

Teaming to Support Families: The Permanency From Day 1 Intervention

Increasing early engagement between DCYF workers,
parents, youth, relatives, Tribes, caregivers
and other key case participants.



www.dcyf.wa.gov

Land Acknowledgement

I present to you today from the lands of the Chehalis Tribe. I acknowledge the long and complex history that has brought us to reside on this land and honor with gratitude the Chehalis people who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. I honor and respect the enduring relationship that exists between these people, the Chehalis nation and this land.



www.dcyf.wa.gov

Permanency From Day 1 (PFD1) Intervention

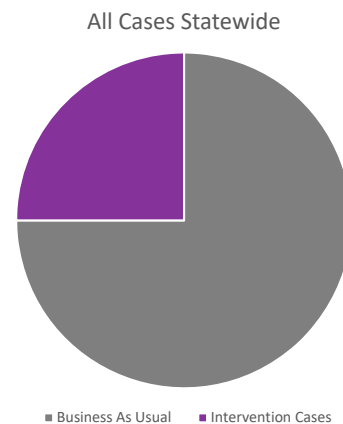
Enhances the existing DCYF meeting policy

- Identified Facilitator: Assigned to family case
- Expedited Timing: Meetings held every 90 days to help ensure case progression
- Early engagement of family, youth, natural supports, caregiver, tribe, community and court partners
- Collaborative teaming approach

www.dcyf.wa.gov

PFD1 Intervention Offices

- Region 1
 - Spokane Central and Colfax
 - Spokane Valley and Clarkston
 - Spokane North, Newport and Indian Child Welfare
- Region 4
 - King East, King SE, King SW and King West
 - Martin Luther King Jr.
 - Office of Indian Child Welfare
- Region 6
 - Centralia and Shelton
 - Kelso
 - Tumwater
 - Aberdeen, South Bend and Long Beach



www.dcyf.wa.gov

Steps to Permanency

Engagement with parents, youth, Tribe, relatives, caregivers,

Engagement with Attorneys, DCYF staff

Invite all key participants to the permanency planning meeting

Discuss Permanency Options

Create space for parents, youth and caregiver input and questions

Permanency for youth

www.dcyf.wa.gov

PFD1 Intervention---Shared Planning Meetings

- Uses family team meetings to bring together all people involved with family
- Promotes inclusion, transparency, and respect
- Promotes each family team member having an equal and active role on the team
- Assists in identifying bias in DCYF decision-making

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Teaming to Bring Family Together

Facilitator's Role:

- Review cases to identify relatives, supports and others
- Follow-up on Tribal enrollment
- Independently search for missing parents
- Send out invitations for each meeting

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Promoting **Inclusion**, Transparency, & Respect

- Inviting those identified by family and Tribe as family supports; AND
- Ensuring that families have a voice in their own case planning.
- Inviting youth participation and voice.

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Promoting Inclusion, Transparency, & Respect

- Ensuring that all information is shared by all parties
- Having honest, difficult conversations when necessary

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Promoting Inclusion, Transparency, & Respect

- Creating the opportunity for all participants to have a voice and are listened to during the meeting
- Honoring family and Tribe schedules, culture and values

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Promotes Shared Decision-Making

- Teams are encouraged to make decisions and case plans.
- Focuses conversations on *conditions to return* home instead of service compliance.
- Disagreements are mediated.
 - All parties are aware of the views of the others on the team.
 - If agreement is not reached = court involvement

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Equalizing Roles on the Team

- Team members are provided an agenda prior to meetings and asked to contribute
- Pre-Meets with parents, youth and caregivers
- Virtual meeting spaces are as neutral a setting as possible
- Meetings are an opportunity for families to contribute to case plans

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Meeting Agenda

- Used to engage in open conversations around case planning
- Individualized to each family
- Take into account cultural considerations
- Discuss alternate permanent plans
- Conditions to return home are specifically described by DCYF
 - Moving from service compliance to behavioral change that alleviates safety concerns

www.dcyf.wa.gov

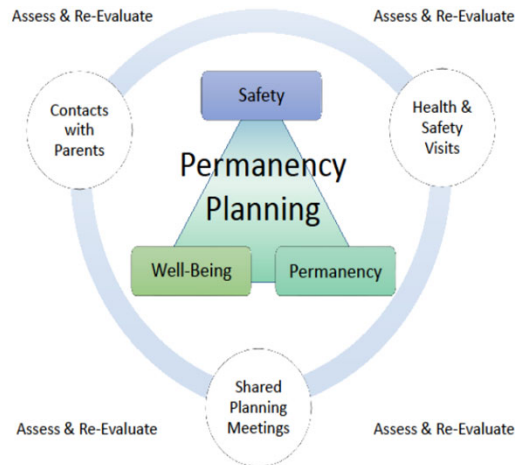
Concurrent Planning

Working towards reunification while at the same time establishing and implementing an alternative federally approved permanency plan to:

- *Support the safety, and well-being of children, youth and families*
- *Promote early permanency decisions for children/youth in out-of-home care*
- *Decrease length of stay in foster care*

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Assessing Permanency



www.dcyf.wa.gov

Considerations for Permanency Planning

- Family Functioning, prognosis for return home
- Child/youth's needs: safety, well-being and stability (permanency)
- Child/youth's familial and cultural connections
- Native American Status and Tribal recommendations
- Parents' plan for permanency

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Considerations for Permanency Planning

- Sibling contact and placement
- Child/youth's wishes, if developmentally appropriate
- Caregiver's preference for permanency
- Parent and child/youth visits
- Whether child/youth is placed with relatives
- Whether parent is incarcerated

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Considerations for Reunification

- Managed versus Alleviated Safety Threats
- The parents are making measurable progress
- Can this permanent plan be achieved safely for the child?
- The dependency should be dismissed after 6 months of a trial return home

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Reunification

What does the
Permanency Planning Matrix
Say about Reunification?

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Concurrent Plan: Chapter 13 Guardianship

- Reunification is not likely in the foreseeable future;
- Continuing the parent-child relationship is not detrimental to the child/youth;
- A visitation plan is established between guardian and parents;
- *Considerations* indicate that Guardianship is in the child/youth's best interest.

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Considerations for Chapter 13 Guardianship

- Chapter 13 Guardianship presumes that continuation of the parent-child relationship is beneficial to the child/youth.
- Is the child/youth in placement with a relative?
- Does the caregiver agree to guardianship?
- Is the parent incarcerated?
- Are visits occurring with parents? Are the visits supervised?
Can the caregiver facilitate the visits on an ongoing basis?

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Chapter 13 Guardianship

What does the
Permanency Planning Matrix
say about
Chapter 13 Guardianship?

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Concurrent Plan: Chapter 11 Guardianship of a Minor

- Reunification is not likely in the foreseeable future;
- Continuing the parent-child relationship is not detrimental to the child/youth;
- The possibility of having the parent retain some decision making is positive for the child/youth.
- *Considerations* indicate that Chapter 11 Guardianship is in the child/youth's best interest.

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Considerations for Chapter 11 Guardianship of a Minor

- Continuation of the parent-child relationship is beneficial to the child/youth.
- Is the child/youth in placement with a relative?
- Does the caregiver agree to guardianship?
- Is the parent incarcerated?
- Are visits occurring with parents? Are the visits supervised? Can the caregiver facilitate the visits on an ongoing basis?

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Chapter 11 Guardianship of a Minor

What does the
Permanency Planning Matrix
say about
Guardianship of a Minor?

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Concurrent Plan: Adoption

- Considered when reunification is not likely in the foreseeable future and guardianship has been ruled out;
- Continuation of the parent & child relationship diminishes the child/youth's prospects of early integration into a stable and permanent home;
- When reunification is not likely, indicate if Adoption rather than Guardianship, is in the child/youth's best interest.

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Considerations for Adoption

- Does continuation of the parent-child relationship affect the child/youth's ability to be raised in a stable, permanent home?
- Continued contact/communication supports the child/youth's:
 - Sense of well-being and security
 - Desire to maintain connections with biological family members
 - Stability in the adoptive placement.

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Adoption

What does the
Permanency Planning Matrix
say about
Adoption?

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Comparisons

- Chapter 13.36 Comparison with Chapter 11.130
- Adoption and Guardianship for Children in Kinship Care for WA State

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Comparison Summary

	Guardianship 13.36	Guardianship 11.130	Adoption
Legal	Parental rights not terminated. Guardian has full care, custody and control until Guardianship ends.	Parental rights not terminated. Guardian has full care, custody and control until Guardianship ends. Parents may retain some decision-making ability.	Parental rights are terminated. Lifelong legal relationship that cannot be modified by the court.
Visitation	Requires a visitation plan.	Court may set up terms for visitation.	May have an open adoption agreement. Adoptive parents can choose to allow visitation with or without an OAA.
Does the dependency end?	Yes	Yes	Yes

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Comparison Summary

	Guardianship 13.36	Guardianship 11.130	Adoption
Does the legal relationship with new parent/care giver end?	Yes, upon modified court order or the youth turning age 18.	Yes, upon modified court order or the youth turning age 18.	No, the new legal relationship is permanent.
Does it cost money to establish?	No, established in Juvenile Court and there are no legal fees.	Possibly. Established in Superior court and parties must be served and there may be attorney fees.	Yes, but some fees are reimburseable.
Is a home study required?	Yes, through the dependency statute.	Yes, through the dependency statute, not required by Chapter 11.130	Yes, through the dependency statute and RCW 26.33

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Comparison Summary

	Guardianship 13.36	Guardianship 11.130	Adoption
Financial Services Available?	Two Avenues: Relative Guardianship Assistance Program (RGAP) or Community Services Office (Non-Needy Relative Grant)	Two Avenues: Relative Guardianship Assistance Program (RGAP) or DSHS Community Services Office (Non-Needy Relative Grant)	Yes, Adoption Support
Medical Coverage Available?	Two Avenues: Relative Guardianship Assistance Program (RGAP) or DSHS Community Services Office	Two Avenues: Relative Guardianship Assistance Program (RGAP) or DSHS Community Services Office	Yes, Adoption Support

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Who Can Answer Questions?

Adoption Support	Adoption	Guardianship
Lindsey LeFever Lindsey.Lefever@dcyf.wa.gov	Julie Pettit Julie.pettit@dcyf.wa.gov	Gene Delaplane Gene.Delaplane@dcyf.wa.gov
Kate Schmidt Kate.Schmidt@dcyf.wa.gov		

Regional RGAP Leads					
Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6
Jessica Curry	Dolores Cantu	Emilie Boettger	Joyce Thomas	June Berring	Anna Boldry
Jessica.Curry@dcyf.wa.gov	Dolores.Cantu@dcyf.wa.gov	Emilie.Boettger@dcyf.wa.gov	Joyce.Thomas@dcyf.wa.gov	June.Berring@dcyf.wa.gov	Anna.Boldry@dcyf.wa.gov

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Lived Expertise Panel

- What worked well for you when participating in Shared Planning Meetings?
- What has not worked well for you?
- Did you feel that communication with your family team was clear and open? Have meetings impacted communication for you?
- Are there any recommendations you have to improve our partnership with caregivers?

www.dcyf.wa.gov

Thank you!

Please feel free to share this information and send feedback to

Debbie Marker

Debbie.Marker@dcyf.wa.gov

Shannon Quinn

Shannon.Quinn@dcyf.wa.gov

www.dcyf.wa.gov