



Coalition of Advocates for Equal Access for Girls 2009 Legislative Priorities

Primary Priorities

- Increase funding in **DHS/CAF's** budget to enhance access for **children in foster care (in our case 9-19 year old girls)** to **mental health services** through trained QMHP's housed at CW Branches utilizing developmentally & gender appropriate and trauma-informed assessments and interventions.

Note: Children First for Oregon and OR Women's Health and Wellness Alliance have as one of their Legislative priorities: *Increase the Availability of Domestic Violence Services:* Provide adequate funding to have Domestic Violence advocates stationed at Child Welfare offices around the state.

- Increase funding in **OYA's** budget for enhanced **gender-specific programming, staffing and training** to safely and responsively meet the needs of **young women in Oak Creek** including those young women with severe emotional problems. *And* advocate for ensuring in the **replacement of the Corvallis House Young Women's Transitional Program** that the building is not only safe but designed and sited to most effectively and comprehensively meet the needs of young women transitioning back to their communities.

Secondary Priorities

- Fund in **DHS/AMH's** budget gender-responsive alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs for girls/young women. (*Lead:* Girls Inc. of NW OR)
- Maintain and increase funding in **OCCF's** budget for continued support of homeless and runaway youth eight roll-out projects. (*Lead:* Oregon Homeless and Runaway Youth Coalition)
- Support and Expand **School-Based Health Centers:** School-based health centers are a cost-effective way to deliver quality, comprehensive preventative and primary care to children and youth (67% of visits are by girls). (*Lead:* Children First for Oregon)
- **Safe Schools** Anti-Bullying Bill (our focus on relational aggression and sexual harassment). (*Lead:* Basic Rights Oregon)
- Justice for **Youth** Campaign: changing policies that treat juveniles (in our case young women) as adults in **criminal court**. (*Lead:* Partnership for Safety and Justice)