



**Washington State Supreme Court
Commission on Children in Foster Care
May 9, 2022
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present:

Justice Barbara Madsen, Washington State Supreme Court, Commission Co-Chair
Ross Hunter, Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), Commission Co-Chair
Jim Bamberger, Director, Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA)
Jolie Bwiza, Tacoma Chapter Leader, Mockingbird Youth Network
Judge Alicia Burton, Superior Court Judges' Association (SCJA)
Mike Canfield, Foster Parent Alliance of Washington State (FPAWS)
Alyssa Connolly, Northwest Intertribal Council
Sydney Doherty, Coordinated Care of WA; Foster Care Physical/Mental Health Representative
Veronica Gallardo, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (Designee for Chris Reykdal)
Larry Jefferson, Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD)
Jeannie Kee, Foster Youth Alumni Representative
Laurie Lippold, Partners for Our Children
Jill May, Washington Association for Children & Families
Tonia McClanahan, Parent Advocate Representative
Ryan Murrey, Washington Association of Child Advocate Programs (WACAP)
Yuval Berenstein on behalf of Representative Tana Senn, Washington House of Representatives
Rachel Sottile, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ)
Emily Stochel, Youth Who Has Been Reunified; College Success Foundation
Carrie Wayno, Attorney General's Office (Designee for Bob Ferguson)
Senator Claire Wilson, Washington State Senate
Bailey Zydek, Children's Representation Program Manager, OCLA

Members Not Present:

Beth Canfield, Foster Parent Allies of Washington State

Guests Present:

Katie Anderson, Family & Youth Justice Programs, AOC
Linda Benson, Interim Executive Director, Washington CASA Association
Sarah Burns, Statewide Innovation Coordinator, Family & Youth Justice Programs, AOC
Sophia Byrd McSherry, Office of Public Defense (OPD)
Peggy Carlson, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
Jacob D'Annunzio, Washington State OPD, Parents Representation Program
Patrick Dowd, Office of the Family and Children's Ombuds
Lauren Frederick, Mockingbird Society
Michael Griesedieck, Program Manager, King County Dependency CASA
Allison Krutsinger, DCYF Director of Government Affairs and Community Engagement
Jill Malat, OCLA Consultant
Erin Shea McCann, Legal Counsel for Youth & Children
Alison Mendiola, Senate Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation Committee
Jorene Reiber, Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators
Sierra Rogers, Regional Engagement Coordinator, Mockingbird Society
Sarah Sullivan, Think of Us

Reyana Ugas, CASA Supervisor, King County Dependency CASA
Tara Urs, King County Department of Public Defense
Laura Vogel, Family & Youth Justice Programs, AOC

Staff Present:

Kelly Warner-King, Family & Youth Justice Programs, AOC
Susan Goulet, Family & Youth Justice Programs, AOC

Call to Order

Justice Madsen called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Introductions and roll call were conducted virtually through the Zoom meeting chat box.

Justice Madsen welcomed Senator Claire Wilson to the Commission. She replaced Senator Jeannie Darneille on the Commission as Chair of the Senate Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation Committee. Senator Wilson said the committee is continuing the work Senator Darnielle did for so long, including looking at prevention supports that young people need, and she looks forward to working with the Commission to do good work on behalf of young people.

Approval of the Minutes

Justice Madsen invited a motion to approve the March 2022 meeting minutes. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

Legislative & Budget Updates

DCYF Highlights of the 2022 Legislative Session

Allison Krutsinger, DCYF Government Affairs Deputy Director, provided a DCYF Legislative Update, focusing on highlights of the 2022 Legislative Session that are most relevant to the Commission. She noted that this shorter supplemental legislative session was also conducted as a hybrid session (with a lot of remote and some in-person meetings). Significant investments were made in DCYF, driven by a strong economy in Washington State, which resulted in strong and positive steps forward for child welfare.

DCYF Decision Packages submitted to the Legislature and Funded Amounts included:

- (1) Indian Child Welfare Act Compliance - \$8,200,000 provided full funding, so DCYF is moving ahead with implementation.
- (2) Family Time Rates - \$23,900,000 provided a rate increase that went into effect April 1, 2022.
- (3) Combined In-Home Services - \$8,440,000 goes into effect July 1, 2022.
- (4) Kinship Caregiver Engagement - \$1,780,000 goes into effect July 1, 2022.

DCYF also put forward a request for Exceptional Placement Continuum Funding, which included five components and was fully funded:

- (1) Adolescent Housing Program Pilot (\$1,290,000).
- (2) Increases for Case Aide Hourly Rate (\$220,000).
- (3) Increase BRS Facility Rates (\$13,375,000).
- (4) Increase BRS Treatment Foster Care Rates (\$4,511,000).
- (5) Shared Planning (\$1,144,000).

Safely Reduce Number of Children in Out-of-Home Care Policy and Budget Highlights included:

- (1) Hub Home Foster and Kinship Constellations and Long-term Implementation (\$269,000).
- (2) Family Reconciliation Services (\$100,000).
- (3) Child Welfare Housing Pilot (\$767,000).
- (4) Prenatal Substance Exposure (\$300,000).
- (5) Grays Harbor SafeCare (\$100,000).

Create Successful Transitions to Adulthood Policy and Budget Highlights included:

- (1) Extended Foster Care Transition Stipends (\$10,600,000).
- (2) Systems Assessment of Extended Foster Care (\$200,000).
- (3) Youth Financial Capability (\$325,000).
- (4) Foster Care Educational Outreach (\$460,000).

Improve Quality and Intention of Practice Policy and Budget Highlights included:

- (1) Child Support Foster Care (\$2,000,000).
- (2) Child Welfare Workload Study (\$1,000,000).
- (3) BRS New Vancouver Facility (\$1,513,000).

DCYF Related Bill Highlights that Passed included:

- (1) HB 1747, *Child relative placements*, supporting relative placements in child welfare proceedings.
- (2) HB 1890, *Children behavioral health*, concerning the children and youth behavioral health work group.
- (3) HB 1905, *Homelessness/youth discharge*, reducing homelessness for youth and young adults discharging from a publicly funded system of care.
- (4) HB 1955, *Dependency/education*, creating uniformity in education requirements for students who are the subject of a dependency proceeding.
- (5) SB 5793, *State boards, etc./stipends*, concerning stipends for low-income or under represented community members of state boards, commissions, councils, committees, and similar groups.
- (6) HB 1735, *Peace officers/use of force*, modifying the standard for use of force by peace officers—bill clarifies law enforcement role in child welfare statutes.

Allison then discussed implementation of multiple Federal and State requirements that are putting pressure on DCYF to make major shifts in child welfare policy and practice. DCYF is trying to bring all of these new requirements together into one implementation plan to help it make sense for employees. She explained that system pressures from new federal laws, Washington Supreme Court decisions and changes in state legislation require DCYF to change policy and practice related to equity, preventing out of home placement, prioritizing relative placements, and reunification and permanency. DCYF acknowledges that it has to address some implementation challenges, including unaligned and outdated policies, inconsistent practice in the field, and problems with its IT system.

Secretary Hunter explained that it is not only external pressure requiring DCYF to make changes; there is internal pressure and urgency to do the same things. The improvements are extensive and will take time to accomplish. In response to a question about whether policies have been revised and are available to system partners, Secretary Hunter noted that DCYF's policies have not been updated yet. He said that the agency has a lot of work to do before it can produce coherent, updated policies. DCYF will come back to the Commission to talk about how staff plan to roll out the changes and new policies. Jacob D'Annunzio asked if the AGO agrees with shifting practice to

align with the new pressures, given that some legal arguments being made at the case level seem to be moving in the opposite direction. Secretary Hunter stated that the AGO is a key part of DCYF's implementation design effort.

Priority Budget Items—Partners for Our Children/Child Welfare Advocacy Coalition (CWAC)

Laurie Lippold thanked Allison and her team for their collaboration, and focused her presentation on legislative action relevant to the Commission that Allison had not yet covered, which included:

- HB 1747, Relative Placements/Guardianship.
- Rising Strong West: Capital Budget \$150,000 for continued planning with a goal of submitting a capital budget request for 2023.
- Family Resource Centers: \$5,000,000 to build capacity to divert families from entering dependency.
- Behavioral Health 7% Medicaid Rate Increase: to provide stability for behavioral health work.
- HB 1800, Parent Portal: final budget was \$257,000 GFS total.
- Parents for Parents (P4P): One-time funding of \$425,000, that went to OPD, is provided in FY 2023 to increase support for P4P program which provides peer mentoring for parents involved in the dependency court system.

Family and Juvenile Court Improvement Program (FJCIP) Expansion

The AOC was successful in securing legislative funding to expand resources and court sites for the Family and Juvenile Court Improvement Program (FJCIP). Since 2008, FJCIP has provided funding to local dependency courts to support a dedicated court improvement coordinator who helps judicial officers and court partners understand their performance data, continuously assess their effectiveness, and improve operations to better serve families, children, and professionals. Currently, there are ten FJCIP courts that receive partial funding for a FJCIP coordinator. The new budget allocation does the following:

- increases current FJCIP court allocations to fully fund current FJCIP coordinators' salaries and benefits,
- adds six new courts FJCIP courts, and
- creates two new AOC staff positions to coordinate, support, and evaluate the FJCIP program across sites.

Secretary Hunter invited Senator Claire Wilson to share her thoughts on the legislative session and what to expect going forward. Senator Wilson discussed:

- Juvenile Record Sealing: work was started, and although it didn't pass in the most recent session, work will continue.
- Extended Foster Care: Mockingbird launched this work and the legislature will keep thinking about how to meet the service and support needs of young people, ages 21-25.
- Reentry Services.
- Washington Future Fund: to help young people create generational wealth.
- Compensation for lived experience: Senator Wilson plans to work with the Governor's Office of Equity to operationalize.

Racial Equity Discussion: WACAP and Washington CASA Association

Ryan Murrey, Washington Association of Child Advocate Programs (WACAP) presented on WACAP's efforts to address racial inequities. Ryan shared a list of WACAP member programs, by county, that identifies where the programs are located – in a court, a non-profit, and/or a tribe. He then gave a general overview of the WACAP Core training, which was approved for use by the

AOC in March 2020. WACAP has served as the primary facilitator of trainings for child advocates since the pandemic started, conducting ten virtual statewide trainings for over 700 new advocates and staff. It was noted that the King, Snohomish, and Chelan-Douglas CASA programs train new volunteers using the National CASA curriculum. The WACAP curriculum consists of 30 hours of training, with materials and presentation slides available on their website. Zoom training sessions run Monday through Thursday, 10am-12pm, and again at 5:30pm-7:30pm for four weeks. WACAP plans to host quarterly trainings from now on. Sixty percent of trainees go onto take a case, and the program is strongly reunification based.

Understanding inequities and addressing racial bias are major themes of the training and appear in the following ways:

- The concept of disproportionality is introduced on the first day, with child-related data presented statewide and county by county.
- A section on Bias includes an introductory news video clip addressing disproportionality, and a required reading of the article “However Kindly Intentioned: Structural Racism and Volunteer CASA Programs.” Participants are then broken into small groups to discuss the questions: “Why did the authors single out volunteer advocates?” and “Why do disproportional results occur even though no one sets out with that intention?” A large group discussion is then facilitated for up to two hours. Ryan pointed out that, for a lot of folks this is stressful, because it is the first time they are having a conversation about race equity.
- Participants consider their own privileges by participating in a privilege “walk” exercise and video.
- They are also provided with a “Disproportionality Card” (one-side includes questions from a NCJFCJ-developed benchcard to help combat disproportionality, and the other side illustrates the “Ladder of Inference” to help them understand how bias occurs in their own thinking.
- A video on ICWA, produced by NCJFCJ, and class instruction explain how child advocacy works for Native American children.
- Included in the LGBTQ advocacy section is an exercise where they look at healthy youth surveys and do an empathy building activity for the coming-out process, produced by the Trevor Project.

Ryan shared a list of the WACAP links and resources on their website, including Core Training Materials and other resources, including the annual WACAP ICWA Institute and Conference Session. Ryan also provided Commission members with a document called “Sample of Local Program DEI Recent Activities” in the meeting materials.

Ryan then answered Commission members’ questions. In response to questions about the demographics of potential volunteers who participate in the training, Ryan responded that he doesn’t have that data yet, but they started tracking that this year. Justice Madsen asked whether trainees are coming from religious groups, churches, etc. Ryan said he hasn’t figured out how to ask that tactfully, and Justice Madsen said it would be great to track that information in the future. Larry Jefferson reported that he recently provided a presentation to a CASA audience and felt that these trainings are important to help reduce harm to families going through the system. Ryan said he has received requests to provide more of the racial equity trainings. Rachel Sottile thanked Ryan for this information, and also referenced a study of CASA volunteers in Texas that found that involvement of a CASA volunteer in a case reduces the likelihood of reunification. Justice Madsen encouraged WACAP to conduct an evaluation of the impact of CASAs and VGALs in Washington, suggesting that grants may be available to cover the cost.

Michael Griesedieck and Reyana Ugas, of King County Dependency CASA, then presented on the racial equity efforts of the Washington CASA Association and local programs. Michael introduced Reyana, noting that she self identifies as a Black and Mexican woman who holds this work dear to her. Reyana reported there are eight CASA/GAL programs in nine counties in Washington State. She then shared Washington CASA goals, which include the following:

1. Internalizing Diversity, Equity Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) into every organization strategy, process, and policy
 - Align WA CASA’s current strategic initiatives with DEIB goals necessary to fulfill intent of the current plan
 - Review & recommend changes to all key policies, procedures, strategies & processes to reflect a DEIB centered organization
2. DEIB Planning for 2023-2025 –Support of State CASA programs
 - Demographic Gap Analysis of racial, ethnic & cultural disparities
 - Create goals, strategies & outcome measurements for marketing, outreach & awareness raising needed to help local directors recruit necessary volunteers to ensure no child must wait for an advocate:
 - Sample strategy -In collaboration with local programs:
 - Determine ongoing advocacy needs & timing
 - Set goals for volunteer diversity & lived experience resources
 - Identify recruitment vehicles & tactics
 - Expand private funding sources to meet recruitment goals
 - Track & record impact and lessons learned.

Reyana then shared highlights from last year’s Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (JEDI) training for local programs, which included the following three multi-session workshops:

- Workshop 1: Building Blocks of Dialogue
- Workshop 2: Whiteness –What It Is & Why It Matters; and
- Workshop 3: Antiracism–Going Beyond Allyship.

The JEDI training is free to all child welfare stakeholders, and it is facilitated with support of program staff. The trainings included: 11 facilitated and interactive sessions, 22 hours of training from July–September 2021, with 70 participants from across CASA/GAL programs, Courts, DCYF, Parent Allies. Additionally, CASA provides spaces for staff and volunteers to support continued learning, such as Pierce County’s White Anti-Racist Caucus group, Snohomish County’s JEDI Collective, and King County’s ESJ book group and affinity groups.

Resources from National CASA and other programs were also shared.

Reyana described focusing on equity in local program improvement efforts, which include Recruitment and Retention, and Ongoing Assessment and Accountability. Related to Recruitment and Retention of diverse volunteers and staff, programs are tracking demographics of staff and volunteers, reviewing application and hiring practices, stressing a commitment to cultural humility and addressing bias and racism within their roles and within the child welfare system. Ongoing Assessment and Accountability includes critical self-reflection work, such as: Case consultations, volunteer evaluations, work and advisory groups, and commitment to learning and doing better.

Jim Bamberger asked if there is a demographic breakdown of CASA volunteers here in Washington State. Michael reported that the CASA programs have 270 CASA volunteers; about 25% of those are people of color. Ryan said his program statistics show that 80% of volunteers are white. Jim also asked if there are third party academic evaluations of the CASA programs that were undertaken with an equity lens? Michael said he was not aware of any studies. Ryan reported there was one conducted in Texas.

Jacob asked if either program is tracking complaints regarding volunteers/staff, and if they have protocols for how complaints regarding bias/discrimination are investigated/managed. Michael reported that, in King County, they do have a defined grievance process that is posted on their website; also, complaints can be brought to the court under HB 1334. Ryan said they have not received complaints.

Laurie raised the question that, given that studies have shown that child outcomes could be made worse with CASA, would the two organizations would be willing to redesign the approach? Ryan said he appreciated her question, and we need to stay in our lane, but at the same time explore what does “best practice” really mean for children. Michael said they are always willing to have a conversation about that. Justice Madsen said we will try to figure out a forum for future discussions about this issue with CASA, perhaps coming back to a future Commission meeting to talk about ideas.

Secretary Hunter posed several questions: Are outcomes for children better if they have a CASA, or a lawyer? What is it we want for children, and how do we design a system that works? Ryan posed that the same questions can be asked about child welfare and social workers. Secretary Hunter acknowledged that he is trying to work on that for 50%. Justice Madsen stated that, as long as we have a system there is a need for an independent voice for children – right now, that role is served by WACAP and Washington CASA Association.

Reports from Commission Workgroups

Children’s Representation Standards Workgroup – Update & June 17th Meeting to Present to CCFC

Bailey Zydek reported that Jill Malat is still co-chair of the Children’s Representation Standards Workgroup, along with Emily Stochel. Jill reported that the workgroup is still meeting to develop its final proposed updated standards. OCLA staff met with the workgroup and shared its observations, and the workgroup has a meeting scheduled this week to discuss caseloads and the nature of the presentation of the standards. The report on representation of children under eight has been completed and Professor Lisa Kelly is retired. However, she and the authors of the report will be available for the Commission’s upcoming discussion about the workgroup’s recommendations on June 17th. Jill confirmed that Commission members will receive copies of the standards and under 8 report at least two weeks before the June 17th meeting. Jill encouraged everyone on the workgroup will attend.

Jim Bamberger will include caseload standard changes in a supplemental funding request in 2023, and additional funding in 2024-2025 will depend on what action the Commission takes on the standards. OCLA will need to provide a budget to DCYF to activate an interagency agreement for funding (a one-year contract). Justice Madsen said she is looking forward to receiving the materials prior to the June 17th meeting. Secretary Hunter said they do not have to submit their budget until September; DCYF will have time to read the analysis in time to respond and then address the budget.

Family Well-Being Community Collaborative (FWCC)

Kelly reported that members of the FWCC will attend a future Commission meeting to talk about the work that they are doing to prepare system partners to implement HB 1227 when it goes into effect in July 2023. The FWCC has three workgroups, that include the Appropriate Placement Decisions Workgroup, Ex Parte Removal Workgroup, and Shelter Care Removal Decisions Workgroup. The fourth workgroup, Family Time and HB 1194 Implementation Workgroup, will be focused on HB 1194. More information about the FWCC's work is available [here](#), and members may contact Kelly if they have interest in or questions about the FWCC and its workgroups.

AOC Court Research: Presentation of the 2021 Dependency Timeliness Report

Matt Orme, Senior Research Associate at the Washington State Center for Court Research (WSCCR), presented a high-level overview of the findings from the 2021 Annual Dependency Timeliness Report (DTR). The DTR is in its final administrative review, and it will be available [here](#) on the Washington Courts website when it is officially released.

Presentation Key Takeaways included:

- Looking at the inflow of children into the system, and pressures on the system, we see:
 - Dependency filings decreased again in 2021 by 10%. We expected a rebound but are not seeing it. In 2019, prior to the pandemic, there was a decline in dependency filings; then when we hit the pandemic and filings dropped by about 20%.
 - A look at month to month, year to year shows a decline of 24%.
 - In 2022, there was a greater influx in filings in March, and challenges in the system—new people, turnover.
 - Demographics show kids under three are the largest age group (48%) entering the system.
 - In 2017, process to outcome reports showed when we do things on time, duration of case is shorter and children reach permanency faster.
 - Decline in case timeliness over the pandemic.
 - Increase in adoption completion within six months of TPR (termination of parental rights).
- The New Dependency Dashboard is now available [here](#) and provides public data on dependency filings, demographics and timeliness measures.
 - Demographics: one can select for any jurisdiction in the state:
 - Age.
 - Gender.
 - Race Ethnicity – uses the WSRDAC (Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee) data.
 - State Map – for each county, racial breakdowns are available in a pie chart.
 - Dashboard is updated quarterly.
 - Dependency/termination filings over time:
 - Can see trends over time.
 - Example – see differences across counties.
 - Measures Over Time (this is new).

Matt shared that iDTR, the interactive database that provides the data for the annual report and the public dashboard, is available to court system partners (FJCIP Coordinators, judicial officers, OPD, DCYF and AOC). Access to the data enables partners to track aspects of the system over time and assess where efforts can be made to improve outcomes.

Family Reunification Celebrations

Tonia McClanahan, Co-Chair of the Family Reunification Day Celebrations Steering Committee, reported that June is national and state family reunification month. She reported that counties are being encouraged to hold celebrations, with nine counties currently confirmed for in-person events. Mini grants are being offered this year in the amount of \$200 through the AOC. The AOC works with the Governor's Office to provide a formal proclamation each year. Lorrie Thompson also develops promotional materials and provides teddy bears to be given out as gifts. In addition, Lorrie is working on the Governor's proclamation. Tonia also informed the Commission that Mason County Superior Court Judge Amber Finlay is retiring and invited everyone to celebrate her at the June 30th Mason County Reunification Day, which will be her last day on the job.

Overview of CIP Strategic Plan

Kelly provided an overview of the 2022-2023 CIP Strategic Plan that Family & Youth Justice Programs (FYJP) is developing, and detailed information about that can be found [here](#). She explained that the annual federal CIP grant application requires FYJP to develop a plan and implementation steps for a minimum of three projects as follows:

1. a project to continuously improve the quality of child welfare court hearings and reviews;
2. a project to continuously improve the quality of legal representation for parents, children and youth or the child welfare agency; and
3. a joint project with the title IV-B/IV-E agency to improve specific safety, permanency, or wellbeing outcomes as identified through the CFSR or other CQI process.

Additional projects that may also be included in the FY 2023 Strategic Plan include: Support for effective hybrid court operations and ICWA/Tribal Court collaboration.

Secretary Hunter recommend that CIP conduct ICWA work through one of the DCYF workgroups, rather than creating another workgroup. Kelly will talk with Tleena Ives about that, and if it makes sense to add some FJYP members as a subgroup to a DCYF workgroup, they may do that to make things more efficient.

The CIP grant application is due on June 30th, and Kelly would like Commission members' input and ideas. A CIP Feedback Session is scheduled on May 23rd, from 12:00-1:30pm, for CCFC members to attend. She will also send out more detailed documents for the Commission's review, and Commission members can contact Kelly directly with any questions.

Court Improvement Updates – Family & Youth Justice Programs

Early Childhood Courts

Kelly Warner-King and Rachel Sottile, Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ), provided an overview of the Early Childhood Courts (ECC) effort. Washington State data tells us that 46% of child abuse and neglect cases filed in 2020 involved children under 3 years old (compared to 40% in 2019). In addition, racial disproportionality for dependency involved young children is high:

- 2.9%: AI/AN 0-3 total WA population; 16%: AI/AN 0-3 dependency cases.
- 5.2%: Black 0-3 total WA population; 14%: Black 0-3 dependency cases.
- 13.7%: Hispanic 0-3 total WA population; 16%: Hispanic 0-3 dependency cases.

Rachel outlined the history of Early Childhood Courts in Washington. Pierce County began operating Best for Babies, the first Safe Babies Court Team (SBCT) in Washington, in 2016. In early 2020, CCYJ and AOC were approached by Zero To Three (ZTT) to determine the feasibility of expanding SBCT/ECC courts in Washington. Simultaneously, in May 2020, a funding opportunity to launch new ECC sites became available through ZTT/HRSA (Health Resources & Services Administration). She further explained that the intent of ECC work in Washington State is to improve experiences and services for families with young children in Dependency, as well as improving the collaboration and coordination of systems that support these families. CCYJ convened a design team that prominently included parent voices to develop standards for ECC Programs in Washington and ensure that courts adopting this approach do so with consistency and fidelity. ECCs are therapeutic, problem solving courts, which utilize the SBCT approach (more frequent court hearings, a dedicated Community Coordinator, a trauma-informed approach that encourages ongoing goal setting and increased family time to strengthen the relationship between parent and child. The courts are embedded in a Systems Change Initiative that includes a State Advisory Board, focused on supporting local sites and engaging multiple systems to serve families.

On May 13, 2021, Senate Bill (SB) 5331 established minimum requirements for ECCs, centering racial equity as a core standard, requiring antiracism training and data collection to address racial disproportionality and promote equitable outcomes for families. A fiscal note provided funding for evaluation and statewide coordinator support, both of which are housed at AOC. Katie Anderson is the Statewide Coordinator and Arina Gertseva, is the AOC researcher from the Washington Center for Court Research. Clark County just signed on as the newest court operating an ECC program, in addition to Kitsap, Pierce, Spokane, and Thurston Counties who are already operating ECCs, and Clallam County may also be starting a new ECC program soon.

Looking ahead, the original federal grant funding will sunset in 2022, so CCYJ worked with AOC and court partners to submitted a new grant proposal on May 2, 2022, requesting \$625,000 per year for 5 years, which would include Clallam County and possible Tribal courts expansion. Contacts for the ECC program are as follows:

- Emily Nicewonger, CCYJ Associate Director of Programs, ENicewonger@ccyj.org; and
- Katie Anderson, AOC Early Childhood Courts Statewide Coordinator, katie.anderson@courts.wa.gov.

"Vision for the Future" – Lived Experience Advisors & Think of Us – Partnership with DCYF Office of Adolescent Programs

Emily Stochel and Sarah Sullivan, from [Think of Us](#), provided the Commission background information and a preview regarding an upcoming "Vision for the Future" presentation. A year ago, Think of Us embarked on a research project to collaborate with lived experience experts in Washington to co-design a "Vision for the Future" for the Office of Adolescent Programs in partnership with DCYF. Prior to sharing this vision with the general public, the Lived Experience Advisors and Think of Us partners want to present the report to stakeholders. Their proposed vision lays out a plan to get to this world by reimagining five key stages of the adolescent experience:

1. Entering the system with dignity.
2. Experiencing the system empowered.
3. Anticipating adulthood with support.
4. Entering adulthood prepared.
5. Exiting the system ready.

The vision then maps out what it will take Washington State to get to this world. Commission members were asked to prioritize attending one of three upcoming presentations scheduled as follows:

- Wednesday, May 18th, from 1:30- 2:30pm at Think of Us Community Practice meeting;
- Wednesday, May 25th, from 2:00-3:00pm at Washington Passport Network series; and
- Thursday, May 26th, from 11:00am-12:00pm at Tea with Taku meeting.

Emily will also email the presentation dates and Zoom links to Commission members.

Closing & Adjournment

Justice Madsen thanked everyone for their presentations and attendance. She looks forward to seeing everyone at the Mockingbird Youth Leadership Summit on August 2, 2022, and at the next Commission meeting on September 12, 2022.

Next Steps:

- DCYF will come back to the Commission to talk about how staff plan to roll out the changes and new policies.
- Justice Madsen said we will try to figure out a forum for future discussions about this issue with CASA, perhaps coming back to a future Commission meeting to talk about ideas.
- Members of the FWCC will attend a future Commission meeting to talk about the work that they are doing to prepare system partners to implement HB 1227 when it goes into effect in July 2023.

Adjourned at 4:08 p.m. by Justice Barbara Madsen.