



**Washington State Supreme Court
Commission on Children
in Foster Care (CCFC)**

**5/03/2021
1:00-3:00 p.m.**

<https://wacourts.zoom.us/j/96205591355>

Meeting ID: 962 0559 1355

Dial by your location:

+ 1 253 215 8782

Agenda

1:00 pm 5 min	<p>1. Welcome and Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice that the Meeting will be Recorded • Please type your name and agency in the chat in lieu of roll call • If you have suggested agenda items for the next meeting, please type them into the chat or email Cindy/Co-Chairs 	Justice Barbara Madsen, Co-Chair
1:05 pm 5 min	2. Approval of March 2021 Minutes	Justice Barbara Madsen, Co-Chair
Old Business		
1:10 pm 20 min	3. Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Legislative Update	Jody Becker, DCYF, Co-Chair Allison Krutsinger, DCYF
1:30 pm 15 min	4. OCLA Outline Approach for Convening a Workgroup to Update the Children’s Representation Standards	Jim Bamberger & Jill Malat OCLA
1:45 pm 30 min	<p>5. Racial Equity Discussion</p> <p><i>In addition to attached PPT, please see the following links:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racial Equity & Social Justice Framework: https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/HR_0003.pdf • Draft 2021 – 2026 Strategic & Racial Equity Plan: https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/COMM_0058%20DCYF_Strategic_Priorities_2021-2026.pdf 	LaToya Holmes-Ware, DCYF Evette Jasper, DCYF
Action Item		
2:15 pm 15 min	6. Second Proposal to Integrate the CIP Multidisciplinary Task Force as a Workgroup of the CCFC	Cindy Bricker, AOC
New Business		
2:30 pm 20 min	<p>7. AOC Court Research: Presentation of the 2020 Dependency Timeliness Report</p> <p><i>The Report can be viewed at the following link:</i> https://www.courts.wa.gov/subsite/wsccl/docs/2020DTR.pdf</p>	Matt Orme, Washington State Center for Court Research
2:50 pm 5 min	8. Family Reunification Celebrations	Lorrie Thompson, AOC; Tonia McClanahan, Parent Advocate Representative
2:55 pm 5 min	9. CIP Strategic Plan	Cindy Bricker, AOC

3:00 pm	<u>Next Meeting:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="321 163 711 197">• Youth Leadership Summit	Justice Barbara Madsen, Co-Chair
	Adjournment	Justice Barbara Madsen, Co-Chair
	<u>2021 Meetings:</u> March 8, 2021 May 3, 2021 September 27, 2021 December 13, 2021	



**Washington State Supreme Court
Commission on Children in Foster Care
March 8, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present:

Jody Becker, Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), Commission Co-Chair
Justice Barbara Madsen, Washington State Supreme Court, Commission Co-Chair
Raven Arroway-Healing, Northwest Intertribal Council
Jim Bamberger, Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA)
Jolie Bwiza, Tacoma Chapter Leader, Mockingbird Youth Network
Mike Canfield, Foster Parent Allies of Washington State
Peggy Carlson, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (Designee for Chris Reykdal)
Judge Kitty Ann van Doorninck, Superior Court Judges' Association
Jeannie Kee, Foster Youth Alumni Representative
Carrie Wayno, Attorney General's Office (AGO; Designee for Bob Ferguson)
Laurie Lippold, Partners for Our Children
Jill Malat, Office of Civil Legal Aid
Jill May, Washington Children & Families
Tonia McClanahan, Parent Advocate Representative
Sophia Byrd McSherry, Deputy Director, Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD)
Ryan Murrey, Washington Association of Child Advocate Programs
Rachel Sottile, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)
Emily Stochel, Youth who has Reunified (New CCFC Position); Mockingbird Society (Tacoma)

Members Not Present:

Beth Canfield, Foster Parent Allies of Washington State
Senator Jeannie Darneille, Washington State Senate
Tory Gildred, Coordinated Care
Representative Tana Senn, Washington House of Representatives

Guests Present:

Brett Ballew, Washington State Office of Public Defense
Kwesi Booker, DCYF Assistant Secretary of Child Welfare Field Operations
Sarah Burns, Spokane FJCIP Coordinator,
Patrick Dowd, Director, Washington State Office of Family and Children's Ombuds
Tracy Freckleton, Foster Parent Allies of Washington State
Lauren Frederick, Mockingbird Society
Steven Grilli, DCYF Director of Child Welfare Programs
Barbara Harris, Disproportionality Legal Training Coordinator, OPD
Allison Krutsinger, DCYF Government Affairs Deputy Director
Jess Lewis, DCYF Director of Adolescent Programs
Angela Murray, Washington Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Association
Jorene Reiber, WAJCA Representative
Em Rose, Partners for Our Children
Dawn Marie Rubio, State Court Administrator, Administrative Office of the Courts
Kelly Warner-King, Court Improvement Training Academy (CITA) Director

Staff Present:

Cindy Bricker, Administrative office of the Courts (AOC)
Moriah Freed, AOC
Susan Goulet, AOC

Call to Order

Justice Madsen called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Introductions and roll call were conducted virtually through the Zoom meeting chat box.

Approval of the Minutes

Justice Madsen invited a motion to approve the December 2020 meeting minutes. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Updates

Kwesi Booker reported on a new committee within Field Operations looking at racial equity and disproportionality in their case and hiring practices, and decided they are looking at possibly implementing race blind removals into their practice. They are putting together a committee to see what they want it to look like in Washington, and where to put it into their case practices to be effective for their team. Also they met with Nassau County and Casey Family Programs (Casey). The approach takes away the racial bias of staff, and a committee focuses entirely on the safety issues without discussing the family's name or cultural dynamics. The committee consists of field representatives and child welfare program staff. Steve Grilli said the committee has not met yet but Regina McDougall, their Practice Model Administrator, will coordinate the work. It was suggested that additional members be added, similar to the diverse membership of the COVID Rapid Response Work Group, and Steve said as they work out the details of this new committee, he expects they will add additional members.

Steve Grilli provided an update on Child Welfare Programs' recent work, which included the following five topics:

- (1) Program Improvement Plan (PIP) - They are engaging in a focus on supervisory workforce competencies. Also in the PIP realm, they are working with external stakeholders to discuss language of the core principles of the safety framework and providing a multidisciplinary training that discusses those core principles of safety and decision making. They have also been focusing on engagement and the quality of contacts for children, youth, parents, and caregivers, and providing tools and resources for DCYF staff to be intentional and purposeful in the contacts they are making.
- (2) Family First - They are in the implementation phase and are focused now on satisfying federal requirements so they can get the FAR (Family Assessment Response) programs moving under Family First, making technology changes, and identifying pilot offices.
- (3) Practice Model - Regina McDougall is meeting with many people to get a lay of the land and establish relationships, and just began some of the co-design sessions which will stretch into August.
- (4) Racial equity work - They are doing some specific things in their division, including recruiting and hiring practices, and thinking differently about how they do their work.
- (5) Hotel stays - They have pulled together a plan that focuses both on cross-system issues and practice issues within DCYF. They are working on expanded kinship definition; more intentional FTDMs (Family Team Decision Making Meetings); medical consultations; and cross-

systems issues with their partners at the Health Care Authority and Developmental Disabilities Administration to better serve children.

Rachel Sottile requested continued updates during Commission meetings on this issue, to see that the good work DCYF is doing on the cross-system issues and practice issues continues until we actually see a reduction in the hotel stays over time. Jill May thanked Steve and Kwesi for the great work they have done towards reaching out to providers and partners for solutions and the work they have done with them. Laurie Lippold asked if the expanded kinship definition that DCYF is looking at could be shared. Steve will check on the status of the final draft and report back.

Jess Lewis, reported on Adolescent Programs' work, as follows:

(1) With the federal stimulus bill passage on December 31, 2020, Chafee received a significant financial boost, and her team is gathering stakeholder feedback about a legislative proposal for spending those dollars. For Chafee eligible youth, that is about 8.74 million dollars of new money. Traditionally DCYF funds all of their independent living services for about 4600 eligible youth with 3 million dollars. Independent living services and transition services have been underfunded, so this is an opportunity to infuse some resources in the service array, while also offering youth direct financial assistance. They are also looking into a Family Reconciliation Services (FRS) pilot, by creating a primary prevention plan with those pilot dollars and intervening prior to families ever getting to DCYF, which they think potentially could be a more successful way to engage families earlier before families go into the system. In addition, they are going to continue providing services to youth who would typically age out at 21 and to youth who have aged out and are eligible to reenter, including transition housing support, etc.

(2) HB 1775 (concerning Commercially Sexually Exploited Children [CSEC]) moved to Adolescent Programs in December. They have since then hired Cameron Norton as the Missing and Exploited Youth Program Manager, and are also hiring program managers, one on the eastside and one on the westside. They currently have a successful bidder on the eastside and the contract is under negotiation. The RFP is still open for the westside, and they are looking for a westside bidder to run a CSEC receiving center.

(3) They are currently hiring and expect that all of their new positions will be posted this week, and will send those postings to Commission members for distribution. The new postings include a Prevention Program Manager; an Emerging Adulthood Program Manager; a Transitions Program Administrator; a Systems of Care Administrator; an Extended Foster Care Administrator, and an Assistant Director of Adolescent Programs. They are reaching out to those with lived experience, and their objective is to incorporate the folks with lived experience throughout their entire process to inform all of their work.

Allison Krutsinger discussed DCYF's 2021 legislative highlights. DCYF's two major agency request bills relevant to the Commission's work are as follows:

(1) SB 5151 (concerning DCYF's foster care and child care licensing): continues to move along and establishes a child-specific license pathway, which is a strategy and tool to bring kinship providers into the licensed space and remove barriers.

(2) HB 1186 (concerning juvenile rehabilitation): one of DCYF's strategic priorities is creating and building successful transitions for young people exiting their systems of care, so they are looking to establish a community transitions program which would allow young people who are incarcerated and in custody on the juvenile rehabilitation side of their work to have a step-down

opportunity and exit the institutional or community facility setting while still under sentence with supportive transition work, supported connection to employment, to education, and to healthcare in the community. The goal is to move them out of that institutional setting as soon as safety possible and into their community to practice and build skills for successful and supported transition.

(3) Other bills they are tracking: HB 1227 (concerning protecting the rights of families responding to allegations of abuse or neglect of a child) and HB 1194 (concerning strengthening parent-child visitation during child welfare proceedings).

Jody said if Commission members have additional questions, thoughts, or ideas, they can reach out to her directly or to any of the DCYF presenters here today, and they will get the information to them. In addition, Jody reminded that DCYF still has an open recruitment for an Assistant Secretary of Juvenile Rehabilitation, and asked members to share that with their respective networks if they have not already.

COVID Rapid Response Work Group Update

Steve Grilli reported that the Work Group continues to meet bi-weekly to look at family time during COVID. The Work Group started out with a need to look at Family Time and how to keep it moving during the COVID-19 pandemic and keep people safe, and it has since broadened a little to include anything that needs to be addressed during COVID with a rapid response. It is co-chaired by five people, Cindy Bricker, Laurie Lippold, Alise Morrissey, Jacob D'Annunzio, and himself. The four major items the group has been working on over the last several months are as follows: (1) Guidance on COVID-aware family time plan (including a tool that was put together and posted on DCYF website). (2) Visit locations (with the colder rainy weather, it has been hard to find places for visits, so they have reached out to schools, non-profits, churches, etc.). (3) Terminations of parental rights during COVID (including looking at the data, making sure they get messaging out to teams internally at DCYF to consider during COVID whether families have had access to the appropriate services, making decisions on how to take terminations forward, and getting messages out to courts regarding what to think about in that realm). (4) A subgroup has been looking at the mental health of youth in care during COVID. Kelly Warner-King talked about the subgroup and how it is being encouraged to think about how to provide training and support to families. Kelly plans to get the subgroup back together soon to talk about how they want to get that work done, and she would appreciate any thoughts from Commission members on supports for families who are caring for kids who experienced trauma, or are experiencing trauma from COVID themselves, and for providers, to make sure they stop and think about how trauma could be playing out as a pandemic response. Justice Madsen said there is a lot of work being done through the Work Group so she is glad they continue to meet, and she asked Commission members to let the Work Group know if they have ideas regarding any of those four areas, and particularly thoughts on Family Time meeting places at this time.

Normalcy Workgroup/SB 5395 (Sex Education Bill) Update

Jeannie Kee reported that the Sex Education Bill (SB 5395) passed into law and the task to create the curriculum is done; therefore, the Normalcy Workgroup can now get back to the focus of their original tasks, which include: (1) looking at normalcy for youth in group homes and young adults in extended foster care, (2) contacting DCYF about developing a normalcy workshop to be included in the adolescent track training through the Alliance, and (3) talking with DCYF about how they are insuring that normalcy is happening for kids in care now. Justice Madsen asked members to reach out to Jeannie if they can help.

Children's Representation Workgroup

Jim Bamberger thanked the Yakima Mockingbird youth advocates for their work on children's representation, and if HB 1219 passes it will expand the right to counsel for children, principally children 8 years and older, and in cases of children under 8 years where termination has been filed counsel would also be appointed for both the termination and the dependency cases.

In addition, OCLA has encouraged those working on this bill to include a technical request to the Commission to begin the process and designate somebody to begin updating the standards, and OCLA has offered to take on the responsibility to pull together a workgroup. OCLA will outline the approach they plan to take and present it at the next Commission meeting. OCLA anticipates meeting with critical stakeholders and partners before they would submit their proposal to the Commission, and they believe they can undertake all the work and submit a set of updated standards, that are responsive to the charge in the bill, by December 31, 2021. Justice Madsen said there are also many people on the Commission who could share collectively and individually some experiences that might help with what these standards need to look like.

Jim agreed and also said he has invited a peer review from NACC (National Association of Counsel for Children) to take a look at their entire program and give them constructive, practical, and operational feedback. Emily Stochel indicated in the chat box she would like to be a part of the workgroup and have her voice heard. Justice Madsen also said that the Commission is the right place to have that oversight and that OCLA is the right organization to undertake putting together the committee. Therefore with no objections from the Commission, Justice Madsen gave OCLA the green light to go forward and come back to the Commission with a plan.

Cindy Bricker said that child representation is part of State Team Action Plan she presented at the December meeting. She then introduced Sarah Burns, who will be joining AOC as the new Statewide Innovation Coordinator, and therefore will be working on the State Team Action Plan, as well as on the Safe Babies Court Team work, and will be attending Commission meetings going forward.

Racial Equity Discussion

Discussion on this topic was started at the December meeting. Justice Madsen said this is going to be a regular agenda item going forward, and the Commission will hear updates on what various Commission member agencies are doing and continue the discussion regarding multi-disciplinary training. She said we are starting with OPD today, and the Commission will ask other agencies to report out on what they are doing at a later date.

Sophia Byrd McSherry, Deputy Director of OPD, and Barbara Harris, OPD's Disproportionality Legal Training Coordinator, gave a presentation to the Commission on what OPD is doing to address the issue of racial equity. A one-page summary of OPD's primary program areas was provided in the materials, and Sophia shared that their race equity work spans all of those programs. In addition, this topic has been an ongoing focus and effort within OPD for many years, and they have endeavored to identify and address bias in the legal system. They were an early partner with the Washington Race Equity and Justice Initiative (aka REJI). They maintain an office library of equity and inclusion books and other publications that are available for staff to checkout. Their staff meets for a free forum race equity discussion about every two weeks, on a voluntary basis, and they have a robust and ongoing conversation. They also have a book club internally in their office that meets about every two months. In addition, as the result of a three year effort, OPD was recently able to hire Barbara Harris, their new Disproportionality Legal Training Coordinator, in January 2021. A big focus of Barbara's position is to work with

attorneys to help them learn to use data and develop legal arguments that can bring to light/address racial equity issues in individual cases for individual clients, but ultimately also start to address the racism that is imbedded in our justice system and society. OPD also provides training in a number of practice areas for their contractor and criminal attorneys around the state.

Barbara Harris then provided a PowerPoint presentation (PPT) to the Commission, with an emphasis on OPD's Parent Representation Program, which provides counsel to indigent parents in child welfare cases. She talked about what OPD is doing to address racial equality and social justice, and emphasized that the program operates in all 39 Washington counties. In addition, OPD did a survey to see what kind of training attorneys needed, and with that feedback an effort is being made to provide trainings that address those needs, including providing tools needed to have difficult conversations, and training that consistently addresses structural, institutional, and systemic racism. OPD also maintains an Advocacy Resource Page which provides attorneys with technical assistance to develop arguments around race, inequity, and disproportionality in cases; data to strengthen disproportionality advocacy; and resources and tools to strengthen their advocacy for their Black, Brown, Indigenous and other clients of color (the Advocacy Resource Page is available here: <https://www.opd.wa.gov/index.php/program/trial-defense/12-pd/223>). Barbara then showed a list of training events that that OPD held in 2021, and talked about how OPD teaches attorneys how to assemble different data sources to tell their client's story or challenge bias that may be occurring at a particular point in the process of the case. OPD believes it has a responsibility to develop the lens through which the attorney advocates on behalf of their clients and has taken the lead in cultivating the type of training that is really going to be valuable in child welfare to meet the different needs. OPD also implements quality management oversight. OPD's upcoming 2021 training events include a "Train the Trainer: Strategies for Facilitating Courageous Conversations on Race" in April and May; collaboration with Washington Defender Association to do a "data camp" training curriculum; and continued discussion with OCLA and the AGO for joint development of a statewide race equity training for legal professionals. For more information, a copy of Barbara's PPT was provided in the meeting materials, and members may reach out to Sophia and Barbara if they have questions.

Proposal to Designate CCFC as the CIP Multi-Disciplinary Task Force

A copy of the Proposal to Designate the Commission on Children in Foster Care (CCFC or Commission) as the Multi-Disciplinary Task Force Required for the Court Improvement Program (CIP) was provided in the meeting materials. Cindy Bricker explained that there have been discussions about the number of child welfare-related committees that are often attended by the same or similar stakeholders. So court and child welfare partners decided to review the purpose of these various committees to determine whether efficiencies could be identified, while maintaining important collaborative efforts and relationships. The details of this effort are provided in the Proposal.

Cindy said, it was determined that it makes sense to place federal CIP related committee work under the Commission. She informed that the federal CIP is a federal Children's Bureau grant that goes to the highest state court in each state. The Supreme Court in Washington has delegated the management of that program over to the AOC. In order to receive this grant funding there are certain requirements, and one of the requirements is for each state to operate a collaborative, multi-disciplinary group focused on improving the dependency court system. Two years ago, the AOC partnered with DCYF to create the Innovative Dependency Court Collaborative (IDCC) to do this work. Since then, several important collaboration projects have

emerged, including the need to work together to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and it seems like more of our work has shifted to under the Commission, rather than the IDCC. Because of COVID-19, staff and committee member resources were stretched thin and the work and meetings of the IDCC were put on hold, and most of the work was done under the COVID Rapid Response Work Group that was under the Commission. As things have evolved over the last year, it seems to make more sense for the CIP work to fall under the Commission. Therefore, the Proposal includes eliminating the IDCC, and also the CIP Steering Committee (which meets once a year as an advisory group to the AOC regarding the CIP strategic plan, annual assessment, and budget), and absorb the key functions of these groups into the work of the Commission, creating a more efficient approach to child welfare/court system reform and ensuring that CIP requirements are met.

Cindy further explained that in order for that transformation to happen, there are a few changes the Commission will need to consider. Many of the current members of the Commission fit the required and recommended members of the CIP multidisciplinary task force, but some membership changes will need to be considered. Also, the meeting schedule and content will require modifications. Cindy discussed those changes, and they are included in the Proposal. In addition, the CIP leads the efforts of the State Team Action Plan, and the Commission voted at its December meeting that they would oversee those efforts, so the State Team Action Plan will be incorporated into the CIP 5-year strategic plan that is in the process of being developed. Lastly, the Commission would likely need to meet every-other month (rather than quarterly).

Laurie Lippold said she likes the idea, but suggested still incorporating innovation conversations, maybe once or twice a year, where people can hear what is happening both inside and outside of DCYF since innovation was one of the original intents of the IDCC. Cindy said that would likely be a workgroup they would create. Cindy then shared her screen and addressed members' questions and concerns about the membership changes; schedule change, including the desire that Commission meetings continue to occur remotely (because it saves time) and continue to be on Mondays (because it works for most people); and voting structure of the Commission. Justice Madsen said another amended order would also likely be needed. Members requested additional time to consider this proposal. There was also a request to see a revised list of DCYF members prior to making a final decision. The Commission will vote at their May meeting on whether or not to accept the Proposal. Cindy, Jody, and Justice Madsen will also work on how they can mainstream it, and members should contact them if they have questions about the Proposal before the next meeting.

Member Updates/Discussion

Justice Madsen asked Commission members to let Cindy, Jody, or her know if there are any agenda items they want to see on the next Commission meeting agenda. The next Commission meeting is on May 3, 2021.

Adjourned at 3:10 pm by Justice Barbara Madsen.

DCYF Office of Racial Equity & Social Justice

May 3, 2021

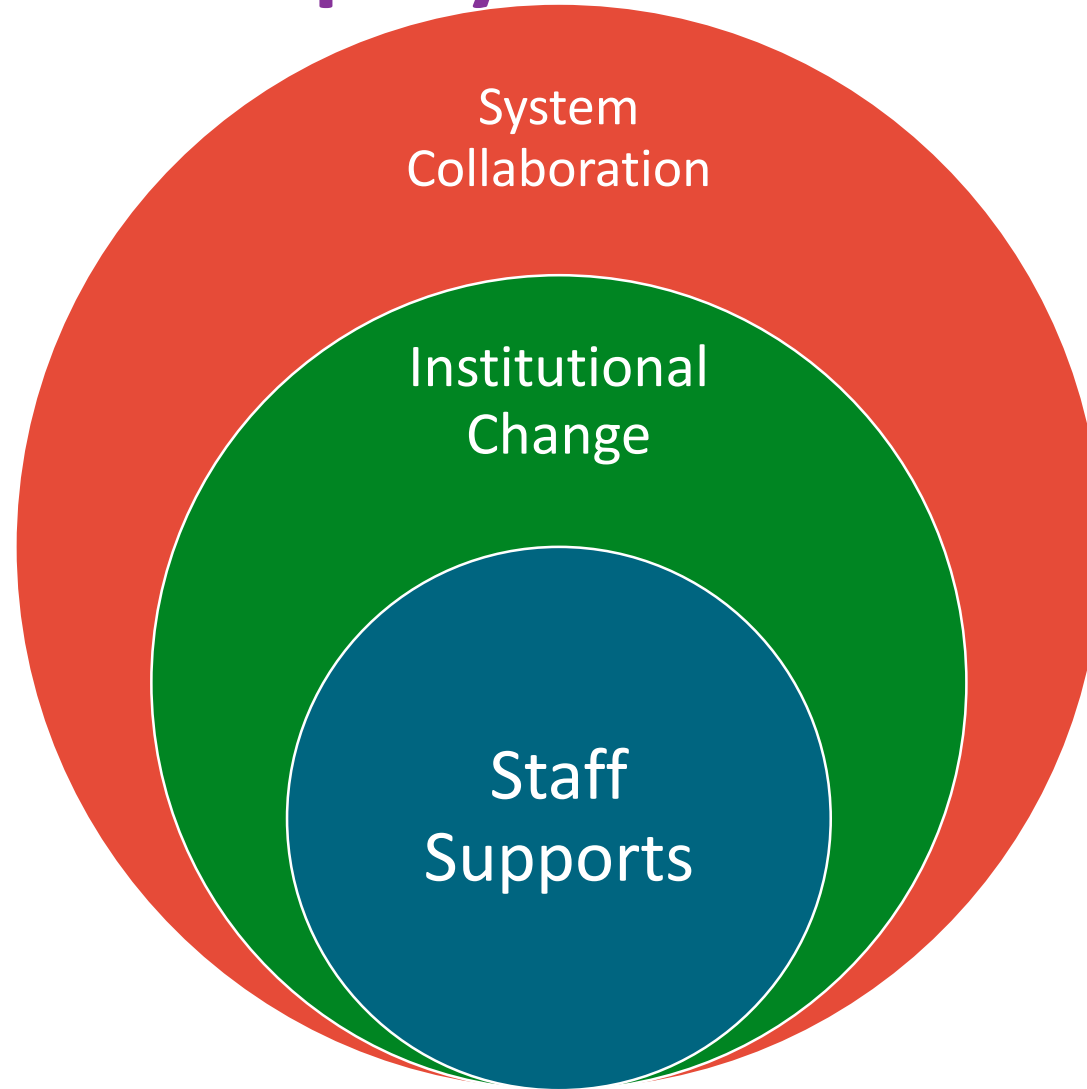
Commission on Children in Foster Care

www.dcyf.wa.gov



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Office of Racial Equity & Social Justice (ORESJ)



Theory of Change

Normalize

RESJ framework

Reflective and responsive leadership & workforce

Organize

Racial Equity Change Team

Youth, family, community, tribal, and stakeholder partnerships

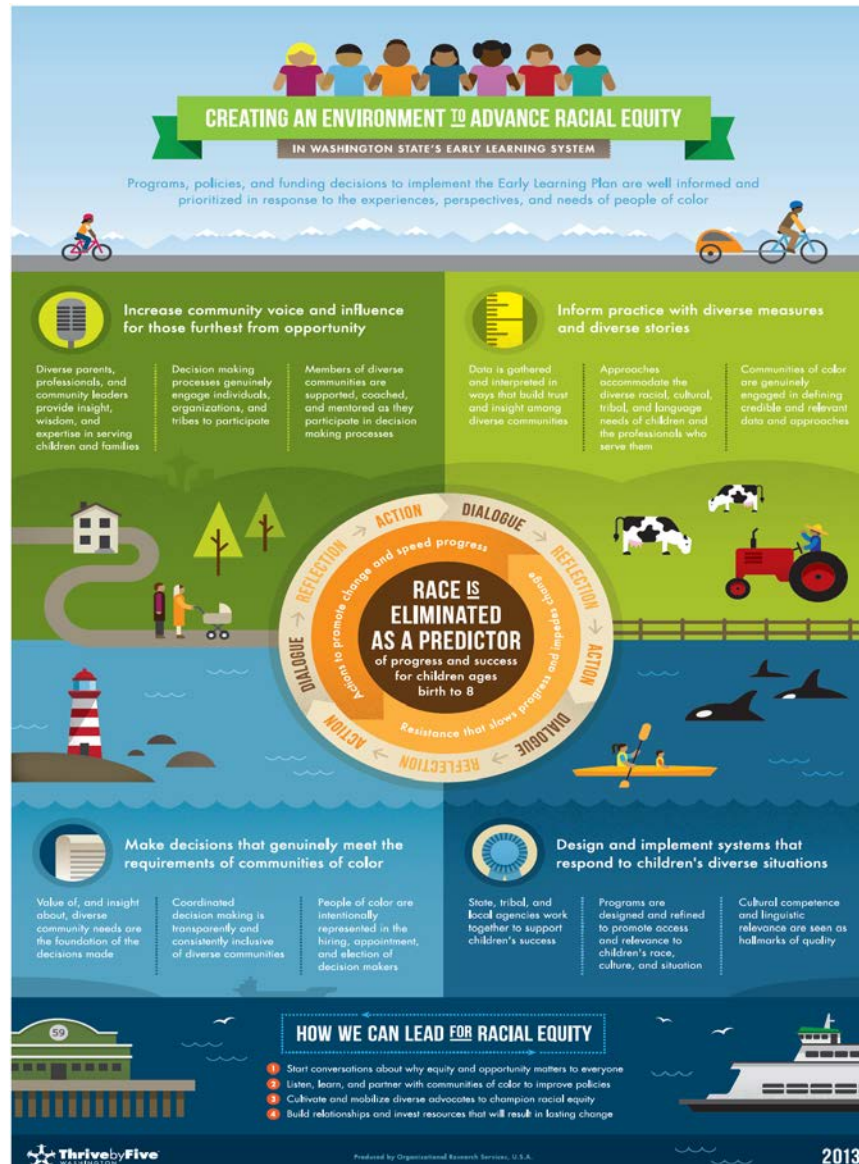
Operationalize

Disaggregated outcome & performance data

Racial Equity tools, processes, & action plans



Racial Equity & Social Justice Framework



- Guiding Principles

- Shared Language

- Racial Equity Theory of Change

DCYF Racial Equity & Social Justice Policy



Administrative Policy

Chapter 6 Racial Equity and Social Justice
6.01 Racial Equity and Social Justice

Original Date: April 21, 2021
Revised Date:
Sunset Review Date: April 21, 2024
Approved by: Frank Ordway, Chief of Staff

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance on how the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) promotes and supports racial equity and social justice (RESJ) within the department. This includes working with contractors, clients, and providers.

Scope

This policy applies to DCYF employees, volunteers, interns, work study students, and contractors. For represented employees, the [collective bargaining agreements](#) will prevail if this policy is determined to be in conflict.

Laws

[Chapter 43.216 RCW](#) Department of Children, Youth, and Families
[Executive Order 12-02](#) Workforce diversity and inclusion

Policy

1. DCYF must create and implement policies and procedures that support a work environment that promotes RESJ.
2. Division and office leadership:
 - a. Will work towards identifying and eliminating institutional and systemic barriers for marginalized and oppressed communities.
 - b. Must designate and support [DCYF Inclusive Racial Equity Change Team \(DIRECT\)](#) representatives to work with the [Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice \(ORESJ\)](#) and may designate DIRECT alternates.
3. [ORESJ](#) must serve as the DCYF expert and authority on RESJ.
4. [DIRECT](#) representatives and alternates must guide their divisions or offices in developing and implementing RESJ action plans.
5. Employees, volunteers, interns, work study students, and contractors, regardless of position, must:
 - a. Create a welcoming, supportive, safe, affirming, and respectful work environment consistent with DCYF Administrative policies:
 - i. [11.13 Preventing and Addressing Discrimination, Harassment, Sexual Harassment, and Retaliation](#)



DCYF Inclusive Racial Equity Change Team

Vision: Transform DCYF culture and practice to advance racial equity and justice, so each and every child, youth and family can thrive.

Role: Design, coordinate, and facilitate implementation of racial equity plans and systems change efforts.



The Department of Children, Youth, and Families Strategic Priorities 2021-2026

MISSION: Protect children and youth, and strengthen families so they flourish.

VISION: All Washington’s children and youth grow up safe and healthy – thriving physically, emotionally, and educationally, nurtured by family and community.

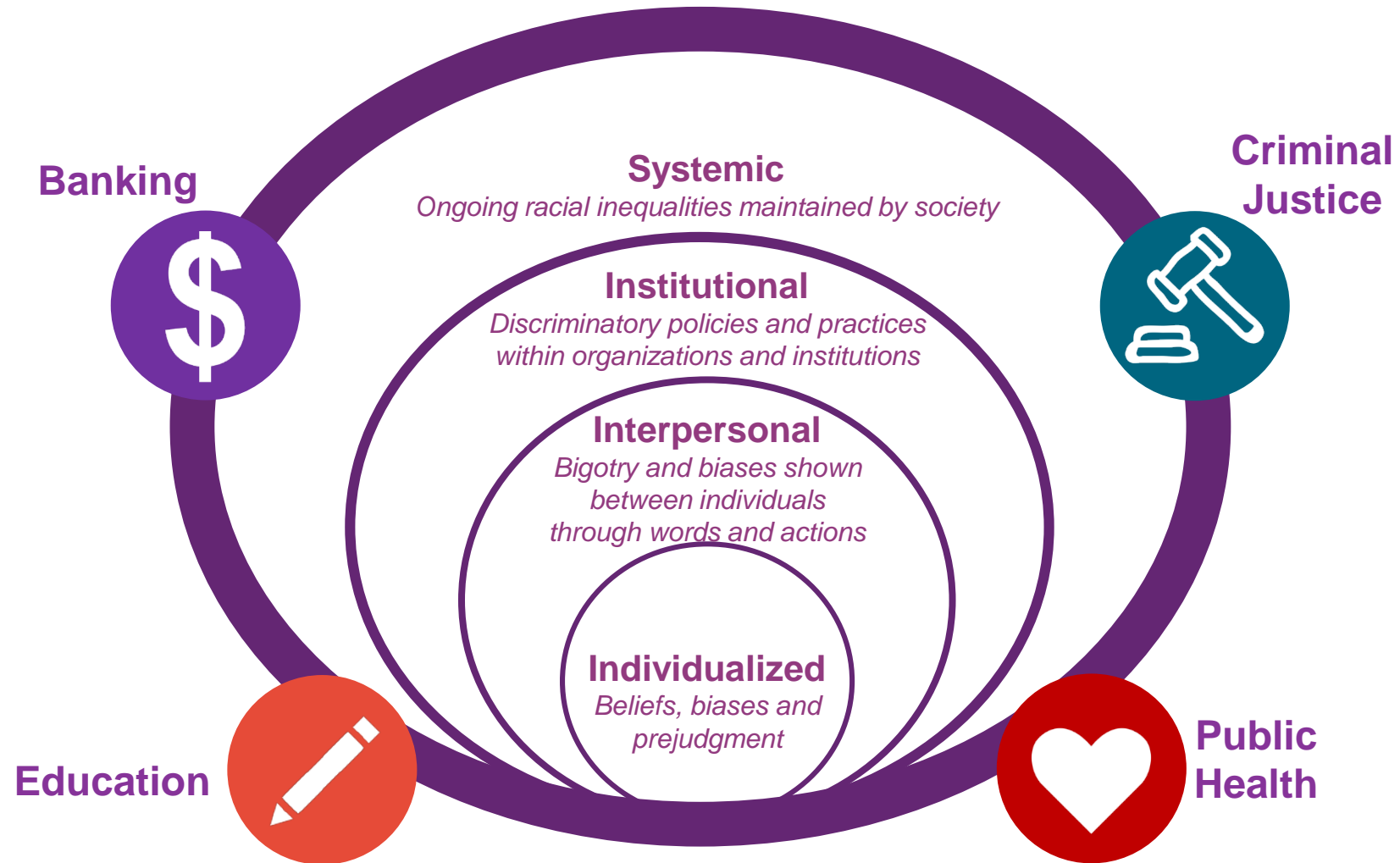
In this first five-year strategic planning cycle, the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) will focus on six Strategic Priorities – one relates to equity, three relate to our intention for children, youth, and families, and two relate to building necessary agency capacity to accomplish our work. The priorities are grounded in the mission, vision, values, and legislative purpose of the new agency. Additionally, the priorities enable the agency to meet its outcome goals for children, youth, and families in Washington, with a specific focus on the populations for which we are responsible.

Agency Priority		Focused Agency Work To Accomplish Priorities
EQUITY	Eliminate racial disproportionalities and advance racial equity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become an anti-racist organization • Implement liberatory, human-centered, and healing-centered design across DCYF • Ensure assessments and programs are equitable across DCYF
INTENTION	Safely reduce the number/rate of children in out-of-home care by half	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement and expand effective secondary prevention • Prevent entries into foster care • Reduce length of stay • Improve service availability
	Create successful transitions into adulthood for youth and young adults in our care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Least restrictive environments • Strengthen therapeutic environments • Enhance availability of services and supports • Enhance stability and quality of adult relationships
	Create a high quality integrated B-8 system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand access to infant/toddler support and services • Expand access to affordable, high-quality child care • Support recovery of the child care business sector • Create a responsive and inclusive integrated pre-K system • Support the early learning workforce
CAPACITY	Improve quality and intention of our practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support staff as our most valuable resource • Enhance supportive supervision and management • Evaluate and re-design child welfare practice model • Re-dedication to JR residential therapeutic model (DBT)
	Improve quality and availability of provider services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agencywide implementation of performance-based contracting • Expand access to effective and needed services • Enhance service matching at individual and population levels • Identify opportunities to integrate contracts and management

DCYF Strategic & Racial Equity Plan

Six Priority Areas

Root Cause of Racial Disparities & Disproportionality

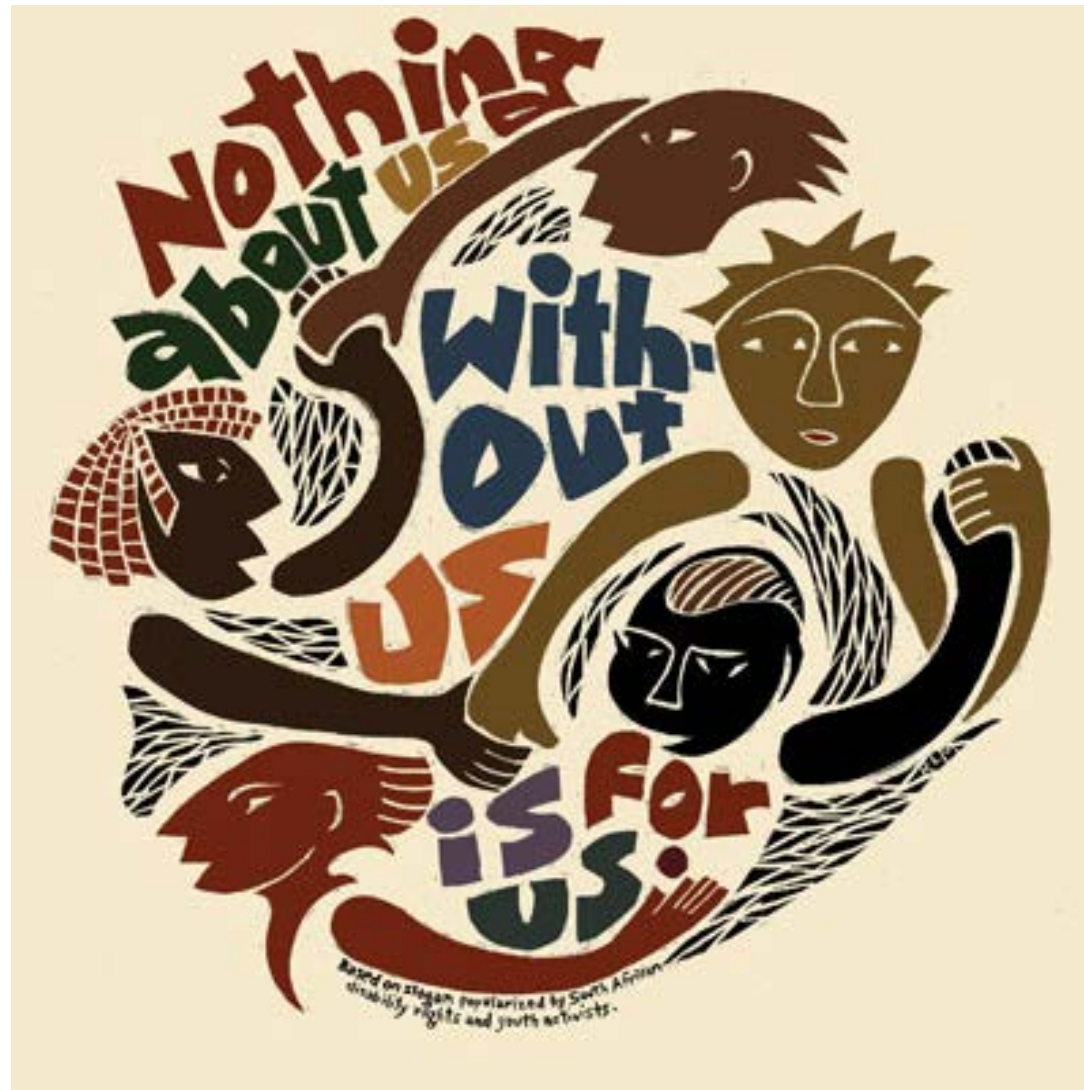


Eliminate Racial Disproportionalities and Advance Racial Equity

Focused Areas of Work:

1. Become an anti-racist organization
2. Implement liberatory, human-centered, and healing-centered program design across DCYF
3. Ensure assessments and programs are equitable across DCYF





Artist: Ricardo Levine Morales – rlmartstudio.com



Q&A and Discussion



Thank you!

LaToya Holmes-Ware

(she.her)

Administrator

360.522.2823

Evette Jasper

(she.her)

Administrator

360.688.4478

Dae Shogren

(she.they)

Administrator

360.688.6237

The Office of Racial Equity & Social Justice

dcyf.racialequityandsocialjustice@dcyf.wa.gov



SECOND PROPOSAL
INTEGRATE THE CIP MULTIDISCIPLINARY TASK FORCE
AS A WORKGROUP OF THE CCFC

BACKGROUND:

Washington State has an admirable tradition of convening cross-system groups to support child welfare court system cooperation, some required by statute and others developed by agreement. In the past year or so, there have been discussions about the proliferation of child welfare-related committees that are often attended by the same or similar stakeholders. Court and child welfare partners agreed to review the purpose of these various committees to determine whether efficiencies could be identified, while maintaining important collaborative efforts and relationships.

Attached you will find a detailed description of this effort, but in summary, it was determined that it makes sense to place federal Court Improvement Program (CIP) related committee work under the Commission on Children in Foster Care. Section 438 of the Social Security Act authorizes CIP funding through a grant that the highest state court of each state may apply for—in Washington State, that is the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court delegated management and operations of the CIP and related funding to the Administrative Office of the Courts. As a condition of receiving CIP grant funds, each state is required to operate a collaborative, multi-disciplinary group focused on improving the dependency court system. Two years ago, AOC partnered with DCYF to create the Innovative Dependency Court Collaborative (IDCC) to do this work. In addition, the CIP Steering Committee convenes once per year as an advisory group to AOC regarding the CIP strategic plan, annual assessment and budget.

PROPOSAL

We propose the IDCC become a workgroup of the Commission. We also propose the CIP Steering Committee be dissolved and the IDCC will help develop strategies for the strategic plan, which will be presented, along with the annual CIP assessment and budget, to the Commission for their review. The State Team Action Plan will be integrated into the work of the IDCC, and progress will be reported to CCFC. This move will create a more efficient approach to child welfare/court system reform and ensure that our CIP requirements are met.

CIP STATEWIDE MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TASK FORCE REQUIREMENTS (ACYF-CB-PI-20-12)

State courts must maintain a statewide multidisciplinary task force that includes, state and local judges, preferably including a justice of the highest court of appeals; top child welfare agency leadership; attorneys for parents, children and the child welfare agency; and, where applicable, Indian tribes or tribal consortia.

The Children's Bureau (CB) expects that representatives from the state IV-B/IV-E agency will be individuals who are involved in child welfare program planning and improvement efforts, and are equipped to participate in discussion of how CIPs can become meaningfully involved in these processes and ensure action.

State courts are strongly encouraged to include the following representatives on the task force:

- *the IV-B/IV-E agency administrator,*
- *the IV-B-IV-E agency quality assurance/continuous quality improvement lead,*
- *the Child and Family Service Plan (CFSP)/Annual Progress Services Report (APSR) lead,*
- *IV-B/IV-E agency official responsible for Child and Family Services Review (CFSR)/Program Improvement Plan (PIP) processes,*
- *the IV-B/IV-E agency permanency division director,*
- *the IV-B/IV-E agency training lead,*
- *Court Appointed Special Advocate leads,*
- *other related Children's Bureau grantees in the state, such as the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) lead,*
- *key service providers,*
- *state department of education representatives,*
- *an Indian Child Welfare Act specialist, and*
- *parents and youth with lived expertise in the child welfare system.*

State courts must provide an especially strong rationale in their grant application for not including the above identified agency representatives as task force members.

State courts are strongly encouraged to convene the task force at least quarterly. Task force meetings should include joint review and discussion of child welfare data, data that may be available from court or attorney data systems (including toolkit measures) and discussion of what those data may mean with this multidisciplinary group. Meetings shall be used as an opportunity to monitor and review goals, identify opportunities for interventions and plan CIP involvement in program planning and improvement efforts with the title IV-E/IV-B agency.

State courts must provide an especially strong rationale in their application for holding meetings less than quarterly.

CHILD WELFARE/COURT STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

COURT LEAD – ONGOING (AOC Staffed)			
Commission on Children in Foster Care (CCFC)	Innovative Dependency Court Collaborative (IDCC)	Court Improvement Program (CIP) Steering Committee	State Team Action Plan
Proposal: No Change	Proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet 8 times per year as workgroup of CCFC Incorporate CIP Steering Committee Responsibilities Incorporate State Team Action Plan work 	Proposal: Dissolve	Proposal: Include in IDCC workgroups
Established by Supreme Court Order in 2004	CIP Program Instruction Requirement	Initially established by AOC to provide input to the CIP grant	Teams formed in response to National Court and Child Welfare Organizations Request
QUARTERLY	MONTHLY + WORKGROUPS	ANNUALLY	4-6 ANNUALLY, AS NEEDED
Established to monitor and report on the extent to which child welfare programs and courts are responsive to the needs of the children in their joint care; to make recommendations for systemic improvements; and to broaden public awareness of and support for meeting the needs of vulnerable children and families, including provision of sufficient mental health, health care, education, and other services. Commission shall file an annual report with the Washington State	IDCC serves as the multidisciplinary task force required in the federal Court Improvement Program (CIP) <u>grant program instruction</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet at least quarterly. Task force meetings should include joint review and discussion of child welfare outcome data on court-involved youth and families, data that may be available from court data systems (including toolkit measures) and discussion of what those data may mean and how court or attorney practice may be contributing to such data. 	The mission of the Court Improvement Program (CIP) Steering Committee is to provide input to the Washington State Supreme Court and the Administrative Office of the Courts regarding the administration of grant funds for improving permanency, safety and well-being of children in the child welfare system. Meets annually to provide advice regarding CIP grant budget, assessment, and strategic plan.	The two teams described below feed off of each other to inspire states to move toward realization of the new vision for child welfare. 1)Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators invite Chief Justices to assemble a state team to participate in the National Judicial Leadership Summit on Child Welfare. Teams are expected to develop action plans based on specific themes created by national leaders. (National partners are Children’s Bureau, Casey Family Programs, Annie E. Casey

<p>Supreme Court, recommending appropriate action to serve and meet the needs of children in foster care and in the child welfare system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings shall be used as an opportunity to monitor and review goals, identify opportunities for interventions and plan CIP involvement in program planning and improvement efforts with the title IV-E/IV-B agency. <p><u>IDCC Charter states:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the CIP Strategic Plan and court related Child and Family Services Plan, Program Improvement Plan, and permanency grant plan objectives. • Encourage, generate, and support innovation with interested dependency court stakeholders and communities to empower and achieve justice for families. In order to achieve this mission, the collaborative will identify and implement key initiatives/projects which will move the needle on the IDCC goals and objectives. • The members will act as a conduit of information to and from their specific discipline. • On an annual basis the IDCC will identify the top key initiatives the collaborative will focus on for the next 12 months, and will have 		<p>Foundation, and National Center for State Courts.) Meeting occurs in late summer/fall.</p> <p>2)Serves as annual CIP grantee meeting bringing together CIP leadership, child welfare leadership and CBCAP leads (prevention). The meeting focuses on aligning state CFSP/APSRs, CIP strategic plans and CBCAP work to promote the goals of primary prevention to reduce child maltreatment and the need for foster care; reasonable efforts to prevent removal and finalize permanency goals; and improving the foster care experience for those children and youth that must enter care and their parents. Meeting occurs in spring.</p>
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	<p>flexibility as new, emerging issues arise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The IDCC will track a portfolio of projects and initiatives and report out on status 		
<p>Co-chaired by a justice of the Supreme Court (designated by the Chief Justice) and by the Assistant Secretary Department of Children, Youth, and Families.</p> <p>Commission shall consist of the following members, appointed by the Chief Justice:</p> <p>Attorney General of the State of Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction President-Judge of the Superior Court Judges Association Executive Director of Washington State CASA President/Co-Presidents of the Foster Parents Association of Washington State Chair of the Northwest Inter-Tribal Council Chair of the House Committee with oversight for issues relating to the child welfare system Chair of the Senate Committee with oversight for issues</p>	<p>CIP Instructions Require: Mandatory agency representation:</p> <p>Agency administrator Quality assurance/continuous quality improvement lead Child and Family Service Plan (CFSP)/Annual Progress Services Report (APSR) lead Permanency division director Agency attorney Training lead Tribal child or Indian Child Welfare Act specialist Other important members: Parent’s counsel/bar Children’s attorneys and/or guardians ad litem Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) programs Mental health/behavioral health treatment provider community Substance abuse treatment provider community Domestic violence programs including domestic violence coalition executive directors and family violence prevention and services state administrators</p>	<p>Members appointed by Chief Justice:</p> <p>Co-Chairs are the Co-Chairs of the Superior Court Judges’ Association Family and Juvenile Law Committee.</p> <p>Members: Attorney General’s Office CASA/Child Advocate Program Casey Family Programs DCYF Secretary or designee Judicial Officer knowledgeable about CSEC Juvenile Court Administrator Office of Civil Legal Aid Office of Public Defense Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Children’s Home Society Prior Co-Chair (judicial officer) Tribal Court Youth in Care/Alumni</p> <p>Staff: CIP Supervisor CIP Team:</p>	<p>1) Teams are limited to 10 members, which include the Chief Justice (or designee), State Court Administrator, Court Improvement Program Director, state Child Welfare Director, trial court judge, agency attorney, parent attorney, and children’s attorney. We always include a parent ally, as well, and one other person based on theme.</p> <p>2) Teams are limited to 7 participants: CIP director, child welfare director, CBCAP leads, judge, child attorney, parent attorney, additional partners. We always include a parent ally.</p>

<p>relating to the child welfare system. Director of the Office of Public Defense Director of the Office of Civil Legal Aid One youth currently in foster care One youth who has been reunified One alumni of foster care One parent who has been involved in a dependency proceeding One representative of foster care physical/mental health system One representative of child and family services providers President of Center for Children and Youth Justice One representative of Partners for Our Children</p>	<p>State departments of education Substance abuse, and mental health Other relevant state departments or agencies Relevant county agencies Local school districts Neighboring tribal court and Indian child welfare leaders and last, but not least, foster care alumni</p>	<p>WSSCR Manager and Sr. Research Associate CITA Director</p>	
<p><u>CURRENT MEMBERS:</u> Justice Barbara Madsen – Co-Chair Jody Becker – Co-Chair Raven Arroway-Healing Jim Bamberger Jolie Bwiza Mike Canfield Senator Jeannie Darneille Tony Gildred Jeannie Kee Laurie Lippold – POC Jill Malat Jill May Tonia McClanahan Joanne Moore Martin Mueller</p>	<p><u>CURRENT MEMBERS:</u> Cindy Bricker – Co-Chair Steve Grilli – Co-Chair Autumn Adams Brett Ballew Annie Blackledge Kwesi Booker Jason Bragg Payton Burkhart Sarah Burns Mike Canfield Jacob D’Annunzio Ambrosia Eberhardt Commissioner Terri Farmer Barb Geiger Darcey Hancock Erinn Havig Michael Heard</p>	<p><u>CURRENT MEMBERS:</u> Judge Cindy Larsen – Co-Chair Commissioner Jennie Laird – Co-Chair Jody Becker Peggy Carlson Judge Barbara Mack (Retired) Jill Malat Mockingbird Youth (vacant) Joanne Moore Alise Morrissey Ron Murphy Ryan Murrey Bobbie Jo Norton</p>	<p><u>CURRENT MEMBERS:</u> 1)Justice Barbara Madsen Dawn Marie Rubio Cindy Bricker Judge Elizabeth Berns Steve Grilli (DCYF) Shrounda Selivanoff (Parent Ally) Jacob D’Annunzio (OPD) Jill Malat (OCLA) Lisa LaGuardia (AAG) Barbara Harris (OPD-Racial Disproportionality Trainer) 2) Cindy Bricker Steve Grilli (DCYF)</p>

<p>Ryan Murrey Representative Tana Senn Rachel Sottile – CCYJ Judge Kitty-Ann van Doorninck Carrie Wayno</p> <p>Staff: Cindy Bricker Susan Goulet Moriah Freed</p>	<p>Melissa Krouse Laurie Lippold Commissioner Brandon Mack Jill Malat Regina McDougall Sally Mednansky Rachel Mercer Alise Morrissey Ron Murphy Angela Murray Ryan Murrey Bobbie Jo Norton Matt Orme Brandy Otto Drew Pugsley Jorene Reiber Doug Savelesky Paul Seabaugh Erika Thompson Avery Tuttle Kelly Warner-King</p> <p>Staff: Susan Goulet</p>	<p>Dennis Rabidou Commissioner Michelle Ressa Carrie Wayno</p> <p>Staff: Cindy Bricker Team: Carl McCurley Matt Orme Kelly Warner-King</p>	<p>Laura Alfani (CBCAP) Judge Elizabeth Berns Amelia Watson (OPD) Lisa LaGuardia (AAG) Gina WasseMiller (Parent Ally)</p> <p>Staff: Sarah Burns</p>
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COURT LEAD – TIME LIMITED (AOC Staffed)			
COVID Rapid Response	BJA Court Recovery TF Child Welfare Co.	Hearing Quality Project Evaluation Workgroup	
Ad hoc workgroup of CCFC – time limited	Ad hoc committee of BJA task force – time limited (expires June 2022)	Ad hoc workgroup of CIP – time limited	
BI-WEEKLY	MONTHLY + WORKGROUPS	AS NEEDED	
Multidisciplinary group identifying and resolving child welfare/court issues due to COVID.	The BJA Court Recovery Task Force is formed to assess current court impacts from COVID-19; develop and implement strategies to ensure that every court can provide fair, timely, and accessible justice; and provide recommendations for ongoing court operations and recovery after the	Capacity Building Center for Courts is providing technical assistance to develop an evaluation plan for our safety guide project, which meets the CIP requirement for a hearing quality project and also correlates with PIP strategies. The effort started with a	

	<p>public health emergency subsidies.</p> <p>Child Welfare Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess challenges and options for modified practices • Identify short-term and long-term goals based on identified priorities • Develop a work plan and timeline for activities • Discuss/identify the following considerations when developing your committee goals and activities: race and equity, access to justice, technology, self-represented litigants, and funding • Coordinate with and report to the whole Task Force 	<p>workshop in May 2020, and the group has met a few times since then. CBCC is taking the lead in conjunction with CIP. Membership will change, based on project needs and timelines.</p>	
<p><u>CURRENT MEMBERS:</u></p> <p><u>Leadership Team:</u> Steve Grilli Alise Morrissey Lauri Lippold Jacob D’Annunzio Esther Taylor Joseph Cooke Cindy Bricker</p> <p><u>Members:</u> Doug Allison Katie Biron Kwesi Booker Mike Canfield Arick Erechar Brianna Fenske Sydney Forrester Patricia Haynes Juliette Knight Allison Krutsinger Justice Barbara Madsen</p>	<p><u>CURRENT MEMBERS:</u> Linnea Anderson – Chair Cindy Bricker – Staff Kwesi Booker Sophia Byrd McSherry Ambrosia Eberhardt Carissa Greenberg Steve Grilli Darren Acoba Jill Malat Commissioner Tom Middleton Commissioner Patrick Moriarty Ryan Murrey Jenn Nguyen Matt Orme Commissioner Michelle Ressa Carrie Wayno</p>	<p><u>CURRENT MEMBERS:</u> Alicia Summers Allison Olson Melissa Krouse Tim Jaasko-Fisher Kelly Warner-King Carissa Greenberg Tarassa Froberg Judge Amber Finlay Jenne Renne Christine Kiesel Rob Wyman Nadia Nijim Jess Sucherman Jacob D’Annunzio Kelly Boyle Diane Shimizu</p>	

Jill Malat Jill May Joanne Moore Sheila Morley Deanna Morrison Angela Murray Ryan Murrey Jim Richardson Shrounda Selivanoff Shannon Selland Kelly Warner-King Carrie Wayno			
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DCYF Court Focused Meetings		
Children’s Justice Task Force	Safety Language Workgroup (PIP Strategy 4.2)	External Advisory Committee – Permanency from Day One (PFD1) Grant
Ad hoc workgroup of CCFC – time limited	Time-Limited	Through PFD1 Development and Implementation
QUARTERLY; Ad-Hoc Meeting	Q2 of the PIP (October – December 2020)	THREE TIMES PER YEAR
<p>The purpose of the CJTF is, (1) to serve as an advisory group to help improve and promote the safety and protection of children through a comprehensive review and evaluation of law and policy every three years, and, (2) to make training and policy recommendations to DCYF in the categories governed by Children's Justice Act.</p> <p>To fulfill the CJTF mission:</p> <p>a. At three-year intervals:</p> <p><i>i. Comprehensively review and evaluate State investigative, administrative and both civil and criminal judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as cases involving suspected child maltreatment related fatalities and cases involving a potential combination of jurisdictions, such as interstate, Federal-State, and State-Tribal.</i></p>	<p>Establish a short-term multi-disciplinary workgroup of IDCC subgroup members, FJCIP coordinators, field AGO, HQ program managers, DCYF field, Court Improvement Training Academy (CITA), the Alliance, and other identified stakeholders to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a crosswalk of DCYF Safety Framework, safety principles and existing court safety-related training and guidance. • Identify impacted/related procedures and forms. • Identify supportive resources available (i.e. 	<p>Agency and organizational stakeholders that work on permanency issues through various initiatives and projects happening in specific field offices, regions and statewide. To ensure that this grant project complements and builds on all of the permanency-related work happening in Washington State in both the public and nonprofit sectors.</p>

<p><i>ii. Make policy, training and funding recommendations with regard to the following areas:</i></p> <p><i>(a) Investigative, administrative and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as cases involving suspected child maltreatment related fatalities and cases involving potential combination of jurisdictions, such as interstate, Federal-State, and State-Tribal, in a manner which reduces the additional trauma to the child victim and the victim's family and also ensures procedural fairness to the accused;</i></p> <p><i>(b) Experimental, model, and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches and techniques which may improve the prompt and successful resolution of civil and criminal court proceedings, or enhance the effectiveness of judicial and administrative action in child abuse and exploitation cases, including the enhancement of performance of court-appointed attorneys and guardians ad litem for children, and also ensure procedural fairness to the accused; and</i></p> <p><i>(c) Reform of State laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children from abuse, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation, while ensuring fairness to all affected persons.</i></p> <p><i>iii. Make comments and recommendations relevant to its advisory role, as requested by DCYF.</i></p> <p>b. Serve in an advisory capacity to assist DCYF with regard to the implementation</p>	<p>safety framework posters for courtrooms)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make revisions (as needed) to current judicial/multi-disciplinary Child Safety Framework training as determined through the crosswalk including guidance for judges on specific questions related to safety threats and conditions for return home to be addressed at every court hearing. 	
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<p>of the recommendations in the areas outlined in section II.B.1.a.</p> <p>2. To fulfill the CJTF mission, the role of DCYF is to:</p> <p>a. Administer the CJAG and assign the function of Grant Manager to a position within the DCYF staff.</p> <p>b. Make the final determination of grant funding allocation, based on recommendations it receives from the CJTF.</p>		
<p><u>Members:</u> Seabaugh, Paul (DCYF) Amelia Watson Andy Miller Cindy Bricker Darcy Johnson DeAnn Yamamoto Donald Kinney Fawn Schott Greenberg, Carissa Ann (ATG) Heyd, Jana John Nowels Karen Kirk-Brockman Karen Winston Kateri Bishop Krista Ironbear Lydon, Lisa L (ATG) Stewart, Maggie (DCYF) Megan Winder Pugsley, Drew (ATG) Sally Olsen Teresa Forshag Maggie Stewart</p>	<p><u>Members:</u> Melissa Krouse, DCYF Kelly Boyle, DCYF Tarassa Froberg, DCYF Doug Savelesky, DCYF Lori VanClifford, DCYF Molly Rice, DCYF Melissa Sayer, DCYF LD Drew Pugsley (ATG) Kristin Valore (ATG) Haley Jo DeBell (ATG) Barbara Bailey (ATG) Katie Christopherson (ATG) Elizabeth Ensign (ATG) Brian Ward (ATG) Kim Witherspoon (ATG) Cindy Bricker (CIP) Alise Morrisey (P4P) Ambrosia Eberhardt (P4P) Avrey Tuttle (Mockingbird) Buffy Via (Pierce County Court) Sally Mednansky (FJCIP) Judge Amber Finley Commissioner Michelle Ressa Jacob D’Annunzio (OPD) Kelly Warner-King (CITA) Rob Wyman (Casey Family) Ryan Murrey (WA Child Advocates) Lisa Ball (Alliance)</p>	<p><u>Members:</u> AOC ATG CASA/GAL Casey Family Programs Children’s Home Society of WA Chemical Dependency Provider Court Judicial Rep DCYF CW Programs DCYF Field Operations DCYF PFD1 Team (Project Director, Grant Administrator, CQI PM) DCYF Change Management DCYF Tribal Representative DOC Foster Parent/Kin Provider FPWAS Juvenile Rehabilitation MH Provider NWRA Office of Civil Legal Aid OPD Parent Representative Alliance CITA Youth Representative</p>

	Deanne Bedell (Alliance)	
Implementation Team – PFD1		
Through PFD1 Development and Implementation		
THREE TIMES PER YEAR		
The Implementation Team includes critical DCYF HQ and regional programmatic staff, evaluation staff and external partners who are critical to implementing the selected interventions and to provide key implementation supports. It includes staff at all levels of the organization (workers, facilitators, supervisors, administrators and leadership, as well as parent allies, youth and a tribal representative)		
<u>Members:</u> Melissa Krouse (DCYF) Debbie Marker (DCYF) Stefanie Harmon (DCYF) Barb Geiger (DCYF) Brandy Otto (DCYF-Tribal) Holly Luna (DCYF) Xuan Chung (DCYF-LD) Peggy Lewis (DCYF-Adolescent Programs) Darcey Hancock, (DCYF – Field) Vickie Ybarra, OIAA Cindy Bricker, AOC Jason Bragg, Parent Cindy McKinney, Parent William Mendoza, Youth Christy Stretch, (DCYF – Field) Lori Blake (DCYF – Field – QA/CQI) Andrea Goberville (DCYF – Field) Jamie Belieu (DCYF – Field) Tamara Page (DCYF – Field) John March (DCYF – Field – DRA) Bolesha Johnson (DCYF – Field – DRA) Nicole Muller (DCYF – Field) Lori VanClifford (DCYF – Field) Heather Allan (Kempe Center Evaluator) Grant POFs and intervention office representatives		

COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
OVERVIEW OF 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN ACTIVITIES
FFY 2022-2027

Overall Goal/Mission of CIP: Promote justice in the child welfare system

The purpose of the CIP is to promote the continuous quality improvement of: (1) child welfare court hearings and reviews; (2) legal representation for parents, children, youth and the state child welfare agency; and (3) collaboration between the judicial branch, the child welfare agency, and tribes to improve child welfare outcomes.

Grant Project Requirements:

- (1) **Joint CIP/Child Welfare Agency Project:** *A joint project with the child welfare agency to improve a specific safety, permanency, or well-being outcome or outcomes.*

Strategies: (Aligned with DCYF Program Improvement Plan (PIP))

- Provide multidisciplinary safety training, to courts with PIP offices, that identifies safety principles that will be discussed at every court hearing and engages court partners in developing action steps to improve safety practice.
- Follow up coaching and support provided to courts and court partners to effectively implement action steps.
- Based on hearing quality evaluation results, modify training and supports, and create sustainable education plan for effective safety practice.

- (2) **Hearing Quality Project:** *A project to continuously improve the quality of child welfare court, shelter care hearings, and permanency hearings/reviews.*

Strategies: (Aligned with DCYF PIP)

- Conduct post training hearing quality assessment to determine if sufficient safety information is being provided and discussions are occurring in court.
- Hearing quality evaluation will be shared with DCYF and court partners to inform safety guide work.
- Work with the Capacity Building Center for Courts to develop ongoing hearing quality assessments to monitor the quality of in-court safety inquiry in the original PIP counties.

- (3) **Legal Representation Project:** *A project to continuously improve the quality of legal representation for parents, children and youth, or the child welfare agency at all stages of child welfare proceedings.*

Strategies:

- Review, develop and update the standards of practice, caseload limits and training guides for the children's representation program.
- Review best practices for representation of children under the age of eight and submit recommendations to the legislature.
- Assess short and long term impacts of standards-based legal representation on case outcomes.

Other Activities/Projects:

- **ICWA/Tribal Collaboration**
 - Include ICWA markers in the Hearing Quality Project evaluations to determine a baseline regarding ICWA compliance in court proceedings.
 - Create a Washington-centered ICWA benchcard, including the reason to know standard and case law.
 - Create a manual or handbook on how to better engage tribes and families, which is a living document that can be updated.
 - Invite interested courts and partners to an ICWA Courts and Collaboration Summit to raise awareness and support implementation of more ICWA courts, or if not an actual ICWA court, use those principles to improve ICWA practice.
 - Co-host the Reasonable Efforts Institute with the Capacity Building Center for Courts and add components to include active efforts.

- **Prevention**
 - As activities in the State Team Action Plan (to reduce racial injustice, reduce number of children unnecessarily entering foster care, and improving high quality legal representation upstream) are further discussed and workgroups develop action plans for moving items forward, they will be added to the CIP Strategic Plan. Items under consideration are:
 - Review statutory definition of neglect.
 - Require active efforts all children pre and post removal.
 - Remove barrier to placement with family.
 - Provide meaningful parent representation prior to shelter care hearing.
 - Require specific findings regarding reasonable efforts.
 - Support Family Intervention Response to Stop Trauma (FIRST) Clinic.
 - Utilize IV-E reimbursement to support multidisciplinary parent representation to engage parents earlier.

- **COVID-19 Public Health Emergency**
 - Assess dependency court practice at the local level.
 - Based on identified needs, connect court with resources to improve court practice and address access issues for parents, youth and court professionals.
 - Draft court rule to allow flexibility for parents, children and court participants to appear remotely for hearings and develop recommendations.
 - Develop best practice guidelines for management plan for discovery, trial documents and witnesses.