

FILED: March 28, 2012

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF THE STATE OF OREGON

In the Matter of K. P.,
a Child.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,
Petitioner-Respondent,

v.

S. P.,
Appellant.

Umatilla County Circuit Court
JV110070;

Petition Number
JV110070A;

A149250

Ronald J. Pahl, Judge.

Argued and submitted on January 05, 2012.

Erin K. Galli argued the cause for appellant. With her on the brief was Chilton & Galli, LLC.

Christina M. Hutchins, Senior Assistant Attorney General, argued the cause for respondent. On the brief were John R. Kroger, Attorney General, Anna M. Joyce, Solicitor General, and Laura S. Anderson, Senior Assistant Attorney General.

Before Haselton, Presiding Judge, and Armstrong, Judge, and Duncan, Judge.

ARMSTRONG, J.

Reversed and remanded.

1 ARMSTRONG, J.

2 In this dependency case, the juvenile court asserted jurisdiction over
3 parents' newborn child, K, on the basis that parents have conditions that prevent them
4 from safely parenting the child. *See* ORS 419B.100(1)(c) (set out below).¹ Mother
5 appeals from the jurisdictional judgment, arguing that (1) the court plainly erred in
6 relying on two allegations as to father that "unfairly shifted the burden of production to
7 father"; (2) the evidence regarding the allegations as to father is insufficient to support
8 jurisdiction; and (3) "the evidence supports only some of the court's findings [as to
9 mother] and those findings are insufficient to support a conclusion that the child is
10 endangered." Father does not appeal. As explained below, we conclude that, under the
11 circumstances of this case, mother's challenge to the jurisdictional allegations pertaining
12 to father is properly before us; further, we agree with mother that the evidence is
13 insufficient, as a matter of law, to support jurisdiction over K.² Accordingly, we reverse
14 and remand.

15 In this case, "our task is to review the facts found by the juvenile court to
16 determine whether they are supported by any evidence, and then to determine whether, as
17 a matter of law, those facts together with facts implicitly found by the juvenile court,

¹ Although ORS 419B.100 was amended by the 2011 legislature, *see* Or Laws 2011, ch 291, § 5, those amendments have no bearing on our analysis in this case; we therefore cite to the current version of the statute throughout this opinion.

² As we explain below, *see* ___ Or App at ___, n 15 (slip op at 13, n 15), given that disposition, we need not address mother's unpreserved argument that the petition's framing of the allegations as to father improperly shifted the burden of proof away from the state.

1 provide a basis for juvenile court jurisdiction under ORS 419B.100(1)(c)." [Dept. of](#)
2 [Human Services v. C. Z.](#), 236 Or App 436, 442, 236 P3d 791 (2010).³ "Where findings
3 are not made on disputed issues of fact and there is evidence from which those facts
4 could be decided more than one way, we will presume that they were decided in a
5 manner consistent with the juvenile court's ultimate conclusion." [State v. S. T. S.](#), 236 Or
6 App 646, 655, 238 P3d 53 (2010). We relate the facts consistently with that standard,
7 supplementing our narrative with additional, uncontroverted facts from the record.

8 Mother was diagnosed as developmentally disabled as a young child and
9 receives adult developmental disability services at the present time. Mother is eligible for
10 100 hours per month of services to assist her with daily living skills; she typically uses 50
11 hours of services per month. Berg, the person who provides case management services to
12 mother in relation to her developmental disability, testified that the types of services that
13 mother receives are based on the needs identified in her individual support plan and are
14 "primarily up to her and her support team."

15 "[Mother has] identified services in her home to help keep her home clean
16 and safe, services to attend doctors' appointments, if needed.

17 "If there's [*sic*] questions that she has, she can have her support staff
18 go with her. Access to community resources such as WIC, CAPECO,
19 things like that. Some of the recreational activities we do as a group she
20 can be part of. And it really depends on what she needs at that time and
21 what she's asking for of the services that we provide."

22 Berg testified that mother

³ Mother does not ask that we exercise our discretion to review the case *de novo*, and we do not do so. See ORS 19.415(3)(b) (providing that *de novo* review is now discretionary in most dependency cases).

1 "in the past has generally had about 50 hours per month of support that
2 she's requested. She likes to have support more outside of her home to do
3 activities, and she has chosen primarily to be more independent in her home
4 than to have a provider come in."

5 When asked her opinion "regarding [mother's] ability to take care of herself without the
6 services provided by [her] organization," Berg, who has worked with mother in various
7 capacities for a total of six years, replied:

8 "[Mother] has done a fairly good job. She has often chosen to not
9 have a provider for extended periods of time. She has managed to meet her
10 Lifeways appointments. Her home--you know, she has food in her home,
11 she is able to get her medications, things like that, and that she's done with
12 the support system that she has. She's very able to access services and tell
13 people when she needs support."

14 Berg explained that the services mother is eligible for "cannot go to provide support for
15 another person," but "[w]hat we can do is provide support to [the eligible person] to learn
16 the skills or to access services to be able to get those skills from somebody else."

17 Father suffers from an unspecified "seizure disorder" for which he takes
18 medication. He receives Social Security disability payments, although it is unclear
19 whether those payments are related to his seizure disorder. Father was in special
20 education as a child. At some point, father applied for developmental disability services
21 and was denied; he did not follow up with the additional testing that was required to
22 determine his eligibility. Father is supportive of mother and recognizes that she needs
23 services but, at times, he has had difficulty with some of the service providers who have
24 been at the home.⁴ In the month before K's birth, mother had not been receiving in-home

⁴ The record shows that mother and father live together.

1 services for approximately a month because of parents' difficulties with some of the
2 service providers.

3 K was born on May 19, 2011, the first child for both mother and father.
4 About eight hours after the birth, Anderson, a child protective services worker with the
5 Department of Human Services (DHS), visited mother in the hospital.⁵ Anderson
6 observed mother with K for about one and one-half to two hours; she also talked to the
7 doctor who provided medical care at K's birth and the nurses who were caring for mother
8 and K. Mother had been given pain medication for childbirth and, as advised by her
9 doctors, had not been taking during her pregnancy, the medications used to treat her
10 disability.⁶ During the visit, Anderson observed that mother had "a lot of difficulties and
11 needed to be coached through the whole process" of wrapping K in a blanket. Anderson
12 also observed that mother "easily gave up" when trying to feed K, even after she was
13 coached in "how to keep the baby engaged in the feeding process," and that the nurse
14 eventually took the baby and finished feeding her. Mother similarly needed "constant
15 coaching" in how to change the baby's diapers. Anderson further explained that,
16 "[a]t one point[, as mother] was holding the baby, the baby's head was
17 flopping to the side. They talked to her about how important it was to
18 support the baby's head, and helped her to understand how important that

⁵ DHS had received referrals that mother "was pregnant and was to deliver" a few months before.

⁶ Anderson indicated that mother may have been started back on one of her regular medications after K was born, but the trial court did not attach any significance to that fact--perhaps because the record contains no evidence regarding what mother's regular medications were, their intended effects, or how long they must be taken before they become effective.

1 was. She needed those reminders numerous times while she was holding
2 the baby."

3 Anderson observed mother again the following day, for about an hour. However, she did
4 not testify as to any concerns that arose during that visit.

5 Anderson also met with father the day that K was born, but she did not see
6 father interact with K. Both mother and father acknowledged to Anderson that they
7 lacked education and skills in caring for a newborn. Anderson later learned that they had
8 received "some coaching [on] parenting" from Healthy Start before the birth of the baby.
9 Mother and father identified family members and others as resources for them, but
10 Anderson determined that none of those people was available to move into the home to
11 assist parents in caring for K.

12 Based on Anderson's assessment, DHS took protective custody of K. The
13 next day, as K was being discharged from the hospital to be placed in foster care,
14 Anderson observed that "neither parent knew how to put the baby in the car seat and how
15 to secure the baby in the car seat, and needed a lot of coaching on how to do that safely."
16 Mother also indicated to Anderson that she thought K was already recognizing father's
17 voice because K stopped crying when father yelled at her.

18 The state then filed a juvenile dependency petition alleging that K was
19 within the court's jurisdiction on the ground that

20 "the child's condition or circumstances are such as to endanger the child's
21 welfare, to-wit:

22 "a. The mother is developmentally delayed, has mental health
23 concerns and requires the assistance of care providers to maintain the home
24 and personal responsibilities.

1 "b. The mother is not able to meet the basic needs of the child, due
2 [to] her delays and medications.

3 "c. The father has not presented himself as a parenting resource.

4 "d. The father has mental health concerns, anger control issues, at
5 times subjecting the mother to domestic violence.

6 "e. The father has not demonstrated that he is able to provide the
7 infant with the necessary care.

8 "f. The home is unsafe and unsanitary for the child."

9 The jurisdictional hearing took place on July 6, 2011. During the period
10 before the hearing, mother and father had two-hour visits with K three times per week.
11 Corey, the DHS caseworker who was assigned the case after the dependency petition was
12 filed,⁷ observed parents with K during approximately five of those visits; each
13 observation lasted "just maybe a couple [of] minutes."⁸ Corey reported that parents
14 "lacked just basic parenting skills." When asked to elaborate, she stated:

15 "For example, when I first viewed them when the baby was first--
16 you know, one of the first visits, just basic [*sic*] how to hold the baby, to
17 support the neck, and how important that is to, you know, to support her
18 neck. She's got a very strong neck and she was really moving her head a
19 lot, and so we had to work with the family a lot with that."

20 She also visited parents' home, talked with mother and father, and "just * * * observed

⁷ The court indicated in the judgment that it had considered the testimony of Anderson, Berg, and Jones, a mental health therapist who evaluated father at the request of DHS, in making its decision. However, the court sustained an objection to Jones's testimony. Thus, we understand the court's reference to mean Corey, rather than Jones, as Corey was the only other witness who testified at the hearing.

⁸ A different DHS worker was responsible for being in the room and assisting parents during the visits. That person did not testify at the jurisdictional hearing.

1 where their developmental disabilities come into play and where that might be a concern
2 for them to safely parent the child."

3 In closing arguments, mother and father each contended that the evidence
4 was insufficient to establish jurisdiction as to them; mother further argued:

5 "This is not a case where we have somebody who is disabled who
6 has no support and poses a threat to the child, this is a situation where she is
7 receiving services through the Brokerage. She has been receiving those
8 services, and she has the assistance of the father, who has no disability on
9 this record, and who is not incapable of helping her.

10 "So they have significant resources. They also have a stepmother
11 who has been very vocal and communicative with the agency and who can
12 also help assist.

13 "So on this record we don't have a lack of assistance, we have
14 abundant assistance. What we really have is a rush to judgment about these
15 parents because of disabilities and just an assumption and conclusion that
16 they can't parent. And that's not adequate to take jurisdiction."

17 The court concluded that jurisdiction was warranted, explaining:

18 "[B]ased on the credible evidence before the court, the court is going
19 to take jurisdiction concerning the child, but not concerning the issue of
20 domestic violence or the unsafe and unsanitary [condition] of the home. So
21 that will be (A), (B), (C), and the amended (D),^[9] and (E).

22 "The plan is going to be to get the child returned to the home. I do
23 have hope here that with mom getting back on her meds, or maybe she is
24 right now, and DHS is going to continue to work with you, even in-home
25 services to try to see if the child can be safely with you. The court has
26 concerns right now, but I do have hope that it will work out, that the child
27 can--that you can care for the child safely."

⁹ The court had previously granted the state's motion to amend the allegation in paragraph d of the petition to delete the phrase "at times subjecting the mother to domestic violence." Thus, as found by the court, that paragraph states, "The father has mental health concerns, anger control issues."

1 The court subsequently entered a judgment finding K within the jurisdiction of the court
2 based on the allegations in paragraphs a through e of the amended petition, making K a
3 ward of the court and placing her in the legal custody of DHS for continued placement in
4 substitute care. As noted above, only mother appeals.

5 We begin with a discussion of the relevant statutory provisions. ORS
6 419B.100 governs the juvenile court's subject matter jurisdiction in dependency cases. In
7 particular, as relevant in this case, ORS 419B.100(1)(c) establishes exclusive original
8 jurisdiction in the juvenile court "in any case involving a person who is under 18 years of
9 age and * * * [w]hose condition or circumstances are such as to endanger the welfare of
10 the person or of others[.]" The requirements of ORS 419B.100(1)(c) are satisfied if,
11 "under the totality of the circumstances, there is a reasonable likelihood of harm to the
12 welfare of the child." [*State ex rel Juv. Dept. v. Vanbuskirk*](#), 202 Or App 401, 405, 122
13 P3d 116 (2005) (citing *State ex rel Juv. Dept. v. Smith*, 316 Or 646, 652-53, 853 P2d 282
14 (1993)). To endanger the child's welfare, the condition or circumstances must create a
15 current "threat of serious loss or injury to the child" and "there must be a reasonable
16 likelihood that the threat will be realized." [*Dept. of Human Services v. A. F.*](#), 243 Or App
17 379, 386, 259 P3d 957 (2011); [*Dept. of Human Services v. D. M.*](#), 248 Or App 683, ___,
18 ___ P3d ___ (2012) (slip op at 3) (formulations in *Smith* and *A. F.* "complement each
19 other and correctly state the standard" for juvenile court jurisdiction under ORS
20 419B.100(1)(c)). The burden is on the state to prove facts sufficient to warrant
21 jurisdiction. [*Dept. of Human Services v. B. L. J.*](#), 246 Or App 767, 773, 268 P3d 696
22 (2011).

1 The statutes contemplate that ORS 419B.100(1)(c) brings *the child* whose
2 condition or circumstances are as described in the statute within the jurisdiction of the
3 court, *see, e.g.*, ORS 419B.809(1) (any person may file a petition alleging that a child is
4 within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court under ORS 419B.100); ORS 419B.310(3)
5 (facts alleging that a child is within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court under ORS
6 419B.100(1) must, unless admitted, be proved by a preponderance of competent
7 evidence); ORS 419B.328(1) (court shall make child found to be within the jurisdiction
8 of the juvenile court under ORS 419B.100 a ward of the court); ORS 419A.010(33)
9 (defining "ward" to mean "a person within the jurisdiction of the juvenile court under
10 ORS 419B.100"), and the courts also frame it in those terms, *see, e.g., Smith*, 316 Or at
11 650 ("This court has not previously considered what conditions or circumstances are such
12 as to endanger the welfare of a child *over whom juvenile court jurisdiction is sought*."
13 (Internal quotation marks and brackets omitted; emphasis added.)).¹⁰ However, under
14 ORS 419B.803(1), a juvenile court having subject matter jurisdiction under ORS

¹⁰ As the cases also recognize, jurisdiction "over a child" under ORS 419B.100(1)(c) is often the result of the conduct, condition, or circumstances of one or both parents; thus, the courts sometimes refer to jurisdiction "as to" or "with respect to" a particular parent. *See, e.g., Dept. of Human Services v. B. B.*, 248 Or App 715, ___, ___, ___ P3d ___ (2012) (slip op at 14, 16) (evidence was insufficient to establish grounds for jurisdiction with respect to the father or the mother); *Dept. of Human Services v. J. H.*, 248 Or App 118, 119, ___ P3d ___ (2011) (reversing judgment of jurisdiction "as to" the father, but otherwise affirming, where the evidence pertaining to the factual allegations against the father was legally insufficient to form a basis for jurisdiction but the mother had conceded jurisdiction based on her circumstances); *Dept. of Human Services v. D. S. F.*, 246 Or App 302, 313 n 5, 316, 266 P3d 116 (2011) (holding that the court erred in asserting jurisdiction over the children based on the father's conduct, but noting that the father "does not dispute that the court could take jurisdiction over the children based on mother's conduct").

1 419B.100 generally also has personal jurisdiction over the *parents* of the child or ward.¹¹
2 Moreover, the court may order a parent to participate in treatment or training if the court
3 finds "that treatment or training is needed by a parent to correct the circumstances that
4 resulted in wardship or to prepare the parent to resume the care of the ward" and if "the
5 participation is in the ward's best interests." ORS 419B.387.

6 A ward--that is, a child found to be within the jurisdiction of the juvenile
7 court under ORS 419B.100--is subject to the juvenile court's jurisdiction until:

8 "(a) The court dismisses the petition concerning the ward;

9 "(b) The court transfers jurisdiction over the ward as provided in
10 ORS 419B.127, 419B.130 and 419B.132;

11 "(c) The court enters an order terminating the wardship;

12 "(d) A judgment of adoption of the ward is entered by a court of
13 competent jurisdiction; or

¹¹ ORS 419B.803(1) provides:

"A juvenile court having subject matter jurisdiction has jurisdiction over:

"(a) A party, who has been served in the matter as provided in ORS 419B.812 to 419.839 to the extent that prosecution of the action is not inconsistent with the Constitution of this state and the Constitution of the United States;

"(b) A child under 12 years of age who is the subject of a petition filed pursuant to ORS 419B.100; and

"(c) Any other party specified in ORS 419B.875(1)."

ORS 419B.875(1)(a), in turn, specifies that "[t]he child or ward," ORS 419B.875(1)(a)(A), and "[t]he parents or guardian of the child or ward," ORS 419B.875(1)(a)(B), are among the parties to a proceeding under ORS 419B.100.

1 "(e) The ward becomes 21 years of age."
2 ORS 419B.328(2). We note that jurisdiction and physical custody are separate concepts;
3 the court may have jurisdiction under ORS 419B.100(1) "even though the child is
4 receiving adequate care from the person having physical custody of the child." ORS
5 419B.100(2); *see also* ORS 419B.331 (court may place the ward under "protective
6 supervision," including in the legal custody of the ward's parents, if the court determines
7 to do so would be in the "best interest and welfare" of the ward); ORS 419B.337(1)
8 ("When the court determines it would be in the best interest and for the welfare of a ward,
9 the court may place the ward in the legal custody of [DHS] for care, placement and
10 supervision.").

11 With those principles in mind, we turn back to mother's appeal. Before
12 addressing the merits of mother's arguments, we first must address the state's contention
13 that, because father has not appealed the jurisdictional judgment, the allegations
14 pertaining to him contained in that judgment "are conclusively established" and mother
15 may not challenge them. As explained below, under the circumstances of this case,
16 particularly where the juvenile court's findings as to mother are dependent, at least in
17 part, on the soundness of its findings as to father, we conclude that mother can challenge
18 all of the jurisdictional findings on appeal, including those that pertain to father.¹²

19 In this case, the state's theory of jurisdiction as alleged in the petition is,
20 essentially, that parents *in combination* are unable to safely parent K given their--and

¹² We need not consider whether the same result would obtain where the parents' circumstances are not so intertwined.

1 particularly, mother's--cognitive impairments. [State v. R. H.](#), 237 Or App 245, 251, 239
2 P3d 505, *rev den*, 349 Or 480 (2010) ("The allegations in a petition are viewed as a
3 whole, with each one potentially conditioned or amplified by the others."). As the state
4 explains, "mother and father both lack parenting skills and[,] potentially, the mental
5 capacity to learn those skills without special assistance."¹³ In short, the question before
6 the juvenile court was whether the allegations regarding mother and father *together* were
7 sufficient to prove that, in the totality of the circumstances, K's welfare was endangered.¹⁴
8 *See, e.g., B. L. J.*, 246 Or App at 773 ("[T]here is no legal requirement that a parent be
9 able to care for his or her children independently."). Accordingly, the juvenile court
10 properly considered parents as a unit in determining that jurisdiction under ORS
11 419B.100(1)(c) was warranted. As a result, on appeal, the sufficiency of the allegations
12 as to mother are necessarily intertwined with the sufficiency of the allegations with
13 respect to father. That is so because mother's ability to safely parent K must be evaluated
14 in light of all of the circumstances, *Smith*, 316 Or at 652-53 (court must consider the
15 totality of the circumstances in determining whether a child is endangered), and those

¹³ By "special assistance," we understand the state to mean assistance beyond what mother is eligible to receive from adult developmental disability services.

¹⁴ That is how the case was understood by the parties and the court below. As described above, in closing, mother's counsel argued:

"This is not a case where we have somebody who is disabled who has no support and poses a threat to the child, this is a situation where she is receiving services through the Brokerage. She has been receiving those services, and she has the assistance of the father, who has no disability on this record, and who is not incapable of helping her."

1 circumstances necessarily include the participation of father in caring for K. And that, in
2 turn, compels consideration on appeal of the sufficiency of the court's findings pertaining
3 to father.¹⁵

4 We turn to those findings, the totality of which can be summarized as
5 follows: father is not available as a parenting resource, he has mental health concerns
6 and anger control issues, and he is unable to provide K with the necessary care. Those
7 findings are simply not supported by the record.¹⁶ First, there is no evidence indicating
8 that father is not a parenting resource for K. To the contrary, the record demonstrates that
9 mother and father live together and are jointly parenting K: father was in the hospital the
10 day that K was born; he was helping when K was discharged from the hospital; and he
11 participated, with mother, in visiting K after she left the hospital and was placed in foster
12 care.

13 Similarly, the record does not support a finding that father has current

¹⁵ We emphasize that the allegations pertaining to father were fully litigated below. Thus, we express no opinion on the ability of one parent to challenge jurisdictional allegations that are *admitted* by the other parent. See ORS 419B.310(3) ("The facts alleged in the petition showing the child to be within the jurisdiction of the court as provided in ORS 419B.100(1), *unless admitted*, must be established by a preponderance of competent evidence." (Emphasis added.)).

¹⁶ Mother also raises an unpreserved "facial" challenge to the allegations in paragraphs c and e of the petition, contending that they unfairly shifted the burden of production to father in violation of his due process rights. We need not address that argument, however, because we agree with mother's alternative argument that, even reading those paragraphs broadly as alleging, instead, that father is not available as a parenting resource (paragraph c) and not capable of providing K with the necessary care (paragraph e), "the evidence regarding the allegations as to father does not support a basis for jurisdiction."

1 "mental health concerns." Rather, the evidence shows only that father was in "special
2 education" as a child and that he applied for, *but was denied*, eligibility for
3 developmental disability services.¹⁷ The same is true of the court's finding that father has
4 "anger control issues." Anderson testified that father "was not happy with" some of the
5 people who provided in-home services to mother for her developmental disability and
6 that mother and father at times did not allow service providers into the home; similarly,
7 Berg testified that, "[a]t times[, father] has had difficulty with some of the providers that
8 have been at the home." However, there is nothing in the record to indicate that father
9 reacted angrily to those service providers, let alone that he had difficulty controlling his
10 anger in that or any other setting. Mother also related to Anderson that the baby once
11 stopped crying when father "yelled" at her; however, that, without more, is insufficient to
12 evince an "anger control issue[]."

13 That leaves the court's finding that father is unable to provide K with the
14 necessary care. The sole evidence in that regard is the following: Anderson observed
15 that father did not know how to put the baby in a car seat when she was being discharged
16 from the hospital the day after her birth and that he "needed a lot of coaching on how to
17 do that safely." And, during one of the first visits with K after she was discharged from
18 the hospital, DHS "had to work with the family a lot with" how to hold the baby and

¹⁷ It is not apparent from the record that father's unspecified seizure disorder, or the fact that he takes medication for that condition, is a "mental health concern"; however, to the extent that the court relied on that evidence, without more information about father's condition, it is insufficient in any event to support a conclusion that there is a reasonable risk of harm to K as a result.

1 support her neck. That was the extent of it. As explained in more detail below in our
2 discussion of the allegations pertaining directly to mother, that evidence cannot support
3 the conclusion that K was exposed to a "reasonable likelihood of harm" as a result. In
4 short, the state has failed to prove the jurisdictional allegations pertaining to father.

5 That said, we reject mother's categorical assertion that, if the factual
6 allegations "as to" father are legally insufficient, jurisdiction necessarily fails regardless
7 of any deficiencies that mother may have. As explained above, juvenile court jurisdiction
8 under ORS 419B.100(1)(c) is predicated on the *risk* of harm to the child. *Vanbuskirk*,
9 202 Or App at 405 (jurisdiction under ORS 419B.100(1)(c) is warranted if "there is a
10 reasonable likelihood of harm" to the child). Thus, even if the allegations as to father are
11 unfounded, it does not necessarily follow that K could not still be at risk of harm--and
12 thus under the court's jurisdiction--due to mother's condition or circumstances.

13 We turn, then, to the allegations relating to mother. We conclude, first, that
14 there is evidence in the record to support the juvenile court's findings that mother is
15 developmentally delayed, requires the assistance of care providers to live independently,
16 and takes medications for her disability. However, as explained below, we also conclude
17 that the court's finding that mother is "*not able* to meet [K's] basic needs" (emphasis
18 added) is not supported by the record and that the evidence is insufficient, as a matter of
19 law, to support the court's conclusion that, in the totality of the circumstances, there is a
20 "reasonable likelihood of harm" to K's welfare.

21 We note that this case is made more difficult because the record contains
22 very little evidence regarding the nature and extent of mother's disability. Specifically,

1 the juvenile court could discern from the evidence presented only that mother generally
2 needs 50 hours of adult developmental disability services per month to assist her with
3 daily living tasks--mostly outside of the home--and that she takes unspecified
4 medications, the effects of which are also unspecified on this record. Beyond that, the
5 record is devoid of evidence, expert or otherwise, regarding developmental disabilities in
6 general or mother's mental capacity in particular, much less how that disability and the
7 medication she takes for it might affect her ability to care for a newborn. Anderson
8 testified that she spoke with the doctors and nurses caring for mother, "DD Services," and
9 parents' extended family, but the record does not disclose the details of what that
10 investigation yielded. Similarly, Corey testified that she visited parents' home, talked
11 with mother and father, and "just * * * observed where their developmental disabilities
12 come into play and where that might be a concern for them to safely parent the child."
13 But, with the exception of a single incident discussed below, Corey did not relate any
14 particular safety concerns that were identified.

15 Thus, the bulk of the state's evidence that mother lacks, and is unable to
16 learn, the necessary parenting skills to safely parent a newborn consists of behavior
17 observed by Anderson eight hours after mother had given birth to K and while she was
18 taking medication for pain. Anderson testified that mother had difficulty learning how to
19 wrap K in a blanket, change her diapers, and feed her, and that mother needed "a lot" of
20 coaching in performing some of those tasks. Significantly, however, there is no evidence
21 in the record that mother's difficulties with those skills persisted even into the next day,
22 let alone at the time of the jurisdictional hearing several weeks later. The same is true of

1 the state's evidence that, the day after K was born, mother and father needed coaching in
2 how to safely secure K in a car seat. *See A. F.*, 243 Or App at 386 (reversing ground for
3 jurisdiction based on the father's possession of pornography where the state failed to
4 present evidence that there was a current risk of the children being exposed to
5 pornography at the time of the hearing); [*State ex rel Dept. of Human Services v. D. T. C.*](#),
6 231 Or App 544, 554-55, 219 P3d 610 (2009) (reversing judgment of jurisdiction where
7 there was insufficient evidence that the father's alcohol abuse problem created a
8 reasonable likelihood of harm to the children at the time of the dependency hearing).

9 According to Anderson, parents had had some "coaching" concerning
10 parenting before K was born; however, without further details as to the nature and extent
11 of that interaction, it would be speculative to infer from that evidence that mother lacks
12 the mental capacity to learn those skills.

13 Of greater concern is the evidence that mother failed to properly support
14 K's head and neck while holding her. Unlike with mother's other perceived deficiencies,
15 there is evidence that that behavior persisted--at least to some extent--after mother left the
16 hospital. Anderson testified that, during her initial observation of mother on the day that
17 K was born, mother needed reminders "numerous times while she was holding the baby"
18 about how important it was to support the baby's head. Corey, who observed mother
19 interact with K after K was placed in foster care, also testified that on one of the first
20 visits, they had to "work with the family a lot with that." The difficulty with that
21 evidence is that it lacks essential context. For example, with regard to Anderson's
22 testimony, we cannot tell from the record if mother was holding the baby the entire visit,

1 which lasted approximately two hours, or whether she was holding the baby only for a
2 few minutes. Obviously if it were the latter, then the need for "numerous" reminders
3 would be more of a concern. Corey's testimony indicates that the deficiency was
4 observed at only one visit--indeed, only at one of the *first* visits parents had with K after
5 leaving the hospital--and the record does not disclose how many days elapsed between
6 mother's instruction at the hospital and that visit. We also emphasize that there is no
7 evidence that the problem continued at the time of the hearing almost two months later.
8 Our point is that, without those details--particularly when combined with the lack of
9 evidence regarding mother's cognitive abilities generally--it is impossible to determine
10 that mother lacks the capacity to learn the necessary skills without "special assistance,"
11 which is the theory upon which jurisdiction was based.

12 Moreover, the evidence is undisputed that mother is eligible for 100 hours
13 per month in adult developmental disability services and that those services can be used
14 to help mother "learn the skills or * * * access services to be able to get those skills from
15 somebody else." The record further discloses that mother is "very able to access services
16 and tell people when she needs support." Mother also has the assistance of father who,
17 on this record, we have determined is not incapable of safely parenting K. We are not
18 unmindful of K's particular vulnerability due to her extremely young age; however,
19 considering all of the above circumstances, we conclude that the evidence is legally
20 insufficient to support the trial court's finding that mother is "not able to meet the basic
21 needs of the child, due [to] her delays and medications."

22 In sum, we conclude that the evidence is insufficient, as a matter of law, to

1 support the trial court's ultimate conclusion that K's "condition or circumstances are such
2 as to endanger [her] welfare." ORS 419B.100(1)(c). As we have recently emphasized,
3 "the burden is on the state to show that harm is, in fact, present[,]" *C. Z.*, 236 Or App at
4 443, and the state failed to meet that burden here.

5 Reversed and remanded.