

FILED
JAN - 9 2020
WASHINGTON STATE
SUPREME COURT

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF)
THE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN IN FOSTER)
CARE)
_____)

**A M E N D E D
O R D E R**

NO. 25700-B-600

WHEREAS, the Washington State Supreme Court recognizes that the safety, permanency and well-being of children under court supervision is paramount;

WHEREAS, the judiciary seeks to ensure that all children in foster care are provided with safe, permanent families in which their physical, emotional, and social needs are met;

WHEREAS, systemic improvements are needed to meet the needs of children in foster care and in the child welfare system;

WHEREAS, the needed systemic improvements can best be achieved through collaboration between the courts and child welfare partners;

WHEREAS, institutionalization of this collaboration will assure that systemic improvements are sought and achieved beyond the terms of office of individual members of the judiciary, agency directors, and elected officials;

Now, therefore, it is hereby

ORDERED:

That a Commission on Children in Foster Care be established to monitor and report on the extent to which child welfare programs and courts are responsive to the needs of the children in their joint care; to make recommendations for systemic improvements; and to broaden public

awareness of and support for meeting the needs of vulnerable children and families, including provision of sufficient mental health, health care, education, and other services;

That the Commission shall be co-chaired by a justice of the Supreme Court, to be designated by the Chief Justice, and by the Assistant Secretary Department of Children, Youth, and Families;

That the Commission shall consist of the following members, appointed by the Chief Justice:

Attorney General of the State of Washington,
Superintendent of Public Instruction,
President-Judge of the Superior Court Judges Association,
Executive Director of Washington State CASA,
President/Co-Presidents of the Foster Parents Association of Washington State,
Chair of the Northwest Inter-Tribal Council,
Chair of the House Committee with oversight for issues relating to the child welfare system,
Chair of the Senate Committee with oversight for issues relating to the child welfare system,
Director of the Office of Public Defense,
Director of the Office of Civil Legal Aid,
One youth currently in foster care,
One youth who has been reunified,
One alumni of foster care;
One parent who has been involved in a dependency proceeding,
One representative of foster care physical/mental health system,
One representative of child and family services providers,
President of Center for Children and Youth Justice, and
One representative of Partners for Our Children.

That the Commission shall file an annual report with the Washington State Supreme Court, recommending appropriate action to serve and meet the needs of children in foster care and in the child welfare system.

DATED at Olympia, Washington this 9th day of January, 2020.

Johnson
Madsen, J.

Olson, J.
Wagner, J.

Stephens, C.J.

Gonzalez, J.
Greg McLeod, Jr.

Ju, J.
Winters, J.