

As a Treatment Foster Parent, you are part of a “team” working together for the benefit of the child and his or her family. Generally, the team consists of the following:

- Treatment Foster Parents
- Birth Parents
- The Child in Care
- Program Staff
 - Program Coordinator
 - Child’s Individual Therapist
 - Family Therapist to the child’s natural family
 - Skills Trainers
 - Recruiter/Trainer
- Family Physician
- School
- Consulting Psychologist
- Consulting Psychiatrist

This means you are not alone in caring for a child. You have support!

As a Treatment Foster Parent, you are a member of the **core team** which includes you and program staff. Each team member holds a very specific role on the team. These roles have been designed from the research on which the Multidimensional Treatment Foster Care program was built.

As a team member, foster parents meet on a weekly basis with the program coordinator for support and guidance. Other members of the team may also be involved in these meetings. The program coordinator will also meet with clinical members of the team on a weekly basis. Information gathered from these meetings is shared between foster parents and clinical staff.

The following is a list of team members and the specific role that each plays in the treatment of the child in care:

Foster Parents: The treatment foster parent’s primary role is to implement the youth’s program (point and level system) and to provide encouragement and support along the way. Treatment foster parents are critical members of the treatment team. You do not need to be a mental health expert. You are the eyes and ears of the program and you maintain close communication with the program coordinator. Treatment foster parents help the coordinator identify target behaviors to assist in formulating treatment plans. Given that treatment foster parents are critical members of the treatment team, you will have access to all of the child’s information. The coordinator will assist you go through that information so that you understand what you are reviewing.



MULTIDIMENSIONAL TREATMENT FOSTER CARE BEING A MEMBER OF THE TEAM

Program Coordinator: The coordinator is the head of the treatment team and works closely with all team members. It is her job to incorporate all information from team members into the child's treatment plan. She will coordinate, supervise and individualize the child's plan and oversee the activities of other members on the team. She plays a key role in sharing the parenting role so that foster parents can remain in their primary role as a support to the child who will help them work through difficult situations.

It would be difficult for treatment foster parents to be the child's support when they are the ones that the child perceives as the barrier to their needs being met.

The coordinator is the main person with whom treatment foster parents will interact. Since there are a number of people on the team, it could easily get overwhelming for you to give and receive information from all members of the treatment team. The coordinator serves as the "clearing house" of information. This ensures that information remains accurate. The coordinator will also act as your consultant. The coordinator is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Child Therapist: The role of the child therapist is to support the child's adjustment. He helps the child practice the skills that are needed to relate successfully to adults and peers.

Family Therapist: The family therapist works with the child's family to help them prepare for their child's return home. He uses parenting strategies that are similar to those used by the treatment foster home. The family and child therapists work closely with the program coordinator.

Skills Trainers: Skills trainers help the child get involved in appropriate activities in the community. They use these opportunities to teach and practice pro-social and problem-solving skills. Skills trainers do not replace the need for foster parents to provide a variety of recreational activities for the child that are nurturing, satisfying and reflective of the child's strengths and interests. Treatment foster parents know that a child who is bored will act out their feelings of boredom through misbehavior. All children need activities to enrich their lives and provide for fun experiences.

PDR Caller: The PDR (parent daily report) caller telephones foster parents each weekday to go over a checklist of behaviors. The PDR caller communicates with the program coordinator about information the foster parent provided during the call. Information from the PDR call is sent via the internet to the Oregon Social Learning Center where the child's progress is tracked, measured and feedback is provided to the team about the child's treatment and progress made to date.

Recruiter/Trainer: The Recruiter/Trainer will be your first contact. He will conduct an extensive home study/screening. He will meet with all family members individually and as a family unit. Information gathered is presented to a selection committee who make a determination about your application. The Recruiter/Trainer has many years experience facilitating training groups. He will help prepare you with the skills and confidence that you will need to be successful in your role.