

# Washington State Early Child Court State Advisory Board Meeting Notes

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**Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup> 2021 via Zoom**

Participants: Rachel Sottile, Morgan Silverman, Michelle Williams, Lily Cory, Kelly Warner-King, Judge Adams, Judge Henderson, Judge Lisa Mansfield, Steven Grilli, Julie Hoffman, Sarah Burns, Sheila Morley, Alissa Copeland, Trey Rabun, Erin Havig, Michael Heard, Kim Gilsdorf, Dorothy Gorder, Christine Cole, Katie Biron, and Lisa Dabalos-McMahon

## | Agenda

### Data Overview

- 42% of child abuse and neglect cases in WA were for children under 3
- Of all children who go into care, 25.6% are infants under 1. The second highest rate in the county
- Disproportionate child welfare involvement among American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) and Black children aged 0-2
  - Even though the total filings in COVID have gone down, young children are still the largest group coming into care
- Data and Evaluation Advisory Group
  - Provide guidance and professional advice about program design, development of program indicators and measures of success

### Background and Accomplishments

- CCYJ was approached by ZYT to expand baby courts in Washington State
- CCYJ worked with statewide stakeholder to develop a plan to expand the number of courts and develop a statewide structure
- Addressing racial disproportionality and safe family reunification
- Sites:
  - Kitsap County

- Spokane County
- Thurston County
- Pierce County
- Clark County
- Funding has been extended through September 2022 and a new funding opportunity to be released in Feb 2022
- WA state legislature created new funding stream for AOC
- SB 5331 Codifies Standardization of Early Childhood Court Programs
- Two Key components: Early Childhood Courts and Systems Change Initiative
  - This group will focus on systems change initiatives
- Role of SAB
  - Identify key statewide priorities
  - Provide high level strategy
  - Champion for ECC programs
  - Center equity

## Exercise

Members were asked to share what they can contribute to the State Advisory Board. Specifically, participants were asked, “what brings you to the table?”

## Setting Priorities

- CCYJ was approached by ZYT to expand baby courts in Washington State
- What are the key, statewide priorities that the State Advisory Board should set?
- Looking at other states:
  - Arkansas
    - Substance Use
    - Father Engagement
    - Re-entry
    - Domestic Violence
  - NJ
    - Housing
- Ideas can include but not limited to:
  - Identifying gaps and equitable access to resources
  - Expansion of ECC sites
  - Funding sustainability
  - Prevention
  - Legislative Asks
- Break into Small Groups, to discuss:
  - What do you want to see for Washington’s ECC priorities?
  - How is racial equity and parent reunification incorporated into these priorities?
  - What further information do you need? (data, reports from courts or current ECC sites, or anything else) to make an informed decision?
- Small Group Report Outs Emerging Priorities
  - Group 1 (Sarah, Rachel, Michael, Judge Mansfield)
    - Families health and mental health

- Partnering with Providers of Color
- Medical provider to inform that work
- Focus on Housing
- Referral system
- Understanding lessons learned from Florida and New Jersey
- Partnerships with Key priorities
- Group 2 (Katie, Trey, Alissa, Sheila)
  - Parent Child Relationship (with the perspective of Social Worker)
  - Impacts of the Trauma of the System
  - Question about data, why are there so many infants being removed?
  - Know more about the intake process, are we reaching marginalized populations
  - Childhood court pre-dependency??
- Group 3 (Kelly, Judge Henderson, Dorothy, Erinn, Julie)
  - Housing
  - Affordable housing
  - How do you navigate the complex system that is housing?
  - Relationships with Landlords
  - Pay off Bills
  - Housing Connection programs in King County
  - Connecting folks to housing programs through HCA
  - Visitation and Family time (coaching)
- Group 4 (Steve, Kim, Lisa, Christine, Morgan)
  - How do families come into the system?
  - Racial disproportionately
  - Mandatory reporting to mandatory supporting
  - Effort happening at DCYF
  - Service delivery from prevention through dependency
  - Substance use treatment

## Next Steps

- Meetings will occur once per quarter, with the understanding that we will work via email
- Will focus on working towards determining our statewide priorities
- Help us figure out who is not here - please reach out with ideas of who else can join SAB