

“Babies Can’t Wait”



Coos County Zero to Three Court Program

Participation Handbook

May 8, 2008

Welcome to the Zero to Three (ZTT) Court Program. We are pleased that you have decided to join this program!

The ZTT program is built on research that shows that healthy infant/toddler development is based on having secure attachments to caregivers. This attachment is the building block for all future intellectual and emotional development. The ZTT program is a pilot project using court/community partnerships to improve outcomes for high-risk infants, toddlers and their families.

This program is designed to help you overcome problems and help you bond and attach with your child in ways that help your whole family thrive. All children are born wired for feelings and ready to learn. Current infant/toddler research proves that the first three years of a child's life are the most important for brain development. The best way for a child's brain to develop is with a secure attachment to a safe and stable parent. In this program, you will learn just that – how to form a secure attachment with your child.

The ZTT Program takes a team approach to working with you and to help you overcome the barriers that could prevent you from being successful. You will engage in assessments and interventions that help troubled relationships, teach you to understand your child's needs, how to communicate with your child, and promote healthy attachment.

You can expect to participate in the ZTT Program for about a year. However, it is important to remember that your child may be returned to you at any point. While engaged in this program you will appear in court once a month.

While in the ZTT Program, you will work with a number of different agencies which may include parenting support, child development information, mental health treatment, drug and alcohol treatment, a domestic violence treatment and/or prevention program and visitation with your child. The dedicated Department of Human Services (DHS) case manager will help you navigate through this program.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Court: One Monday per month at 10:30 a.m. (or as directed by the team). You will be given a calendar that has the court dates on it.

Department of Human Services: You will have regular contact with your caseworker. Your worker will establish a schedule for checking in each week. Make sure you stay in contact with your caseworker. Attend all scheduled meetings.

Legal Representation: You may choose to be represented by an attorney throughout this process. An attorney can provide valuable assistance to you at every stage of your case. An attorney will attend every court appearance with you and speak to the judge on your behalf. An attorney can explain the legal processes involved in your case and conduct legal proceedings on your behalf. An attorney can be present with you at meetings involving the Department of Human Services (DHS), and can speak to DHS on your behalf. An attorney is someone whose job is to be your advocate. If you choose not to be represented by an attorney you may be at a disadvantage.

Counseling Sessions: In addition to parent/child sessions you may have individual and/or couple sessions with a mental health therapist. These appointments will be held at various locations and may change depending on where your child is located.

Drug and Alcohol Treatment (if needed): ADAPT or Coos County Correctional Treatment Center (CCCTC) may provide you with an assessment to determine your treatment needs. If a need is identified, you will receive an individualized treatment plan.

Other Services: You will take part in parenting classes and home visiting programs offered through the Public Health Department such as Parents As Teachers and Healthy Start.

Roadmap: There will be three stages to complete before “graduating” from the program. When you enter and as you advance through each stage, the team will work with you to develop your Roadmap. The Roadmap is your path through the program – it is designed to merge all the expectations from parenting, DHS, treatment and probation (if they apply) and your own

goals into one easy to manage document. It is designed with your input because you are your own best expert and the team needs your help to design a plan that works for you and your child.

Attendance: The court will verify your attendance at all required appointments. Failure to appear – no call / no show – is not acceptable.

Contact Information / Forms:

Employment: If you find a new job, take on a second or third job, or change jobs, please complete the update form included in this handbook.

Address/Phone Number: Please complete the update form included in this handbook if your address or phone number changes for any reason. The team must know where you are living and how to contact you at all times.

RULES FOR COURT

ZTT Court is held one Monday a month. Court begins at 10:30 a.m. at the Coos County Courthouse, 250 North Baxter Street in Coquille, Oregon.

1. The Court expects you to be honest with yourself, the team, and everyone with whom you communicate while you are in Court. Please be honest.
2. Do not miss appointments. Please call if there is a problem. No call or no show is not acceptable.
3. You must abide by any alcohol and/or drug treatment plan that is deemed necessary.
4. Be prepared for all your meetings and court appearances.
5. In court, wear appropriate clothing. Do not expose your midriff. No tank tops. Wear clean clothing with no gang or drug references.
6. During Court Reviews please be respectful of others and do not interrupt. You will get a chance to speak.
7. Plan on attending the whole court review session. All court team participants are encouraged to stay and see everyone's court review.
8. If you need to move to a new residence or change your phone number you must notify DHS and the Court immediately with your new contact information.
9. You are encouraged to bring support people with you to court. Consider inviting your family members or friends.
10. Discussions in court will be open, honest, and to the point.

STAGES & LENGTH OF PROGRAM

The ZTT Program will take up to a year to complete, whether you have your child living with you or not. While you are in the program, you will work through three stages, starting at Stage 1 (Early Services) and moving to Stage 3 (Stability) before being ready to graduate. To advance through the stages you must submit a request to the court; the forms for making a request are included in this handbook.

STAGE ONE

Stage One takes approximately 3 months. During this initial stage your goal is to engage in services including parenting classes, mental health and public health services, and addiction assessment and treatment (if needed). You will be very busy during Stage One - creating your roadmap, connecting with services, establishing new routines and organizing your schedule to get everything done.

Stage One (Early Services) may include: parenting classes; mental health assessment and therapy sessions; drug treatment groups, developing a roadmap, urine analysis (UA) and individual counseling (as needed); and visits where your child is (foster home, DHS office or with you).

STAGE TWO

Stage Two takes approximately 3-4 months to complete. This is an on-going phase, when you have figured out your schedule and are doing what you need to do in the program. You and your child are engaged in services and everyone is moving forward with the service plan. You are attending all your appointments and your drug tests (if needed) are clean.

Stage Two may include: regular parent-child and couple therapeutic sessions; ongoing drug treatment (if needed); you may be nearing completion of your treatment plan by now; continuing parenting classes; reviewing/revising your roadmap; and frequent home visits where your child is (foster home, DHS office or with you).

STAGE THREE

Stage Three takes approximately 3-4 months to complete. This is a stability phase. You are finishing or finished with parenting classes and drug treatment (if needed) and fully engaged in services. You are able to use the parenting skills you've learned and take leadership in recognizing your

child's needs and cues. You should have stable housing and a prospect for employment or further education.

GRADUATION

By this time you are stable and can demonstrate a strong and growing bond and attachment with your child. When you are ready to submit a request for graduation, you should have stable housing and have gained employment or be furthering your education.

Please remember: Reunification with your child is a separate issue from the program stages and could occur at any time.

During court, the judge may award incentives or order sanctions based on your progress and the choices you make.

INCENTIVES

Incentives are designed to call attention to your progress, to celebrate you. Reasons for incentives include advancing up to the next stage, strong group participation, personal accountability, overcoming an obstacle, birthdays, or for no other reason than you are doing well.

ZTT Court incentives include:

- Applause
- Books to read to your child
- Small personal items
- Advancement up program stages, certificate of completion
- Reunification with children

SANCTIONS

Sanctions will be graduated – they increase depending on the issues involved or the number of times you earn one.

Reasons for sanctions include: missing court, missing treatment, missing appointments, ongoing drug or alcohol use, lying to the Judge, violating contact orders.

Sanctions may include:

- Special hearings
- Homework
- Spending time in the courtroom
- Contempt of court: fines or community service
- Termination from the program

COOS COUNTY ZERO TO THREE COURT TEAM MEMBERS

Teresa Bennett, Zero to Three Court Program Coordinator,
Coos Circuit Court
Phone Number: 541-396-3121 ext. 344

Richard L. Barron, Coos Circuit Court Judge
Phone Number: 541-396-3121 ext. 344

David Brown, DHS Child Welfare Case Manager
Phone Number: 541-756-5500 ext. 296

Bridgette Bagoy, Court Appointed Special Advocate Supervisor
Phone Number: 541-396-1074

Lauren Sproul, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist,
Coos County Mental Health
Phone Number: 541-756-2020 x696

Al Neubauer, ADAPT Program Director
Phone Number: 541-751-0357

Kathy Cooley, Healthy Start and Public Health Home Visiting Programs,
Coos County Healthy Start and Coos County Public Health Department
Phone Number: 541-756-2020 x670

Stacey Lowe, Attorney at Law, SW Oregon Public Defender's Office
Phone Number: 541-267-2472

Megan Jacquot, Attorney at Law, Coos County Consortium
Phone Number: 541-267-2214

Coos County Zero to Three Court

Request to advance from Stage 1 → 2

Name: _____

Date: _____

I attended all my ZTT Court sessions?

Yes _____ No _____, If no, why? _____

I attended all my visits with my child?

Yes _____ No _____

I attended all my sessions with Lauren Sproul?

Yes _____ No _____

I attended and participated in all my parenting skills sessions?

Yes _____ No _____

(Such as Healthy Start, Parents As Teachers, or Coastal Center)

I attended all family violence prevention and/or treatment

Yes _____ No _____

appointments (if needed). (Such as INOKA, COVE or Coastal Center)

I attended all my treatment appointments and groups? (if needed)

Yes _____ No _____

(Such as ADAPT or CCCTC)

If no, to any of the above, why?:

What I have learned about myself and my family during stage 1:

Three new parenting skills I have learned:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Goals I have for the next stage of the ZTT Program:

Three reasons why I think that I should move to the next stage:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Coos County Zero to Three Court

Request to advance from Stage 2 → 3

Name: _____

Date: _____

I attended all my ZTT Court sessions?

Yes _____ No _____, If No, why? _____

I attended all my visits with my child?

Yes _____ No _____

I attended all my sessions with Lauren Sproul?

Yes _____ No _____

I attended and participated in all my parenting skills sessions?

Yes _____ No _____

(Such as Healthy Start, Parents As Teachers, or Coastal Center)

I attended all family violence prevention and/or treatment

Yes _____ No _____

appointments (if needed). (Such as INOKA, COVE or Coastal Center)

I attended all my treatment appointments and groups? (if needed)

Yes _____ No _____

(Such as ADAPT or CCCTC)

If no, to any of the above, why?:

What I have learned about myself and parenting during Stage 2:

What I have learned about my child during Stage 2:

What I have done to create a stable life for my family:

My goals for the next stage are:

Coos County Zero to Three Court

REQUEST TO GRADUATE

Name: _____ Date: _____

I attended all my ZTT Court sessions?

Yes _____ No _____ If no, why? _____

I attended all my visits with my child?

Yes _____ No _____

I attended all my sessions with Lauren Sproul?

Yes _____ No _____

I attended and participated in all my parenting skills sessions?

Yes _____ No _____

(Such as Healthy Start, Parents As Teachers, or Coastal Center)

I attended all family violence prevention and/or treatment

Yes _____ No _____

appointments (if needed). (Such as INOKA, COVE or Coastal Center)

I attended all my treatment appointments and groups? (if needed)

Yes _____ No _____

(Such as ADAPT or CCCTC)

If no, to any of the above, why?:

What I have learned about my family and myself during the ZTT Program?

The top 3 strengths of my family are:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The 2 areas I will continue working on are:

- 1.
- 2.

Who will help me with my parenting?

My aftercare plan includes:

Why I am ready to finish the ZTT Program:

**COOS COUNTY ZERO TO THREE COURT
PERSONAL INFORMATION UPDATE:**

Employment information

Date _____

Name: _____

Are you employed? _____yes _____no

If you are unemployed: _____ Date you became unemployed

If you are employed: _____full time _____part time

Date you started work	_____
Company Name	_____
Supervisor Name and Number	_____
Employer Address	_____
Your Occupation/position	_____
Income per (hours/week/month)	_____
Number of hours worked per week/approximate schedule	_____

What is your primary source of income?

- _____ Job
- _____ Disability (SSD)
- _____ Employment
- _____ Retirement
- _____ SSI
- _____ Unemployment
- _____ DHS
- _____ Family or significant other
- _____ Other: Specify _____

COMPLETE THIS FORM EVERY TIME YOU HAVE A CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT
RETURN TO TERESA IMMEDIATELY

ZTT COURT PROGRAM
COOS COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
250 N. BAXTER ST.
COQUILLE, OR 97423

**COOS COUNTY ZERO TO THREE COURT
PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATE**

Name _____ Date _____

My new address is:

My new home phone number is: _____

My new cell phone number is: _____

Is it ok to leave messages at these numbers? _____ Yes _____ No

COMPLETE THIS FORM EVERY TIME YOU HAVE A CHANGE IN
ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER
RETURN TO TERESA IMMEDIATELY

ZTT COURT PROGRAM
COOS COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
250 N. BAXTER ST.
COQUILLE, OR 97423