

Edition 08 – 2

Winter 2009

Research Précis

Best Practices: Safe and Drug-free Schools and Communities

Creating a better tomorrow...

Title: Oregon Social Learning Center Treatment Foster Care

Overview:

The *Oregon Social Learning Center (OSLC) Treatment Foster Care* is a housing and care program designed to reduce antisocial behavior of seriously delinquent adolescents.

Target: Youth ages 12-18

Extent/Duration of Program: Program family setting placement typically extends for a period of six to nine months. Care family pre-service training consists of 20 hours.

Program Costs:

- Total program cost is approximately \$3,965 per month per youth.
- Costs include family therapy sessions and payments to the foster family.

For further information, or to order:

OSLC Treatment Foster Care, OR Social Learning Center Community Programs
160 E. 4th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97401

Phone: 541-485-2711

Fax: 541-485-7087

E-mail: pattic@oslc.org

Web site: <http://www.oslc.org>

Principles/Approaches/Components: OSLC Treatment Foster Care is based on the premise that close supervision, fair and consistent limits, predictable consequences for rule-breaking, a supportive relationship with an adult mentor, and less exposure to delinquent peers will result in normal behaviors among targeted adolescents. Youth components include daily structure and support, an individualized point system, weekly individual treatment, consistent teaching-oriented nonphysical discipline, and psychiatric consultation as needed. Family components include weekly family treatment with a strong skills focus, instruction in behavior management methods, frequent home visits with on-call and crisis backup, and aftercare parent support. Foster parent components include daily telephone calls, support and training, and 24/7 on-call staff availability and crisis intervention.

Evidence-based Effectiveness: Across four evaluation studies, three involving random assignments and one using a matched comparison design, findings revealed a reduction in criminal and delinquent behaviors of treatment youths within one year—improvement in general conduct, fewer self-reports of delinquent activities, fewer official criminal referrals, fewer days of incarceration, and fewer days on the run from the treatment program, and significantly less hard drug use. A significant relationship was also found between the *number* of days in OSLC treatment and the *number* of days of subsequent incarceration.

Safe and Drug-free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA) connections:

B - Activities that involve families, community sectors, and a variety of drug and violence prevention providers in setting clear expectations against violence and illegal use of drugs and appropriate consequences for violence and illegal use of drugs.

D - Professional development and training in prevention, education, early identification and intervention, mentoring, or rehabilitation referral, as related to drug and violence prevention.
E.xii - Programs that respond to the needs of students who are faced with domestic violence or child abuse.

E.xi - Programs that encourage students to seek advice from, and to confide in, a trusted adult regarding concerns about violence and illegal drug use.

National Standards connections:

Grades 6 through 12

Health Education Standard 1 – Students will comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention to enhance health.

Health Education Standard 4 – Students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks.

Health Education Standard 5 – Students will demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.

Health Education Standard 6 – Students will Demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting skills to enhance health.

Health Education Standard 7 – Students will demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid or reduce health risks.

National Health Education Standards, Second Edition: Achieving Excellence. American Cancer Society, 2007.

Counseling: Personal and Social Development Standard B: Students will make decisions, set goals and take necessary action to achieve goals.

Counseling: Personal and Social Development Standard C: Students will understand safety and survival skills.

ASCA National Standards for Students. American School Counselor Association, 2004.

Recognition and additional reports:

The following organizations/institutions have recognized *OSLC Treatment Foster Care*. The organizations are in alphabetical order and the status of the recognition is in parentheses.

SAMHSA (Effective Program)

U.S. Department of Education (Exemplary Program)

GENERAL NOTES: The intent of the above synthesis and correlations is to assist teachers and school administrators dedicated to using best practices to reduce violence and substance abuse among students. To our knowledge, the information was current upon publication. However, details pertaining to status of program recognition, research and findings, costs, and contact information are subject to change.

Correlations to the Safe and Drug-free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA) federally approved activities and to national education standards have been limited in depth (“standard” level only) and breadth (number of standards and subjects) due to the encompassing nature of many programs that typically qualify as model or exemplary. The correlations listed should not be viewed as exhaustive.

For information on other effective programs for promoting safe and drug-free schools and communities, visit www.designedinstruction.com/learningleads/effective-sdfs-programs.html

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