



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

**05/15/17  
1:00 p.m.  
Reception Room  
Temple of  
Justice**

**Agenda**

1:00 pm 5 min	1. Welcome and Introductions	Justice Bobbe Bridge (ret.) Co-Chair
1:05pm 30 min	2. DSHS/Children's Administration Updates	Jennifer Strus, Asst. Secretary Children's Administration
1:35 pm 30 min	3. 2016 Dependency and Timeliness Report	Dr. Carl McCurley WSCCR
2:05 pm 30 min	4. Proposed Change to Washington State Court Rules: ICWA Tribal Rights and Pro Hac Vice Rules	Kristy Healing NW Intertribal Council
2:35 pm 30 min	5. Mockingbird Legislative Agenda Progress & 100-Day Challenges Updates	Sabian Hart & Lauren Frederick The Mockingbird Society
3:05 pm 20 min	6. SB 5890 – Foster Care and Adoption Support	Senator O'Ban Washington State Senate
3:35 pm 20 min	7. Foster Parent Bill of Rights	Jessica Hanna FPAWS
3:45pm	8. Adjournment	Justice Bobbe Bridge (ret.) Co-Chair
	<u>Next Meeting:</u> December 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	



**Washington State Supreme Court  
Commission on Children in Foster Care  
March 20, 2017  
Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present**

Justice Bobbe Bridge (ret.), Washington State Supreme Court, Commission Co-Chair  
Ms. Jennifer Strus, Assistant Secretary, Children's Administration, Commission Co-Chair  
Judge Kitty-Ann van Doorninck, Superior Court Judges' Association (designee for Judge Michael Downes)  
Mr. Mike Canfield, Co-Chair of Foster Parents Association of Washington  
Ms. Kristy Healing, NW Intertribal Council  
Ms. Jeannie Kee, Foster Youth Alumni Representative  
Ms. Jill Malat, Office of Civil Legal Aid (designee for Jim Bamberger)  
Ms. Tonia Morrison, Parent Advocate Representative  
Mr. Ryan Murrey, Executive Director, Washington State CASA  
Ms. Joanne Moore, Washington State Office of Public Defense  
Ms. Jess Lewis, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (designee for Randy Dorn)  
Ms. Carrie Wayno, Attorney General's Office (designee for Bob Ferguson)

**Members Not Present**

Rep. Ruth Kagi, Washington State House of Representatives  
Senator Steve O'Ban, Washington State Senate  
Mr. Sabian Hart, Foster Youth in Care Representative  
Mr. Jim Bamberger, Director, Office of Civil Legal Aid

**Guests**

Ms. Cindy Bricker, Sr. Court Program Analyst, AOC  
Mr. David Del Villar, DSHS/Children's Administration  
Mr. Patrick Dowd, Office of the Family and Children's Ombuds  
Ms. Lauren Frederick, The Mockingbird Society  
Mr. Louis Gasper, The Mockingbird Society  
Ms. Erin McCann, Giddens Foundation/Ballmer Group  
Ms. Laurie Lippold, Partners for Our Children  
Ms. Regina McDougall, Office of Homeless Youth

**Staff Present**

Ms. Melanie Nadon, CCFC Staff Intern, Center for Children & Youth Justice  
Ms. Nichole Kloepfer, AOC

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### **Call to Order**

Justice Bridge called the meeting to order at 1:07pm. She welcomed all Commission members and guests and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

### **DSHS/Children's Administration Updates**

Assistant Secretary Strus began the meeting with an update from Children's Administration. She began by discussing some of the legislative issues that the Department is currently facing. The largest issue at hand is the status of HB 1661, creating the Department of Children, Youth and Families. Asst. Secretary Strus shared that the bill had passed in the house the previous week and would be heard in Senator O'Ban's committee the following week, on March 27<sup>th</sup>. She explained her expectations for the bill moving forward, including that she anticipated there being concerns with funding for the bill, much like what had happened with the creation of the Department of Early Learning.

Asst. Secretary Strus also noted that there were several other bills relating to foster care that had been heard in Senator O'Ban's committee over the last few weeks. She explained that while many of these were very positive and were pieces of the "Reinventing Foster Care" package, some were potentially concerning. She specifically cited one bill, SB 5656 which would criminalize parents when their children run away and become homeless. However, she expressed that many of the bills were positive and could lead to some very important changes. She also explained that there was an actuarially rate study on foster care expenses that was expected to be funded this year, which had not been done for almost 20 years. This study would be significant as it would help in illustrating that the costs for foster care currently outweigh the pay for the services provided.

Asst. Secretary Strus then opened the floor for questions. Judge Van Doornick asked for an update about numbers and staff retention, to which Asst. Secretary Strus responded that there was an 18% turnover rate currently and that the Department was still working on solutions to this problem.

### **Foster Care Funding Collaborative**

Erin McCann of the Ballmer Group and Giddens Foundation then spoke to the Commission about the Foster Care Funding Collaborative, an initiative created by the Giddens Foundation and Ballmer Group. The initiative began as an effort to understand why retention of foster parents/homes is still a problem and what child placing agencies and foundations could do to resolve the problem. The initiative identified 13 homes/agencies, including Accelerator YMCA and Olive Crest, and held meetings and conducted research to understand what the needs of these organizations were. The initiative was split into three subcommittees, recruitment, retention, and advocacy, and each committee worked with the partnered homes to develop proposals for the changes they wanted to see. Ultimately, the initiative is hoping to increase the capacity of child placing agencies by 50% in the next 3 years. Stakeholders and funders involved in the Collaborative wanted to know how homes and agencies could work collaboratively to best achieve the goal.

Mr. Canfield noted that the general goal of this process was still to focus on what's best for the kids, not the agencies. Ms. McCann agreed and explained that this initiative was hopefully going

to increase information and data sharing between organizations to get better practices on recruiting, full cost accounting, and staffing, which would ultimately allow agencies to best serve kids. Some organizations in the LA area have been working on a similar project which focused heavily on big data and data sharing across agencies. Ms. McCann said that the evidence from this LA-based initiative revealed that the data sharing helped agencies collaborate and better serve foster families in the region. The hope for this project was to do the same. Mr. Canfield agreed and also noted that as another part of this effort, surveys were being conducted with a large sample of agencies, foster parents, and foster youth. Some key results of these surveys included that foster parents working with private agencies are typically happier than those working with state agencies and that 80% of parents across all agencies surveyed would be willing to be permanent.

Mr. Dowd asked if this initiative research found that private agencies have the same needs and motivators as state agencies. Mr. Canfield responded that many agencies exist to serve specific roles, such as adoption, specific child needs, and helping kids in long-term foster care, but that we need more data on utilization rates to more thoroughly understand the differences in agencies and the types of foster parents working with each one. Ms. McCann also noted that there is an evaluator tool from Casey Family Programs which is used to help potential foster parents find out which type of agency can best serve their needs and interests. Ms. Wayno next asked what concrete things the funders thought needed to be happening but were not currently. Ms. McCann answered that the funders were typically hoping for more strategic plans, centralized data collection, and information sharing between agencies.

### **Office of the Family and Children's Ombuds Annual Report**

Mr. Dowd, Director of the Office of the Family and Children's Ombuds, provided a presentation on the OFCO's Annual Report for 2015-2016. He began by clarifying the role of the OFCO, explaining that the Office conducts independent, impartial, and confidential reviews of Department actions or conduct. As part of this role, the OFCO is empowered to investigate complaints, induce DSHS to change problematic decisions, and recommend system-wide improvements to the Legislature and the Governor.

Mr. Dowd proceeded to discuss the key findings of the OFCO annual report, beginning with complaint profiles. He explained that in 2016 the Office received 778 complaints, the most the Office had ever received in one year. The majority of these complaints came from parents and other family members; 70% of the children identified in complaints were age 9 or younger. The two largest complaint issue areas were 1) separation and reunification of families, and 2) the conduct of CA staff and agency services.

Also noted in the Annual Report were adverse findings. Mr. Dowd revealed that 44 adverse findings were made in 2016. The top issues for these adverse findings included child safety, parents' rights, and poor casework practices. He also discussed an Interagency Agreement between the OFCO and DSHS, which seeks to enhance transparency and accountability for OFCO findings. Part of this agreement allows CA to request to modify findings. OFCO received 10 requests from CA to modify findings in 2016 and consequently withdrew two of these findings.

Lastly, Mr. Dowd discussed systemic issues and recommendations noted in the Annual Report. The OFCO expressed four primary issues: 1) shortage of foster and residential care placement resources, 2) working with incarcerated parents, 3) improving outcomes for children in group care, and 4) meeting the needs of LGBTQ+ children and youth in state care. Some key recommendations for resolving these issues included: developing a range of placement options for children with mental health and behavioral needs, enhancing support for foster parents (such as respite care and the Mockingbird Family Model), increasing focus on incarcerated parents throughout the child welfare case process, and encouraging CA and DOC to adopt policies and practices regarding promoting communication with incarcerated parents.

### **Youth Advocacy Day Update**

Ms. Lauren Frederick and Mr. Louis Gasper with the Mockingbird Society provided the Commission a review of Youth Advocacy Day (YAD), which took place on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, and updates on their 2017 Legislative Agenda.

Mr. Gasper began the presentation by discussing some highlights from Youth Advocacy Day, including the results of a survey that Mockingbird distributed to youth attendees. Some significant results of this survey included: 1) 97% of youth respondents met with a legislator/policy maker/legislative aid on YAD, 2) 91% felt that their participation in YAD made a difference in improving the lives of foster/homeless youth, 3) 90% felt inspired by Youth Advocacy Day, 4) 89% responded that they feel more connected to foster/homeless youth in the community after participating in YAD, and 5) 56% of respondents said that YAD was the first time they had spoken to a legislator.

Ms. Frederick then provided the Commission with an update on the 2017 Legislative Agenda. The Lead Policy Agenda included four items: 1) Improve normalcy and access to independence by piloting a program to help foster youth with paperwork and fees necessary to obtain a driver's permit, license, and insurance; 2) Recruit and retain foster parents through renewing the budget proviso for Mockingbird Family Model constellations; 3) End youth detention for status offenses by eliminating the use of the Valid Court Order Exception; and 4) Prevent sexually transmitted infections and unwanted pregnancies by working with CA to ensure foster youth receive comprehensive, medically accurate information about sexual health and relationships. Ms. Frederick explained that the first item had been passed out of the House and was moving to the Senate and the second item had been included in the Governor's base budget. However, the third item was not voted out of the Senate Human Services Committee.

Next, Mr. Gasper provided an update on the four Support Policy Agenda items: 1) Provide legal representation by granting legal counsel to all children and youth in foster care before their 72-hour shelter care hearings; 2) Improve educational outcomes by supporting an education package bill that requires consolidation of unresolved or incomplete coursework due to foster care placement transfers; 3) Prevent and end homelessness in schools through supporting the Homeless Student Stability Program budget request; and 4) Support at-risk youth and families by increasing funding to improve and expand the Family Reconciliation Services program. He explained that the first item, forwarded by HB 1251, did not come up for a vote in Appropriations but that they were working on a two-county budget proviso. The second item,

supported by SB 5241, was voted out of the Senate unanimously and has moved onto the House. The third item is in the Governor's base budget for \$4 million and the fourth item has requested \$1.2 million budget.

Ms. Frederick also provided updates for the three Community Led Proposals: 1) Enhance data collection to improve services for youth by allowing youth under 18 to consent to providing their personally identifying information for the Homeless Management Information System; 2) Re-envision a system of care for children and youth by supporting the creation of the new Department of Children, Youth, and Families; and 3) Improve statewide homeless youth services through advocacy for the implementation of the OHY Strategic Plan near-term action agenda. She explained that the first item was being considered in the Senate and House Rules Committees, that the second item had passed in the House on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017, and that the third item had several items currently in process.

Mr. Gasper noted that Mockingbird was specifically seeking guidance on the Lead Policy Agenda item for comprehensive sexual education and that he and Ms. Frederick were hoping the Commission could provide recommendations for specific curricula or programs that might be helpful. Justice Bridge asked members if they would be interested in creating a workgroup to take on this issue. Ms. Malat noted that Seattle Children's Hospital may have some good information on the topic and she expressed interest in creating a workgroup to look into the matter. Ms. Lewis asked if Mockingbird had considered piloting a sex education program with Hub Home families initially to collect feedback on effectiveness and processes, which Ms. Frederick agreed might be a good idea. Ms. Kee then noted that this was a topic area that may fall within the interests and capacity of the Normalcy Workgroup already. Justice Bridge agreed that this may also be a possibility and decided that she, Ms. Kee, the Mockingbird representatives, and any other interested parties should discuss the matter over the coming weeks and come back to the next meeting with a proposal on how to tackle this issue.

### **Interagency Workgroup on Youth Homelessness**

Ms. Regina McDougall with the Office of Homeless Youth spoke to the Commission about the new Interagency Workgroup on Youth Homelessness which she is convening beginning in May. She explained the role of the Workgroup, which was created by a Governor's Directive in 2016. The Workgroup is administered by the Washington State Office of Homeless Youth, under the Department of Commerce. The primary goal of the Workgroup is to prevent youth from exiting public systems into homelessness. As part of this goal, there are 5 primary issue areas: stable housing, family reconciliation, permanent connections, education and employment, and social and emotional well-being.

The OHY hopes to include a number of stakeholders in the workgroup, such as agency leaders, service providers, advocates, elected officials, and philanthropy organizations. Ms. McDougall stated that the first order of business is to reach out to and involve individuals from each of these stakeholder groups. Given the wide array of stakeholders and the five defined issue areas, Ms. McDougall explained that she expects the Workgroup will form subcommittees to tackle particular issues and work. Her hope is that the Commission can provide ideas or initiatives for the workgroup to consider as it kicks-off in May. Justice Bridge agreed that the Commission should remain involved in the Workgroup's communications and work and invited Ms.

McDougal to return to the Commission with updates on their processes and needs moving forward.

### **Court Improvement Project Update**

Ms. Cindy Bricker, Senior Court Analyst with the Administrative Office of the Courts, updated the Commission on the status of funding for the Court Improvement Project (CIP). Ms. Bricker explained that while the basic grant for the CIP was approved which would cover some salaries for those working on the CIP project, the training and data grants were lost due to their funding being imbedded in the federal Families First legislation, which did not pass. The funding, which is used to support a number of key programs and trainings in Washington State, will be lost after September of 2017. Mrs. Bricker noted that CIP staff had determined they would use the basic grant funding to continue to fund Mr. Matt Orme's research position and half of her own position and that the remaining funding from the basic grant would be left for travel or related expenses.

However, the loss of the training and data grants is still a large concern as this grant primarily funded the Court Improvement Training Academy (CITA) program. The CIP team is still looking for ways to fund this program and is hoping to find some small grants or other funding that may be able to support the effort temporarily. Justice Bridge noted the loss of funding was not a result of the program's lack of strength, because the program was necessary and very effective. She explained that she had therefore been working to involve private philanthropy as a possible solution. The intention is to restore the public funding for this program and so she also noted that any philanthropic involvement should be temporary.

### **Fair Deal for Foster Kids Initiative**

Ms. Laurie Lippold, Director of Public Policy with Partners for Our Children, spoke to the Commission about the Fair Deal for Foster Kids Initiative, which is now being called "Reinventing Foster Care". She explained that this initiative is a package of bills intended to positively impact the foster care system. This package was put together by Representative Kagi and the initiative has been advocating for the package with a one page list containing the initiative's broad priorities and most prominent legislative items. Ms. Lippold explained that the final package of bills covered a wide range of issues that broadly impact foster care, including education issues, child care funding, and foster parent support. The hope of this broad range of priorities was to mobilize support from a number of different legislators who have interests and concerns beyond Representative Kagi's priorities.

Ms. Lippold also noted that there was a rally in Olympia on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in support of the Reinventing Foster Care initiative. Attendees from various stakeholder and supporting groups rallied to gain backing for the initiative and sought to mobilize legislators by distributing bags containing information on the goals of the initiative and the one-page priorities list.

### **Discussion on Current Legislative Issues**

Ms. Lippold also discussed some broader current legislative issues relevant to the Commission. She noted that there are several important bills being heard, many of which are necessary to implement the budget. The first bill she discussed was SB 5890, which concerns Foster Care and Adoption support. Ms. Lippold explained that the details of the bill were complicated, but one

prominent section of it calls for permanency/case review at 12 months and repeals means testing for kinship caregivers. Ms. Lippold also discussed HB 1624, which concerns Working Connections Child Care. This bill would fund Working Connections Child Care for an extended period of time after a FAR or CPS case closes so that families can effectively transition from systems involvement without losing their child care once a case closes. Additionally, Ms. Lippold briefly discussed HB 1661, which creates the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, HB 1825, which extends the timeline for completing a FAR investigation from 90 days to 120 days, and HB 1867, which concerns amendments to extended foster care that are intended to increase housing stability for foster youth.

Ms. Lewis asked if HB 1867 would fix the extended foster care issue in which kids going to college lose their eligibility for the program during their summer break. She expressed that this was a particularly concerning problem because when kids become disqualified in this way, they often drop out of college. Ms. Wayno responded that this issue should not be a problem but that it is often happening due to misinformation. She asked Ms. Lewis to contact Mary van Cleve with Columbia Legal Services, who could possibly provide Ms. Lewis with more information on this particular issue.

**Adjourned at 4:00pm by Justice Bridge.**



# Dependent Children in Washington State: Case Timeliness and Outcomes



**2016  
Annual Report**

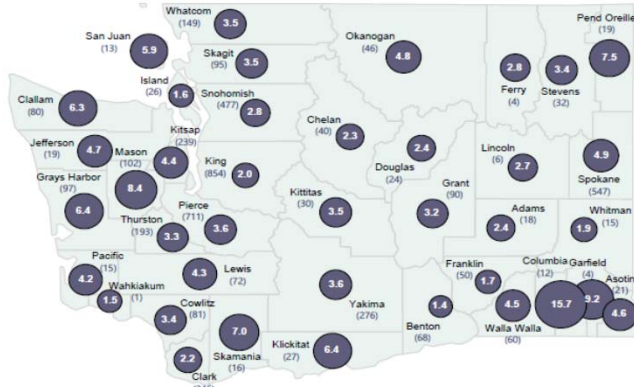


Washington State Center  
for Court Research

**Exhibit 1. Dependency and Termination Filings with Dependency Rates per 1000 Child Population and Yearly Dismissal Counts 2010-2016**

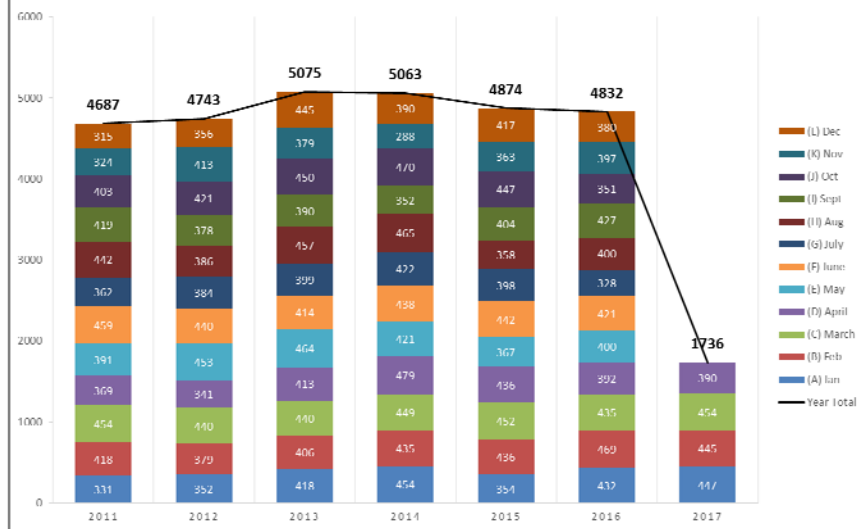


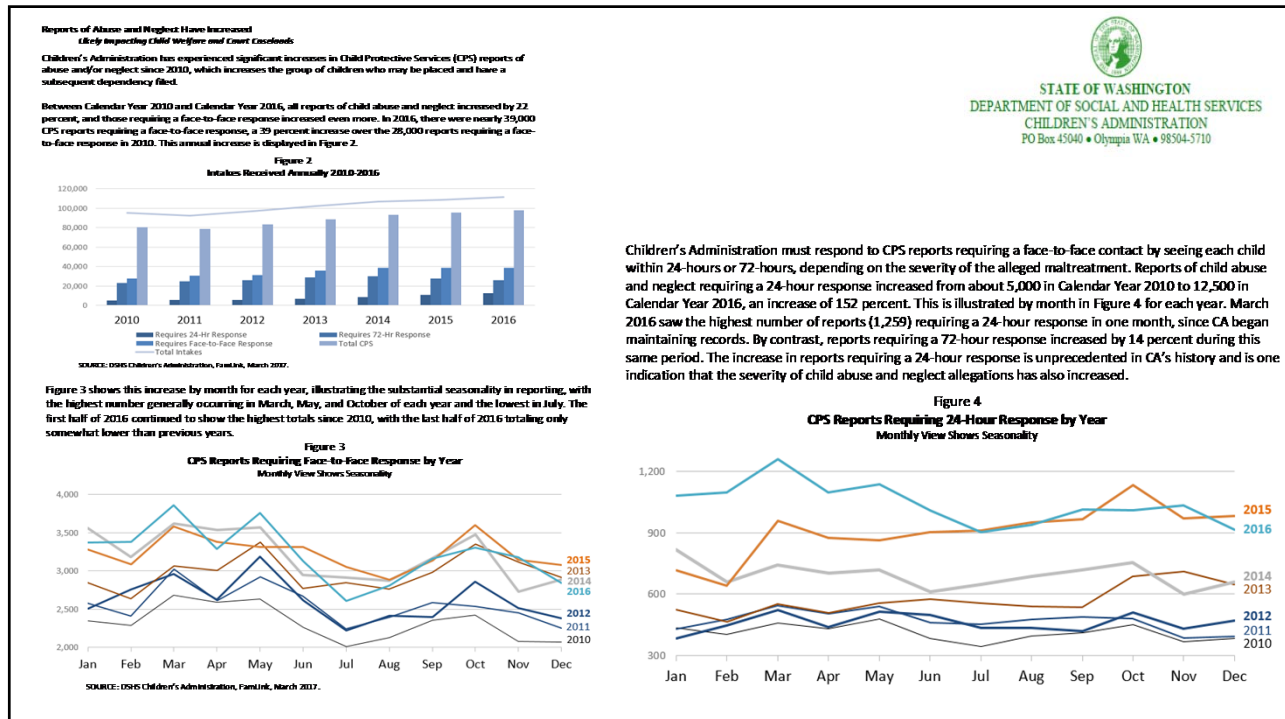
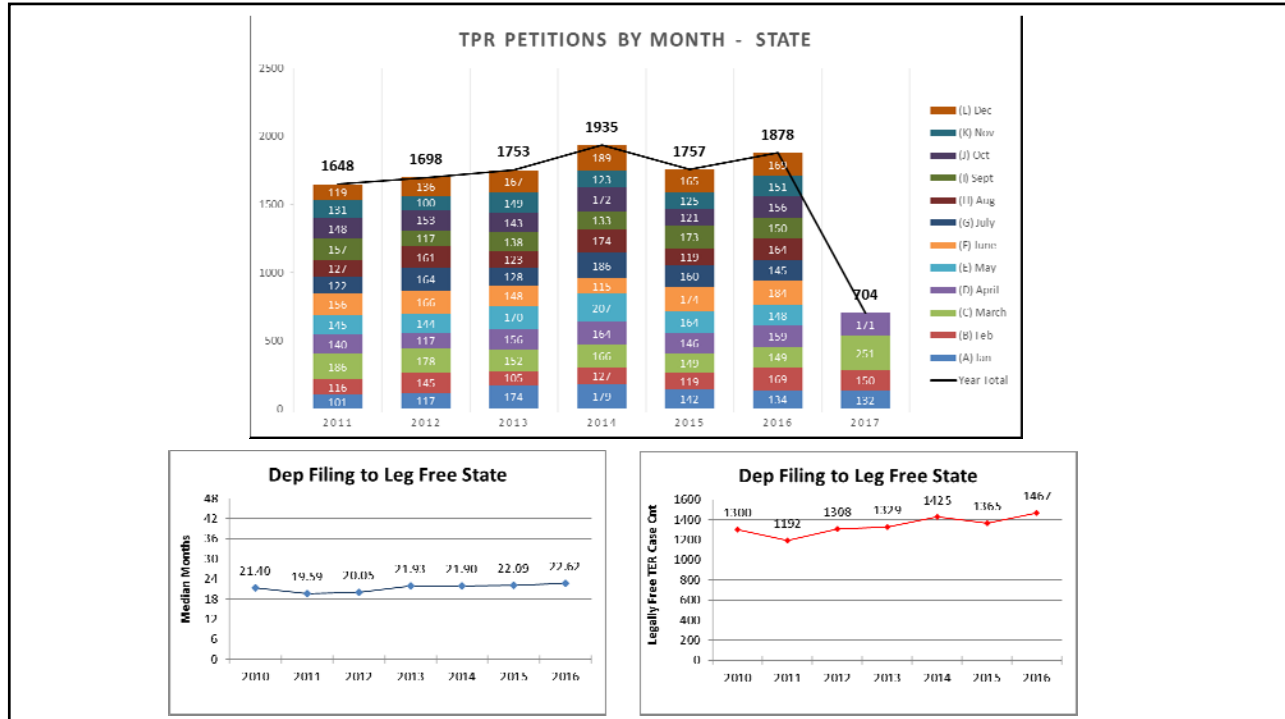
### DEPENDENCY FILINGS AND RATES BY COUNTY

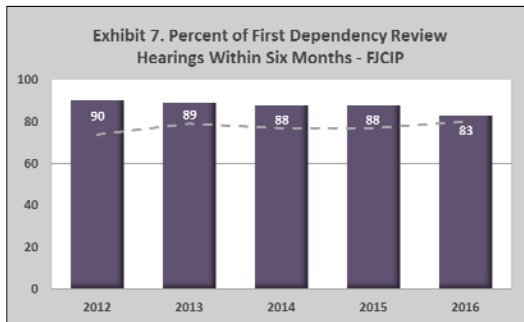
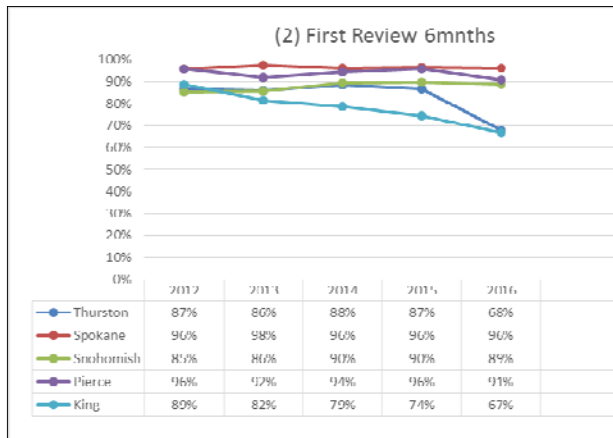
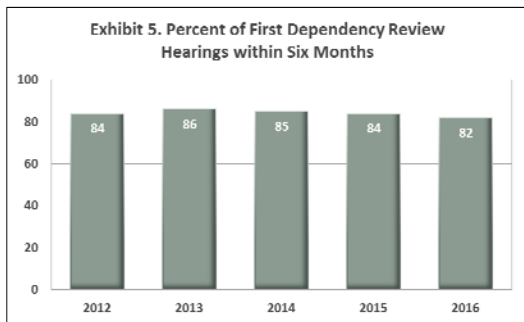
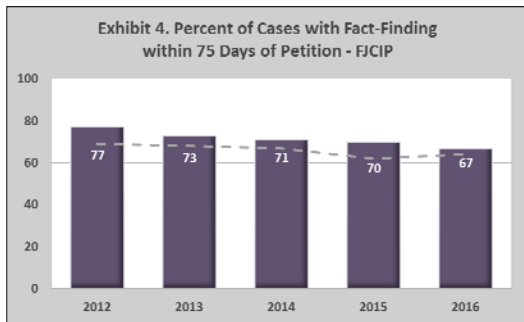
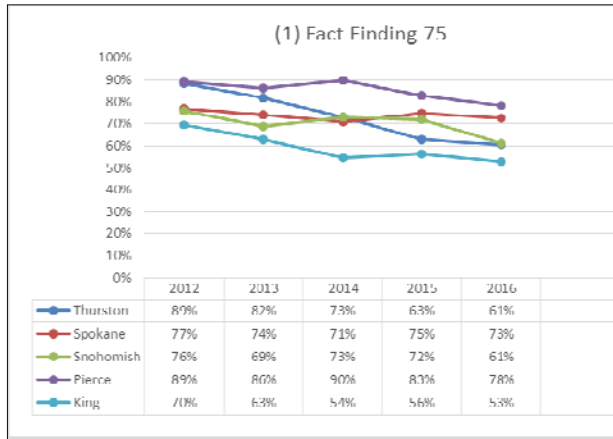
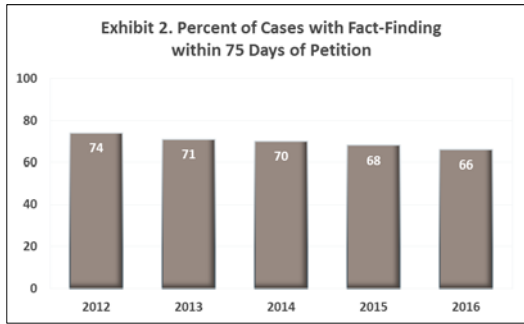


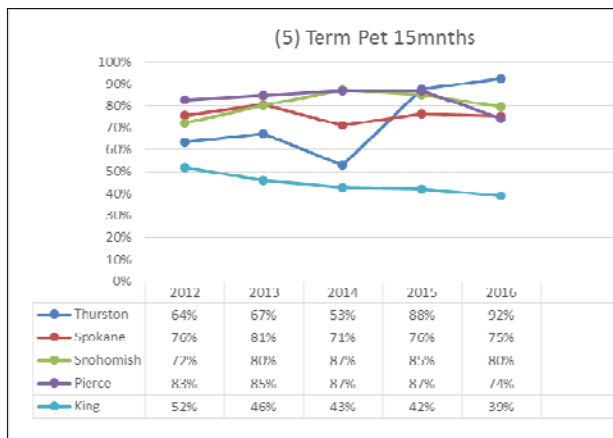
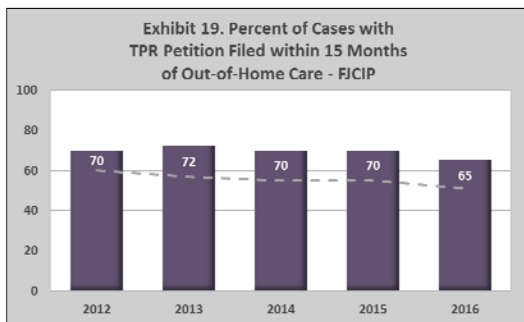
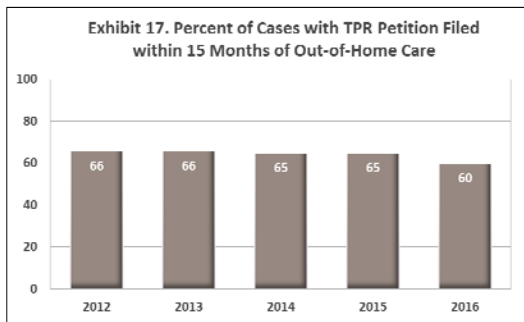
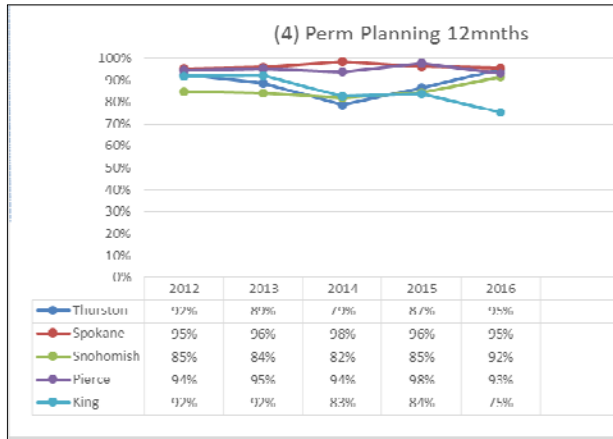
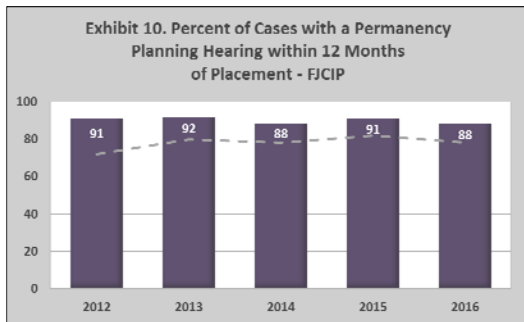
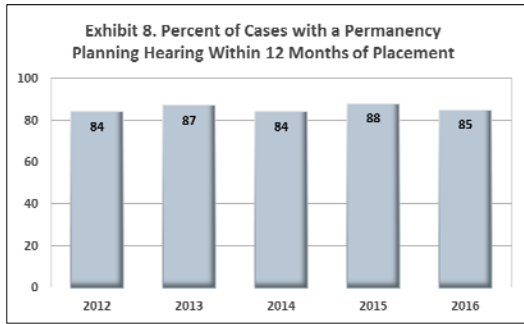
This map illustrates a statewide county comparison of dependency filing numbers (in parenthesis) and filing rate per 1000 child population for 2015. The larger the circle the higher the filing rate.

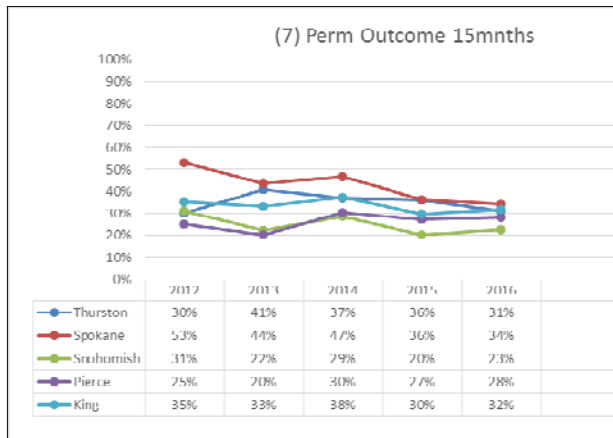
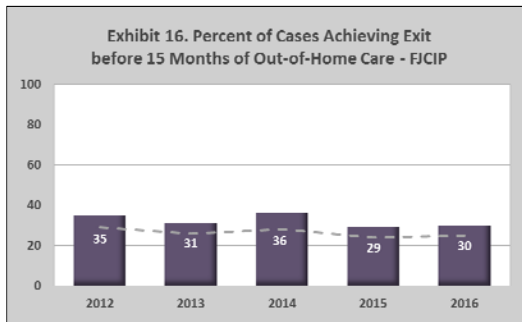
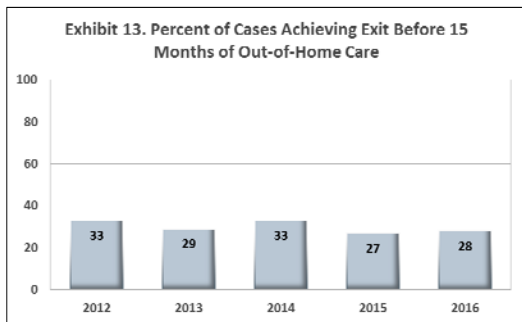
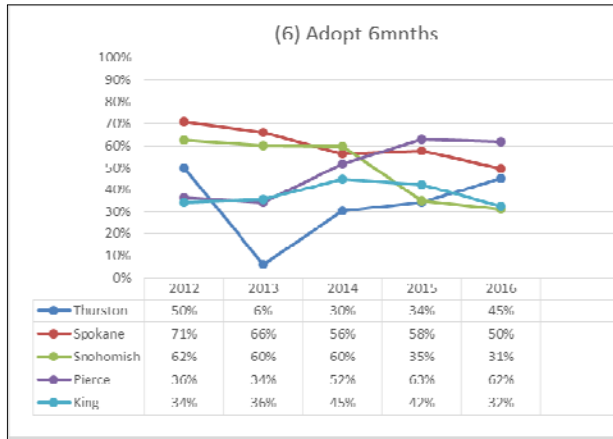
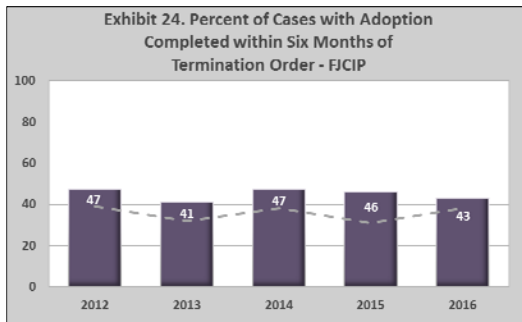
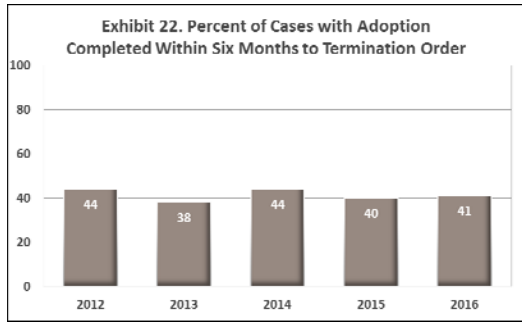
### DEPENDENCY FILINGS PER YEAR - STATE

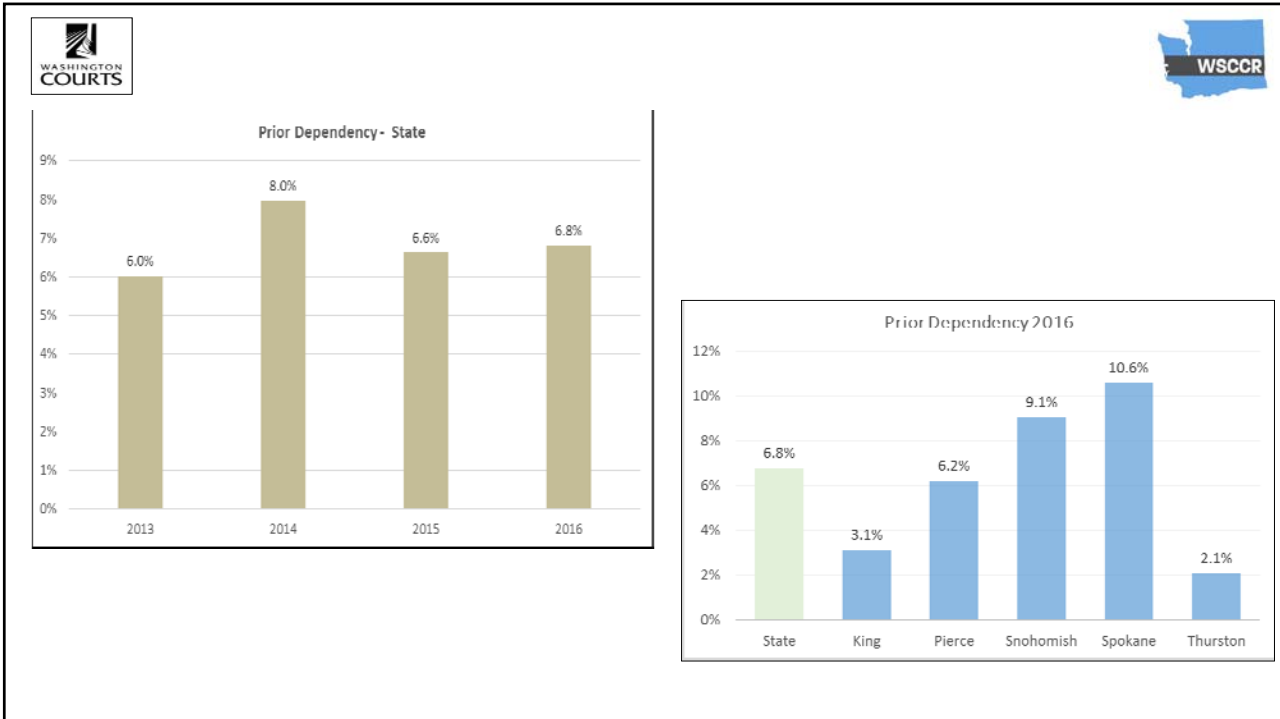












## PROCESS TO OUTCOMES

### Effectiveness of Services in Preventing Placement and Supporting Successful Reunification

A Joint Research Project of DSHS/RDA, DSHS/CA, and AOC/WASCCR

Data that would assist the child welfare system in understanding interventions intended to strengthen families is not easily obtained and is, therefore, not readily available. This has been a fundamental barrier in understanding the effectiveness of therapeutic interventions and their benefit to families served by the DSHS Children's Administration (CA) and the court system in Washington State. Fortunately, we anticipate results within the next year from an initial study of the effectiveness of these services to prevent placement, and to impact dependency court processes by reducing dependency duration and support successful reunification of children with their families. The study is made possible through the collaboration between CA, DSHS Research and Data Analysis (RDA), and the Administrative Office of the Courts Washington State Center for Court Research (WASCCR), along with recently improved CA FamLink capability that permits linking specific individuals in families to:

- a) Reasons for service (issues that need addressing),
- b) CPS intakes and placements that initiated CA involvement and service provision,
- c) Specific services, treatments, and interventions provided, and
- d) Outcomes for the families and children.

The study uses integrated data, matched at the person level, from the CA FamLink system, the court's SCOMIS system, and RDA's Integrated Client Database.

# Dependent Children in Washington State: Case Timeliness and Outcomes



**2016  
Annual Report**



Washington State Center  
for Court Research





## The Mockingbird Society Policy Updates

Sabian Hart-Wall, Olympia Chapter Leader – Mockingbird Youth Network  
Lauren Frederick, Public Policy & Advocacy Coordinator

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HB 1808 Drivers' Licensing for Youth in Foster Care

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SB 5241 Credit Transfer/Accrual for Foster & Homeless Youth

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### Advocacy Agenda Items to Watch

**Legislative Priorities**

<b>Recruit and Retain Foster Parents</b>	Renew the budget proviso for Mockingbird Family Model constellations	\$506,000 for biennium included in Governor's base budget, House, and Senate budgets.
<b>Provide Legal Representation</b>	Grant legal counsel to all children and youth in foster care before their 72-hour shelter care hearings	\$1.3 million budget request for pilot and evaluation in two counties.

**Legislative Priority - Community**

<b>Re-envision a System of Care for Children and Youth</b>	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	
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**Non-Legislative Priority**

<b>Prevent Sexually Transmitted Infections and Unwanted Pregnancies</b>	Work with CA to ensure foster youth receive comprehensive, medically accurate information about sexual health and relationships	Normalcy workgroup
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### Other Advocacy Agenda Items

**Legislative Priority**

<b>Re-envision a System of Care for Children and Youth</b>	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	
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**Non-Legislative Priorities**

<b>Prevent Sexually Transmitted Infections and Unwanted Pregnancies</b>	Work with CA to ensure foster youth receive comprehensive, medically accurate information about sexual health and relationships	Normalcy workgroup
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### Emerging 2017 Summit Topics

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- Cultural Competency
- Housing
- Education
- Legal Systems
- Mental Health
- Supporting Adolescents
- Permanent Connections
- Foster Parent Support
- Extended Foster Care

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### 100-Day Challenges & A Way Home Washington

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- Mockingbird youth support AWHWA's efforts in Spokane, Pierce, and King Counties
  - Workgroups
  - Advisors
  - Outreach

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Lauren Frederick  
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## Turtle Talk

*Indigenous Law and Policy Center Blog  
Michigan State University College of  
Law*

# Proposed Court Rule in Michigan to Waive Pro Hac Fees and Other Limits for Out of State Tribal ICWA Attorneys

Posted on [November 3, 2016](#) by [Kate Fort](#)

[Here.](#)

In ICWA cases, the tribe has a right of intervention in whatever state court is hearing the case of the tribal child. While it is true that the “tribal representative” does not have to be attorneys, when they *are* attorneys, there may be concerns about practicing without finding local counsel or using the local “pro hac” rule. Michigan has proposed a court rule that would waive those requirements for tribal attorneys representing the tribe in a state court where the attorney is not barred. This proposed rule is in direct response a number of requests from tribal ICWA attorneys nationwide. We are hopeful other states will consider a similar rule (though in Nebraska this is right is guaranteed by statute, which is another great fix). This rule was proposed by the Michigan Tribal-State Judicial Forum.

Also, if you are an out of state attorney who would benefit from this proposed Rule (or in state) please send in comments by March 1.

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## One Response to *Proposed Court Rule in Michigan to Waive Pro Hac Fees and Other Limits for Out of State Tribal ICWA Attorneys*

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Turtle Talk

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## Turtle Talk

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## Oregon Proposed Pro Hac Vice Waiver for Tribal ICWA Attorneys

Posted on [January 16, 2017](#) by [Kate Fort](#)

[Here](#) is the proposed rule:

*{(9) An applicant is not required to associate with local counsel pursuant to subsection (1)(c) of this section or pay the fee established by subsection (6) of this section if the applicant establishes to the satisfaction of the Bar that:*

*(a) The applicant seeks to appear in an Oregon court for the limited purpose of participating in a child custody proceeding as defined by 25 U.S.C. §1903, pursuant to the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, 25 U.S.C. §1901 et seq.;*

*(b) The applicant represents an Indian tribe, parent, or Indian custodian, as defined by 25 U.S.C. §1903; and*

*(c) The Indian child's tribe has executed an affidavit asserting the tribe's intent to intervene and participate in the state court proceeding and affirming the child's membership or eligibility of membership under tribal law.}*

The proposed change is to rule 3.170, and **comments in support of the rule change must be made by February 24th**. Now both [Michigan](#) and Oregon have these proposed rule changes in the works. These are really important state rule changes for tribes and Native families—the cost of pro hac in Oregon alone is \$500, and in other states tribal attorneys are still being denied the right of intervention without following long and onerous pro hac requirements—sometimes making it impossible to participate in child welfare hearings involving Native kids.

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## Turtle Talk

Blog at [WordPress.com](#)

# Reinventing Foster Care: A Budget Plan for 2017 - 2018

We believe that children and foster parents involved in child welfare deserve strong support in Olympia to help them thrive. Parents deserve support to reunify with their children whenever possible. Foster parents need support to care for foster children. To achieve these goals, we will advocate for bills and budget that support reform and increase support for children, foster parents and parents over the next biennium.

**REFORM SYSTEMS:** Establish and stabilize system reforms that improve performance outcomes and accountability.

- 2017 / 2018: Enact legislation (HB 1661 / SB 5498) creating the Department of Children, Youth and Families including the Office of Innovation and Alignment (*Approximately \$19 million for the biennium*)
- 2018: Continue implementation of Performance Based Contracting per HB 2264 from 2012 (*Approximately \$2.5 million for 2018*)

**SUPPORT CHILDREN AND VALUE FOSTER PARENTS:** Stabilize placements and permanency for foster children and instill a culture of respect for foster parents.

- 2017 / 2018: Expand and support foster parents:
  - Increased training and support (*\$350,000 for the biennium*)
  - Maintain and expand successful programs that support foster parents that allows us to maximize and redirect existing resources (Mockingbird Family Model, crisis support services, therapeutic foster care)
- 2017 / 2018: Stabilize the workforce. Lower caseloads and increase caseworker support (*Approximately \$9.1 million for the biennium*)
- 2017 / 2018: Expand successful adoption program (Wendy's Wonderful Kids) for hard to place, legally free foster children (*\$500,000 for the biennium*)
- 2017 / 2018: Fund and evaluate 2 demonstration sites that provide legal representation to all children in the dependency system at the earliest point possible (*\$1.2 million for 2017 / 2018*)
- 2017 / 2018: Increase support for CASA (*\$2.3 million for 2017 / \$4.6 million for 2018*)

**REUNIFY FAMILIES:** Support reunification and stabilization of families.

- 2017 / 2018: Stabilize parent-child visitations by increasing reimbursement for travel (*\$3.1 million for the biennium*)
- 2017 / 2018: Stabilize access to in-home services by reimbursing travel (*\$4.8 million for the biennium*)
- 2017 / 2018: Fund Chemical Dependency specialists in Children's Administration (*\$1.1 million for the biennium*)
- 2018: Restructure funding for Family Reconciliation Services and crisis intervention services (*Approximately \$1 million for 2018*)
- 2017 / 2018: Expand Parents for Parents / Dependency 101 program (*\$100,000 in 2017 / \$240,000 in 2018*)
- 2018: Fund Working Connections Child Care so children can successfully reunify with their families (*\$130,000 for 2018*)

**HELP YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS:** Support youth as they transition into adulthood.

- 2017 / 2018: Provide educational stability and support for high school graduation through Graduation Success (*Approximately \$4 million for the biennium*)
- 2017 / 2018: Establish an avenue for foster youth to obtain their driver's licenses (*Approximately \$800,000 for the biennium - Transportation budget*)

**PARTNERS FOR OUR CHILDREN PRIORITIES  
BUDGET ONLY  
BILLS + FISCAL IMPACT**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Bill Number(s)</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>Senate Budget</b>	<b>House Budget</b>
Performance Based Contracting	Budget only	\$2.5m	Did not include	\$207,000 – to ensure that all new and renewed contracts per HB 1661 are performance based;  Included proviso for continued implementation of PBC;  Included proviso related to a 2 <sup>nd</sup> Network Admin.
Trainings and support for foster parents	Budget only	\$350,000	\$2.051m For Adoption Support payment changes and respite/case aides for foster families	Did not include
Lower caseload size and provide additional support	Budget only	\$9.1m	Did not include	\$6.408 GFS; \$8.322 Total for 61 additional caseworkers
Adoption recruitment partnership (Wendy's Wonderful Kids)	Budget only	\$500,000	Did not include	\$500,000
Legal representation for dependent	Budget only	\$1.4m	Did not include	\$1.371 for demonstration and eval

**PARTNERS FOR OUR CHILDREN PRIORITIES  
BUDGET ONLY  
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<b>Item</b>	<b>Bill Number(s)</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>Senate Budget</b>	<b>House Budget</b>
children and youth demonstration and evaluation				
Increase support for CASA	Budget only	\$6.9m	Did not include	\$1.0m
Transportation for parent child visitation	Budget only	\$3.1m	Did not include	\$2.648 GFS; \$3.044 Total (For improved visitation, including the ability to do transportation only contracts)
Reimbursement for travel for in-home services	Budget only	\$4.8m	\$500,000	\$4.568m GFS \$4.860m Total
Chemical Dependency specialists in child welfare offices	Budget only	\$1.1m	Did not include	Did not include
Family Reconciliation Services	Budget only	\$1m	Did not include	Did not include
Parents for Parents Expansion	Budget only	\$340,000	Did not include	\$340,000
Education stability and support for foster youth (Graduation	Budget only	\$4m	Did not include	\$1.368m



**PARTNERS FOR OUR CHILDREN PRIORITIES  
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<b>Item</b>	<b>Bill Number(s)</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>Senate Budget</b>	<b>House Budget</b>
Success)				
Kinship Navigators (4 additional Navigators + continuation of Tribal Navigators)	Budget only	\$1.5m	Did not include	\$936,000 (For Tribal Navigators)
Kinship Legal Clinics	Budget only	\$120,000	Did not include	Did not include
Home Visiting	Budget only	\$2.7m	\$1.4m – Retains 210 slots that would be cut; keeps HV whole	Retained 210 slots; \$1.044 to expand slots
TANF Grant Restoration	Budget only	\$30m	Did not include	\$11.863m GFS \$12.053m Total
Medicaid Rate Increase for Pediatric Care	<b>HB 1637</b> <b>SB 5471</b>  NTIB	\$15+ m (pediatric only; the bills were all Medicaid)	Did not include	Did not include
Department of Children, Youth, and Families and	<b>HB 1661</b> SB 5498	Approx. \$12m	Did not include	\$9.2m GFS \$9.4m Total
Forecasting BRS, Visitation, CPS	<b>HB 2008</b>	Approx. \$312,000	Did not include	\$156,000 for WSIPP work on the BRS assessment
Working Connections	<b>HB 1624</b>	\$130,000	Did not include	\$127,000

**PARTNERS FOR OUR CHILDREN PRIORITIES  
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BILLS + FISCAL IMPACT**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Bill Number(s)</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>Senate Budget</b>	<b>House Budget</b>
Child Care for Child Welfare Involved Children				
Education Success for Foster and Homeless Youth	<b>SB 5241</b> HB 1628	\$3,000	Did not include	Unsure
Driver's Licenses for Foster Youth	<b>HB 1808</b>	\$800,000 (Transpo budget)	Did not include	\$500,000
Children's Mental Health	<b>HB 1713</b> SB 5763	\$4+m	Did not include	\$2.1m
Paperwork Reduction	<b>HB 1819</b> <b>SB 5749</b>	\$300,000	Included	Did not include
WorkFirst Poverty Reduction	<b>HB 1482</b> SB 5440	Minimal Fiscal Impact – \$16,000	Included \$44,000	\$60,000
Family Assessment Response	<b>HB 1825</b>	Indeterminate; Could likely be funded within existing funds	Appears to maintain funding for 17-19 biennium	Maintained funding for statewide implementation
Homelessness Information System	<b>HB 1630</b>	NA	NA	NA
Public Assistance Resources	<b>HB 1831</b> SB 5609	Need updated fiscal note	Did not include	\$5.119m+\$1.024m
Extended Foster Care Transitions	<b>HB 1867</b>	\$98,189	Did not include	\$480,000 GFS; \$678,000 Total

**PARTNERS FOR OUR CHILDREN PRIORITIES  
BUDGET ONLY  
BILLS + FISCAL IMPACT**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Bill Number(s)</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>Senate Budget</b>	<b>House Budget</b>
Foster Care and Adoption Support	<b>SB 5890</b>	Did not request	\$2.051m	Did not include
Distracted Driving	<b>HB 1371 SB 5289</b>	\$0 GFS		
Tobacco to 21	<b>HB 1054 SB 5025</b>	Unsure	Did not include	
<b>SENATE BUDGET INCLUDED</b>				
Increasing the Placement Continuum	Budget only		\$3.722m	\$4.622m (Emergent placement options)
CPA Certification Reimbursement	Budget only		\$200,000	Did not include
Voices for Children	Budget only		\$25,000	Did not include
Increasing Placement Options (additional licensors)	Budget only		\$1.918m	Did not include

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<b>Item</b>	<b>Bill Number(s)</b>	<b>Requested Amount</b>	<b>Senate Budget</b>	<b>House Budget</b>

## System Initiative Example

Policy, Operations, Funding, and Training

The Office of Homeless Youth (OHY) proposes to align existing resources and statutes to serve unmet placement needs of youth exiting systems of care. The goal is to better align placements (SCRC, CRC, and HOPE beds) with the filing Child in Need of Services (CHINS) petitions to support youth placement and services. System integration of CRC placement with CHINS petition is displayed in a logic model from most to least restrictive placement. The intent is to maximize effective system support for youth at risk or experiencing housing instability.

*Please note that this draft document was used to show an example of the kinds of initiatives that are relevant to using an existing system to address housing instability for youth. If you have questions or need clarification on this, please contact Regina McDougall at the Office of Homeless Youth [regina.mcdougall@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:regina.mcdougall@commerce.wa.gov)*

