing
- Professional Wellness Series
- The Neurobiology of Trauma and Attachment: A Brain-based Approach to Healing Relationships
- Emotional Attachment Behavioral Therapy: An Innovative Approach to Substance Use Disorder Treatment
- Introduction to Collaborative Problem Solving

# Center for Excellence Activities 2024 - 2025

## Training and Professional Development: Expanding Impact and Building Capacity

FY 2024–2025 marked a year of tremendous growth and innovation in the Oregon Child & Family Center for Excellence’s training and professional development initiatives. Our commitment to strengthening the child and family services workforce is reflected in expanded offerings, new partnerships, and the strategic hiring of a dedicated Training Program Manager to support continued excellence.

A major milestone this year was the addition of a Training Program Manager, who brings focused leadership, coordination, and vision to our training initiatives. This new role ensures our programs are consistently high quality, responsive to provider needs, and aligned with system goals.

Over the past year, the Center delivered 21 trainings to more than 528 participants across Oregon. These sessions addressed a range of critical topics including professional boundaries for administrative staff, motivational interviewing, reflective supervision, attachment theory, and trauma-informed practices. Participants consistently reported that the trainings were engaging, useful, and immediately applicable to their daily work.

We also expanded our training network by engaging new expert facilitators and securing exciting partnerships for the coming fiscal year.

### Participant Feedback

The quality of instruction remained a highlight across the board. Evaluations showed overwhelmingly positive feedback, with most participants rating instructor expertise as “Excellent.” Learners praised the engaging facilitation, practical relevance, and opportunities for skill application. Trainings were described as “wonderful,” “informative,” and “valuable,” with several attendees calling for extended series on professional boundaries, reflective supervision, and leadership development.

Our trainings also prioritized interactive, learner-centered design, often incorporating small group discussions, role plays, and scenario-based reflection. Even in virtual formats, participants appreciated the inclusive and engaging approach.

### Professional Development

**As we look ahead, the Oregon Child & Family Center for Excellence remains committed to developing a skilled, supported, and resilient workforce. With many strong partnerships, responsive programming, and dedicated leadership in place, we are well-positioned to deepen our impact and meet the evolving needs of Oregon’s child and family services field.**





# The Center for Excellence Leads Innovations in Residential Care

The Oregon Child & Family Center for Excellence is helping to lead a bold national effort to improve how residential programs serve children and families. This work is part of a two-year demonstration project led by the [Building Bridges Initiative](#) (BBI), a national program focused on making residential care more effective, family-driven, and youth-centered.

The project brings together residential programs, youth, families, and experts from across the country to improve care by focusing on what actually works. Five Oregon-based residential providers were selected to receive in-depth support, training, and consultation at no cost. Together, they're identifying areas for improvement, setting goals, and using data to track progress. Families and youth are actively involved in shaping the work every step of the way. This groundbreaking project is a collaboration between the Center for Excellence, BBI, [the University of Kentucky's Center for Innovation in Population Health](#), and Oregon's Department of Human Services.

While data collection is still in progress, early results are promising! Programs report stronger family engagement and more connected and motivated teams. The work is also gaining national and international attention, with presentations at major conferences and an upcoming article in *Child Welfare* journal. The Center for Excellence is proud to support this innovative partnership as both a leader and a connector in the effort to transform residential care for children and youth.



# Center for Excellence: Planting the Seeds of Expansion

Over the past year, the Center for Excellence has found its footing as a go-to resource for community-based organizations, state agencies, and academic partners. We've built on previous efforts and also ventured into brand new territory.

An exciting example: what started as an informal Affinity Group conversation about how homeless shelters were supporting staff with lived experience, has now grown into a fully funded project by the Oregon Health Authority. We're developing and piloting a new training program for both staff and managers in the lived experience workforce. This fall, a select group of agencies will test out the training, and provide feedback to refine it for broader, statewide use. It's a great reflection of what the Center was created to do: listen to provider needs, bring people together, and turn ideas into action.

To help lead this work, we welcomed Shawna Hartung as the Center's first-ever Training Program Manager. She'll oversee the lived experience training project, as well as a second OHA-supported initiative focused on strengthening the skills and capacity of Oregon's direct service workforce. We've also kicked off a new effort led by Policy and Research Analyst Jonah Harris. He's working to uncover the

barriers that young people with intellectual and developmental disabilities face when trying to access mental health services.

Another big step forward: through a contract with the System of Care Advisory Council, we launched a Youth Behavioral Health Workforce Subcommittee. This group—made up of families, youth service providers, academics, and agency representatives—is crafting recommendations for the Oregon Legislature to help grow and sustain a strong workforce for children, youth, and young adults. The Center has played a key role in keeping this collaboration moving smoothly.

While we're proud of these new projects, we're just as committed to the ones already underway. That includes the Five-Year Oregon Children's Residential Workforce Sustainability Plan, the Behavioral Health Classroom at Sunset High School, and our Principles to Outcomes Driven Practice work.

The Center for Excellence continues to grow, and we're excited to keep building on this momentum—finding new ways to support Oregon's youth-serving workforce and communities across the state.







## The Alliance is grateful for Bark to be a general sponsor in 2024!

And, we're excited to share that Bark is celebrating its 10-year anniversary! For the past decade, Bark has been dedicated to helping protect children online through a suite of innovative solutions, including a monitoring app, safe devices like phones and smartwatches, and educational resources for families and schools.

Reflecting on this milestone, Bark CCO Christian Brucculeri shared:

"It's incredible how much technology has evolved over the last ten years. As digital threats grow, the need to protect children online has become even more urgent. More tweens and teens have phones, social media offers 24/7 access to kids, and the negative impacts on mental health from digital activity are undeniable. Our mission remains as important as ever, and we look forward to continued conversations with members of the Oregon Alliance over the coming year on how we can enhance our efforts to keep youth safe."

## Here are some new resources that may be helpful for you, your staff, or families you're working with in your organizations:

- ✂ [Emoji slang](#): Get help decoding what kids are saying in text messages
- ✂ [5 Hidden Dangers of AI](#): As more youth turn to AI for companionship or help with everyday tasks, there are a few critical things to be thinking about for physical and mental risks.
- ✂ [How Bark empowers those in recovery](#): This case study follows the Poiema Foundation, and uncovers key areas of potential danger from iPhones.

## Our Members

4D Recovery  
A Village for One  
Boys & Girls Aid  
Bridge Meadows  
Clarvida  
Collective Roots APG  
Connections365  
Embark Behavioral Health  
Family Faith and Relationship Advocates (FARA) / Dome SPE  
The Family Room  
Family SkillBuilders  
Family Solutions  
Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc.  
Homestead Youth & Family  
Jackson Street Youth Services  
Janus Youth Programs, Inc.  
Jasper Mountain  
J Bar J Youth Services  
Kairos Northwest  
Maslow Project  
Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency  
New Narrative  
Nexus Family Healing  
Oregon Community Programs  
Parrott Creek Child & Family Services  
Project Lemonade  
St. Mary's Home for Boys  
The Next Door, Inc.  
Yamhill Community Action Partnership  
Youth Progress Association  
Youth Unlimited, Inc.  
Youth Villages

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