



Wraparound Oregon Strengths Needs Summary

**Wraparound Oregon Strengths Needs SumFoster Mom**

<b>Family Name:</b>	<u>Youth</u>	<b>Date of Interview:</b>	<u>4 / 13/06</u>
<b>Family Members:</b>	_____	<b>Date SumFoster Mom Completed:</b>	<u>4 / 14 / 06</u>
	_____		___ / ___ / ___
	_____	<b>Date Reviewed with Family:</b>	
	_____		
<b>Interviewer:</b>	<u>Loren Calkins, Carin Cunningham and Jan Lacy</u>		

**SumFoster Mom:** (From the family’s perspective, briefly describe the history of why the family is working with Wraparound Oregon and what they hope to achieve.)

Youth came to the attention of Wraparound Oregon at a time of transition. She had a period of success in the foster placement she had been in and then had a series of crises that lead to her placement in the Christie School. It is a secure placement facility. This writer met briefly with youth’s mother at a court review hearing on March 13, 2006. She expresses concern for her daughter’s well-being and expresses grief that the most recent foster placement has not worked out. She was eager to meet with this writer; however, on the day that we were to meet, she called and stated that she had an emergency with her leg and needed to go to the hospital. We have not reconnected in order to meet.

**Family:** (Who is in this family, by their definition? How does the family stay in touch with other family members? What do the family members need in order to stay in touch with each other?)

Youth expresses a need to be in touch with her family and states that on occasion her brother informs her that he has seen their mother while riding the bus in Portland. She would like to have contact with her mother and siblings (her sister and an older brother). She expresses that she and her sister fought on occasion and that her sister used to speak for her very often. While this serves a purpose in the family, Youth found it annoying. As noted, Youth says that she would like to have contact, but wants to know also that she can depend on a visit from her mother. The siblings used to stay in touch with each other through visits and telephone calls. Youth’s foster parent and her sister’s foster parent are related so there is contact. This arrangement was considered a strength due to the contact.

Youth identifies foster mom as her mom. In fact, at one time I was confused at who she was

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talking about until Youth corrected me and told me that she was speaking about her foster mother. There is an obvious bond that exists with Youth for her mother. Recently, Foster Mom has decided that she cannot continue to care for Youth in her home. She would like to be part of the team for Youth and wants to continue a “mentor relationship” with Youth rather than a foster mother. This relationship change needs to be articulated so that it is clear to Youth. It may take some time for Youth to process the meanings of this change, and she may experience grief at the loss of Foster Mom. It is unclear how she will respond to the grief. Youth has a good team of caring individuals around her including Foster Mom in her new role. Foster Mom was present for the first Wraparound Team Meeting held on April 13, 2006 at the Christie School. DHS-CW Caseworker, Melissa Messerant, and Foster Mom, recently had a meeting with Youth to inform her that she would not be returning to her home. Youth heard the news and has not reacted or responded yet. She continues to do what she needs to do at the Christie School. By the reports of her therapist there she has not acted out as anticipated given this news. The Christie School staff is planning on supporting her as she processes this information. During the Wraparound meeting, her placement was not an overt issue. There were other needs that related to placement identified.

### **A Place to Live:** (Do current living arrangements meet the needs of the child and family?)

At this time the Christie School is offering living arrangements to this youth. The living arrangements are meeting her immediate needs for a safe-secure place to live. She has a need to connect with others in a family setting that this place to live does not offer. She has an intense need to be heard and understood, and actually believe that she is being heard and understood. At one point a psychologist noted that her “emotional tank” is empty and she absorbs this out of those who are closest to her. This type of need for emotional intimacy or emotional hunger is often only met within a family setting.

Foster Mom describes Youth as having a “magnetic personality.” She says that people who meet Youth really like her. She identifies with the emotional hunger that was identified by the psychologist, and adds that she needs one-on-one attention. In fact, when she doesn’t get the one-on-one attention, she will act out her anger against others and against herself. Youth needs to know that her emotional tank will be filled-she says that she needs people to check in with her on a frequent basis. This need will be explored further with the team.

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**Social/Fun:** (Do family members have friends and access to those friends? Does the family have opportunities to socialize together? What do they do for fun? Are their special events/activities that the family enjoys: literature, music, dance, art, etc. and how are they enjoyed?)

Youth says that she loves to roller blade and play basketball. She enjoys being active and physical activity is important to her. She does not speak about friends specifically. She says that she cares about her sister and would like to see her more often. When asked if she liked to work on art or activities like that she said, “no.” Her magnetic personality invites people into her life and she is often sociable. Foster Mom notes that she often engaged her in some type of practical joke and that she has a very good sense of humor.

**Emotional/Behavioral:** (How has the family worked through any past struggles? Are there any unresolved issues that get in the way of normal interactions within the family or community? Are there current behaviors within the family that upset the quality of life, i.e. stress, grief issues, substance abuse and/or mental health issues? How has the family successfully addressed challenges in the past?)

Youth’s mother has not visited her for some time. Her mother notes, on the brief occasion that I discussed her daughter with her, that she did not know what to do when Youth acts out and panics. During the court review it was obvious that Youth’s mother feels pain for her daughter’s current status. Youth’s behavior has escalated in order to get more of the things that she needs. This presents more challenges for her caregivers. Foster Mom has noted that she cannot continue to care for Youth given the other youth in the home. Youth’s need for attention and acceptance seems to drive her aggressive behaviors when she perceives that someone else is getting attention that she could be getting.

Currently she is aggressive toward other youth in the program at times when she sees them as “bothering her.” She is not able to disengage or ignore some behaviors. The invitation to respond verbally – and aggressively – is often too much to ignore. Foster Mom said that Youth is good at problem solving situations. The situations she described are other person’s situations in which she can see and discuss alternatives that a person could do rather than their current course of action. Youth may be able to apply this skill to herself as she sees the familiarity of her situation and this skill.

**Educational/Vocational:** (Where are the family members in relation to their educational needs? Where do the children attend school? Are family members involved in employment opportunities?)

Youth and the team members say that Youth likes school generally. She says that she especially likes her current school. The team will spend more time around the education/vocation area.

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**Legal:** (What legal issues exist that affect the family besides the Juvenile Court? What is the family's attitude about "rights & duties" –personal obligations, accountability, civic involvement, etc.?)

Youth is assertive about her needs. She has an attorney and her family members, including her mother, have legal representation. Youth also has a CASA. He visits her on a regular basis and advocates for her needs.

**Medical:** (Is the family meeting health care needs? Do they have insurance?)

Youth is currently covered on the Oregon Health Plan-Open Card. Her medical needs are being addressed by her current placement and by her DHS-CW case manager.

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**Safety/Crisis:** (Are there safety concerns for the family? Is anyone potentially dangerous to the family or themselves? Do they have a plan for crisis situations?)

The Christie School is currently arranging staffing patterns that most meet Youth's needs for safety/crisis. She is currently in a secure facility. She has staff availability to her around the clock and on weekends. The team will need to consider her safety/crisis needs when she moves to another level of care. The plan will need to be well-known and strengths/needs driven.

**Spiritual:** (How does the family describe their sense of spirituality? What do family members do to obtain a sense of well being-inner peace? Do they belong to a faith community? If so, are they actively involved?)

The team did not consider this area in depth at this time.

**Cultural:** (What is the family's current culture or cultural background? How does the family observe special events in their lives? What are the family dynamics? What do the family members value? Socioeconomic identity?)

The team will explore this area to make sure to cover all of the important special events and preferences of the family as the plan is developed.

**Financial:** (What is the current financial condition of the family? What is their major source of support?)

The family has very little finances, and the major source of support for Youth is the aid of the Child welfare system.

### **Additional Comments:**

Youth says that she most feels the need to believe and feel that she is being heard. This has been tiring for care givers in that she has so much need for reassurance that she is being heard and attended to. She says that she would like to hear from her mentor regularly and has a high need for predictability. "When people say they are coming to see me, and then they can't make it, they need to call to let me know."