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The Center for Children & Youth Justice Announces 2018 Maleng Breakfast Honorees

Seattle, WA - The Board of Directors of the Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ) is excited to announce the 2018 honoree for the Norm Maleng Advocate for Youth Award Breakfast: the Governor's **Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on the Delivery of Services to Children and Families**.

In 2016, Governor Jay Inslee issued an executive order establishing the 16-member bi-partisan **Blue Ribbon Commission**, and charged it with developing the framework for a state agency focused solely on children and families. The **BRC**'s insights and recommendations resulted in the 2017 Governor's request legislation which was passed with overwhelming margins in both houses, creating the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) and significantly reforming how the state provides services.

"This really is revolutionary," said Justice Bobbe Bridge (ret.), Founding President and CEO of CCYJ. "Many in this field have been working 20-30 years to create this kind of integrated, research-based service model." Adds Bridge, "The BRC pulled together experts, heard from families and advocates across the state, reviewed the latest research, evaluated data about outcomes for children and youth currently in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and made a compelling case to the legislature that as a state we could do so much better. This is the kind of system change that is the cornerstone of CCYJ's mission."

Accepting CCYJ's honor will be **Blue Ribbon Commission** co-chairs, Judge Anne Levinson (ret.) and Representative Ruth Kagi. *"How a government is organized and how it delivers services reflect its priorities," said Judge Levinson. "We felt it was critically important for the state to prioritize the well-being of children, youth and families, align services across agencies so they focus on outcomes, and provide opportunities for parents and youth in every zip code to access needed services before problems escalate."*

"For the first time, a cabinet department will assure the needs of children, youth and families are clearly identified and considered by the Governor and legislature," said Rep. Ruth Kagi. "The new department will build on the strong prevention and early childhood education foundation established by the Department of Early Learning, assuring that children most at risk will access high quality early learning opportunities."

The Norm Maleng Youth Advocate Award Breakfast with CCYJ will be held on March 14th, 2018 at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Seattle. Co-chairs of this year's event are Erin and Greg Coomer.

CCYJ welcomes to this event supporters of their mission to create better lives for generations of children and youth by reforming the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. For more information about the breakfast, please contact Anna Martinez at amartinez@ccyj.org, or 206.696.7503.



Pictured at a recent event are two of the members of the **Blue Ribbon Commission**: (L-R) Ross Hunter, Secretary of the Department of Children, Youth and Families; Patrick Dowd, Office of the Family and Children's Ombuds., with Commission Co-Chairs Judge Anne Levinson (ret.), and Rep. Ruth Kagi.