



**Washington State Supreme Court
Commission on Children in Foster Care
December 11, 2017
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present

Justice Bobbe Bridge (ret.), Washington State Supreme Court, Commission Co-Chair
Ms. Connie Lambert-Eckel, Acting Assistant Secretary, Children's Administration, Commission Co-Chair
Mr. Mike Canfield, Co-Chair of Foster Parents Association of Washington State
Judge Kitty-Ann van Doorninck, Superior Court Judges' Association (designee for Judge Michael Downes)
Ms. Kristy Healing, NW Intertribal Council
Mr. Jim Bamberger, Office of Civil Legal Aid
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
Mr. Martin Mueller, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (designee for Chris Reykdal)

Members Not Present

Rep. Ruth Kagi, Washington State House of Representatives
Ms. Jeannie Kee, Foster Youth Alumni Representative
Ms. Carrie Wayno, Attorney General's Office (designee for Bob Ferguson)
Senator Steve O'Ban, Washington State Senate
Mr. Sabian Hart, Foster Youth in Care Representative

Guests

Mr. David Del Villar, DSHS/Children's Administration
Ms. Cindy Bricker, Sr. Court Program Analyst, AOC
Ms. Lorrie Thompson, Washington State Courts
Ms. Lauren Frederick, The Mockingbird Society
Ms. Laurie Lippold, Partners for Our Children
Ms. Kate Cantrell, Youth Villages
Ms. Laurel Simonsen, Center for Children & Youth Justice
Mr. Nicholas Oakley, Center for Children & Youth Justice
Ms. Dae Shogren, DSHS/Children's Administration
Mr. Ross Hunter, Secretary of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families
Ms. Peggy Carlson, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Staff Present

Ms. Andie Uomoto, CCFC Staff Intern, Center for Children & Youth Justice
Ms. Nichole Kloepfer, AOC

Call to Order

Justice Bridge called the meeting to order at 1:08pm. She welcomed all Commission members and guests and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

Justice Bridge invited a motion to approve the May 2017 minutes. Mr. Canfield moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Moore seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Announcements

Justice Bridge invited Ms. Uomoto to announce the Commission's 2018 meeting dates. The Commission will convene on March 19th, May 14th, and December 10th in 2018.

DSHS/Children's Administration Updates

Mr. David Del Villar from Children's Administration began the meeting by providing updates from DSHS's Children's Administration (CA) while Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel was en route to the meeting.

Children's Administration is working closely with leadership from the Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF) to prepare for the transition to the new department in July 2018. CA continues to work on improving social worker retention and foster home resources. CA was one of eight entities awarded a grant from the Children's Bureau to address worker retention and recruitment. Mr. Del Villar noted that some offices struggle more than others with worker retention, especially with rising costs of living. He noted that counties that were historically less impacted by worker turnover are now experiencing difficulties. CA also continues to work with the legislature to address placement options with input from Foster Parents Association of Washington State and other providers.

Mr. Del Villar noted that Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel would like to give an update at a future meeting about the upcoming Child & Family Services Review (CFSR) and the Program Improvement Plan (PIP). Justice Bridge noted the Commission typically has a formal role in providing stakeholder input into the audit and participation in the review team. A unique feature of the upcoming CFSR and PIP is CA's permission to conduct a self-assessment with oversight on compliance rates and creating improvement plans for addressing outcome measures that do not meet the required 95% compliance rate. Mr. Del Villar noted the difficulty of meeting the required 95% compliance rate on each outcome measure. One other site that completed the CFSR was compliant in one outcome measure and Mr. Del Villar expects CA to be compliant in two outcome measures. CA is in communication with the federal government about plans to begin this work. A more detailed update will be provided at a future meeting.

National Adoption Day Update

Ms. Lorrie Thompson, Washington State Courts, shared updates from the National Adoption Day celebrations. The celebration involved 20 counties and 169 children were adopted throughout the event. The event was well covered by the media and raised awareness for the need for more foster families. The National Adoption Day Steering Committee works to identify a new media angle to present each year. This year's topic of interest was the new "reverse-

matching” program that allows children to review and identify families they are interested in being adopted into. Another topic of interest was the new program from Northwest Adoption Exchange that allowed youth to produce videos that introduced themselves to potential adoptive families. Ms. Thompson noted there is a new push to publish stories about the celebrations on non-traditional media platforms such as Youtube and Facebook. The steering committee continues to work to ensure the celebration continues with support from the courts and DSHS. Ms. Thompson then opened the floor for questions.

Justice Bridge noted there is also a reunification celebration in the spring. Justice Bridge asked if the reunification celebration has matured as an event to the same extent as the Adoption Day celebration. Ms. Thompson replied that the celebration has not matured as much as the Adoption Day celebration and recognizes the importance of bringing more attention to Reunification Day. Ms. Moore expressed interested in leading a steering committee and Ms. Thompson expressed interest in joining the committee.

Reauthorization of Court Improvement Program Grants

Ms. Cindy Bricker, Sr. Court Program Analyst, AOC, presented information about the reauthorization of the Court Improvement Program (CIP) grants. The CIP grants are federal grants awarded to state courts to promote continuous quality improvement in the child welfare system and improve collaboration between the judicial branch and child welfare and the tribes. AOC receives around \$600,000 a year and has a CIP Steering Committee to develop a strategic plan and budget. The CIP grants need to be reauthorized every five years. Last year, the CIP grants needed reauthorization and received a one year extension. Funding for CIP grants needs to be reauthorized again this year. On November 28th, house bill HR 4461 “The Courts Act” was introduced by Rep. Kevin Brady from Texas and was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee. Then, on November 29th, Senate bill SB S2173, the same Courts Act, was introduced. The House bill includes a note to use TANF Contingency Fund to fund the CIP grants. However, the Senate bill does not include a funding note.

Currently, the grant includes three components – a basic grant, training grant, and a data grant. Washington State uses the training grant to contract with the University of Washington’s Court Improvement Training Academy (CITA) to provide training to judicial officers. The data grant is used pay AOC staff to track progress and identify service and policy areas needing attention in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The basic grant pays for Ms. Bricker’s salary and is used to pay for other projects, including past staff support for the Commission and the Foster Youth and Alumni Summit with the Mockingbird Society.

The House bill includes some changes to the CIP grants. One change would be to combine the three separate grants into one lump sum. Additionally, every state would receive a base amount of \$255,000 plus additional funds for the number of total children in the state up to age 21. Washington State is expected to receive the same funding of around \$600,000. Mr. Murrey asked a clarifying question whether the additional funds above the base funding is contingent on children in the child welfare system. Ms. Bricker clarified it calculated based on all children in the state up to age 21, not just those in the child welfare system. An additional change would require at least 30% of the grant funds to be used for collaboration with the courts and child

welfare agencies at the state and local level. Washington State already conducts this work through Permanency Summits and CITA stakeholder workgroups called “Tables of Ten”.

In consultation with Judge Barbara Mack, Ms. Bricker noted that action on CIP grant bills will likely be delayed until the federal tax bill is passed. Ms. Bricker requested interested members of the Commission to write a letter of support to Washington senators and representatives. Mr. Jim Bamberger noted the importance of having the Commission write a letter of support as well as the Chief Justice and the Board for Judicial Administration. Mr. Bamberger moved to write a letter of support on behalf of the Commission. Ms. Moore seconded the motion. Mr. Murrey raised a point of discussion about the funding source of the CIP grants. Mr. Murrey noted concern about using TANF money to fund the grants and the lack of a funding note in the Senate bill. Ms. Bricker clarified the funds would be used from the TANF Contingency Fund, which is extra “rainy-day” funds. Judge van Doorninck asked if the Washington delegation is in support of the CIP grants. Ms. Bricker explained the Washington delegation is in support of the funding and is waiting for further action on the House and Senate bills to move forward. Motion to draft a letter in support of the CIP grants on behalf of the Commission passed.

Mockingbird 2018 Legislative Agenda Update

Ms. Lauren Frederick from the Mockingbird Society provided an update to the Commission on the status of their advocacy agenda for the 2018 calendar year. The 2018 advocacy agenda items were approved at the Mockingbird Youth Summit.

Lead priorities are items for which Mockingbird holds primary responsibility. Lead legislative items include strengthening Extended Foster Care, expanding Passport to College Scholarship eligibility, and ending youth detention for status offenses. Strengthening Extended Foster Care would involve allowing youth to enter Extended Foster Care until age 21 and expand eligibility to include youth in juvenile rehabilitation and other facilities on their 18th birthday. Expanding Passport to College Scholarship eligibility would involve expanding eligibility to include youth in Tribal and Federal foster care, and under the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children. The priority to end youth detention for status offenses is a legacy item from previous years, but needs further action. This year, the focus of this item will be to reduce county-by-county disparities in Washington State, moving toward the goal of ending the practice of detaining minors for status offenses.

Mockingbird will provide collaboration and support to additional legislative priorities including work on the Family in Need of Services (FINS) proposal. This proposal would create a legal pathway for minors to access shelter and housing services while working towards family reunification by combining the Child in Need of Services (CHINS) and At-Risk Youth (ARY) petitions into a new Family in Need of Services (FINS) petition.

Mockingbird will provide support to partner organizations leading the work on additional legislative priorities. These priorities include investment in affordable housing and improving data collection. Mockingbird will support the Washington Housing Alliance in their advocacy request for a specific dollar amount for the Housing Trust Fund and ensure that youth and young adults are considered a priority subpopulation. Further, Mockingbird will support partners in

requesting legislation to allow minors to consent to share personal information with the Homeless Information Management System (HMIS).

Mockingbird will work on additional non-legislative agenda items that require administrative and implementation advocacy. These items include improving access to legal rights information for youth in care, advising the implementation of the new Department of Children, Youth and Families, and increasing higher education access for foster youth. Mockingbird is working with the Raikes Foundation to find technological support to create a website or app that could contain information about the legal rights of youth in care. Mockingbird is working with the new Department of Children, Youth and Families to involve youth voice in the design, accountability and oversight of the DCYF. Mockingbird is also working to meaningfully engage youth in current efforts to redesign and improve access to post-secondary scholarships and supports with partner organizations.

Ms. Frederick then opened the floor for questions and feedback. Ms. Moore voiced her approval of the legislative agenda and other members agreed. Ms. Frederick thanked the Commission for their support.

FINS Proposal Update

Ms. Laurel Simonsen, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ), presented efforts regarding the Family in Need of Services (FINS) proposal. CCYJ has been participating in a collaborative effort with the Office of Homeless Youth to address older youth outside of the child welfare system who may not be able to safely return home. The FINS proposal work began as a subcommittee to address the CHINS process. The initial goal of the subcommittee was to increase meaningful access to services for young people having trouble in the home, such as behavioral problems, conflict, safety issues and concerning family conduct. The subcommittee partnered with other organizations such as CA, Mockingbird Society, Office of Public Defense, YouthCare, Friends of Youth, and courts administrators to review the CHINS process, increase access to services and decrease homelessness. The resulting work from the subcommittee was the proposal to repeal and replace the Family Reconciliation Act (Chapter 13.32a RCW), which encompasses CHINS and ARY petitions.

Ms. Simonsen then explained the proposed FINS process and the changes to current processes. Ms. Simonsen explained a FINS petition can be requested by a parent, child, or otherwise closely associated adult to order placement services and/or create a code of conduct within a home. If a need for emergency placement is voiced, an emergency placement order can be entered ex parte. The resulting placement will be valid for 14 days pending a fact-finding hearing. Judges would not be required to issue the emergency placement orders, but it will provide an avenue for services not currently available under current statute. Additional resources will be provided to juvenile courts to help staff the cases under FINS petitions.

Ms. Kristy Healing asked whether the process would remove CPS intakes. Ms. Simonsen clarified that the FINS process can occur outside of CA and a petition can be filed without prior CPS involvement.

Ms. Morrison asked how the new FINS process will be disseminated to interested parties. Ms. Simonsen acknowledged the need for educating the community about the process, such as service providers, schools and courts. Ms. Simonsen reported her involvement in a separate workgroup involved with developing communication strategies and preparations for bringing the proposal to the legislative process.

Mr. Canfield noted that professionals who determine a CPS intake call does not meet the threshold for CA involvement may help refer families to the FINS process. Ms. Morrison asked how someone making a CPS intake call would be told about the FINS process. Acting Assistant Secretary Connie Lambert-Eckel explained the process would be a replacement to Family Reconciliation Services. She explained the process will be external to CA, but will need to be part of CA staff's awareness and protocol to refer to when speaking with families. Ms. Morrison noted that the new process sounds helpful for families who feel like they have nowhere else to turn.

Mr. Murrey asked what training juvenile probation managers will receive to provide services to families. He noted the work sounds similar to social work. Ms. Simonsen clarified that existing juvenile probation officers will not be providing services and a new position would be created. New juvenile court case managers will be trained on skills such as family preservation strategies, available community resources, mediation skills, conflict management. Case managers will convene a multi-disciplinary team to wrap around families with services.

Ms. Malat asked about the reasoning for implementing the FINS process in the courts and instead of adding resources for Family Reconciliation Services. Ms. Simonsen explained the courts can authorize out-of-home placement when a youth's stay would be otherwise time limited. The court will also serve to resolve aspects of the process that cannot be otherwise agreed upon by the multi-disciplinary team. Ms. Malat also expressed concern about involving youth and families with the court who might otherwise not be court involved. Justice Bridge explained that the families under FINS petitions would likely already be going to court either under At-Risk Youth, CHINS petitions, or otherwise adversarial circumstances. The FINS process with court involvement is meant to hold people accountable without assigning blame.

Mr. Murrey expressed concern about the funding for the FINS process. He noted the difficulty of securing sufficient resources for dependency cases. Ms. Simonsen explained that the process will be housed under the Department of Commerce and the funding will be attached the proposal. Ms. Simonsen explained there is no intention to pass the proposal without adequate funding for recommended services resulting from multi-disciplinary team decisions. She acknowledged the services will be dependent on the availability of community resources and regional differences may emerge. Justice Bridge noted that if this proposal were to be passed, the implementation statewide would likely be staged.

Ms. Simonsen concluded by stating a bill of the proposal is being drafted. Once the draft bill is available, it will be sent to Commission members for review.

eQuality Pilot Update

Mr. Nicholas Oakley from CCYJ and Ms. Dae Shogren from CA shared an update on the eQuality Project. Mr. Oakley had previously reported to the Commission, in March and December of 2016, about the initiative and initial results of the project's research. Mr. Oakley provided some background information on the initiative, which is based on research done in 2013 on LGBTQ youth involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. The research and culminating report, *Listening to Their Voices*, suggests reforming stakeholder practices and policies is the best solution to improve system response to LGBTQ youth. In 2016, CCYJ embarked on a road trip with support from CA and juvenile courts to gather feedback on the creation of the *Protocol for Safe & Affirming Care*. The *Protocol for Safe & Affirming Care* was published in January 2017 and proceeded to implement pilot implementation in King County Juvenile Courts, Spokane County Juvenile Courts and the Spokane office of Children's Administration. Mr. Oakley proceeded to outline the timeline of events related to the pilot implementation in 2017 including baseline surveys, orientation to the protocol and its development, foundation training with community trainers and monthly core team meetings. Mr. Oakley then shared that the eQuality project was accepted in the inaugural class of the LGBTQ+ Certificate Program at Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. The eQuality project will be part of a capstone among 10-12 groups across the nation doing similar work.

Mr. Oakley then explained the newest phase of the pilot project, which is the process of asking all youth age 12 and over in each pilot site directly about their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression (SOGIE). The primary purpose of asking youth about their SOGIE is to connect youth with appropriate services. A secondary purpose of asking youth about their SOGIE is to systematically collect data on this population for the first time in Washington State.

Mr. Oakley then invited Ms. Shogren to share information about her role in the eQuality project. Ms. Shogren is the LGBTQ+ Program Manager for Children's Administration based at CA Headquarters. She explained her responsibility is to assist statewide efforts supporting LGBTQ+ youth. She noted the pilot implementation in the Spokane CA office was slow, but the office staff have been supportive and are completing surveys with youth as planned. Ms. Shogren then explained how office staff often have to "play catch up" to the language and terminology that youth use to identify themselves. She noted the importance of honoring youth voice in the work and learning about new community resources to support LGBTQ+ youth.

Mr. Oakley then explained the desire to expand the eQuality pilot implementation to two additional juvenile courts in 2018 and to continue implementation with the new Department of Children, Youth and Families.

Mr. Oakley then opened the floor for questions. Ms. Morrison asked whether the pilot implementation intended to expand to two new courts every year. Mr. Oakley explained the project budgeted for two additional court sites in the next year and intends to expand statewide eventually. He also noted the *Protocol for Safe and Affirming Care* is incorporated in the curriculum for the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission for all new probation and detention counselors.

Mr. Bamberger commented that he is pleased with the Protocol and the implementation. He noted the importance of doing similar work with populations with other identities such as race,

ethnicity and tribal identity. Mr. Oakley concurred and noted that there is significant intersectionality with LGBTQ+ youth of color in detention, approximately 60-85% of LGBTQ+ youth in detention are youth of color.

Ms. Morrison asked about the vision of scaling the implementation statewide and notes the significant representation of LGBTQ+ youth who are homeless. Justice Bridge explained the data collected in the eQuality project will be instrumental in advocating for the legislature to adopt the protocol as best practice for the new Department of Children, Youth and Families. She underscored Ms. Morrison's point about LGBTQ+ homeless youth by citing estimates that between 40-60% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ+. She noted the difficulty of the child welfare and juvenile justice system to respond to LGBTQ+ identifying youth who experience conflict in the home.

DSHS/Children's Administration Updates continued

Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel joined the meeting and provided a brief elaboration on the DSHS CA update provided by Mr. Del Villar earlier in the meeting. She described CA's involvement in the transition to the new Department of Children, Youth and Families including workgroup meetings and weekly mission meetings advising the new Department's leadership circle.

Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel then expanded on the Child & Family Services Review. She explained Washington State was selected to provide a state-run review with federal oversight. This new approach will be a six-month process requiring review of more cases and significant effort. The goal of the process will be to demonstrate Washington State's commitment to continuous quality improvement and proactively make systemic changes based on data. She noted that Washington State is not expected to pass the review on all outcome measures, as most other review sites performed similarly.

Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel then explained that work continues to address the significant social worker turnover rate. The legislative action to increase pay for staff was a significant morale boost. Further work will continue to improve training and recruitment through a five year grant provided by the Administration for Children, Youth and Families.

Acting Assistant Secretary Lambert-Eckel then noted that work continues to address placement shortages for youth. There are continued efforts to build a continuum of placement options for youth.

Youth Villages YVLifeSet Presentation

Ms. Kate Cantrell with Youth Villages shared information about YV Lifeset, a transition program for youth ages 17-22. Youth Villages has provided YV Lifeset since 1999 and serves 1,100 young people on any given day across the country.

Ms. Cantrell provided an overview of the YV Lifeset program. YV Lifeset is an intensive transitional program for youth ages 17-22. It is a community-based program where specialists

work with youth on securing stable housing, employment, basic life skills, physical and mental health needs, and relationships with significant others. Specialists have a caseload of 8 to 10 youth with weekly meetings with each participant, are on call 24/7 for crisis intervention and deliver services in a youth's natural environment such as the home, school or workplace. The program length is between 7 to 9 months. Training and supervision is also intensive and important to the service model. Specialists make service plans with youth, update service plans monthly, attend weekly group supervision meetings, and meet regularly with clinical consultants to ensure services are aligned with characteristics of research based interventions. Each YV Lifeset provider must undergo an annual program model review process to ensure model fidelity. Outcomes of young people wellbeing are tracked every six, twelve, and twenty-four months post-exit from the program.

Ms. Cantrell noted YV Lifeset's involvement in a randomized control trial in 2010. 1,300 young people participated and were randomly assigned to either YV Lifeset or services as usual. The results of the trial suggest positive impacts for youth participating in YV Lifeset including increased employment and earnings and decreased homelessness, economic hardships, mental health issues and violent relationships.

Ms. Cantrell then explained that Youth Villages YV Lifeset was awarded a significant investment from national foundations and funders to scale up the program nationwide. Youth Villages is training existing service providers to deliver the YV Lifeset program model, providing technical assistance, clinical support and monitoring program fidelity. Youth Villages chose Accelerator YMCA in King County as their first partner to expand the program. Accelerator YMCA began serving young people in June 2016 for young people ages 18-22 with a history of foster care experience and at high risk for homelessness. YMCA's program is demonstrating success through the program fidelity monitoring process. In the first year of implementation in a cohort of 45 youth, there was significant improvement in housing stability, high school graduation, school enrollment and employment. Ms. Cantrell then explained the next steps for the program expansion are to find a sustainable funding source for the YMCA, increase capacity to serve more young people, expand to an additional YV Lifeset provider outside of King County in Washington State, and continue evaluation of the program.

Ms. Cantrell then opened the floor for questions. Mr. Morrison asked what resources are needed to expand YV Lifeset beyond King County. Ms. Cantrell responded that the key to expand the program is more funding. She explained there is funding from a national group and more philanthropic resources can be incorporated, but public funding will need to be invested to expand further. Secretary Ross Hunter noted programs such as YV Lifeset need to transition to complete public funding due the size and expense of the program. Secretary Hunter then asked for the per capita cost of the program per year. Ms. Cantrell answered the program costs \$500,000 per year to serve approximately 50 young people. Secretary Hunter next asked about the strategy to receive public funding. Ms. Cantrell answered that Youth Villages is working on a legislative request and acknowledge the need to establish funding over time. She explained they have been in communication with Coordinated Care and are exploring ways to use Medicaid funding. She also emphasized the program's intensity and that the target population for this program is small. She also noted the changes in life trajectories for young people have potential public investment savings in the future.

Department of Children, Youth and Families Transition Update

Secretary Hunter provided an update to the Commission about the transition to the new Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). Secretary Hunter began by explaining the vision for the new department and its importance as the guiding principle for the agency's outcome measures. He elaborated by saying the "well-being of children" is an important emphasis. He then explained the current staffing model of DCYF as a small planning unit until the transition occurs in July 2018. Once the transition occurs, DCYF will have approximately 3,200 employees after combining Children's Administration, the Department of Early Learning, service organizations within DSHS, and a human resources department for DCYF. The process of moving existing agencies into the DCYF is extensive and involves complex administrative actions to be completed before the transition occurs. There are two initiatives in progress to aid the transition to the DCYF – the New Agency Project and the Mission Project.

The New Agency Project is designed to ensure a smooth transition with the administrative aspects of the new department including human resources, information technology and budget and finance. Currently, there are six workgroups with several sub teams tasked with carrying out the New Agency Project. The workgroups then report to a Project Management Team who is then overseen by the Leadership Circle consisting of four agencies heads – Secretary Hunter, Secretary Cheryl Strange of DSHS, Deputy Director Patricia Lashway of the Office of Financial Management, and Director Heather Moss of the Department of Early Learning.

The Mission Project's goal is to design how the new Department will conduct business including outreach, tribal relations, ensuring equity, and organizational change management. The Mission Project is also tasked with designing how the Department will carry out its mission and will hire policy analysts to design the new analytical framework. The new framework includes three broad outcome measures – education, health and resilience. Performance targets for each of these outcome measures are under development and scheduled to be confirmed by December 2018.

The Mission Project has made progress on five areas of the Department's operations – performance-based contracting, tribal consultation, outreach and stakeholder advisory, integrating Working Connections Child Care, and regionalization. DCYF will require all client service contracts to be performance-based. Each contract will need to demonstrate how the outcomes of the services contribute to the larger outcomes for children and families within DCYF. DCYF expects to create workgroups to draft tribal consultation agreements and policies for working with tribal communities. DCYF is also making substantial efforts to design a new advisory and communications plan to ensure accountability of the new department. The Mission Project is also collecting stakeholder feedback to determine the most effective way to create regions for DCYF. DCYF will inherit the regional delivery system from each agency and must reconcile how the new department will define its regions.

Secretary Hunter then described the Oversight Board for DCYF. The Oversight Board will provide general oversight over performance and policies of DCYF, provide advice and input to DCYF and the Governor, and provide reports to the Legislature and Governor. The Office of the

Family and Children's Ombuds identifies candidates for nomination to the board by the Governor and will convene their first meeting in July 2018.

Secretary Hunter then opened the floor for questions. Mr. Canfield noted the disproportionate representation of youth in the juvenile justice system who also have experience with the child welfare system. He expressed interest in research to investigate ways to address this challenge. Secretary Hunter acknowledged the historical challenge of the number of youth detained in juvenile justice facilities and noted the decrease in detained youth in recent years. Secretary Hunter acknowledged the continued need to address the increased acuity of the cases the juvenile justice system handles.

For the Good of the Order

Justice Bridge opened the floor for any additional items for the good of the order. Ms. Healing updated the group on the proposed rule change to Washington State Court Rules, APR 8. The proposed changes were reviewed by the Supreme Court and is anticipated for publication in January 2018.

Adjourned at 3:57pm by Justice Bridge.