

OUR MISSION

To promote and enhance a community environment that protects, nurtures, and supports healthy children and families in healthy and safe communities.

LANE COUNTY COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- **Bruce Abel** – Program Manager, LaneCare
- **Blaise Adkison-Stevens** – Student, Youth Representative
- **Donald Crist** – Community Advocate/Volunteer, Rural Representative
- **Susie Dey** – Branch Manager – Lane County, Services to Children and Families
- **Bobby Green**, Chair – County Commissioner, Lane County
- **Susie Johnston** – Citizen Review, Board Member
- **Aisha LuVert** – Student, Youth Representative
- **Dave Perez** – Executive Director, Eugene YMCA
- **Douglas Perry**, Vice Chair – Division Chief-Fire Prevention, Lane County Fire Department #1
- **Kitty Piercy** – State Representative, Oregon House of Representatives
- **Skip Rodden** – Community Advocate/Volunteer, Retired Marriage/Family Counselor
- **Cindy Weeldreyer** – County Commissioner, Lane County

INTRODUCTION

The 1999 Oregon Legislature adopted Senate Bill 555 (SB555), which declared “*Communities provide the context for healthy children and families and strong families and healthy communities are interdependent.*” This legislation was a call to action for local communities to work in partnership with state agencies to plan together to provide programs that address needs, strengths and assets. Through a local coordinated, comprehensive planning process, communities will engage in examining their capability to support and nurture children, youth, and families.

SB555 specifies that the local commissions on children and families are responsible for coordinating and facilitating the planning process. Phase 1 is the first stage in a five-year process that will continue to build on previous planning efforts, adding depth and breadth to those efforts. The focus of Phase 1 is on the mapping of resources and the identification of gaps, barriers, and overlaps. This initial process has also given us the opportunity to identify and use data and information from some existing planning efforts.

Existing plans and state-provided data have been the starting point for this framework. As agreement is reached at the state level on merging together other plans, the Phase 1 document will serve as the foundation for a coordinated, comprehensive plan and will include the broader community in collaborative efforts around identification of strategies, priorities, proven practices and outcomes.

The full SB555 Comprehensive Planning Document – *Phase 1: Identification of Resources, Gaps, and Barriers* – will be available countywide. We will have the *Phase 1* document, the *Early Childhood Plan*, and the *Comprehensive Strategy for Serious Chronic, and Violent Youth Offenders (Comprehensive Strategy)* available on the internet (<http://www.co.lane.or.us/ccf>) as well as copies available at local libraries and city halls.

This summary document provides an overview of *SB555 Comprehensive Planning for Children and Families in Lane County – Phase 1: Identification of Resources, Gaps, and Barriers*. The full document is almost 100 pages in length, and contains over 50 additional pages of appendices.

This *Phase 1 Summary* will be the document disseminated countywide as the source for community input and dialogue. A successful outcome of the *Phase 1* documents will be the volume and intensity of questions and comments. For this to be truly a Lane County Community Plan we need to build upon this foundation. Now the community can begin to sketch out the rest of the structure and begin filling in the missing pieces.

OVERVIEW

“We have to find ways to address the challenges facing our children, youth and families at risk, and to support all children, youth and families. We know the value of a child who is encouraged and supported and helped to become a successful citizen. Our challenge is to develop actions and strategies that will make children feel safe and cared for and hopeful about the future.”

Rosalynn Carter

We ask what can be done to reclaim the one child in four who is in jeopardy of school failure. And we are asking how other, often highly interrelated problems that place youth at risk – poverty, premature parenthood, substance abuse, unemployment, and homelessness – can be addressed so that children can learn. What is required to create communities where learning can happen?

The hope for answers to these and many more compelling questions lies within the intent of Senate Bill 555. The legislature charged communities and the state through 2005 with developing one truly coordinated, comprehensive plan that will be the unifying vehicle to the “Gateway to Systems Change,” through processes and systems that will:

- Create one local, coordinated comprehensive plan with the authority for policy setting, and coordination of service delivery systems.
- Focus on family centered and family driven needs rather than institutional preferences.
- Focus on outcomes that are performance based, time driven, and measurable.
- Create community based services where the focus of services as well as management and decision making responsibility are residing at the community level.
- Create a system that addresses service gaps through partnerships, collaboration and service integration.
- Create a system that has culturally competent services, agencies and programs that are responsive to the cultural, racial, ethnic and gender differences of the population they serve.
- Create a system that supports families through the full continuum, with a focus on strengths, assets, and needs at the consumer, community and provider levels.

When efforts to improve the quality of life for children, youth and families are re-focused at the local level, their emphasis shifts from upgrading traditional services to crafting a comprehensive web of services and support systems linking the various sectors of the community in new ways. The legislature is doing just that by enacting SB555.

The Phase 1 document, *SB555 Comprehensive Planning for Children and Families in Lane County – Phase 1: Identification of Resources, Gaps, and Barriers*, is the foundation from which we will continue to build our local actions and strategies that will make children, youth and families safe, cared for, and hopeful about the future.

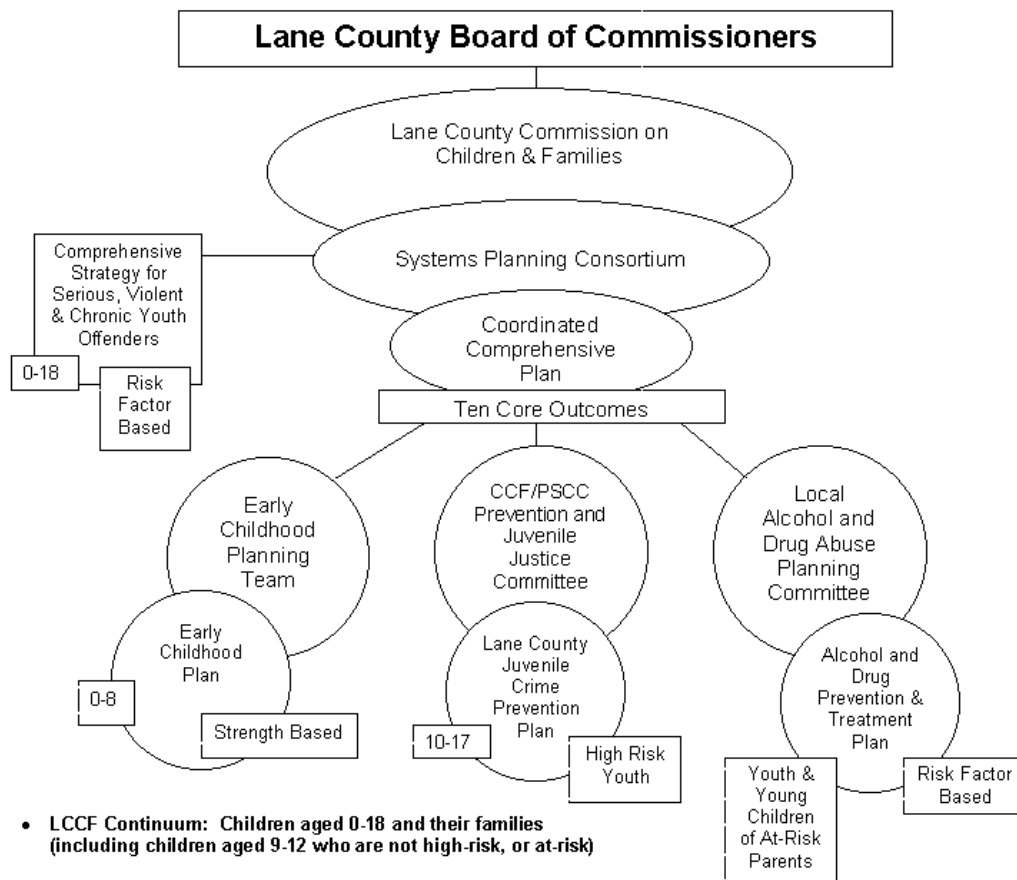
Specifically, Phase 1 of the planning process involves the following:

- ✓ Identification of indicators within the OCCF’s four goals and ten core areas,
- ✓ Collection of historical data for those indicators at state and local levels,
- ✓ Analysis of historical trends for those indicators, and
- ✓ Identification of resources, gaps and barriers

LOCAL PLANNING PROCESS

The SB555 coordinated comprehensive planning process recognizes and builds on other planning efforts in the county, as shown in the diagram below. It incorporates the Early Childhood Plan, the Juvenile Crime Prevention Plan, the Alcohol and Drug Prevention & Treatment Plan, and the Coordinated Comprehensive Strategy for Serious, Violent, and Chronic Juvenile Offenders (*Comprehensive Strategy*).

Diagram of Relationship between Local Planning Processes



The Lane County Commission on Children and Families established the **Systems Planning Consortium**, which is composed of formal and informal stakeholders who have an interest in children, youth, and families and links to all levels of the system. The agencies represented include:

- 4J School District
- Adult and Family Services
- Boys and Girls Club/Florence
- Catholic Community Services
- Centro Latino Americano
- City of Eugene
- Community Mediation Services

- Confederated Tribe of the Siletz
- Department of Youth Services
- Domestic Violence Council
- Early Intervention Council
- Eugene Community Partnership
- Head Start of Lane County
- Homeless Coalition
- Lane County Board of County Commissioners
- Lane Council of Governments/Public Safety Coordinating Council
- Lane County Department of Health & Human Services
- Lane County Sheriff's Office
- Lane County Educational Service District
- LCC Lane Family Connections
- Lane ShelterCare
- Lane Workforce Partnership
- Looking Glass
- NAACP
- Network for Immigrant Justice
- NW Youth Corps
- Relief Nursery
- Services to Children and Families
- Springfield School District
- Springfield/Marcola Family Resource Center
- United Way
- Western Rivers Girl Scouts Council

As the initial efforts began it became apparent that the focus for the Phase I planning would be centered on data and information gathering primarily from existing sources. For that reason a small technical assistance workgroup was developed that consisted mainly of staff to the major plans referenced in this framework – they include representatives from the following agencies:

- Lane County Commission on Children and Families
- Lane County Health and Human Services
- Lane County Mental Health Advisory Board
- Lane Council of Governments/Public Safety Coordinating Council
- City of Eugene – City Manager's Office
- University of Oregon Early Intervention Program
- Looking Glass – Private non-profit provider with a focus on youth

As we begin the next phase after September 15th, the role for the Systems Planning Consortium and many other planning groups will be much more active and involved because the work will be around the identification of strategies to address issues raised in the mapping process, prioritization of efforts and identification of outcomes that will provide feedback on how well plans are working. Additionally, collaborative endeavors will expand as more partners are added in the planning process.

A LANE COUNTY FAMILY AT RISK

We want to share with you a true story about a family that had been in multiple systems in Lane County since 1995. This family offered to tell their story because of the lessons learned and the ultimate outcome of their story and how it relates to the hope that SB555 represents. All names have been changed to protect their identity. Over a period of five years the Clark Family (*Mom is Susan; Husband is Kirk; Daughter, age 16 is Mary; Son, age 12 is David; Daughter, age 10 is Cindy Lou*) has been in the:

- mental health system
- child protective services system
- an inpatient in a psychiatric hospital
- received outpatient counseling
- alcohol and drug treatment
- medication monitoring
- day treatment program
- domestic violence counseling

In 1994, Lane County received funding from the Center for Mental Health Services to enhance our system of care. The funding was used to establish a project called *New Opportunities* which targeted children and adolescents – who were experiencing serious emotional disturbances – and their families. Eligibility was determined by the severity of the mental health problem, multi-system involvement, and the need for individualized services to support the family. The mission of the project was to promote a family driven integrated system of care based on best practices. Susan and her family were one of the first *New Opportunities* families.

The Clark Family in 1995

The Clark family was enrolled in New Opportunities in 1995. At that time all three children were receiving counseling at the Child Center, with David also enrolled in a day treatment program at the Child Center and was also on Ritalin for Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder. Mom was also in counseling for Panic/Anxiety Disorder. Both Susan and her husband Kirk were drinking heavily and using illegal drugs on a regular basis. Domestic violence was a regular occurrence in the family.

The family was homeless before they had their first New Opportunities wraparound meeting. They were all living in a motel and were about to lose all of their belongings because they had no money for a self-storage unit. The family support worker got them into shelter, but finding more stable housing was a problem because the kids were out of control and the parents were using drugs regularly which impacted their ability to find permanent housing.

The initial goal was to get the family stable and enroll the three kids in some type of recreational activities, which would keep them busy and out of trouble. Mary became involved with a mentor, David and Cindy Lou were able to attend movies, go skating, etc which was a positive experience. Mom was placed on medication for her panic/anxiety disorder. After several months the family moved into an apartment. Their living situation became more stable even though their lives were still very chaotic.

Shortly after moving into the apartment, Mary's biological dad went to prison and his 96 year old mother moved in with the family adding another layer of pressure and responsibility to the family. Kirk, Susan's husband, has been in and out of the house during the last several months. At one point he severely beat Susan to the point she had to be hospitalized with a major concussion. He was sent to prison for beating Susan where he was able to receive domestic violence treatment. Susan suffered some memory loss and depression as a result of the severe beating and began some self-abusive behaviors, like cutting herself with a razor blade. Mary was out of control,

David was setting fires and very hyperactive. Mom had overdosed on her prescription drugs, and she finally was admitted to the Lane County Psychiatric Hospital for five days. Our local SCF branch was ready to step in and remove all three children. The family was about to be evicted, and David had been caught stealing a car.

The wraparound team consisting of two family advocates, a family support worker, and an AFS caseworker met with the housing authority staff and convinced them not to evict the family and give them one more chance. They agreed only if Susan and the family followed the wraparound plan. Two weeks later Susan entered outpatient treatment at Willamette Family Treatment and will be clean and sober for three years on August 25th, 2000.

When Susan entered treatment a change began to happen. She had a place to turn to when she felt overwhelmed; and with the help of the team, she started to ask for help when she needed it. She graduated from outpatient treatment, all three of the kids started working with behavioral support specialists and they starting to become a family.

With the help of the family support worker Susan accessed Social Security. Using flexible dollars with New Opportunities Susan was able to buy a computer that allowed her to work at home and have contact with friends and family over the internet since she was still having a difficult time leaving her home. The sense of isolation for Susan has been reduced significantly with the purchase of the computer. Flexible dollars also were able to pay for a train trip to Disneyland, something the family still talks about today, even though it was three years ago.

The Clark Family in August 2000

Currently Susan is taking classes from Lane Community College over the internet, using the same computer bought with New Opportunities flexible dollars. All three children have been out of counseling for three years, currently in school with almost perfect attendance and receiving A's and B's compared to failing school and chronically truant. The oldest daughter Mary has a job, Susan and Kirk are still married but do not live together because they know it is best for their relationship although they do love each other very much. Kirk successfully completed domestic violence treatment and drug treatment and he is very supportive of Susan and the kids.

Susan has been off medication for three years and sees a therapist only occasionally when she is feeling overwhelmed. She has accepted the fact that she has a mental health disorder but does not let it control her life. After not having a drivers license for ten years, she now has a license and car insurance. The informal supports from their wraparound team are still available and help in whatever ways they can. Susan is able to stand up for her family, knows what is best for her family, and will fight to get whatever help she needs.

Susan firmly believes that without wraparound services the kids would be in foster care, and she would be dead from a drug overdose or her husband would have killed her. David has gone from lighting his room on fire to cleaning his room. Susan says that all anyone really needs is for someone who takes the time to ask the question "what can we do to help fix this?" and then makes a commitment to stay with the family until they are ready to be independent.

When Susan and her family first started with New Opportunities her first family support worker asked her to write down where she wanted her family and herself to be in five years. Susan states unequivocally that she met all her goals and has gone further than she ever thought possible.

Approximate System Cost Comparison

The following includes cost for services and supports that we were able to estimate. To the extent possible, we tried to be inclusive and accurate, however, there may be relevant costs that were excluded.

<i>Traditional</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>New Opportunities</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Day treatment at Child Center	3,000	Behavioral Support Specialists <i>(\$15/mo, 2 hrs/wk, 3 kids, 1 yr)</i>	9,360
Individual counseling <i>(2 hrs/week, 2 yrs, 4 people)</i>	31,200	Willamette Family Treatment	1,000
Lane County Psychiatric Hospital <i>(5 days @ \$300/day)</i>	1,500	Community Support Worker <i>(5 hrs/wk, 3 yrs)</i>	11,544
Medication management <i>(\$150/month, 2 yrs, 2 people)</i>	7,200	Miscellaneous <i>(computer, train ride, utility bill, recreation, transportation, storage unit)</i>	800
TOTAL	\$42,900	TOTAL	\$22,704

The Clark family as of today is basically system free. This family initially had several family treatment plans, many of them developed independently of each other. The systems often worked and treated this family on parallel paths. While the intent of any of the systems was to provide the family with the best care and treatment available, a family-focused and family-driven process was still not widely accepted as the best choice for intervention.

New Opportunities was the springboard that brought to our community the belief that a different type of delivery system – where the family is the central driving point of the type, level, and amount of services provided – is in everyone’s best interest. The concept of wraparound, family-driven systems is one where the families and providers truly become partners in helping the families get the help they need and want.

Lane County is assuming a mantle of leadership and will continue to take a preventive/proactive approach to mobilize our resources and communities through promotion of true integration of services and systems. That effort will be significantly advanced with the full implementation of SB555. The story of Susan, Kirk, David, Mary and Cindy Lou is the best reason why our systems must change and why SB555 cannot be allowed to fail at any stage of the system continuum.

COMMISSION’S GOALS AND CORE AREAS

The data trends and analysis are organized around CCF’s 4 goals and 10 core areas:

GOAL I: STRONG, NURTURING FAMILIES

- Core Area 1: Family Self-Sufficiency and Effective Social Supports
- Core Area 2: Healthy Family Climate and Supportive Parenting

GOAL II: HEALTHY, THRIVING CHILDREN

- Core Area 3: Healthy Growth & Development and Health Care & Practice
- Core Area 4: Childcare and Education

GOAL III: HEALTHY, THRIVING YOUTH

- Core Area 5: Positive Development – Juvenile Crime Prevention
- Core Area 6: Positive Development – Avoidance of ATOD
- Core Area 7: Sexual Behavior and Responsibility
- Core Area 8: Educational Progress and Success
- Core Area 9: Non-Traditional Living Environments

GOAL IV: CARING COMMUNITIES

- Core Area 10: Community Engagement and Collaboration

SUMMARY OF DATA AND FINDINGS

The following sections summarize the data and findings from the Core Area sections of the full Phase 1 document. The tables include:

- The data timeframe for each of the contextual factors and indicators, i.e., the years of data we had available to analyze trends,
- The average annual percent change for all years of available data (*in the cases where the indicator is reported as a percent, the percent change is merely the difference between years*),
- The average annual percent change for the last 5 years of data (*please note: in some cases there are only 3-5 years of data available – in this case the percent change would be the same as for all years*),
- The Oregon Benchmark number, if applicable;
- The chart number for the figure where the indicator is plotted in the document; and
- The county impact, i.e., whether recent trends are good, neutral (or unclear), or bad for the county.

The key for all tables includes the following:

* if five years of data are available

☺ = good, positive trend

☹ = neutral, unclear trend – too variable, not enough data points, or too subjective

☹ = bad, negative trend

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Contextual Factors	Data Time-frame	Avg Annl %change (all years)	Avg Annl %change (last 5 yrs)	Oregon Bench-mark	Chart	County Impact
• Percent of Land in Federal Ownership (%)	00	54.0%		–	–	☹
• National Forest Timber Revenue (\$)	90-99	-5.4%	-3.0%	–	Fig. 2	☹
• Total Population (#)	90-99	+1.2%	+1.0%	–	Fig. 3	☹
• Youth Population (#)	90-98	+0.8%	+0.3%	–	Fig. 4	☹
• Race & Ethnic Population	90-97	na	na	–	Fig. 6	☹
• Overall Crime Rate (per 1,000 pop)	90-98	+1.7%	+3.7%	#64	Fig. 7	☹
• Net Job Growth (per 1,000 pop)	90-98	-18.8%	+19.3%	#6	Fig. 8	☺
• Employment Trends (3)	87-99	na	na	–	Fig. 9-11	☺/☹
• Distressed Area Index	99	"distressed"		–	–	☹
• Average Annual Payroll per Worker (1995\$)	90-98	+1.2%	+1.5%	#15	Fig. 12	☺
• Per Capita Personal Income (% of US)	90-97	+0.6%	+0.8%	#14	Fig. 13	☺
• Median Family Income (\$)	90-00	+3.3%	+3.7%	–	Fig. 14	☺
• Poverty Level (%)	90-95	+1.3%	+1.3%	#57	Fig. 15	☹
• Housing Affordability (rank)	99	187 th /192		–	–	☹

Staff Findings

- The population of Lane County will continue to grow, and the number and percent of the Asian & Pacific Islander and Hispanic populations, are expected to increase.
- Overall employment in Lane County has increased, but the sectors that are growing either do not pay high wages (service and retail), are cyclical and unstable (construction), or are being replaced by jobs that dislocated workers are not skilled in (timber versus high-tech manufacturing). This translates into a lower standard of living and more incidences of poverty.
- Incomes vary substantially between urban and rural areas in Lane County. In 1998 Eugene’s per capita income was the highest in the county, while all the other cities were significantly lower, with Oakridge at the bottom of the list.
- The cost of living in Lane County has increased to a point that the county is considered one of the least affordable places in the U.S. to buy a home.
- Timber revenues from federal lands – and the associated timber receipts to the county – are expected to continue decreasing. This has implications for Lane County funding of programs and services at a time when the need may be increasing.

CORE AREA 1

Indicators	Data Time-frame	Avg Annl %change (all years)	Avg Annl %change (last 5 yrs)	Oregon Bench-mark	Chart	County Impact
• Unemployment Rate (%)	90-98	-0.1%	-0.4%	#18	Fig. 16	☺
• Oregon Health Plan Participation Rate (per 1,000 pop)	94-99	+8.7%	+8.7%	–	Fig. 17	☹
• Average Monthly Food Stamp Recipient Rate (per 1,000 pop)	90-99	+0.6%	-3.7%	–	Fig. 18	☹
• Rate of Families with Children on TANF (per 1,000 pop)	90-99	-7.2%	-14.2%	–	Fig. 19	☹
• Free & Reduced Lunch Program Participation (%)	95-98	-9.0%	-9.0%	–	Fig. 20	☹
• Meals Served in Community Kitchens Rate (per 1,000 pop)	93-98	+16.7%	+16.7%	–	Fig. 21	☹

Staff Findings

- The unemployment rate has gone down overall
- ODE staff believe that the change in requirements for school lunch program participation might be too intimidating and personal for some families to handle.
- Welfare reform has led to a substantial reduction in the number of Lane County families receiving TANF and Food Stamp support. This may not reflect a substantial improvement in conditions for these families and their children. The increased use of community kitchens may indicate an increased need not being met.
- The skill sets of the local work force often don’t match the skills needed by firms that are currently expanding and in need of workers, e.g., high-tech manufacturing.
- More family-wage jobs are needed to increase the capacity for families to care for their financial needs.

- ➔ The United Way Household Survey indicates that anxiety, depression, and stress, as well as financial problems, are the biggest challenges facing families in Lane County.

CORE AREA 2

Indicators	Data Time-frame	Avg Annl %change (all years)	Avg Annl %change (last 5 yrs)	Oregon Bench-mark	Chart	County Impact
• Child Abuse and Neglect (per 1,000 kids)	90-99	+3.2%	+8.6%	#54	Fig. 22	☹
• Crimes Against Family				–	Fig. 23	☹
• offenses (per 1,000 pop)	94-98	+0.6%	+0.6%			
• arrests (per 1,000 pop)	94-98	+0.4%	+0.4%			
• Domestic Disturbance (per 1,000 pop)	95-98	-7.1%	-7.1%	–	Fig. 24	☺
• Divorce (per 1,000 pop)	90-98	+1.0%	+1.1%	–	Fig. 25	☺
• Non-Marital Births (per 1,000)	90-98	+3.0%	+2.5%	–	Fig. 26	☹
• Family Management Problems (per 1,000 juveniles)	94-98	-5.8%	-5.8%	–	Fig. 27	☺

Staff Findings

- ➔ Offenses for ‘crimes against family’ increased at a higher rate than arrests for those crimes
- ➔ The stress on families has increased – child abuse and neglect has been on the rise since 1996, the divorce rate has increased since 1996, non-marital births have steadily risen since 1990.
- ➔ Some families are finding it difficult to access services, either because of the location, cost, or lack of information.

CORE AREA 3

Indicators	Data Time-frame	Avg Annl %change (all years)	Avg Annl %change (last 5 yrs)	Oregon Bench-mark	Chart	County Impact
• First Births Screened (%)	95-98	+8.7%	+8.7%	–	Fig. 28	☺
• Infants Whose Mothers Used Alcohol During Pregnancy (%)	90-98	-0.4%	-0.4%	#56a	Fig. 29	☺
• Infants Whose Mothers Used Tobacco During Pregnancy (%)	90-98	-0.9%	-1.0%	#56b	Fig. 30	☺
• Infants Whose Mothers used Illicit Drugs During Pregnancy (%)	90-98	-0.1%	-0.1%	–	Fig. 31	☺
• Percent of Babies with Adequate Prenatal Care (%)	90-98	+0.2%	-0.7%	#44	Fig. 32	☺
• Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	90-98	+3.0%	+6.0%	#45	Fig. 33	☺
• Infants with Low Birth Weight (per 1,000 live births)	90-98	+1.1%	+4.2%	–	Fig. 34	☹
• Attempted Youth Suicide (per 1,000 youth)	91-98	+3.7%	+16.7%	–	Fig. 35	☹

Staff Findings

- With the exception of low birth weights increasing, infants are doing fairly well in Lane County – there are more first births screened, and there has been a decline in use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs by pregnant women
- Attempted youth suicides, however, has increased significantly since 1993
- Services needed by residents are often not available in their area

CORE AREA 4

Indicators	Data Time-frame	Avg Annl %change (all years)	Avg Annl %change (last 5 yrs)	Oregon Bench-mark	Chart	County Impact
• Child Care Availability (per 100 kids under 13)	95-98	+2.0%	+2.0%	#52	Fig. 36	☺
• Average Daily Non-Attendance (%)	90-98	-0.8%	-1.0%	–	Fig. 37	☺
• 3rd Grade Math (%)	97-99	+4.0%	+4.0%	#24a	Fig. 38	☺
• 3rd Grade Reading (%)	97-99	+0.5%	+0.5%	#24b	Fig. 39	☺
• Child Care Slots/Availability	00	na	na	–	–	☺/☹

Staff Findings

- Lane County appears to be doing well in the area of childcare and education – all indicators are improving
- While the number of childcare slots appears to be sufficient on the surface, more analysis of the childcare situation is needed to determine if the type, location, and quality of childcare matches the specific needs county residents

CORE AREA 5

Indicators	Data Time-frame	Avg Annl %change (all years)	Avg Annl %change (last 5 yrs)	Oregon Bench-mark	Chart	County Impact
• Juvenile Arrests – Total (per 1,000 juveniles)	90-98	+2.8%	+1.5%	#65	Fig. 40	☹
• Juvenile Arrests for Behavior Crimes (per 1,000 juveniles)	90-98	+5.6%	+7.5%	subset of #65	Fig. 41	☹
• Juvenile Arrests for Person Crimes (per 1,000 juveniles)	90-98	+6.0%	+2.8%	subset of #65	Fig. 42	☹
• Juvenile Arrests for Property Crimes (per 1,000 juveniles)	90-98	+0.3%	-3.0%	subset of #65	Fig. 43	☹

Staff Findings

- Juvenile crime has been too variable to get a real sense of trends. Crime went up overall until 1996 – since then the trend has been generally downward. More recent data are needed.

CORE AREA 6

Indicators	Data Time-frame	Avg Annl %change (all years)	Avg Annl %change (last 5 yrs)	Oregon Bench-mark	Chart	County Impact
• Rate of Successful Tobacco Purchases by Minors (per 100 attempts)	96-98	-7.5%	-7.5%	–	Fig. 44	☹
• Juvenile Arrests for Alcohol-Related Violations (per 1,000 juveniles)	94-98	+16.2%	+16.2%	–	Fig. 45	☹
• Juvenile Arrests for Drug Offenses (per 1,000 juveniles)	94-98	+18.0%	+18.0%	–	Fig. 46	☹

Staff Findings

- The trends for these indicators are unclear – the juvenile arrests for alcohol and drug-related offenses went up between 1994 and 1996, then came down somewhat between 1996 and 1998. For tobacco purchases, there are not enough years of data to indicate any trends – but the rate of successful purchases declined significantly between 1997 and 1998.

CORE AREA 7

Indicators	Data Time-frame	Avg Annl %change (all years)	Avg Annl %change (last 5 yrs)	Oregon Bench-mark	Chart	County Impact
• Teen Pregnancy (per 1,000 female juveniles)	90-98	+2.0%	+4.9%	#43	Fig. 47	☹
• Second Birth to Teen Moms (per 1,000 pop)	90-98	-2.9%	+2.6%	–	Fig. 48	☹
• Birth Rate to Teen Mothers (per 1,000 female juveniles)	93-97	+4.3%	+4.3%	–	Fig. 49	☹

Staff Findings

- The situation is generally poor in this core area. After a downward trend in teen pregnancy in the early 1990's, the rate has been increasing steadily in Lane County. While the state trend has been downward since 1995. This trend correlates with the increase in low birth weights.

CORE AREA 8

Indicators	Data Time-frame	Avg Annl %change (all years)	Avg Annl %change (last 5 yrs)	Oregon Bench-mark	Chart	County Impact
• High School Dropouts (%)	96-98	-1.0%	-1.0%	#22	Fig. 50	☺
• 8th Grade Math Skills (%)	97-99	+3.0%	+3.0%	#23a	Fig. 51	☺
• 8th Grade Reading Skills (%)	97-99	+1.0%	+1.0%	#23b	Fig. 52	☺

Staff Findings

- The educational successes identified for younger children appear to carry through for the youth of Lane County. All county indicators are generally on the

rise. It is possible that the chosen indicators are not painting a full picture of educational progress or success – this will be explored in the next phase of the planning process.

CORE AREA 9

Indicators	Data Time-frame	Avg Annl %change (all years)	Avg Annl %change (last 5 yrs)	Oregon Bench-mark	Chart	County Impact
• Juvenile Runaway Offenses (per 1,000 juveniles)	94-98	-8.2%	-8.2%	–	Fig. 53	☺
• Children Living in Foster Care (per 1,000 juveniles)	90-98	+5.2%	+12.3%	–	Fig. 54	☹
• Homeless Youth Sheltered in State-Supported Facilities (per 1,000 juveniles)	92-99	+19.0%	+20.9%	–	Fig. 55	☹

Staff Findings

- It appears that the indicators are illustrating conflicting trends. On the one hand, there has been an increase in homeless youth; on the other hand, there has been a decrease in the rate of runaway offenses. Runaway offenses have been difficult to enforce – therefore fewer juveniles are ending up in the database.

CORE AREA 10

Indicators	Data Time-frame	Avg Annl %change (all years)	Avg Annl %change (last 5 yrs)	Oregon Bench-mark	Chart	County Impact
• Registered Voters Voting in General Elections (%)	90;92;94; 96;98	-4.0%	-4.0%	#34	Fig. 56	☹
• Registered Voters Voting in Primary Elections (%)	90;92;94; 96;98	-3.0%	-3.0%	–	Fig. 57	☹
• Eligible Residents Registered to Vote in General and Primary Elections (%)	90;92;94; 96;98			–	Fig. 58	☺
• general		+3.0%	+3.0%			
• primary		+2.0%	+2.0%			
• Community Participation (% of respondents)	96;00			–	Fig. 59	☹
• organized sports		-4.0%	-4.0%			
• club membership		-8.0%	-8.0%			
• religious organizations		+5.0%	+5.0%			
• community volunteer		-7.0%	-7.0%			

Staff Findings

- The trends indicate decreasing participation in the community.
- More data and indicators are needed for this core area. There are some good questions in the Oregon Population Survey that would be useful for this purpose, but the survey sample size is not large enough for the county level data to be valid.

SELECTED FINDING HIGHLIGHTS

The following findings highlight two successes and two challenges facing Lane County children and families:

1. **Success – Self-reported Prenatal ATOD Use** (Core Area 3) has gone down overall since 1990. Use of Alcohol and Tobacco during pregnancy is at or below the statewide benchmarks (#56a and #56b) since 1996 and 1998 respectively.
2. **Success – Education** (Core Areas 4 and 8) indicators are positive for children and youth. For all indicators, Lane County is doing better relative to the state overall (Benchmarks #22, #23a, #23b, #24a, #24b, #52).
3. **Challenge – Self-support.** Some residents are falling through cracks of growing economy at a time when federal supports are more limited (Community Profile and Core Area 1).
4. **Challenge – Teen pregnancy rate** (Core Area 7). The rate has continually increased in Lane County since 1992 and has been above the statewide benchmark goal (#43) since 1994.

FUTURE PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Our direction is clear – our Lane County community, in partnership with the state, must lead and that leadership will require character and courage. It will demand that we be inventive, flexible and willing to team with multiple sectors in the state and local communities. It is one thing to feel the need for change, it is another thing to create and manage change. That is our charge and our challenge – to develop actions and strategies that will create a future where we give as much priority to promoting children’s potential as we do to ameliorating problems.

Lane County Values (SB555 Systems Planning Consortium Vision List):

- ✓ Blend system pieces without looking at money
- ✓ Put children and families first
- ✓ Learn to play together and view it as an opportunity to learn together and have fun
- ✓ Remember Teamwork – “The longer the trail, the longer you have to walk to work the next day.”
- ✓ Pay attention to diversity, always remember that our community is constantly changing
- ✓ Listen to the children and youth
- ✓ Balance the power in our community
- ✓ Planning process should lead to funding services that actually work
- ✓ Value best practices
- ✓ Listen to the children, they are crying out to us everyday in many ways. Stop and think about their daily lives

What does it take for a community like Lane County with its rich and diverse history of collaborations and connections to have truly successful systems change? There are

seven key principles or elements that if integrated in all systems serving children, youth and families will result in real system reform:

- **Collaborative Decision Making** – All collaborative efforts must involve a diverse and representative group of participants.
- **Educating the Public and Community Support** – On-going efforts to educate and involve the entire community to gain commitment to collaborative goals, with this process contributing to accountability.
- **Parent, Consumer and Neighborhood Participation** – Services, supports and opportunities that focus parent, youth and consumer participation in all aspects – from development, to implementation to assessment of results – have the best chance to address underlying needs in a productive manner, to achieve meaningful outcomes, and to be accountable to the community.
- **Accountability for Results** – This requires clarity about vision and goals, and effective means of measuring outcomes and holding all participants accountable.
- **A System of Effective Services, Supports, and Opportunities** – To ensure that children, youth and families succeed at high levels requires effective services to meet individual needs; a nurturing community with a rich array of natural supports; and economic and social opportunities for growth and development.
- **Financing and Resource Development** – Strategies to finance system reform must consider redirecting existing resources; gaining maximum benefit from federal and state funding sources; leveraging private and community resources; and securing new funds when needed to achieve results. Multiple community assets, such as neighborhood and community volunteers, existing facilities, civic and religious institutions, must also be mobilized.
- **Leadership/Professional Development and Capacity** – Provide leadership development opportunities for all participants in the collaborative efforts, which would include line staff, parents, consumers, neighborhood leaders, and professional staff. All need to change the way they think, work, and act and many may require new skills in order to contribute to effective collaboration.

The potential of SB555 is to first identify how existing agencies from the different arenas fit together and where activity in one arena can inform the others. Our challenge is taking the time to sort through the work and learn the language of each other, thus the first task has been to form a foundation of information from which we can build, revise, reconstruct and reconfigure our system of supports and services. An example of a “real” system reform would be that wherever a family or individual goes and asks for help, it would be the “right place.” No questions, no long discussions, they would be offered help and assistance, treated with respect and made to feel welcome. The system would be flexible and accommodating.

Some of the results of surveys we conducted or reviewed highlight some of areas we may want to consider in the next phase:

- In the **United Way Household Survey** respondents ranked ensuring the well-being of children and youth as the #1 social issue. This indicates some level of community support for countywide efforts.

- The Success by 6 **Parenting Norms Survey** indicates lack of awareness of many of the programs available to assist children and families. This points to areas of improvement in outreach to raise awareness of services available in the community.
- The Lane County **Linkages & Communication Survey 2000** (see Appendix H in the full document) highlights ways that early childhood services are currently linked and how they could work more effectively. A seamless system of supports that is based on a family's strengths would be a good place to start the community discussion of future priorities.

Lane County would like to do as much as possible between September 15th and June 30th, 2001 to prepare for the next phases. In anticipation of the Phase II guidelines, Lane County recommends the following activities, if adequate resources are identified to carry them out:

- ✓ Conduct youth mapping
- ✓ Conduct a 40 developmental assets survey
- ✓ Develop an evaluation strategy for our planning and coordination efforts
- ✓ Thoroughly involve our communities of color by ensuring representation on all planning bodies, going to individual groups, gatherings, communities, etc where people will be most comfortable
- ✓ Initiate conversations with parents, family groups and individual members as appropriate
- ✓ Host multiple community conversations
- ✓ Complete a thorough county wide mapping by community/region using zip code, school attendance areas, etc
- ✓ Work with the state to identify additional data priorities, e.g., county level data broken out by demographics, expanding the sample for the Oregon Population Survey so it is valid at the county level

This additional information gathering will lead us into the next step in the planning process, which will occur in the 01-03 biennium. The information will be specific to the needs of Lane County's rural and non-English speaking children and families. It will include a thorough look at existing services to determine whether they are best practice and/or research-based. It will include a comprehensive examination of system and program strategies to assure that families find access to services no matter where they begin their effort. Future information collection methods will include community forums and focus groups to solicit opinions and perceptions from specific segments of the community, interviews with key individuals such as service providers and policy makers, and targeted consumer surveys. The process of gathering and assessing information vital to planning for services will be ongoing, and each new biennium it will build on the accumulated knowledge gained in the previous planning effort.