



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

**5/09/2022  
1:00-4:00 p.m.**

<https://wacourts.zoom.us/j/96813966308>

Meeting ID: 968 1396 6308

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+ 1 253 215 8782

**ANNOTATED Agenda**

<p>1:00 pm 7 min</p>	<p>1. Welcome and Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land and Forced Labor Acknowledgment</li> <li>• Please type your name and agency in the chat in lieu of roll call</li> <li>• If you have suggested agenda items for the next meeting, please type them into the chat or email Kelly Warner-King or the Co-Chairs before August 26, 2022.</li> <li>• Introduction of New Member – Senator Claire Wilson</li> </ul>	<p>Secretary Ross Hunter, <i>DCYF; Co-Chair</i></p> <p>Justice Barbara Madsen, <i>Co-Chair</i></p>
<p>1:07 pm 3 min</p>	<p>2. Approval of March 2022 Minutes</p>	<p>Justice Barbara Madsen, <i>Co-Chair</i></p>
<p>1:10 pm 45 min</p>	<p>3. Legislative &amp; Budget Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DCYF Highlights of the 2022 Legislative Session</li> <li>• Priority Budget Items—Partners for Our Children/Child Welfare Advocacy Coalition (CWAC)</li> <li>• Family and Juvenile Court Improvement Program (FJCIP) Expansion</li> </ul>	<p>Secretary Ross Hunter, <i>DCYF; Co-Chair</i></p> <p>Allison Krutsinger, <i>DCYF</i></p> <p>Laurie Lippold, <i>Partners for Our Children/CWAC</i></p> <p>Kelly Warner-King, <i>AOC</i></p>
<p>1:55 pm 30 min</p>	<p>4. Racial Equity Discussion: WACAP and Washington CASA Association</p>	<p>Ryan Murrey, <i>WACAP</i></p> <p>Reyana Ugas &amp; Michael Griesedieck, <i>King County Dependency CASA</i></p>
<p>2:25 pm 10 min</p>	<p>BREAK</p>	
<p>2:35 pm 20 min</p>	<p>5. Reports from Commission Workgroups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s Representation Standards Workgroup – Update and June 17th Meeting to Present to CCFC</li> <li>• Family Well-Being Community Collaborative (FWCC)</li> </ul>	<p>Bailey Zydek, <i>OCLA</i></p> <p>Kelly Warner-King, <i>AOC</i></p>
<p><b>New Business</b></p>		
<p>2:55 pm 20 min</p>	<p>6. AOC Court Research: Presentation of the 2021 Dependency Timeliness Report</p>	<p>Matt Orme, <i>Washington State Center for Court Research</i></p>

3:15 pm 5 min	7. Family Reunification Celebrations	Tonia McClanahan, <i>Parent Advocate Representative</i>
3:20 pm 15 min	8. Overview of CIP Strategic Plan	Kelly Warner-King, AOC
3:35 pm 15 min	9. Court Improvement Updates – Family & Youth Justice Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Childhood Courts</li> </ul>	Kelly Warner-King, AOC Rachel Sottile, CCYJ
3:50 pm 10 min	10. "Vision for the Future" – Lived Experience Advisors & Think of Us – partnership with DCYF Office of Adolescent Programs	Emily Stochel, <i>Youth Who Has Reunified</i>
4:00 pm	<u>Upcoming CCFC Event:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Leadership Summit (August 2, 2022, at 1:00pm)</li> </ul>	Justice Barbara Madsen, <i>Co-Chair</i>
	<b>Adjournment</b>	
	<u>Upcoming 2022 Meetings:</u> September 12, 2022 December 12, 2022	



**Washington State Supreme Court  
Commission on Children in Foster Care  
March 7, 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  
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)  
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)  
Bailey Zydek, Children's Representation Program Manager, OCLA

**Members Not Present:**

Beth Canfield, Foster Parent Allies of Washington State  
Sydney Doherty, Coordinated Care of WA; Foster Care Physical/Mental Health Representative  
Representative Tana Senn, Washington House of Representatives  
Senator Claire Wilson, Washington State Senate

**Guests Present:**

Katie Anderson, Family & Youth Justice Programs, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)  
Raven Arroway-Healing, Northwest Intertribal Council  
Linda Benson, Interim Executive Director, Washington CASA Association  
Keisha Bigby, Foster Care Assessment Program Harborview Abuse and Trauma Center  
Sarah Burns, Statewide Innovation Coordinator, Family & Youth Justice Programs, AOC  
Jill Bushnell, HB 1227 Project Manager, DCYF Office of Strategic Initiatives & Collaboration  
Peggy Carlson, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)  
Cynthia Delostrinos, Office of Court Innovation Associate Director, AOC  
Rima Ellard, Foster Care Assessment Program  
Carly Fa'ataualofa, Budget Assistant to the Governor, Early Learning and Child Welfare, Office of  
Financial Management  
Erin Shea McCann, Legal Counsel for Youth & Children  
Claire Phillips  
Jorene Reiber, Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators  
Dawn Marie Rubio, State Court Administrator, AOC  
Liz Trautman, Mockingbird Society

Laura Vogel, Family & Youth Justice Programs, AOC  
Vickie Ybarra, Director of DCYF's Office of Innovation, Alignment, and Accountability

**Staff Present:**

Kelly Warner-King, AOC  
Susan Goulet, 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 announced that Raven Arroyo-Healing is stepping down from her position on the Commission as Northwest Intertribal Court System (NICS) Representative, and Commission members thanked Raven for her years of service to the Commission. Raven then introduced Alyssa Connolly, who was just appointed by the NICS as the new NICS Representative on the Commission, and she expressed her confidence that Alyssa will represent the NICS well on the Commission. Alyssa thanked Raven and said she is proud to be here to serve on the Commission, and expressed her passion for tribal sovereignty and child welfare. Justice Madsen thanked the NICS for providing a new member on the Commission.

Justice Madsen also announced Senator Claire Wilson is the new Chair of the Senate Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation Committee, and she will fill Senator Jeannie Darneille's vacancy on the Commission. Senator Wilson was unable to attend today and will be formally introduced at a future Commission meeting.

Lastly, Justice Madsen announced that Veronica Gallardo is replacing Martin Mueller as the new Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Designee for Chris Reykdal. Veronica shared that she is a former teacher and has been an Assistant Superintendent with OSPI for three years, and she is honored to serve on the Commission. Justice Madsen thanked Veronica, and asked her to give Martin the Commission's appreciation for his service to Commission over the years.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Justice Madsen invited a motion to approve the December 2021 meeting minutes. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

**DCYF Presentation and Discussion**

Dr. Vickie Ybarra, Director of DCYF's Office of Innovation, Alignment, and Accountability (OIAA), and Secretary Hunter presented to the Commission regarding OIAA research and the implications of the KW Decision for DCYF practice. Copies of the [Research Brief: Child Outcomes in Kinship Care in Washington State](#), [Research Report: Examination of Infants Indicated for Substance Exposure/Affected at Birth](#), and the [In re Dependency of K.W. Supreme Court Decision](#) were provided in the meeting materials. Secretary Hunter began the presentation. He shared that this research is looking at child outcomes particularly in kinship care in Washington, and that Washington is slightly higher than the national average for kinship placement. In addition, he shared that the KW case will significantly change how DCYF will approach kinship cases, but they cannot say yet how DCYF will implement those changes.

Dr. Ybarra shared that her background as a public health nurse informs her work with DCYF with a prevention lens, and that when DCYF was created, the mission required the agency to get as far

upstream as possible to help children. She worked with Holly Luna and Doug Klinman on the kinship research brief, utilizing data from three main areas: national research, surveys of Washington youth not living with parents, and assessments of children and youth in DCYF care and authority. The research brief concluded that: (1) National research and Washington data show, on average, children in out-of-home care experience better well-being in kinship care than in non-relative foster care, and (2) Washington State's kinship placement rate is above average compared with other states, but still has room for growth (based on what they have seen from other states). She discussed 2011-2020 data for total children <18 in out-of-home placement (which they look at annually), and she reported Washington's percentage of children in kinship care is above 40% in kinship (which is high compared to many other states and is above the national average). In addition, compared with children in non-kinship foster care, children in kinship care on average experience fewer behavioral problems, fewer mental health disorders, better well-being, and less placement disruption. Dr. Ybarra also shared results from the 2018 Healthy Youth Survey showing that youth in relative foster care report that they felt less hopelessness than their peers who were in non-relative foster care (who reported the most hopelessness). Further, they looked at the percentage of "at risk" on PTSD screener of DCYF placements from 2016-2019, and they concluded that on average children and youth ages 6-17 placed in kinship care showed greater improvements on their PTSD scores over the course of the first six months in out-of-home care as compared to those in non-relative care. Finally, they looked at the percentage of "at risk" on a PSC-17 Externalizing Scale for DCYF Placements from 2016-2019, and they concluded that children and youth in kinship care demonstrate better outcomes on externalizing behavioral than those placed in non-relative foster care.

Dr. Ybarra and Secretary Hunter then addressed Commission members' questions regarding the research brief, which included the following. Tonia McClanahan asked what the small slice of "Other" was on the "Total Children <18 in Out-of-Home Placements by FY 2011-2020" graph; Dr. Ybarra said that includes hospital, juvenile rehabilitation, and county detention. Emily Stochel said she would like to see this data broken down by age ranges of those in care. Secretary Hunter said DCYF will be drilling into more of that data; although, the challenge is when they look at the data they are not always able to share the research, but they will when they can. Jill May asked what percentage of kinship care providers are licensed? Secretary Hunter said DCYF does not know right now, but he wants kinship caregivers to have what they need. He also said the total number of children in placement is less than 7,000; relative and kinship are comparable with relative being a little lower; and he would like to make the "Kin" on the graph completely licensed. Alyssa Connolly commented that, the results of the study are the reasons why, in many Tribal Youth Codes, relative placement is the primary placement preference; Secretary Hunter agreed with that comment. Laurie Lippold asked if DCYF has contacted other states with higher kinship placement numbers to ask how they have done it, and she asked how recent changes (funding for kinship engagement, SB 5151, and HB 1227) are coming together. In addition, Laurie noted she recently learned that 20% of kinship providers are licensed. Secretary Hunter said all of that movement is in the same direction, they all share an interest in linking that up, and the KW Decision will have enormous changes/impact on their practice.

Dr. Ybarra then discussed the OIAA research regarding the Research Report: Examination of Infants Indicated for Substance Exposure/Affected at Birth. She reported that, in 2020, Washington State ranked third highest in the nation for the percentage of infants (children less than 1 year old) entering placement, with 24% of all children who entered care. In addition, 63% of children ages 0-1 who were placed out of home and 79% of newborns who were placed out of home had parental substance use as a contributing factor in their cases. While the total screened-in intakes for

children age 0-1 decreased 9% from 2019-2020, young children placed in care with parental substance use decreased just 2.8% (ages 0-1) and 4.4% (first 30 days). Statewide, the number of newborns placed within the first 30 days with parental substance use was 585 with 47% in King, Pierce, and Spokane Counties. Dr. Ybarra provided the following information about pregnant and parenting women (PPW) and access to inpatient treatment in Washington:

- HCA reports that there are nine PPW inpatient treatment providers in the state with 144 beds statewide.
- Not nearly enough PPW inpatient treatment beds exist to meet the need, and they do not exist at all in Pierce and King Counties.
- FFPSA (Families First Prevention Services Act) allows supplemental foster care payments to be made to these providers, but as of August 2021 only three providers have billed.
- From 2012 to 2020, there was an almost 300% increase in the number of infants reported to child welfare as substance-exposed/affected. One third of these children were placed in out-of-home care within 30 days of intake, and 20% of referrals that screened out due to the child not being born yet ('unborn victim') were subsequently referred as newborns.

Dr. Ybarra then provided information about the DCYF SUD Pregnant Pilot, started in 2020 in partnership with the Harvard Government Performance Lab (HGPL Fellows Program). This project started with three partner DCYF offices: Tacoma, Puyallup, and Spokane Central. Over the last year they have been able to (1) work through an AAG opinion to clarify DCYF authority to offer voluntary services for screened out referrals [HB 1661 shows they have the authority]; (2) identify and engage community organizations to serve as care coordinators; (3) engage DCYF Intake Units as key prevention partners, and create new practices for those staff; (4) develop information sharing permissions; and (5) create a tribal pathway for AI/AN referrals. The DCYF SUD Pregnant Pilot is now at the point that all of the eligible intakes are referred to care coordinators in their pilot areas and they are ready to implement the pilot into King County. If successful, adding King County would mean the program would cover 60% of eligible referrals statewide.

For clarification, Secretary Hunter asked: if a pregnant person is referred to a coordinator, will they be referred to treatment? Dr. Ybarra said if clients are able and willing, the program does all it can to ensure the clients get treatment. The program hasn't been evaluated yet, but they plan to conduct an evaluation. Secretary Hunter said he would like to see clients who are referred to coordinators ultimately get treatment, thereby avoiding removal of their children.

Larry Jefferson asked if there is a connection to the FIRST Clinic, and Dr. Ybarra confirmed that the FIRST Clinic is one of the pilot partners. Larry said that OPD would like to help expand the FIRST Clinic, including requesting funds from the Legislature next year to expand the FIRST Clinic across the state. Rachael asked about an indication/measure of the need for SUD treatment. Dr. Ybarra reported that DCYF has identified areas of the state where access to treatment is chronically limited, and they have known for some time what the treatment needs are. Secretary Hunter said we all need to coordinate and target the high-need areas first, including working with housing authorities. Laurie informed the group that there is a small amount of funding in the capital budget to support ongoing planning for creating a Rising Strong program on the west side of the state and she anticipates a full budget request in 2023. Tonia commented that Dr. Kaitlan Baston, national pediatric expert, says when a baby is affected by opiates it is best that the baby be held and breast fed by the mom to naturally detox, and she asked if Washington implementing this? Dr. Ybarra shared that some hospitals around the state are utilizing the Eat, Sleep, Console program

that does that. She also posted the following RDA Study on Substance Abuse Treatment Needs/Services among Child Welfare Involved Caregivers in the chat: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ffa/rda/research-reports/substance-use-disorder-treatment-penetration-among-child-welfare-involved-caregivers>. Secretary Hunter said DCYF would be interested in getting ahead on these topics, doing some research in advance would be great, and Commission members should keep DCYF informed on things they learn about as well. Larry added that OPD would also appreciate research topic suggestions from the Commission. Kelly asked Dr. Ybarra if DCYF could share Family Time data for young children, once they have it. Dr. Ybarra noted that Family Time data is on their minds too now, and they are looking forward to doing more work on that. If Commission members have questions or comments, they can contact Dr. Ybarra ([vickie.ybarra@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:vickie.ybarra@dcyf.wa.gov)) or Secretary Hunter. Dr. Ybarra also offered to keep attending these meetings to keep the Commission informed if they would like.

### **DCYF 1227 Implementation Update**

Jill Bushnell, HB 1227 Project Manager for DCYF's Office of Strategic Initiatives & Collaboration, provided a high-level overview of DCYF's HB 1227 Keeping Families Together Act work plan. Jill explained that HB 1227 was enacted in 2021, and it will go into effect July 1, 2023. The law is intended to: (1) safely reduce the number of children in foster care, (2) reduce racial bias in the system, and (3) remove children from their home only when necessary to prevent imminent physical harm. She further explained that this work overlaps with other efforts happening in DCYF, including the FFPSA, Family Practice Model, PIP (Program Improvement Plan), court decisions and other legislation. The specific focus of the HB 1227 work plan is on preparing the agency for shifts in practice before HB 1227 goes into effect. The agency is preparing internally with a project governance & implementation structure, overseen by Steve Grilli and Natalie Green. In addition, they have a number of DCYF implementation planning workgroups that will be making recommendations for changes through the different phases of implementation. Jill shared DCYF's HB 1227 implementation timeline through June 2023, and the details of what each workgroup will be doing. The following shows when each workgroup will be doing its work:

#### DCYF Stakeholder Workgroups

(January-April 2022)

- 1.1 Diligent Efforts
- 1.3 In-Home Dependencies & Voluntary Services
- 1.4/1.6 Enhance Safety Framework & Pre-Dependency Consultations
- 1.8 Placement with a Relative or Suitable Other
- 1.9 Cultural Shift Approach
- 2.1 Service Array Plan

(Varies; May 2022-June 2023)

- 1.5 Training Plan
- 1.7 Policy Changes
- 3.3 Support for Kinship Licensing Decision

#### Internal DCYF Workgroups

(Varies, though June 2023)

- 1.2 Service of Notice to Parents
- 3.1 Streamlining Licensing & Payment
- 3.2 IT Changes for Licensing & Payment
- 3.4 Policy/WAC Changes for Licensing & Payment

## AOC/FWCC Court Workgroups

(Through June 2023)

- Ex Parte Removal Workgroup
- Shelter Care Removal Decisions Workgroup
- Appropriate Placement Decisions Workgroup

Jim Bamberger pointed out he didn't see racial equity called out in the presentation and asked how DCYF is addressing that. Jill said that is embedded in the workgroups with a focus on culturally appropriate and responsive services; there is not a separate workgroup formed to address equity. Secretary Hunter asked for feedback on how best to do that. Suggestions included getting feedback from BIPOC people about the overall work; seeding workgroups with people of color; inviting families to share their voices in order to drive recommendations and suggestions in each community across the state, and compensating them for their contributions. Tonia McClanahan asked if the Cultural Shift Workgroup could work on addressing equity. Jim suggested that equity needs to be part of the charter—openly articulated and structures built on the front end decision making, to make sure racial equity issues are being addressed. Secretary Hunter said he will come back to the group and provide more clarity on this.

Laurie asked about how to deal with bias related to character and confidence issues (i.e. criminal background) when certifying caregiver. Secretary Hunter said the KW Decision clearly addresses the need to reduce bias in the background check process and in decisions made based on the results of background checks. He said DCYF cannot rely on an old criminal conviction; they need to articulate the specific reasons justifying a decision. DCYF plans to reduce opportunities for bias to come into play in background checks by creating a more reliable, consistent model. Secretary Hunter said he would love to come and present to the Commission once DCYF has a chance to look more closely at the KW Decision.

## **Reports from Commission Workgroups**

### *Family Well-Being Community Collaborative (FWCC)*

Kelly reported that the Innovative Dependency Court Collaborative (IDCC), was redesigned and is now the Family Well-Being Court Collaborative (FWCC). This group serves as the Court Improvement Program's required cross-system workgroup. Kelly shared the FWCC's mission statement: "Collaborate to keep families safely together and supported in their communities and to radically reduce inequities within the child welfare court system." She explained that the FWCC is focused on upstream efforts to avoid entry into the system by addressing the impacts of poverty and trauma on families, and for families who require the oversight of court, ensuring that they receive effective, culturally-relevant services in a system that is equitable, accountable, and hope-centered. The FWCC is organized in the following four workgroups:

1. Ex Parte Removal Hearings Workgroup
2. Shelter Care Removal Decisions Workgroup
3. Appropriate Placement Decisions Workgroup
4. Family Time and HB 1194 Implementation Workgroup

These workgroups are action-oriented, with clear timelines and plans to develop resources and training to support effective implementation of the new laws. More details about the FWCC and its workgroups are available here: <https://www.wacita.org/family-well-being-community-collaborative-fwcc/>.

### State Team Action Plan

Sarah Burns shared the history of the State Team Action Plan, including attendance at the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) “Change Collaborative: Continuing Upwards from the Summit” event on December 15, 2021. This event was designed for teams to reflect on the progress achieved in 2021 and to look ahead to 2022. Sarah also provided a copy of the original State Team Action Plan (which includes the State Team’s list of members and strategies from the 2020 National Judicial Leadership Summit on Child Welfare). Following the December 2021 event, State Team members developed priorities for 2022: (1) remove barriers to placement with family (including criminal history and prior unfounded allegations), (2) provide meaningful parent representation prior to shelter care hearing by enforcing RCW 13.34.090 regarding the provision of counsel and discovery prior to shelter care, and (3) improve practice at shelter care hearings by emphasizing safety planning and expanding in-home dependencies.

Justice Madsen provided additional context for the State Team’s work regarding improved Shelter Care practice, including defining best practice regarding early assignment of attorneys and providing discovery and client contact information at least one day prior to the initial Shelter Care hearing. Secretary Hunter expressed concerns about the feasibility of completing all of this work in the first 72 hours of a case. Justice Madsen noted that some jurisdictions already get all of this done within 72 hours, and that suggested to her that it can be done. The group is interested in learning more about what motivated those jurisdictions.

### Children’s Representation Standards Workgroup Update

Bailey Zydek provided an update on the Children’s Representation Standards Workgroup. The Workgroup is divided into four subcommittees that meet regularly. Bailey said they had a full Workgroup session today, and there was some discussion about the report on representation of children under 8 possibly being in conflict with the standards they are reviewing. The Workgroup wants to stay on track to get the report on children under 8 to the Commission by March 31<sup>st</sup>. However, it may be difficult to have it all done in time for the Commission to review it beforehand, and the Workgroup may need to ask for an extension. The standards committee has some more work to do, and they will be meeting by March 11<sup>th</sup>. They are prepared to meet with the Commission again sometime in April.

Ryan asked if the Commission will have a chance to review the report before it goes out. Bailey said, yes, that is their intent. Ryan also asked if the Legislature has been made aware that they will not be finished by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Bailey said the report on representation of children under 8 is the only document due to the Legislature and they may need to ask for an extension so the reports can be reconciled. Jim Bamberger informed that the statute does require the 8 and under report to be submitted by March 31<sup>st</sup>, and the Workgroup’s job now is to get the reports to the Commission. Secretary Hunter said there are no penalties for missing the deadline; OCLA just needs to notify the Legislature that they will miss the deadline.

Justice Madsen emphasized that Commission members will need sufficient lead time to review the report and recommended standards prior to the feedback meeting. Secretary Hunter requested that Commission members get at least two weeks to review the documents prior to the meeting. Bailey will communicate that request to the Workgroup. Kelly and Susan will work with Bailey to make sure that timeline will work and to schedule the meeting. Jim informed the Commission that Bailey has succeeded Jill as the Children’s Representation Program Manager at OCLA, and OCLA is also hiring for two new positions.

Rachel mentioned that she would like to develop a way for Commission partners to share their initiatives with the group so that everyone will be informed. She noted that the WACAP budget request to fund attorneys for child advocate programs came as a surprise to others working on child representation. Ryan agreed that open communication is important, but said this is something that has never come up in the Commission before. Justice Madsen said she will be interested to hear Commission members' feedback.

## **Court Improvement Updates – Family & Youth Justice Programs**

### Court Improvement Program

Kelly reported that the Court Improvement Program at the AOC has a new name; it is now called Family & Youth Justice Programs (FYJP). Current FYJP projects include: cross-system Safety Summits, the 2022 Reasonable and Active Efforts Judicial Academy (being held on March 31-April 1 and April 14-15), launch of Washington State Center for Court Research's public Dependency Dashboard 2.0, and development of an Equity and Engagement Framework.

In 2021, FYJP and DCYF co-facilitated safety summits and follow up on county action plans in Chelan, King, Kitsap, Mason, and Pierce Counties, and upcoming 2022 summits are being planned in Grays Harbor, Skagit, and Spokane Counties. Positive results that developed out of the 2021 safety summits include: Kitsap County developed three documents that they are having printed/laminated to distribute widely; development of mini trainings focused on specific parts of the safety framework (i.e. one will be looking at safety threats); and Mason County implemented the use of their walkaway order for parents. Some of the safety summit sites are integrating the science of hope into their work, and FYJP will continue to work with the courts/sites on the changes they desire to make. Kelly expressed her appreciation to DCYF, Ryan Murray, Jacob D'Annunzio, and others for their partnership on the safety summits and other FYJP trainings. More information about safety summits and child safety framework is available here: <https://www.wacita.org/safety-framework/>. For questions about FYJP trainings, Commission members can contact Laura at [laura.vogel@courts.wa.gov](mailto:laura.vogel@courts.wa.gov).

### Family Treatment Courts

This item was tabled until a future Commission meeting.

### Early Childhood Courts

This item was tabled until a future Commission meeting.

## **Closing & Adjournment**

The next Commission meeting is on May 9, 2022. Justice Madsen reminded members to send in their ideas for future agenda topics.

**Adjourned at 4:00 p.m. by Justice Barbara Madsen.**

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
HB1747 – Relative placements/Guardianship	Amount in the FN	Rep. Ortiz-Self	No	No	\$492k GFS \$625m Total	\$492k GFS \$625m Total  Plus:  \$65k for Program Support (DCYF); \$65k for implementation (AG)
Child Welfare Housing (Proviso)	\$767k GFS to continue the existing program + \$667k to expand to allow families where housing could prevent removal to also be eligible for the program	Sen. Saldana Rep. Rule	No	\$767k GFS/Total To extend the pilot program by 1 year  \$637k GFS/Total To expand the pilot program to serve families with a child at risk of out of home placement	\$367k GFS/Total [This amount accounts for the underspend in the pilot program]	\$367k GFS/Total  One-time funding is provided for the child welfare housing assistance pilot program to operate through FY 2023. Funding that is anticipated to be unspent in FY 2022 is shifted to FY 2023 to defray the FY 2023 funding need.

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
Child Support – need funding and the revised proviso language (Proviso)	\$1.798m GFS \$.390m Other \$2.188m Total	Sen. Dhingra Rep. Ortiz-Self	Yes	No	\$1.652m GFS \$2.005m Total Includes the preferred proviso language	<p>\$1.652m GFS \$2.005m Total Includes the preferred proviso language</p> <p>Funding is provided for the Department to refer child welfare cases for child support collection in cases where a child has been abandoned rather than automatically referring all cases. This includes one-time funding in FY 2022 for Information Technology (IT) system changes to turn off the automatic case referral to the Department of Social and Health Services' Division of Child Support, as well as</p>

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
						ongoing funding for 2.0 FTE staff to conduct case evaluations effective April 1, 2022. Funding is provided in FY 2023 and beyond to backfill the reduction in child support collections used towards a child's cost of care.
Legal Support for Kinship Caregivers (Proviso)	\$350k GFS	Sen. Hunt Sen. King Rep. Harris-Talley	No	\$350k GFS/Total	\$350k GFS/Total	\$350k GFS/Total  Funding is provided for two attorneys, one in eastern Washington and one in western Washington, to provide guidance and advice for relative caregivers on the process of becoming a legal guardian and other related legal proceedings.

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
In home Services Rate Increase (Proviso)	\$8.4m GFS	Sen. Dhingra Sen. Warnick Sen. Hunt Rep. Rule Rep. Eslick	Yes	\$8.440m GFS/Total	\$8.440m GFS/Total	\$8.440m GFS/Total  Combined in-home services (CIHS) provide skill-based and therapy-based services to help families care for their children safely at home. Funding is provided to increase CIHS rates effective July 1, 2022, as recommended by a market rate study completed by a contracted vendor in calendar year 2021.
Family Time Rate Increase and mile 0 (Proviso)	\$35.6m Total	Sen. Wilson Rep. Ortiz-Self	Yes	\$21.468m GFS \$26.180m Total	\$27.687m GFS \$33.765m Total	\$19.595m GFS \$23.901m Total  Funding is provided to increase the hourly reimbursement rate for child visitation

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
						services to \$37.19, to reimburse mileage starting from the first mile, and to create an Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) compliance contracting structure.
Workforce Study	\$.800m GFS \$.200m Other \$1.0m Total		Yes	\$800k GFS \$1m Total  Includes the preferred approach and proviso language	\$400k GFS \$500k Total Child Welfare Study;  \$400k GFS \$500k Total ICWA Study	\$400k GFS \$500k Total Child Welfare Study;  \$400k GFS \$500k Total ICWA Study  One-time funding is provided for the Department to enter into a contract with an outside entity to conduct a workload study that examines how recent state Supreme Court decisions relating to

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
						ICWA have impacted the workloads of case-carrying workers. This contract and study may be combined with one-time funding provided to study the impacts of state and federal laws on child welfare worker workload.
Rising Strong West (Capital)	\$150k	Sen. Frockt Rep. Callan	No	\$150k Capital	\$150k Capital	\$150k Capital
Family Resource Centers	\$5m GFS	Sen. Lovelett Rep. Stonier Rep. Eslick	No	No	\$5m GFS/Total	\$5m GFS/Total  Funding is provided for grants to family resource centers (FRCs) and organizations becoming FRCs to increase capacity and

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
						enhance service provision.
SB5793 – Stipends for Lived Experience		Rep. Gregerson Sen. Wilson	\$50k GFS/Total	No	\$500k GFS/Total	\$250k GFS/Total  Funding is provided for stipends for individuals who participate on boards, commissions, councils, committees and work groups across state government pursuant to Second Substitute Senate Bill 5793
HB1905 – Homeless Youth	\$1.559,402	Rep. Senn	System of Care Grants were included	\$2.018m was included for System of Care grants. \$500k of this is for young people exiting behavioral	\$4.434m GFS/Total + \$1.036 GFS/Total (Rapid Response Team)  Total=\$5.47m	\$4.434mGFS/Total*  Plus:  \$768k GFS for the Rapid Response Team  *\$1.6m – Flex Funds \$625k – HSYNC

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov’s Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
				health facilities.	The \$4.434 includes funding for: \$1.6m-Flex fund \$625k- Housing stability for youth in crisis program; \$2.018- System of Care grants (of which \$500k is for young people exiting BH facilities	\$2.018m – System of Care Grants (of which \$500k is for grants to assist young adults discharging from inpatient BH facilities to obtain housing) \$191k -- Unallocated
Financial Assistance for Young People Exiting Extended Foster Care	\$10.6m GFS/Total	Sen. Wilson Sen. Billig Rep. Frame	\$10.6m GFS/Total + \$200k GFS/Total This is for a system assessment	\$10.626m GFS/Total + \$200k GFS/Total for the system assessment	\$10.626m GFS/Total + \$200k GFS/Total for the system assessment	\$10.626m GFS/Total + \$200k GFS/Total for the system assessment  One-time funding is provided for monthly stipends to support

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
						<p>young adults who have aged out of Extended Foster Care (EFC) during the COVID-19 pandemic and through June 2023. Monthly stipends shall be distributed through a contract with a nonprofit organization and must be even amounts each month to the degree feasible. A 3 percent administrative fee is also funded.</p> <p>One-time funding is provided in FY 2023 to assess state and federally funded services and benefits for young adults enrolled in or exiting EFC to make recommendations to</p>

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
						improve the continuum of supports for this population to support successful transitions to independent adulthood.
Community Based Services for Adolescents and Their Families	\$5m GFS	Sen. Wilson Sen. Kuderer Rep. Senn	No	No	No	No
FRS Re-design	\$100k	Rep. Senn Sen. Wilson	No	No	\$100k GFS/Total	\$100k GFS/Total  One-time funding is provided for the Department to partner with the Department of Commerce to co-design community-based Family Reconciliation Services to assess and stabilize youth and families in crisis

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
						through primary prevention services. Preliminary recommendations must be submitted to the Governor and appropriate legislative committees no later than December 1, 2022.
Community planning grants	\$1m	Rep. Senn Sen. Wilson	No	No	No	No
Juvenile Block Grant Oversight Committee	\$0	Rep. Senn Sen. Wilson	No	Not included	Yes, language was included	Yes, language was included
Expansion of Juvenile Block Grant Funding to At-Risk Programs	\$0	Rep. Senn Sen. Wilson	No	Not included	Yes, language was included	Yes, language was included
Guaranteed Basic Income Pilots	\$10m	Rep. Berry	No	No	No	No

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
<p>BH 7% Medicaid Rate Increase</p> <p>Note: There is also an ask for a 7% rate increase for non-Medicaid services, that often include emergency BH services.</p>	<p>\$16.5m GFS \$33.3m Fed \$49.9m Total</p> <p>[The total for the 7% increase for non-Medicaid is still being developed,]</p>	<p>Sen. Dhingra Reps. Callan</p> <p>Note: This was also included in Sen. Braun's bill, SB5829</p>	<p>The Governor included an increase of 4.5%: \$10.749m GFS \$20.711m Other \$31.460m Total</p>	<p>\$18.066m GFS \$53.248m Total</p>	<p>\$17.399m GFS \$51,030m Total</p> <p>Non Medicaid=\$30..074m GFS/Total</p>	<p>\$17.128m GFS \$49.989m Total</p> <p>Funding is provided to increase Medicaid behavioral health provider rates by 7 percent effective January 1, 2023. The Authority must employ directed payment or other methodologies allowed under Medicaid managed care regulations to direct the funding increase to behavioral health providers.</p>
<p>HB1890 Children/youth BH Strategic Plan</p>		<p>Rep. Callan</p>	<p>\$300k GFS/Total</p>	<p>\$300k GFS/Total</p>	<p>\$563k GFS/Total</p>	<p>\$563k GFS/Total</p>

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
HB1800 Parent Portal	Fiscal note was estimated to be \$352k	Rep. Eslick	Did not appear to be delineated but rather included in a broader proviso	No	\$257k GFS/Total	\$257k GFS/Total
BH Provider Relief	\$200m Total	Sen. Dhingra Rep. Macri	\$50m Total	\$100m GFS/Total	\$42m GFS \$58m GFS \$100m Total	\$100m GFS/Total  Funding is provided on a one-time basis for the Authority to address behavioral health treatment access issues resulting from workforce shortages and impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency. This funding must be used to provide one-time assistance payments to non-hospital-based community behavioral

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
						health treatment providers receiving payment for Medicaid services contracted through the Medicaid MCOs or BHASOs.
Community Health Workers in primary care settings		Sen. Frockt	No	\$2.087m GFS/Total	No	\$2.087m GFS/Total  Funding is provided for a two-year grant program to reimburse community health workers whose patients are significantly comprised of pediatric patients under age 18 and enrolled in medical assistance programs.
Startup activities for BH integration in primary care	\$2m	Rep. Leavitt	No	No	\$2m GFS/Total	\$2m GFS/Total  Funding is provided for one-time grants for eligible clinics to

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
						establish behavioral health integration in primary care clinics for children and adolescents.
CLIP Beds and Rate Increase		Rep. Callan	Beds – Yes Rate – No	Included funding for 32 beds. Also include a 4.5% rate increase.	Includes funding for an additional 35 beds by the end of FY23 and by 46 beds by the end of FY24. Also included is a 4.5% rate increase.	\$6.296m GFS \$12.592 Total  Assumes 72 beds by the end of FY23 and 83 by the end of FY24. Funding is also provided for a 4.5% rate increase in Jan '23.
Youth BH Grant (BH Shelter Enhancement)	\$1.2m	Rep. Callan Sen. Wilson	No	No	\$600k GFS/Total	\$600k GFS/Total  Funding is increased for grants to youth shelter providers to offer behavioral health services.

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
Grants for BH Clinicians in Schools	\$10.0m	Rep. Thai Sen. Wilson?	No	No	No	No
Parent Warm Line	\$500k	Rep. Entenman Sen. Wilson	Yes	\$500k GFS/Total	\$500k GFS/Total	\$500k GFS/Total  Funding is provided for the Perinatal Support Warm Line to provide peer support, resources, and referrals to new and expectant parents and people in the emotional transition to parenthood experiencing, or at risk of, postpartum depression or other mental health issues.
Study of CCBHCs	\$890k	Rep. Leavitt	\$300k GFS \$600k Total	\$100k GFS \$200k Total	\$300k GFS \$600k Total	\$300k GFS \$600k Total  Funding is provided on a one-time basis for the Authority to

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
						explore the development and implementation of a sustainable, alternative payment model for comprehensive community behavioral health services including examination of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic model, which provides for an enhanced Medicaid reimbursement rate based on anticipated costs of expanding services to meet the needs of complex populations.
CCBHC Bridge Funding	The Children/Youth BH Workgroup did not have a	Sen. Braun	No	\$10m GFS/Total	No	\$5.0m GFS/Total  Funding is provided for grants to 12

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
	request for a specific \$ amount.					Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) who received funding from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to continue their operations pending the end of their federal grant period.
BH Supervision Requirements	\$150k	Rep. Rule	No	No	No	No
School Based Health Centers	\$914k	Rep. Stonier	\$814k	\$814k GFS/Total	\$914k GFS/Total	\$814k GFS/Total  Funding is provided to expand grants to establish new school-based health centers, add behavioral health capacity to existing school-based health centers, and for the

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
						Department of Health to provide technical assistance for the school-based health centers.
Infant/EC MH Consultation	\$185k	Rep. Senn	Included \$ for Tribal consultants	\$260k GFS/Total – Tribal Consultants	\$260k GFS/Total – MH supports for tribal Head Start, ECEAP, and childcare + \$185K GFS/Total 3 consultants to fill the gap	\$185k GFS/Total  Funding is provided to backfill a grant ending in FY 2022 that provides funding for part of the current infants and early childhood mental health consultants proviso.
Additional Referral Assist Staff	\$280k	Rep. Callan	No	\$480k Total	\$480k GFS/Total	\$480k GFS/Total  Funding is provided for additional staff support for the Mental Health Referral Service for Children and Teens.

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>House/Senate Lead</b>	<b>Gov's Budget</b>	<b>Senate Budget</b>	<b>House Budget</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>
IOP/PH Pilot	\$2.85m	Rep. Callan	No	\$2.850m GFS/Total	No	\$2.850m GFS/Total  Funding is provided to expand the Partial Hospitalization and Intensive Outpatient pilot programs originally funded in the 2020 supplemental budget to an additional site beginning in FY 2023.
ECEAP Complex Needs Fund	\$1.8m	Rep. Senn	No	No	No	No
<b>OTHER</b>						
Parents for Parents			No	No	\$425k GFS One time funding	\$425k GFS One time funding  One-time funding is provided in FY 2023 to increase support for the Parents for

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>House/Senate Lead</b>	<b>Gov's Budget</b>	<b>Senate Budget</b>	<b>House Budget</b>	<b>Final Budget</b>
						Parents program, which provides peer mentoring for parents involved in the dependency court system.
Family Connections Program			No	No	\$325k GFS \$425k Total	No
Vendor Rate Study	\$40k GFS/Total	Sen Rolfes	\$40k GFS/Total	\$40k GFS/Total	\$40k GFS/Total	\$40k GFS/Total  Funding is provided to report on vendor rates on services provided to low-income individuals at certain state agencies. A report is due to legislative fiscal committees by November 1, 2022.
Ed Advocates		Sen. Carlyle	No	\$460k GFS/Total	No	\$460k GFS/Total  One-time funding is provided for four

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
						additional education advocate positions with a community-based organization to reduce educational barriers for students in foster care.
Youth Homelessness Outreach		Sen. Carlyle	No	\$50k GFS/Total	No	\$50k GFS/Total  Funding is provided for information and support to stakeholders, inpatient treatment facilities, young people and other community providers that serve unaccompanied youth and young adults who have entered an inpatient mental health and/or substance use disorder facility to support exits from

**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
						inpatient care into safe housing and support services.
WorkFirst Time Limit Extension			No	No	\$9.950m GFS/Total  The funding would extend the current TLE policy through June 30, 2023.	\$10.9m GFS/Total  The funding would extend the current TLE policy through June 30, 2023.  Funding is provided to expand the 60-month time limit in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program through June 2023 for households experiencing a hardship.
Diaper benefit		Sen. Nobles Rep. Frame		\$.489k GFF/Total This is for admin and overhead costs	\$5.1m GFS/Total	\$5.0m GFS/Total  Pursuant to Substitute Senate Bill 5838 (diaper subsidy/TANF),

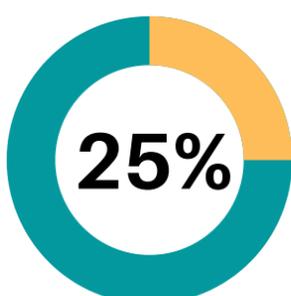
**Priority Budget Items – Partners for Our Children  
Child Welfare and Children/Youth Behavioral Health**

Issue	Amount Requested	House/Senate Lead	Gov's Budget	Senate Budget	House Budget	Final Budget
				associated with implementing the bill - SB5838		<p>funding is provided for a monthly diaper subsidy for those households receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) with a child under the age of three. The act takes effect November 1, 2023.</p> <p>Plus:</p> <p>\$489k GFS/Total Startup</p>



# Administrative Office of the Courts Family and Juvenile Court Improvement Program 2022 Budget Request

Supporting courts to produce better outcomes  
for children and families



of WA counties  
receive FJCIP  
funding

## 10 FJCIP counties



### FJCIP provides dependency courts with:

- ➔ **Dedicated Staff:** Coordinators help courts use data and research, provide training, convene stakeholders and improve court programs and processes.
- ➔ **Trained Judiciary:** Dependency judicial officers required to have 30 hours of relevant training.
- ➔ **Stable Leadership:** Chief Juvenile Judge assigned for a minimum of 2 years.

FJCIP courts continuously assess their effectiveness and improve their operations to better serve families, children, and professionals

#### Local Court Innovations

- Safe Babies Courts
- Parents for Parents Program
- Trauma-Informed Courts
- Finding Fathers expedited paternity testing
- Mediation & settlement conferences

[FJCIP 2020 Legislative Report](#)

#### Better Case Outcomes for Families

- FJCIP courts exceed statewide averages on all case compliance measures
- Families reunify faster in FJCIP courts:  
16 months vs. 18 months (2019)

[FJCIP 2019 Legislative Report](#)

#### Improved Court Performance compared to non-FJCIP courts

- Ongoing evaluation of case processing and timeliness
- Coordinating court response to COVID
- Cross system collaboration and partnership

## Current Funding

Annual Allocation  
**\$598,819**

Program funding was cut in 2009 from \$800,000 and has remained the same for 12 years.



Court allocations based original amount requested in 2008



Covers 75% of costs for part-time and full-time coordinators in all 10 counties

\$0

No AOC funding to support, train and evaluate

## Proposed Funding

Additional Annual Allocation  
**\$1,167,181**



Increase current FJCIP court allocations to fully fund coordinator salaries and benefits **\$336,181**

6

Add six new FJCIP Courts **\$510,000**



Provide funding for AOC staff to coordinate, support and evaluate the program across sites

**\$321,000**

# Washington Association of Child Advocate Programs

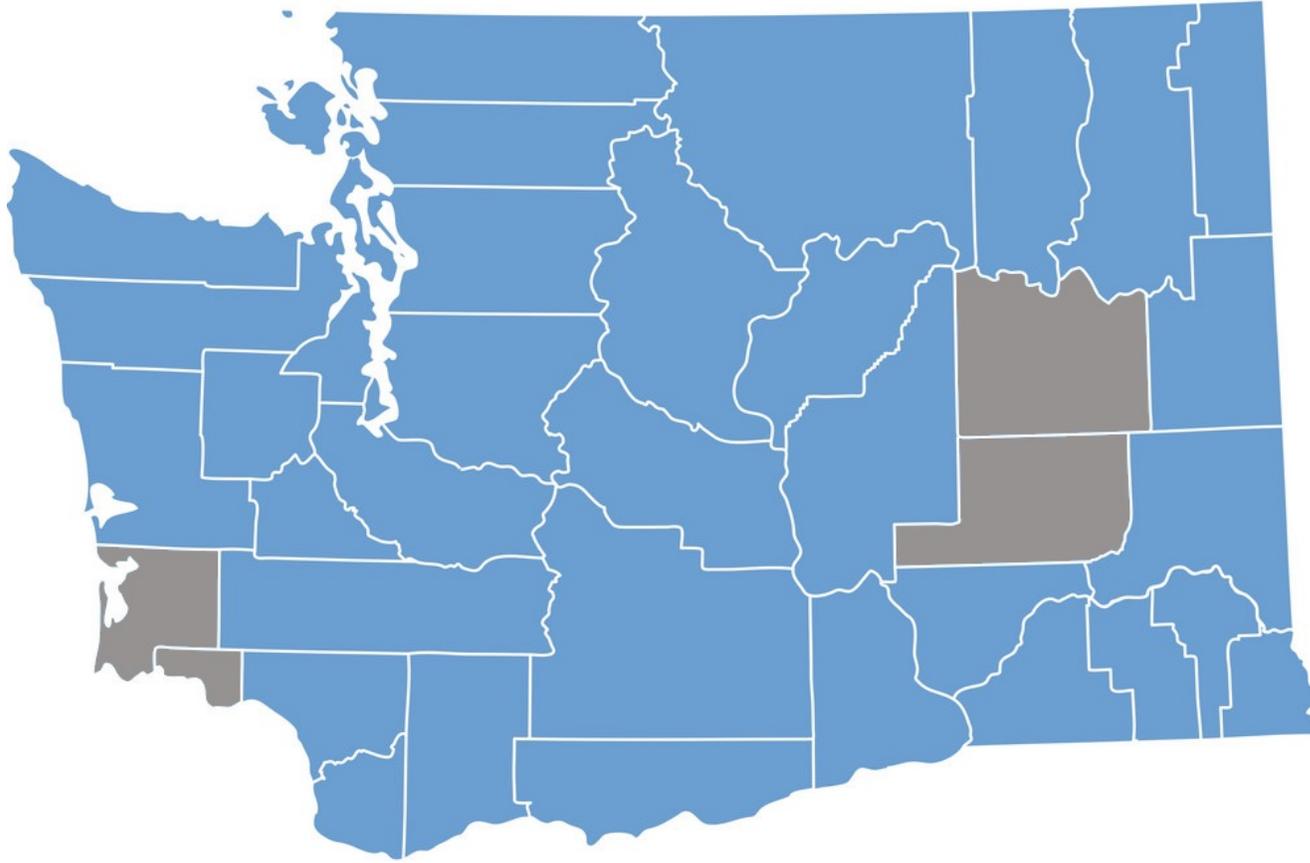
Resources and trainings for advocates and staff around anti-racism, diversity, and equity.

Prepared for Washington Commission on Foster Care, May 9, 2022



**Washington Association of  
Child Advocate Programs**

# WACAP Member Programs



## Court Based

Asotin-Garfield  
Benton-Franklin  
Clallam  
Ferry  
Grant  
Island  
\*Jefferson  
\*King  
Kitsap  
Klickitat  
Lewis  
Mason

Okanogan  
Pierce  
San Juan  
Skagit  
Skamania  
\*Snohomish<sup>1</sup>  
\*Spokane  
Stevens  
Thurston  
Walla Walla- Columbia  
Whatcom  
Whitman

## Non-Profit

\*Chelan-Douglas  
Clark<sup>2</sup>  
Cowlitz<sup>2</sup>

Grays Harbor  
\*Kittitas

## Tribal

\*Kalispel/Pend Oreille  
Port Gamble S'Klallam  
Quileute

Spokane  
\*Yakama

*\* Dual WACAP/Washington CASA membership*

*<sup>1</sup> Executive branch administered*

*<sup>2</sup> Cowlitz CCA awarded Clark County contract in Jan 2022*

# WACAP Core Training

## General Overview

- WACAP Core training approved for use by AOC in March of 2020
- WACAP has served as primary facilitator since pandemic and have conducted 10 statewide\* trainings for over 700 new advocates and staff
- 30 hours total – entire curriculum (powerpoints, handouts, etc) available on our website
- Zooms run Mon-Thurs, 10 AM – noon, repeated 5:30 – 7:30 PM for four weeks
- WACAP plan is to host quarterly trainings from here on out
- 60% trainees go on to take a case – AmeriCorps grant/funding to hopefully address
- Strongly reunification focused

*\*King, Snohomish and Chelan-Douglas train new volunteers using National CASA curriculum*

# WACAP Core Training

- Concept of disproportionality introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> day – both statewide and county by county
- Bias section:
  - Introductory video clip by Fox Q13 talking about disproportionality
  - All participants are required to read “However Kindly Intentioned: Structural Racism and Volunteer CASA Programs” as homework prior to class
    - Participants are then broken into small groups (4-6) and given 20-30 minutes of time to discuss the following 2 questions:
      - “Why did the authors single out volunteer advocates?”
      - “Why do disproportional results occur even though no one sets out with that intention”
    - After small breakouts, larger group discussion for 30 minutes to 2 hours.
  - Followed by a privilege “walk” and video
  - Then followed up with our “Disproportionality Card”
    - One side has questions from a NCJFCJ developed benchcard to help combat disproportionality
    - Side two has the “Ladder of Inference” to give folks a tool to help understand how bias occurs in their thinking
  - Then a video on ICWA also produced by the NCJFCJ and how child advocacy works for Native American Children
  - And bookend with our LGBTQ advocacy section, where we look at healthy youth surveys and do an empathy building activity for the coming out process produced by the Trevor Project

Demographic Information for Kids (2019); Filings (2021) by select counties in Washington

Asotin								
	Native American	Asian/Pacific Is.	Black	White	Hispanic	Native + Multi	Black + Multi	Other-Multi/Unk
All Kids	2%	1%	1%	81%	8%		6%	
Dependency Filings (5)				80%		20%		

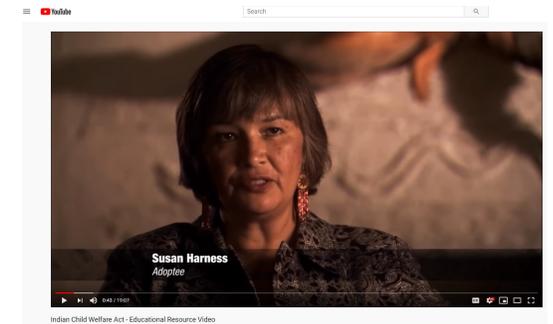
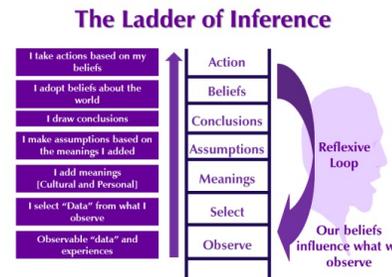
Benton								
	Native American	Asian/Pacific Is.	Black	White	Hispanic	Native + Multi	Black + Multi	Other-Multi/Unk
All Kids	1%	3%	1%	55%	35%		4%	
Dependency Filings (113)		1%	3%	51%	32%	5%	8%	1%

Clallam								
	Native American	Asian/Pacific Is.	Black	White	Hispanic	Native + Multi	Black + Multi	Other-Multi/Unk
All Kids	2%			67%	14%		10%	
Dependency Filings (82)	5%	1%	2%	67%	3%	17%	7%	

Clark								
	Native American	Asian/Pacific Is.	Black	White	Hispanic	Native + Multi	Black + Multi	Other-Multi/Unk
All Kids								
Dependency Filings (82)								

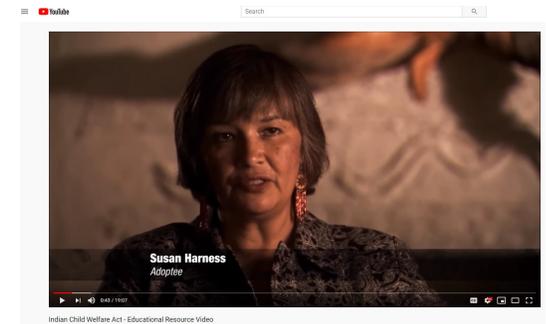
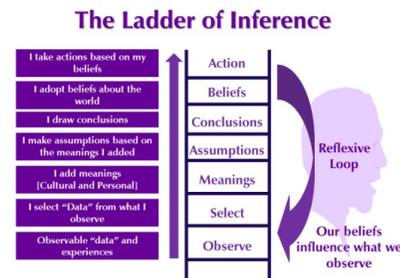


# WACAP Core Training

Demographic Information for Kids (2019); Filings (2021) by select counties in Washington

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# WACAP Core Training

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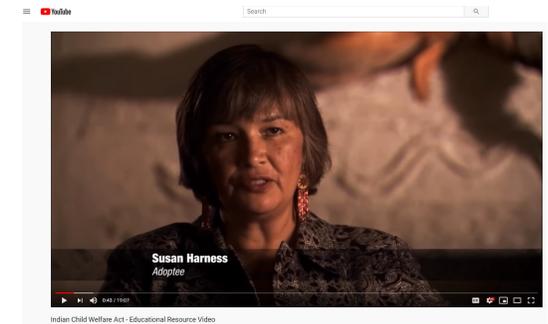
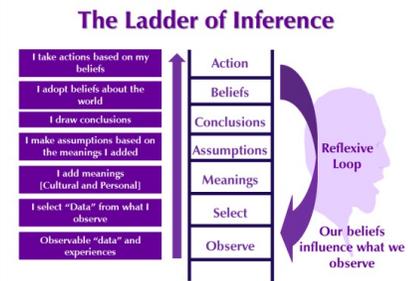
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All Kids								
Dependency Filings (82)								



# Links and Resources

## CORE TRAINING MATERIALS

<a href="#">Bias, Privilege, and Race</a>	ppt
<a href="#">Disproportionality Benchcard and Ladder of Inference</a>	pdf
<a href="#">Implicit Bias: From Awareness to Change</a>	pdf
<a href="#">Bias in the Family: Race, Ethnicity and Culture in Custody Disputes</a>	pdf
<a href="#">However Kindly Intentioned</a>	Pdf
<a href="#">Privilege Walk "quiz"</a>	Google Doc
<a href="#">Q13 Disproportionality Report</a>	Video
<a href="#">"Dismantling Implicit Biases"</a>	Video
<a href="#">"Ladder of Inference"</a>	Video
<a href="#">"Bringing Our Children Home: An Introduction to ICWA"</a>	Video
<a href="#">Local Race statistics</a>	Google Doc

## Other Resources (non-core training)

<a href="#">WACAP ICWA Institute, 2020</a>	YouTube Playlist
<a href="#">WACAP ICWA Institute, 2021</a>	YouTube Playlist
<a href="#">Advocating for BIPOC Children: Race, Ethnicity, Culture &amp; Culture Humility, Dr Marian Harris &amp; Amelia Watson, OPD</a>	Conference 2021 Session

## Sample of Local Program DEI Recent Activities

### Pierce

- Our program has been actively involved in supporting ICWA for the last 15 years, through having GALs who sit on LICWAC, supporting development of the ICWA Institute to the training volunteers annually about the Spirit Behind the Act.
- Hired a Volunteer and Community Coordinator that will assist with focusing our recruiting and developing community partnerships with people who are doing the work of Race Equity.
- Created the Diversity Collective in 2019 that serves as advisory to our program and is made up of Advocates and staff of Color.
- Applied for and received grant to increase BIPOC Advocates. Was able to support BIPOC youth and families with this grant for funding for unmet needs, developed partnerships with community to support hair care of BIPOC youth in care. With support of the grant was able to hire consultants to develop Anti-Racist Advocacy training.
- Created Community conversation targeted at recruiting advocates of color.
- Our agency has an agency wide Equity Team that has been functioning since 2014.
- Updated our hiring announcements that is explicit about our values of anti-racism, being trauma informed, etc.
- Ask anti-racism questions in application and interview process.
- Creating a Shared Leadership Team within our department that is based in indigenous wisdom/leadership principles to support transformation work to adapt to changes in child welfare and support families.
- Created an Early Engagement position that is designed to look at early decisions in cases to keep children with families.

Our volunteers started a White Anti-Racist Caucus group. Here is excerpt from their welcome email: We know the Child Advocate Program is invested in uncovering where racism shows up in the dependency court system which will help lead to solutions. As Child Advocates we can work together and in lock step with the whole program to be more overtly active in understanding how racism impacts kids and families in child welfare and what our role is. Having taken the Child Advocate training, we have all been exposed to learning about how racism, judgement and bias shows up in this work. However, even when well-intended and ~~in~~ trying to learn, white people say and do things that cause harm to our black and brown friends, colleagues, community, kids, and families... A white caucus provides time and space to work explicitly and intentionally on understanding white culture and white privilege and helps us increase our (and each other's) critical analysis around these concepts. As a white person I have made many missteps in my own journey to unlearn and relearn. I am hoping as Child Advocates we can do our part and start the conversation so we can grow and learn together towards a more just and equitable system for kids and families.

### Snohomish

Our commitment to DEI can be found on our [website](#).

Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (JEDI) Training

WA CASA Association hired two well qualified, expert trainers to conduct a three-month JEDI training in 2021 for staff, volunteers, and stakeholders statewide, free of charge to all participants. I received additional training as a facilitator of JEDI, along with another member from my program. JEDI was comprised of three sections: 1) Building Blocks of Dialogue, 2) Whiteness – What It Is and Why It Matters and 3) AntiRacism – Going Beyond Allyship.

#### JEDI Collective – ongoing

After our JEDI training series ended in October 2021, participants from Snohomish County deepened our commitment by forming the JEDI Collective. Since that time, our Collective has met consistently one time per week with a mission to dismantle systemic racism in order to cultivate racial justice within the CASA Program, the child welfare system, and the communities where we live and work.

#### Discontinued Use of Pseudonyms

Throughout the CASA Program’s 42-year history, CASA volunteers used a “pseudonym” or alias name to conduct their volunteer work. As a program today, we felt the use of a “pseudonym” no longer aligned with our core values. As such, this practice was eliminated in 2021, and all CASA volunteers use legal names to conduct CASA related work.

#### Washington State Correctional Facility Database

Our team used the LIST application in TEAMS and developed a WA State Correctional Facility database in an effort to promote equity and inclusion for incarcerated parents. The database includes every facility, contact information and all resources available at each location and is used by CASA staff and volunteers in order to have easy access to services available to incarcerated parents so that best-interest recommendations can be made, especially around parent-child visitation. The database is user-friendly, easy to manipulate and is regularly updated by CASA Program administrative staff.

#### Updated CASA Brochures and Recruitment Flyer

Updated CASA informational brochures and recruitment flyers were created in 2021 with translation to English and Spanish. Additional languages currently being translated are Tagalog, Chinese and Russian, resulting in the top languages of Snohomish County.

#### Inclusive CASA Pre-Service Core Training

Pre-Service core training is offered every month in Snohomish County. To enhance the importance of DEI, our Program boosted the pre-service training curriculum by adding DEI components throughout the modules.

#### Continuing Education (Training and Development)

In 2021 – April 2022, we offered 295 DEI continuing education training opportunities equating to 558 total hours of training.

#### Community Outreach: Inclusive Relations and Partnerships

In 2021-22, we made 27 new connections with diverse community partners in an effort to build trusting relationships and ongoing community connections and partnerships.

## **Kalispel**

Not sure if Johnna has already provided information to you, but one of the trainings/activities I thought of when I saw your email this morning is the Tree of Healing Conference that our program staff and volunteers attend. This is a behavioral health training geared towards individuals who provide direct services within Native American Communities. More information here: <https://camaspath.org/tree-of-healing/>. The most recent training was offered in March of this year.

## **King**

National CASA Resources:

- Trainings Examples:
  - Understanding ICWA: Family, Community and Culture
  - Culture, Identity and Connection for Indigenous Families in non-Indigenous Systems
  - Poverty, Income, and Child Maltreatment
  - Poverty Learning Series: Effect of Child Poverty Reductions on Child Protective Services
  - Substance Use Among Native American Youth.
  - Culturally Responsive Child Advocacy (4 part series)
  - Advocating in the Education System for LGBTQ youth
  - Interrupting Racism for Children: A Local Program Approach
- National CASA curated DEI book and resources lists

National CASA Pre-service Training focusing on disproportionality and need for cultural competency  
-We have a particularly experienced core group of CASA supervisors who have engaged in this work for years that present on this topic during 30 hour orientation, but we stress this across all sections of the training, including our section of report writing.

Program requirement that one quarter of 12 hour annual training to be in ESJ

Regular Case Staffing with MSW level CASA Supervisors trained in DEI

-This is key to us making real progress in addressing inherent bias and reviewing case decision for system bias. Our CSs are particularly skilled in having these challenging conversations when needed with our CASAs and helping them apply on-going training in this area to the facts of our cases

King CASA County Website

Our commitment to diversity here: [KCSC/FCO - Dependency CASA Program : Who We Are : Our Mission \(kingcountycasa.org\)](#)

Curated ESJ resources and training on our password protected portal

Resource material includes:

- Implicit Bias Toolkit
- Guidelines for Multi-Cultural Interactions

- Links to presentations and materials by experts authors such as Dr. Caprice Hollins, Robin DeAngelo, National Child Welfare Workforce, Alliance for People with Disabilities, etc.
- Recommended Podcasts and Short videos such as “Code Switch,” “What White People can do to Move Race Conversations Forward,” “Why Do We Call Asian Americans the Model Minority,” and more.
- Curated booklist of recommended reading on ESJ with titles on Race, Gender, ICWA, Inter-racial adoption, and poverty

Quarterly Equity and Social Justice Book group meetings facilitated by staff for our CASAs

Race, Power of An Illusion – Annual Presentation by Program CASA Supervisor staff

Implicit Bias Training developed and presented to our CASAs by several CASA Supervisors

Training of state level stakeholders by several of our CS staff experts.

JEDI Training (Offered through Washington CASA Association)

Equity and Social Justice Workgroup of staff members that meet quarterly to plan, assess and implement our commitment to DEI for our staff and our CASA volunteers

King County Superior Court Family Court Operations ESJ Workgroup involving several CASA staff members working on court wide DEI efforts

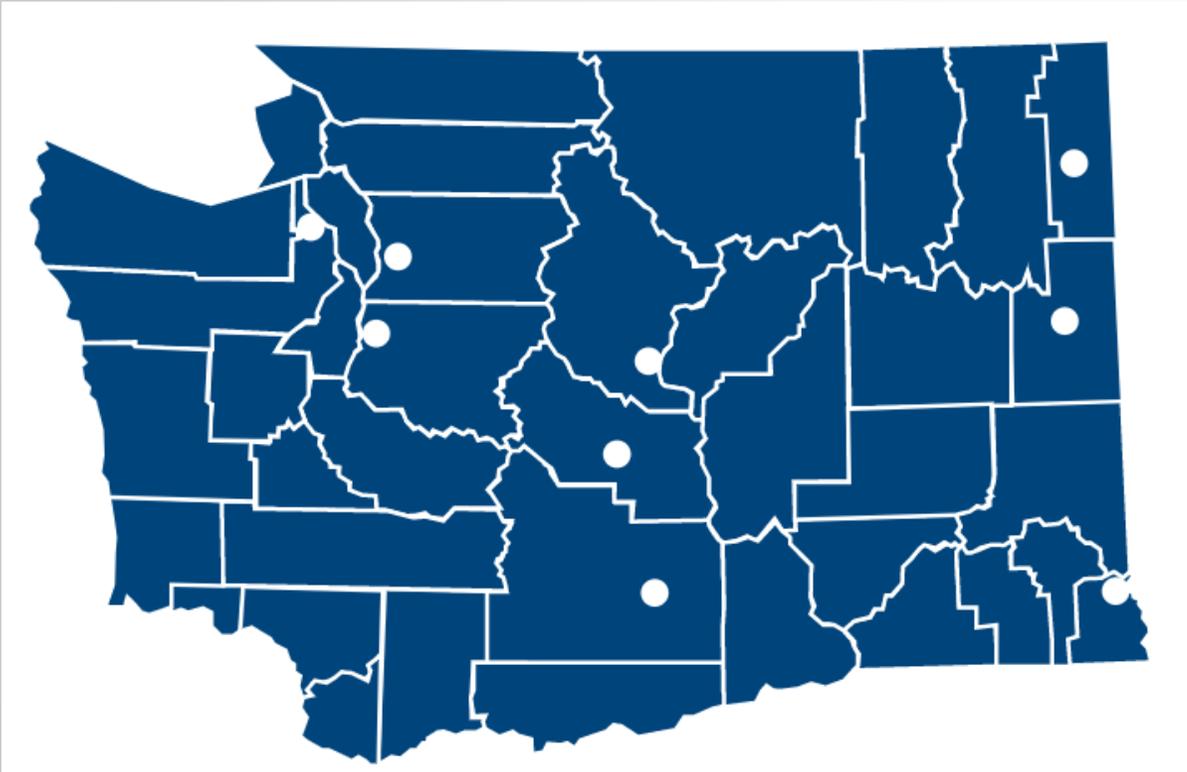
Staff training from Cultures Connecting on Micro-aggressions and models for courageous conversations with fellow staff and volunteers observing or experiencing this bias

**RACIAL EQUITY:  
EFFORTS OF  
WASHINGTON CASA ASSOCIATION &  
LOCAL PROGRAMS**

**Washington State Commission On Children in Foster Care  
May 9, 2022**



## 8 CASA/GAL PROGRAMS IN 9 COUNTIES



- Jefferson County GAL Program
- King County Dependency CASA
- Snohomish County CASA Program
- Court Advocates for Children for Kittitas
- Yakima Nation County Program
- Chelan-Douglas County CASA/GAL Program
- Pend Oreille Valley CASA Program
- Spokane County Juvenile Court CASA/GAL

# WA CASA ASSOCIATION DIVERSITY, EQUITY INCLUSION & BELONGING (DEIB) GOALS

## **Goal: Internalize DEIB Goals into every organization strategy, process & 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

## **Goal: 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

# JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION (JEDI) TRAINING FOR LOCAL PROGRAMS

## 3 multi-session workshops:

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

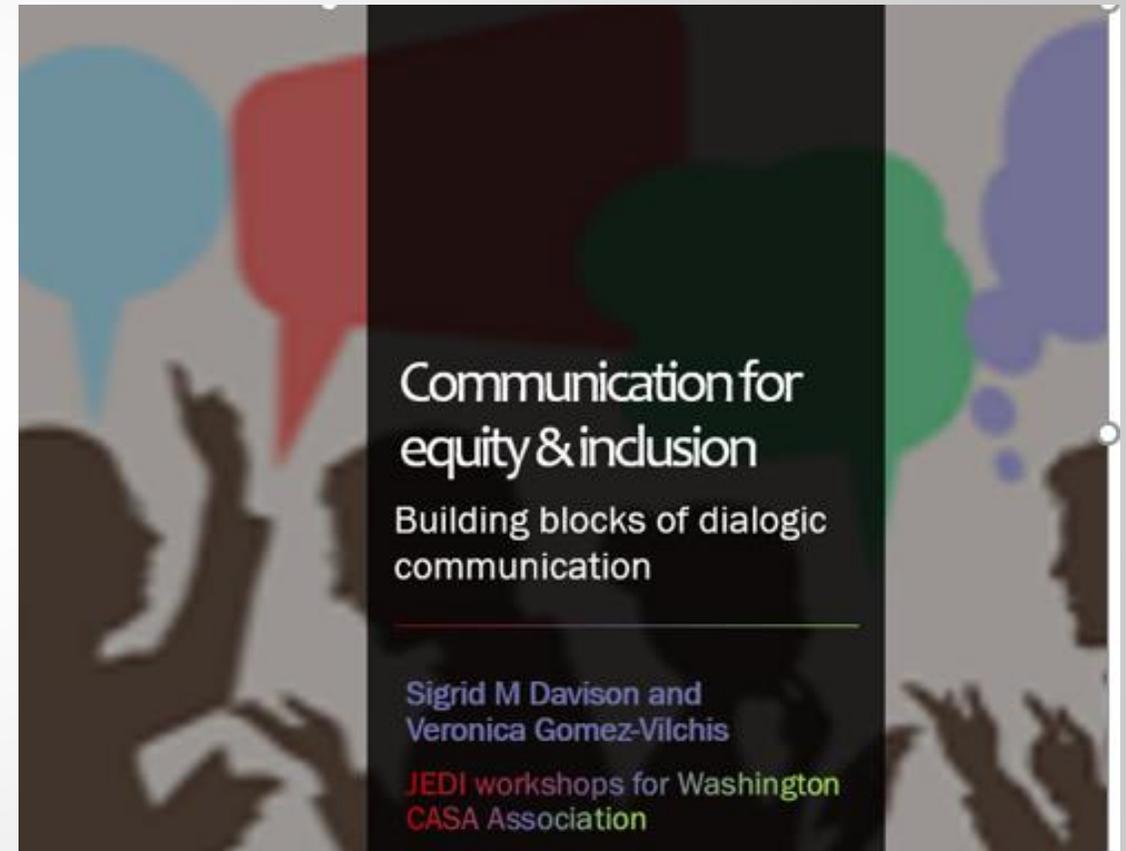
**Free** to all child welfare stakeholders

**Facilitated** with support of program staff

**11** facilitated & interactive sessions

**22** hours of training from Jul. – Sept. 2021

**70** participants from across CASA/GAL programs, Courts, DCYF, Parent allies



# **JEDI TRAINING TAKEAWAYS – WHAT DID YOU LEARN THAT YOU CAN APPLY TO YOUR WORK?**

**Identifying assumptions that I am making that may be wrong**

**Be mindful of word choice, body language, & reflection**

**Remember to dig deeper & take risks that will help with our growth**

**Remembering to check in with my own feelings during these conversations**

**Provided good opportunities to practice new skills**

**Gained network of others - started my action plan**

**It was just good to interact with others especially in my small group**

**I know how to find a common ground in my conversations**

**Understanding the three types of communication & how to promote them**

**Inquiring deeper into the family structure of our clients**

**Founded a social justice group**

# ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

## NATIONAL CASA TRAINING RESOURCES

- Understanding ICWA: Family, Community & Culture
- Culture, Identity & Connection for Indigenous Families in non-Indigenous Systems
- Poverty, Income, & Child Maltreatment
- Services
- Substance Use Among Native American Youth
- Culturally Responsive Child Advocacy (4-part series)
- Advocating in the Education System for LGBTQ+ youth
- Interrupting Racism for Children: A Local Program Approach

## OTHER RESOURCE EXAMPLES

- DEI Learning Center
- Poverty Learning Center
- National CASA/GAL Network Book Club

# LOCAL PROGRAM EFFORTS



**Recruitment &  
Retention**

**Training**

**Ongoing  
Assessment &  
Accountability**



- Tracking demographics of staff & volunteers
- Reviewing application & hiring practices
- Stressing importance & commitment to cultural humility & addressing bias & racism within our roles & child welfare
- Community outreach
- Additional opportunities for program engagement



- Localized changes to Orientation Training curriculum
- Integration of “Disproportionality/ Implicit Bias” index card
- Spaces for staff & volunteers to support continued learning:
  - Pierce County’s White Anti-Racist Caucus group
  - Snohomish County’s JEDI Collective
  - King County’s ESJ book group & affinity groups
- Coordination & delivery of ongoing trainings
- Curation of resource lists for continued learning & reflection
- Ongoing training standards



- Critical self-reflection:
  - Case consultations
  - Volunteer evaluations
  - Work & advisory groups
  - Commitment to learning & doing better



# Early Childhood Courts

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# What Washington Data Tells Us



- **46%** of child abuse and neglect cases filed in 2020 involved children under 3 years old
  - Compared to **40%** in 2019
- Overall dependency filings **decreased by 24% in 2020** as compared to 2019

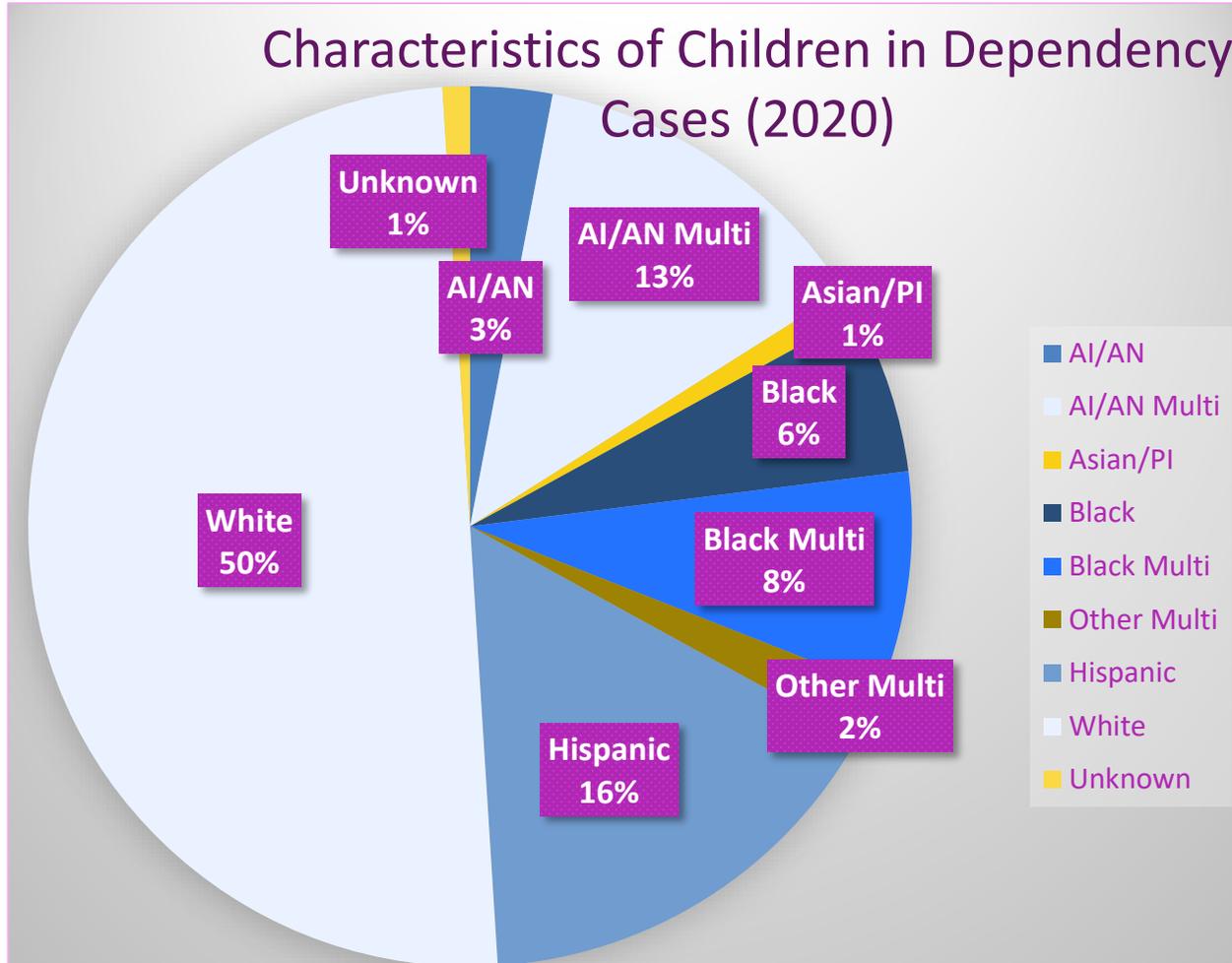
## Children aged 0-3 in Dependency Cases in 2020

*(source: Dependent Children in WA State: Case Timeliness and Outcomes 2020 Annual Report)*

0-3 Years	WA Courts	Kitsap	Spokane	Thurston	Pierce	Clark	Clallam
	46%	46%	50%	57%	46%	38%	33%



# Racial Disproportionality in Child Welfare Involvement



- 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**



# Identifying the Need in Washington



- Pierce County began operating the first SBCT court in Washington, in 2016
- In early 2020, CCYJ and AOC approached by ZTT to determine the feasibility of expanding SBCT/ECC courts in WA
- Simultaneously, in May 2020, a funding opportunity to launch new ECC sites became available through ZTT/HRSA

## Areas of focus within the plan:

- Assess the landscape of children ages 0-3 involved in the foster care system
- Prioritize equity
- Identify counties of high need and impact for SBCT expansion
- Engage interested communities
- Create a statewide structure and oversight plan
- Map out pathways to sustainability
- Develop a legislative strategy



# Early Childhood Court Work in Washington State



The intent of our work is to improve experiences and services for families in Dependency, as well as positively impact the systems that support families

## Early Childhood Courts

- Therapeutic, problem-solving courts
- Utilize Safe Babies Court Team approach – national model

## Systems Change Initiative

- State Advisory Board
- Using lessons learned and data gathered from ECC sites, work to improve systems and break down silos



## SB 5331 Codifies Standardization of Early Childhood Court Programs



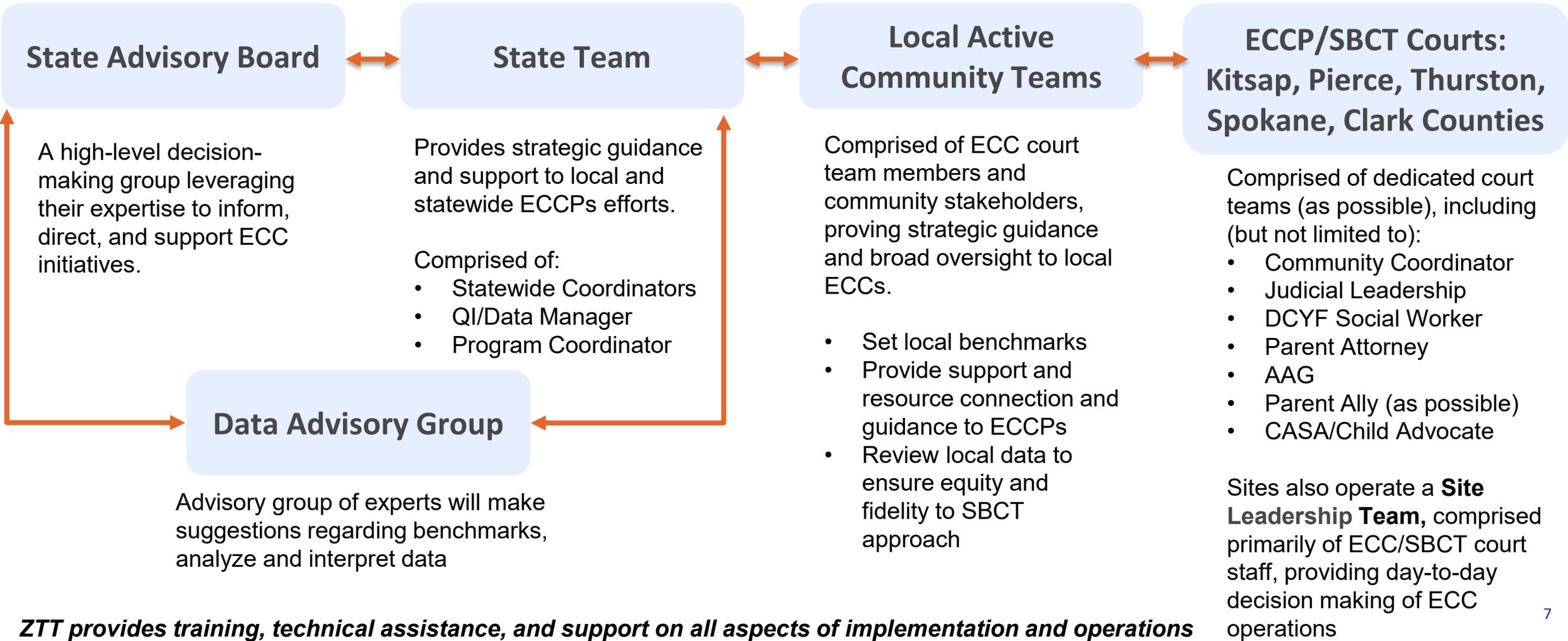
2SSB 5331 centers **racial equity** as a core standard, requiring antiracism training and data collection, to address racial disproportionality and promote equitable outcomes for families

**SB 5331** creates a standard for Early Childhood Court Programs in WA, ensuring that courts adopting this approach do so with consistency and fidelity.

- A dedicated staff person in each county, focused on supporting families and the day-to-day operations of the ECC
- A local oversight board ensuring families are equitably receiving services; also requires participation in the statewide structure
- Coordination and collaboration between the courts and child welfare
- Increased hearing, visitation, and family team meetings
- Judicial trainings to holistically and equitably serve babies and families involved in the child welfare system



# Washington State Structure and Roles





# ECC/SBCT Court Operations



## Unique Court Structure

- A specific docket within Dependency court
- More frequent court hearings
- Dedicated Staff
  - *Community Coordinators*

## Trauma-Informed Approach

- Frequent Family Team Meetings
  - *to encourage ongoing goal setting and provide support*
- Increased Family Time
  - *to strengthen the relationship between parent and child*



# Courts Operating an Early Childhood Court Program



## ■ Kitsap County

- Community Coordinator: Madison Allen
- Judicial Leadership: Judge Michelle Adams

## ■ Pierce County

- Community Coordinator: Julie Hoffman
- Judicial Leadership: Judge Henderson

## ■ Spokane County

- Community Coordinator: Mindy Stewart
- Judicial Leadership: Commissioner Tami Chavez and Commissioner Nichole Swennumsum

## ■ Thurston County

- Community Coordinator: Kathleen Whelan
- Judicial Leadership: Judge Christine Schaller

## *New Court - Clark County*

- Community Coordinator(s): Shauna McCloskey and Helen Sullivan
- Judicial Leadership: Commissioner Stefanie Ellis

## *Potential New Court - Clallam County*

- Community Coordinator: TBD
- Judicial Leadership: Commissioner Brandon Mack





# Looking Ahead...



- HRSA NOFO Submitted 5/2/2022
  - \$625,000/year for 5 years
  - Clallam County & Possible Tribal Courts Expansion
- State Advisory Board (SAB) Priorities Established
  - Housing
  - Equity (Low/No Barrier Entry to EECs)
- Sustainability Funding
- Contact Us!
  - **Emily Nicewonger** *CCYJ* Associate Director of Programs, [ENicewonger@ccyj.org](mailto:ENicewonger@ccyj.org)
  - **Katie Anderson** *AOC* Early Childhood Courts Statewide Cdr., [katie.anderson@courts.wa.gov](mailto:katie.anderson@courts.wa.gov)