



**Washington State Supreme
Court
Commission on Children
in Foster Care**

**03/20/17
1:00 p.m.
Reception Room
Temple of
Justice**

Agenda

1:00 pm <i>5 min</i>	1. Welcome and Introductions	Justice Bobbe Bridge (ret.) Co-Chair
1:05 pm <i>15 min</i>	2. DSHS/Children's Administration Updates	Jennifer Strus, Asst. Secretary Children's Administration
1:20 pm <i>25 min</i>	3. Foster Care Funding Collaborative: Child Placing Agency Capacity Building	Erin McCann Gidden's Foundation/Ballmer Group
1:45 pm <i>30 min</i>	4. Office of the Family and Children's Ombuds Annual Report	Patrick Dowd OFCO
2:15 pm <i>20 min</i>	5. Youth Advocacy Day Update	Louis Gasper & Lauren Frederick Mockingbird Society
2:35 pm <i>25 min</i>	6. Interagency Workgroup on Youth Homelessness	Regina McDougall Office of Homeless Youth
3:00pm <i>15 min</i>	7. Court Improvement Project Update	Cindy Brick AOC
3:15 pm <i>20 min</i>	8. Fair Deal for Foster Kids Initiative	Laurie Lippold Partners for Our Children
3:35pm <i>20 min</i>	9. Discussion on Current Legislative Issues	Laurie Lippold Partners for Our Children
3:55pm	10. Adjournment	Justice Bobbe Bridge (ret.) Co-Chair
	<u>Next Meeting:</u> May 15, 2017	



Improve Opportunities and Access to Independence (HB 1808/SB 5663)

Create a program to help foster youth ages 15-21 obtain a driver's permit, license, and insurance. This crucial credential expands access to employment, education, and extracurricular activities, but financial and logistical barriers currently prevent many youth in care from obtaining a license. A successful pilot in Florida has tripled the number of youth in care who obtain a driver's license.

Budget Request: \$800,000 for 2017-2019 biennium
(Transportation budget)

Recruit and Retain Foster Parents

Renew the budget proviso for the Mockingbird Family Model (MFM), which unites 6-10 licensed foster families with a nearby experienced foster family. These "hub homes" provides peer support, social activities, planned and unplanned respite or crisis care, and assistance in navigating child welfare systems. Currently, state funding supports up to eight hub homes (an additional ten Hub Homes are privately funded). A formal evaluation (conducted by WSIPP) is underway. In addition to the 118 families served in Washington state, the model has been implemented in California and the United Kingdom, with implementation pending in New York, Kansas, and Japan.

Budget Request: \$506,000 for 2017-2019 biennium

End Youth Detention for Status Offenses (SB 5596)

Pass legislation to phase out the Valid Court Order exception that allows minors to be placed in juvenile detention facilities for status offenses such as truancy and curfew violations. Washington leads the way in the use of the VCO exception, while more than half the states do not use it at all. Research shows that detention is unlikely to be a deterrent and in fact may worsen outcomes for non-criminal offenders, and that community-based supports are more cost-effective.

Projected Cost: To be determined



Join us in Olympia for Youth Advocacy Day on Friday, February 10, 2017!

For additional information, please contact Liz Trautman, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy
liz@mockingbirdsociety.org | 206-406-6010 (cell)

Legal Representation For All Children and Youth in Foster Care (HB 1251/SB 5363)

Pass legislation to grant legal counsel to all children and youth in foster care before their 72-hour shelter care hearings. Studies show that having an attorney early in the dependency process increases permanency rates for youth. Currently, requirements for attorneys vary from county to county, resulting in a “justice by geography.”

Fiscal note: \$31 million for the 2017-2019 biennium

Improve Educational Outcomes for Foster & Homeless Youth (HB 1628/SB 5241)

Pass legislation to require consolidation of and partial credit for unresolved or incomplete coursework for homeless and foster students.

Fiscal note: negligible (\$3,000/biennium)

Prevent and End Homelessness in Schools

Renew budget proviso for the Homeless Student Stability Program, which provides housing support and improved services in schools for students experiencing homelessness. More than 35,000 students experience homelessness each year in Washington state.

Budget request: \$4 million for the 2017-2019 biennium

Support At-Risk Youth and Families

Increase funding to improve and expand Family Reconciliation Services to support families with youth in crisis.

Budget request: \$1.2 million for the 2017-2019 biennium





Youth Advocacy Day Review & 2017 Legislative Agenda Update

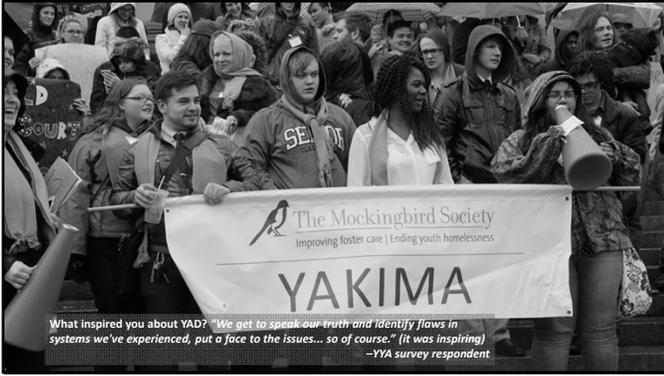
Louis Gasper, Olympia Chapter Leader – Mockingbird Youth Network
Lauren Frederick, Public Policy & Advocacy Coordinator





YYA Responses to YAD

- 97% of youth respondents met with a legislator/policy maker/legislative aide on YAD.
- 91% felt that their participation in YAD made a difference in improving the lives of foster/homeless youth.
- 90% felt inspired by Youth Advocacy Day
- 89% responded that they feel more connected to foster/homeless youth community after participating in YAD.
- 88% of respondents are more interested in advocacy as a result of attending YAD.
- 56% of respondents said today was the first time they had spoken to a legislator.







2017 Lead Policy Agenda

Legislative Priorities

Improve Normalcy and Access to Independence	Implement a pilot program to help foster youth with paperwork and fees necessary to obtain a driver's permit, license, and insurance	HB 1808 passed out of the House 95 - 3; moving to Senate
Recruit and Retain Foster Parents	Renew the budget proviso for Mockingbird Family Model constellations	\$506,000 for biennium included in Governor's base budget
End Youth Detention for Status Offenses	Build relationships and strengthen coalitions to eliminate use of the Valid Court Order Exception in Washington state, likely to be a multi-year effort	SB 5596 was not voted out of Senate Human Services Committee

Non-Legislative Priorities

Prevent Sexually Transmitted Infections and Unwanted Pregnancies	Work with CA to ensure foster youth receive comprehensive, medically accurate information about sexual health and relationships	Seeking recommendations for moving this issue forward
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2017 Support Policy Agenda

Legislative Priorities

Provide Legal Representation	Grant legal counsel to all children and youth in foster care before their 72-hour shelter care hearings	HB 1251 did not come up for a vote in Appropriations; working on two-county budget proviso
Improve Educational Outcomes	Support education package bill that requires consolidation of unresolved or incomplete coursework due to foster care placement transfers and funding for Treehouse's Graduation Success Program	SB 5241 voted out of the Senate unanimously; on to the House
Prevent and End Homelessness in Schools	Support Homeless Student Stability Program budget request	In Governor's budget - \$4M
Support At-Risk Youth and Families	Increase funding to improve and expand the Family Reconciliation Services program	\$1.2M budget request

2017 Support Policy Agenda

Legislative Priorities - Community Led Proposals for Reform

Enhance Data Collection to Improve Services for Youth	Allow youth under 18 to consent to providing their personally identifying information for the Homeless Management Information System	HB 1630 / SB 5652 in Rules Committees
Re-envision a System of Care for Children and Youth	Support creation of a new Department of Children, Youth and Families, emphasizing services for adolescents and prioritizing prevention for all young people ages 0-21	HB 1661 scheduled for vote on House Floor 3/15
Improve Statewide Homeless Youth Services	Advocate for implementation of the OHY Strategic Plan near-term action agenda	Several items in process

Sex Education for Youth in Care

- Recommendations from the Commission for possible paths forward?
- Potential Resources:
 - LA County Pilot Program for Caregivers – Curriculum Developed by Seattle Children's Hospital
 - LA County Training for Social Workers – Sexual Health Conversations



Lauren Frederick
Public Policy & Advocacy Coordinator
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OFFICE OF HOMELESS YOUTH PREVENTION & PROTECTION PROGRAMS

▶ 2016 REPORT: NEAR TERM ACTIONS

At least 13,000 young people in Washington State are without a safe and stable place to call home. Many have run from dysfunctional and sometimes violent homes, been kicked out for their gender identity or sexual orientation, or separated from their family due to poverty, drug and alcohol addiction, or mental health issues. Yet they all have one thing in common – they are our future. We must give them the support they need to grow into healthy adulthood and live fulfilling lives. The Office of Homeless Youth’s 2016 Report to the Governor and Legislature lays out a road-map for our state to prevent and end youth homelessness.

NEAR TERM ACTIONS

YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS 12 MONTHS AFTER EXITING A PUBLIC SYSTEM

1,488

YOUTH EXITING A
CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY
TREATMENT FACILITY

48%

168

YOUTH AGING OUT
OF FOSTER CARE

28%

125

YOUTH EXITING
JUVENILE
REHABILITATION

26%

HOMELESS YOUTH EXPERIENCING CONFLICT AT HOME

90 PERCENT

1. ENSURE THAT YOUTH EXITING PUBLIC SYSTEMS HAVE A SAFE, STABLE PLACE TO GO

- ▶ **Establish an interagency workgroup or Governor’s cabinet on youth homelessness** to establish a set of shared goals and accountability across state government to prevent and end youth homelessness.
- ▶ **Evaluate Extended Foster Care** expand options to enroll in extended foster care.
- ▶ **Require comprehensive transition plans** for youth under the care of public systems.

2. INVEST IN CRISIS INTERVENTION AND DIVERSION

- ▶ **Provide crisis intervention services to families in conflict**, such as a crisis hotline and support groups for families.
- ▶ **Improve and expand family reconciliation services.**
- ▶ **Expand diversion interventions** to prevent youth from entering juvenile detention for status offenses.
- ▶ **Reform status offense laws** to reduce the number of youth detained for actions like violating curfew and running away.



NEAR TERM ACTIONS

UNACCOMPANIED HOMELESS YOUTH IN SCHOOLS

5,788

3. IMPROVE EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

- ▶ **Support schools to fully implement the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**, and ensure accountability.
- ▶ **Improve high school graduation rates** by awarding students with partial or full credit for courses completed at a prior school.
- ▶ **Fully implement the Homeless Student Stability Program** to connect older youth and unaccompanied youth with services and housing
- ▶ **Adopt trauma-informed discipline** in high schools with elevated rates of homelessness and disproportionality.
- ▶ **Expand YouthWorks** to strengthen connections between schools, employers, service providers, and the workforce system to help more youth gain job experience.

2017 LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

- ▶ **Allow minors to provide written consent to share their personally identifying information in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).**
- ▶ **Remove the document recording fee sunset** to allow continued funding to prevent and end homelessness
- ▶ **Continue funding for the Homeless Student Stability Program** (\$4 million per biennium)
- ▶ **Increase funding to the Office of Homeless Youth by \$4 million in the 2017-19 budget** to prevent youth from exiting public systems into homelessness, increase performance outcomes of programs, and support integration of services, such as family counseling and behavioral health services, in existing programs.



ENDORSED

The Office of Homeless Youth 2016 Report to the Governor and Legislature is endorsed by the Office of Homeless Youth Advisory Committee, Youth Advocates Ending Homelessness, the Washington Coalition for Homeless Youth Advocacy, and A Way Home Washington.



Department of Commerce



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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**DIRECTIVE OF THE GOVERNOR
17-01**

January 24, 2017

To: Washington State Cabinet and Small-Cabinet Agencies

From: Governor Jay Inslee

Subject: Interagency Work Group on Youth Homelessness

In 2015, I signed the *Homeless Youth Prevention and Protection Act* to ensure that all young people have a safe and stable place to call home and the support they need to thrive. With this Act and the creation of the Department of Commerce's Office of Homeless Youth (OHY), we are taking steps to prevent and end youth homelessness.

Over the last year, OHY has engaged experts, stakeholders, young people experiencing homelessness, and communities across the state to learn what is needed to prevent young people from experiencing homelessness and how to respond effectively when it occurs. Through that collaboration, OHY developed a set of recommendations in its [2016 report to the Governor and Legislature](#). One theme stands out in this report: each of us plays a role in preventing and ending youth homelessness.

Youth homelessness is complex and touches many systems. While OHY oversees this effort, all of state government must be committed and coordinate to ensure that young people have a safe and stable home, support to reunify with family when appropriate, access to physical and behavioral health care, and opportunities to obtain education and employment. Importantly, we must ensure that no young person is discharged from a public system of care into homelessness.

Accordingly, I request that the state agencies and entities listed below participate in an interagency work group led and facilitated by OHY. The interagency work group will provide a forum for an integrated and consistent statewide approach to addressing youth homelessness. Working together, we will promote accountability, improve efficiency, and establish strategic collaboration across state government to address youth homelessness.

Membership shall consist of agency representatives who have the authority to make policy or to implement changes on behalf of the agencies that they represent.

The work group shall include members from OHY, Children's Administration, Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration, Office of Juvenile Justice, Economic Services Administration, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Health Care Authority, Employment Security Department, Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board, State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, Student Achievement Council, Washington State Patrol, Commission on African American Affairs, Commission on Hispanic Affairs, Commission on Indian Affairs, and Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs.

In addition, I invite the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, Administrative Office of the Courts, Office of Civil Legal Aid, and Office of Public Defense to participate in this work group as well.

The interagency work group on youth homelessness shall establish shared goals, outcomes, and action plans to:

- Prevent youth from experiencing homelessness after exiting public systems of care;
- Ensure every youth has a safe and stable place to sleep at night;
- Reconcile families when safe and appropriate;
- Provide youth with opportunities to establish positive, healthy relationships with adults;
- Provide youth with opportunities to advance in their education or training and obtain employment; and
- Ensure youth have access to behavioral and physical health care.

The work group shall be convened beginning in the spring of 2017 and shall continue on an ongoing, regular basis. In 2017, the work group shall develop shared goals and begin implementing action plans that include comprehensive transition plans and a risk assessment and referral process for youth in systems of care.

Kim Justice, Executive Director of OHY, will be contacting you with further information on the convening of the work group. She can be contacted directly at kim.justice@commerce.wa.gov.

Thank you in advance for your support. Together, we can prevent and end youth homelessness.

2017



WE ARE FAMILY DAY



SUN., MAY 7
1:10 PM



EVENT DETAILS:

Join the Mariners at Safeco Field as we say Thank You to foster, kinship and adoptive families and the agencies, social workers and community members that support them. Tickets include a Mariners We Are Family day t-shirt.

Caregiver Recognition Event: 11:20 AM in the Outside Corner
(Located inside the stadium on the 300 level)

***Don't miss the brief ceremony, great door prizes, giveaways & meet the Mariner Moose!**

Deadline to Purchase: Friday, May 5 - 5:00 PM

PRICING:

- \$13 View Level
- \$31 Main Level



To buy tickets or for more information, please visit:
Mariners.com/WeAreFamily and enter the promo code: **WEAREFAMILY**