

ORCAH partner spotlight



Becky Mastne is a Parent Mentor with Morrison Child and Family Services primarily serving Multnomah County. She has been with Morrison for almost two and a half years and started right before the pandemic in December 2019. Becky is a person in long term recovery from substance use disorder and is celebrating six years clean and sober on July 7, 2022. She has experience with the Oregon child welfare system. Becky shared that in her early 30s, she went through a rough patch in her life. Her mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer among many other challenges she was facing. She turned to alcohol and then drugs to cope. Fortunately, with the help of child welfare, Becky says she was able to get her life back on track and is now able to support moms who are facing similar challenges. Becky is a mom to three wonderful boys who are 24, 14 and four years old and just became a first-time grandma. She is very active in her recovery community, especially with planning clean and sober events because they like to have fun in recovery. She also loves to sing karaoke and is a part of her church choir.

What is the most rewarding part of your work?

I get to come alongside a family, specifically a mother who is going through the most challenging time of her life and just be there. No judgement, no expectations, just support her, and that is an honor. I get to see people turn their life around, find meaning and purpose and happiness. I get to be a catalyst for change. I have lived experience that allows me to relate to the moms I support, so I get to take the darkest days of my life and turn it into something good.

What is the most challenging part of your work?

Working within a broken system. A broken system that we are trying make better and there's still a long road ahead. Sadly, not every parent I work with is going to get their children

returned and that can be a difficult process to support a mother through.

What do you see as the most important part of your relationship with Child Welfare?

Parent mentors are a living example that change is possible. We get to bring parent voice to the table and that's invaluable. We support case workers with our strength-based, parent-led, culturally specific and trauma-informed approach to working with parents. This helps us to support them in identifying barriers to successful reunification, overcoming those barriers and ideally developing a trusting working relationship with their caseworker and other community partners.

ORCAH partner spotlight (continued)

How have you partnered with ORCAH in developing Structured Decision Making (SDM), Screening and Response Time Assessment Tool?

I was able to provide parent voice to the team to bring the perspective of the families we serve.

How do you think the SDM Tool will support ORCAH staff in making consistent, accurate and equitable decisions in screening reports of child abuse?

I think we streamlined the process making it easier for the screener to make an accurate and timely decision. We clearly defined criteria which will help screeners identify allegation type, screening decision and proper response time with less need for further staffing. This is will also lead to a more equitable outcome as it should limit some of the need for screener interpretation.

