




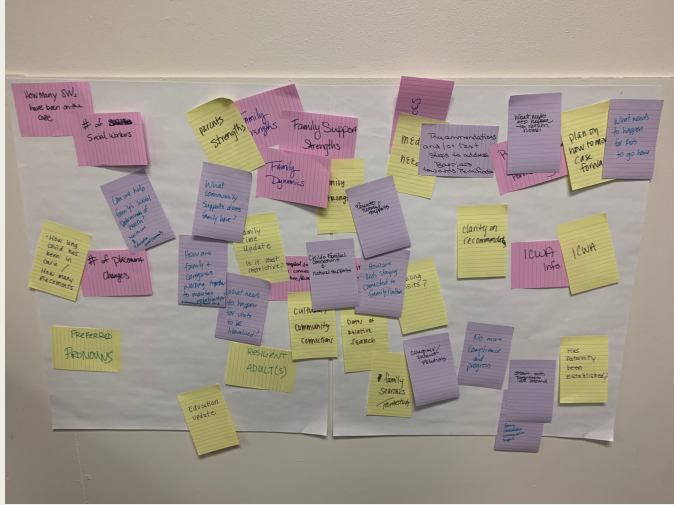
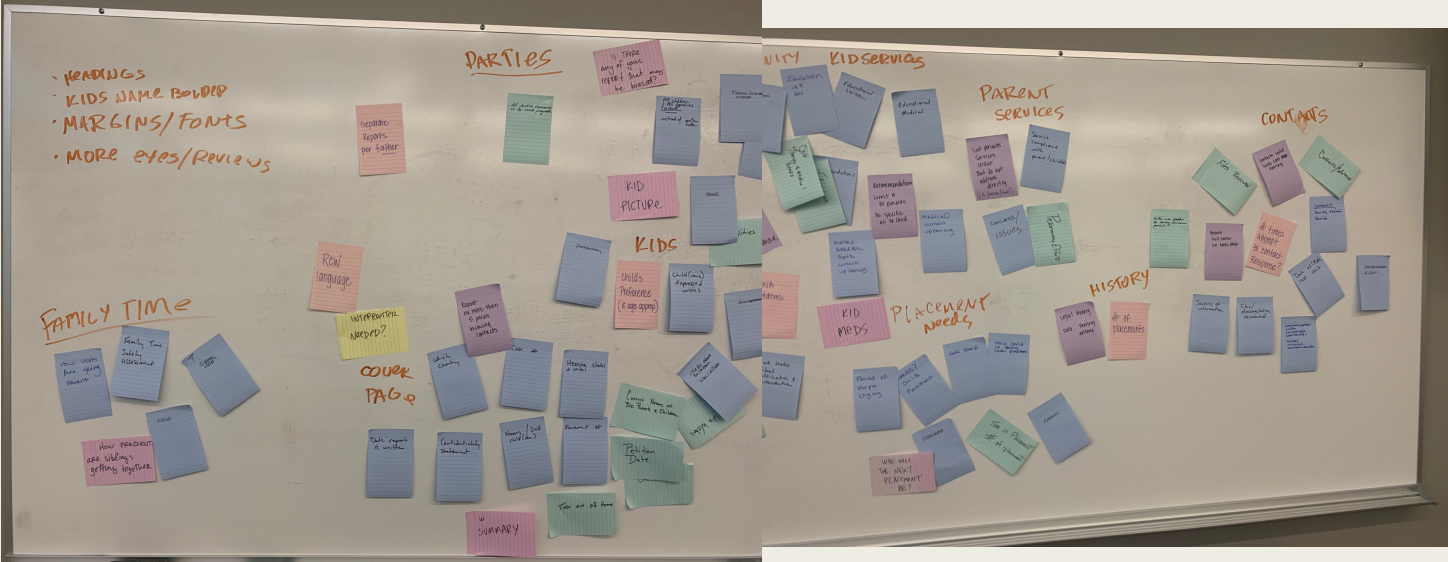
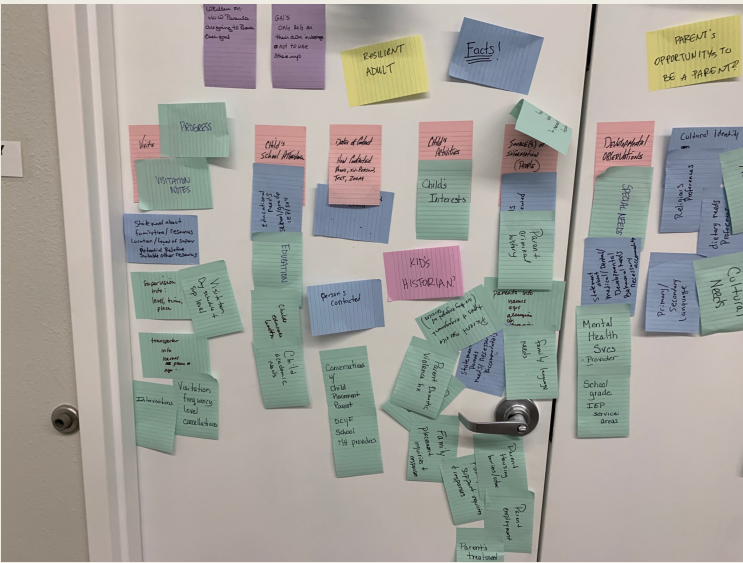
REPORTS AS AN ADVOCACY TOOL

Common items you might want to start including in
your reports



Sources of inspiration!

- Regional Program Meetings
- Sample reports
 - Thank you Chelan, Yakima, Pierce, Lewis, Thurston, Snohomish, Lewis, San Juan and Island!
- 2022 Judicial Survey
- This conference!



In General/Overall

- ALWAYS CHECK WITH YOUR PM FIRST!
 - Include these suggestions within the template your program gives you

- ...and
 - Avoid long narratives
 - Use section headers to orient your reader
 - Bullets and tables when you can (Judges love them!)
 - Check about page length...but in general, keep it around 5 pages?

FIRST PAGE ELEMENTS

- Child names and DOB
- How long has the child been in care (months)
- Current Placement and length at that place
- Current Social worker and length on case
- Number of social workers since beginning of the case
- “Reason to know?”
- Date report was written and submitted
- Interpreter or Translation needed and language?
- People spoken with / Files reviewed
- Summary or “Since the last review hearing...”

About each of these headings

- STRUCTURE

- *Yes/no, common short answer questions first*
- *Narrative*
- *Recommendations/conclusions*

- Elements to CONSIDER adding...not mandatory

ABOUT THE CHILD

- Demographics (age, race, etc)
- Legally Free?
- Dates, location(s), and duration of your visits (might be a good table!)
- Picture of the child
 - *Try not to take it yourself*
 - *Maybe think about having it be only the child (no other adults [caregivers, parents, etc])*
 - *School picture or with friends?*
- Preferred pronouns
- Preferred name (or nickname)
- Sex/Gender ID

ABOUT THE CHILD

- Attorney appointed?
 - If over 12, have you asked if the child would like one?

- Medical/Dental/Mental Health
 - Most recent appointments
 - Diagnoses/Long term prognoses/further recommendations
 - Medications (both MH and Medical)
 - Behavioral concerns?

- Strengths
 - Child identified
 - Other adults identified
 - Talent Search (what's the kid good at, how can we nurture this?)

ABOUT THE CHILD

■ Connections

- Resilient adult figure?
- Current primary attachment figure?
- Aside from visitation, connection to parents?
- Siblings?
- Connection to extended bio family / family culture?
- Connections to peers?
- Connection to racial identity?
- Connections to other aspects of child's identity (SOGIE, religion, culture)

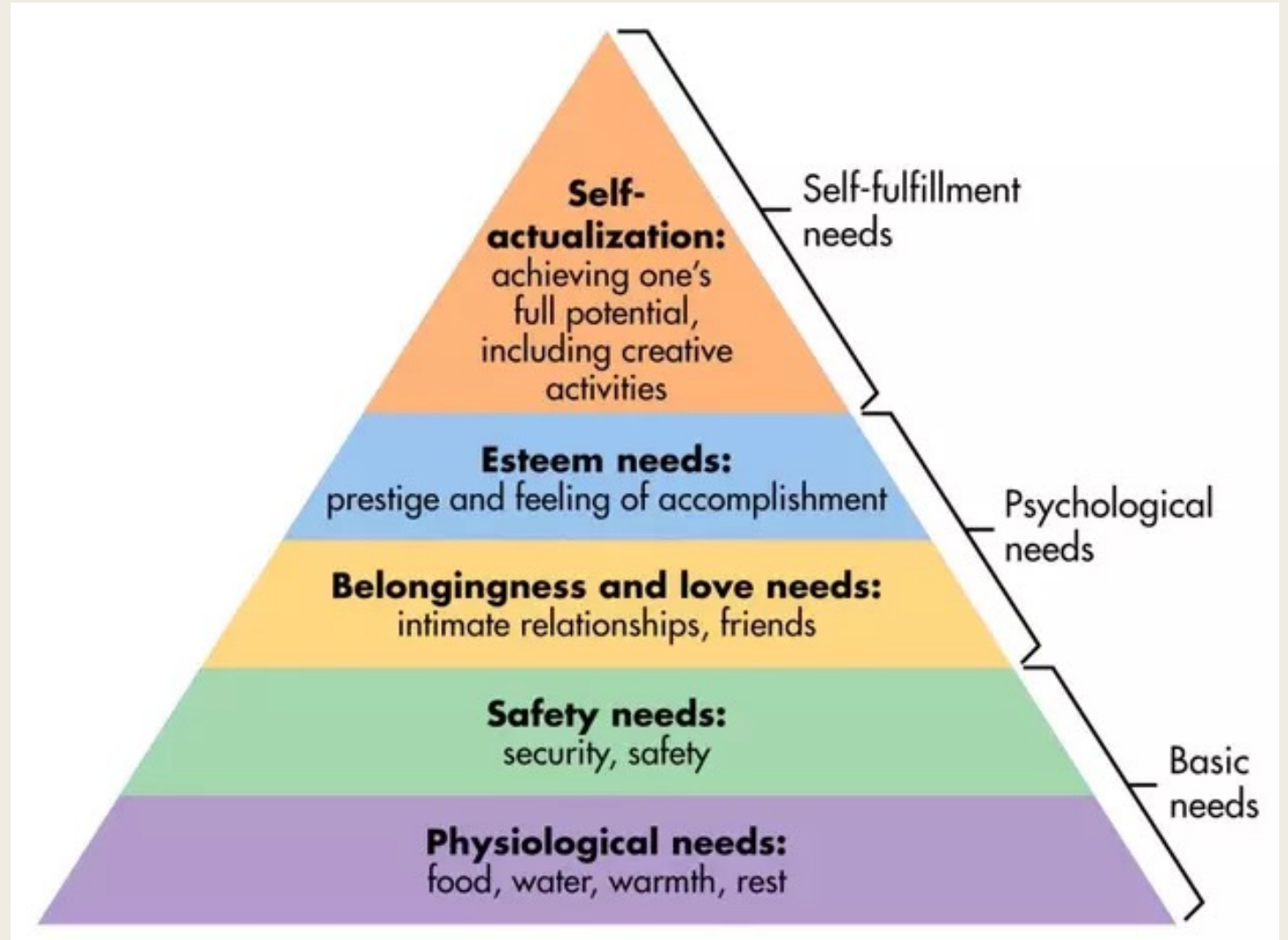
ABOUT THE CHILD

■ Education

- 504 / IEP?
- If there was a placement change, status of best interests determination re: school placement
- School attendance
 - Tardies?
 - Way to school?
- Extra curricular?
- Grades/on track to promotion?
- Education Liaison?
- Education decision maker?

ABOUT THE CHILD

- Child's **STATED WISHES**
- Your recommendations
 - Prioritize based on Maslow's Hierarchy



PLACEMENT

- Current placement
 - Length of stay, type, placed with siblings, stability/permanence?
- Placement history:

Placement Number	Date of Placement	Placement Type	Planned or unplanned transition?	Placed with Siblings?	Length of time in Placement
1					month(s)
2					month(s)
3					month(s)
4					month(s)

PLACEMENT

- Caregiver Report submitted/reviewed?
- News/Work on any new potential placements
- Placement needs?
- Respite needs and provider(s)?
- Current caregiver's willingness to be a permanent placement?

ABOUT THE PARENT(S)

- Paternity established?
- Military Status (Active, served, N/A)
- Domestic Violence?
- Language in the home?
- Special/Unique needs of the parent?

ABOUT THE PARENT(S)

- Start with strengths
 - Say at least one thing positive, more if you're able.
 - Potential areas:
 - *Natural/community supports*
 - *Family connections*
 - *“Hope” Resources*
- Any opportunities/displays of parenting non-visit related
- How are the current caregivers and parents working together?
- Current barriers preventing reunification?
- Next steps towards reunification?
- What's preventing a return home today?

PROGRESS ON THE CASE PLAN

- Do the parents/DCYF/caregivers understand what the court expects of them?
- Do all elements of the case plan have a desired statement of impact?
 - *If services have been ordered/provided, what are they trying to achieve?*
- Are there any causes for delay / barriers in achieving any elements of the case plan?

- COMPLIANCE AND PROGRESS
 - *Ugh.*

FAMILY TIME

- Current SAFETY ANALYSIS
- Are parents able to fully engage?
- Are parents engaging?
- Are any observations made by visitation providers similar to yours?
- Brief description of current visitations (locations, participants)
- Child before / after impacts and behaviors
- In person vs virtual descriptions
- How could visits be made better for the child and all involved?
- Sibling visits and connections?

EXTENDED FAMILY

- Dates of most recent relative search
- Languages spoken
- Relatives who have responded and what they're willing to provide
- Status of background checks and home studies
- Family dynamics
- Family supports for the child

ICWA

- Should ACTIVE EFFORTS be applied?
- People / Family members you've asked and their response
- Status of any inquiries to the tribe
- Any contacts you've had with the child's tribe

AT THIS HEARING

- Anything you'd like to be addressed/resolved
 - Changes needed to any existing orders?
 - Any reason for an early review
 - Any changes needed to primary/secondary permanency plans?

CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS

- If you are making recommendations, please include / restate the “WHY”
- Never use “because it’s in the child’s best interests” as the basis of your recommendation.