



Early Childhood Court State Advisory Board Meeting

Please **introduce yourself in the chat!**

And let us know,

as part of the State Advisory Board, what do you hope to accomplish?



Agenda

- Data Overview
- Background & Accomplishments
- Exercise
- Setting Priorities
- Next Steps



Strengthening Early Relationships Team

CCYJ



Lily Corey (She/Her)
Program Coordinator



Morgan Silverman (She/Her)
Director of Innovation



Rachel Sottile (She/Her)
President & CEO



Michelle Williams (She/Her)
Program Coordinator

AOC



Sarah Burns (She/Her)
Statewide Innovation Coordinator



Arina Gertseva (She/Her)
Senior Research Associate, WSCCR



Kelly Warner-King (She/Her)
Manager, Family & Youth Justice Programs



Data Overview



What Washington Data Tells Us

- **42% (1,829)** of child abuse and neglect cases in WA were for children under 3 years (2018)
- Of all children who go into care, **25.6%** are infants under 1 year, the second highest rate in the country (2018)

Washington Foster Care Entry Rates by Age (2018)

< 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years
25.6%	6.9%	6.4%	6.3%

Washington Foster Care Entry Rates by Age (2019)

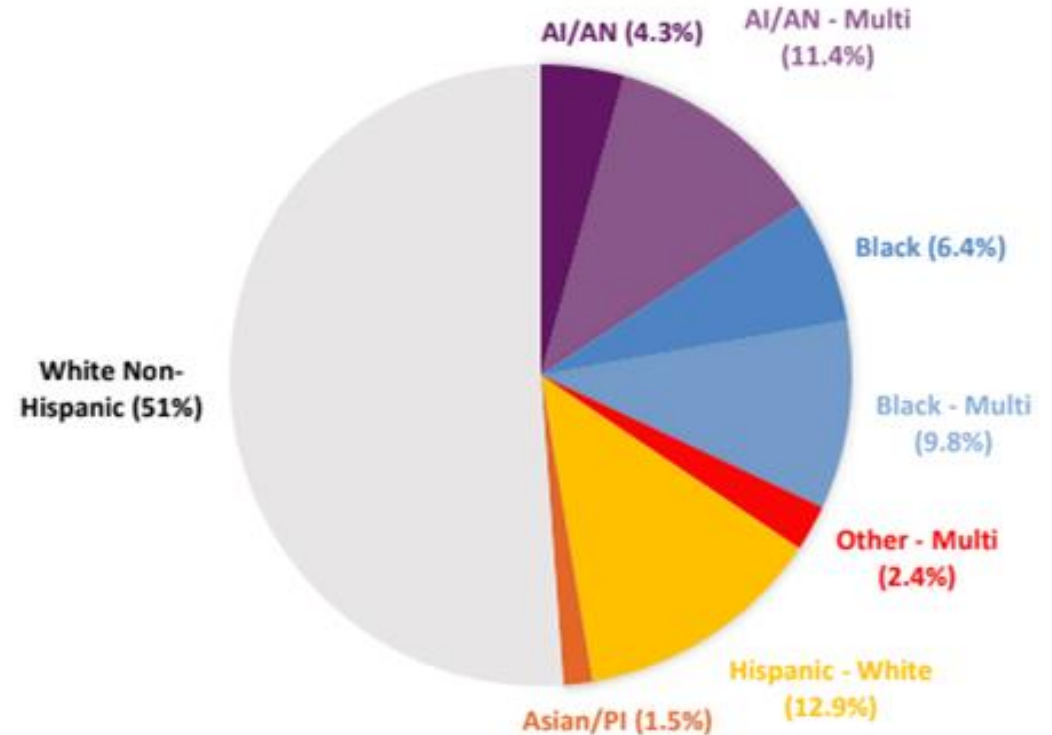
<1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years
23.7%	6.6%	6.6%	6.1%



Racial Disproportionality in Child Welfare Involvement

- Disproportionate child welfare involvement among American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) and Black children aged 0-2
- 4.3% AI/AN 0-2 case filings compared to 2.4% AI/AN 0-2 total WA population
- 6.4% Black 0-2 case filings compared to 4.9% Black 0-2 total WA population

TOTAL DEPENDENCY CASE FILINGS FOR CHILDREN AGES 0-2, BY RACE/ETHNICITY (2018)





Evidence of SBCT Effectiveness

	<u>SBCT</u>	<u>National</u>
Recurrence of maltreatment over 12 months	0.7%	9.1%
Babies reunified with parents or placed with relatives	87.8%	66%

Children of all races and ethnicities were served **equally well** with regard to both placement stability and length of stay in foster care



Evidence of SBCT Effectiveness

Increased Access to Services

- Over **80%** of children received services within the first 60 days from court order or referral to services
- Children experienced **equitable access to services** regardless of race/ethnicity

In a separate evaluation by the American Institute for Research

- Cases that received the full SBCT approach were **5 times less likely** to experience recurrence of abuse or neglect



Data-Informed Decision Making

Data and Evaluation Advisory Group

This group will provide **guidance and professional advice** about program design, development of program indicators and measures of success. This expert advice can include **technical “know how”** as well as **contextual interpretation and insight** on what’s working well, what’s not working, and what data is needed for effective decision-making.

Potential membership will include scholars and experts from the fields of:

- Infant & Early Childhood Health, Behavior, and Development
- Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health
- Child and family well-being and parenting
- Pathways to childhood healthy adjustment
- Trauma-informed care in early childhood

Also: we may need your help in outreaching individuals to join!

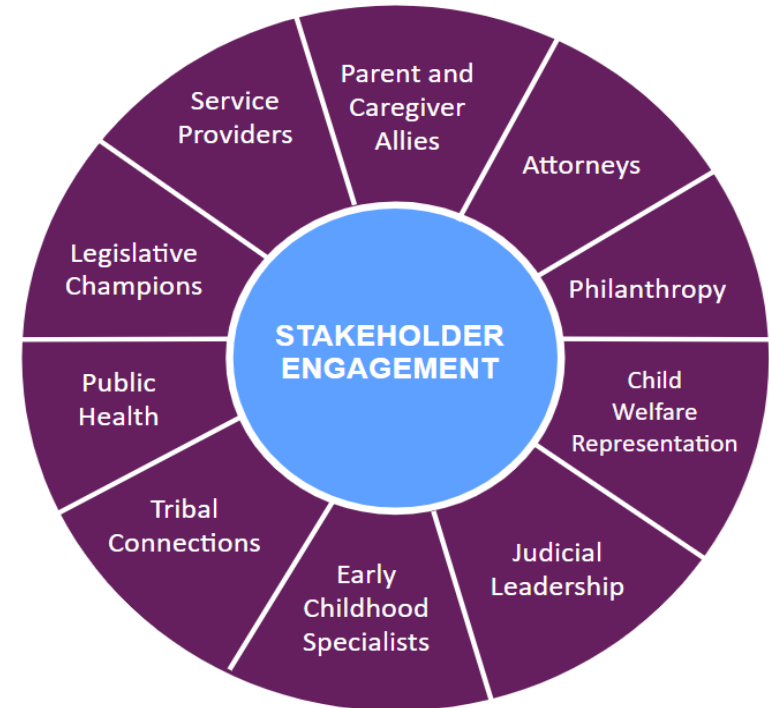


Background and Accomplishments



Background

- In early 2020, CCYJ was approached by ZTT to determine the feasibility of expanding SBCT/ECC courts in WA
- CCYJ worked with statewide stakeholders to develop a plan to expand the number of courts and develop a statewide structure to identify systems change opportunities.
- These stakeholders identified addressing **racial disproportionality** and **prioritizing safe family reunification** as central to any systems reform initiatives.





Funding Overview

- In 2020-21, CCYJ applied for, and received, Federal funding to launch three new sites as well as support the State Team
 - Kitsap, Spokane, and Thurston launched alongside the current site, Pierce County
 - Clark County has leveraged their own funding, and expect to launch in 2022
- Funding has been extended through September 2022, with a new funding opportunity to be released in February 2022
- Starting July 2021, the Washington State Legislature created a new funding stream for AOC through 2SSB 5331



SB 5331 Codifies Standardization of Early Childhood Court Programs

- 2SSB 5331 centers racial equity as a core standard, requiring antiracism training and data collection, to address racial disproportionality and promote equitable outcomes for families

SB 5331 creates a standard for Early Childhood Court Programs in WA, ensuring that courts adopting this approach do so with consistency and fidelity.

- A dedicated staff person in each county, focused on supporting families and the day-to-day operations of the ECC
- A local oversight board ensuring families are equitably receiving services; also requires participation in the statewide structure
- Coordination and collaboration between the courts and child welfare
- Increased hearing, visitation, and family team meetings
- Judicial trainings to holistically and equitably serve babies and families involved in the child welfare system



Early Childhood Court Work in Washington State

- The intent our work is to **improve experiences and services** for families in Dependency, as well as **positively impact the systems** that are devised to support families

Early Childhood Courts

Therapeutic, problem-solving courts

- Implement the SBCT approach, a team-based approach to addressing child welfare cases involving families with children aged 0-3
- Four counties in Washington currently operate ECCs – Pierce County began in 2016, and three new counties have launched in 2021

Systems Change Initiatives

Using the lessons learned, and data gathered from ECC sites, we will work to improve systems. The State Advisory Board will be primarily responsible for selecting and prioritizing the initiatives we want to work on.



Role of State Advisory Board – Setting Priorities

- **Identify key statewide priorities for ECC efforts**
- Provide high-level strategy, recommendations, and advocacy to inform and advance state's ECC work
- Champion ECC programs, supporting connections across state initiatives and services
- Center equity, reunification, and parent empowerment throughout work
- Alongside the State Team and Data Advisory Group, develop benchmarks to maintain alignment to core components outlined in 2SSB 5331



Exercise



Washington Mission, Vision, and Values Statements

- **Mission:** To promote lasting, positive outcomes for parents, infants, and toddlers in the child welfare system by transforming the court process to be parent-centered, relationship-based, racially and culturally equitable, and collaborative.
- **Vision:** Parents, infants, and toddlers are safe, healthy and thriving in communities where equity, relationships, and collaboration are celebrated.
- **Values:** Collaboration, Community, Empowerment, Hope, Relationship, Integrity



**What do you
bring to
the table?**





Determining Areas of Opportunity

What are the key, statewide priorities that the State Advisory Board should set?



Setting Priorities for Our Work

What do you see as a priority for Washington?

Ideas can include (but are not limited to!):

- Identifying gaps and equitable access to resources
- Expansion of ECC sites
- Funding sustainability
- Prevention
- Legislative asks
- etc.

Arkansas has determined their areas of high priority are:

- Substance Use Treatment
- Father Engagement
- Re-entry
- Domestic Violence

Family Medical Programs are a **medium** priority

New Jersey's State Advisory Group asked the question:

How best can the Safe Babies Team meet the housing needs of parents and caregivers?



Small Group Activity

- Break into small groups and discuss:
 - What do you want to see 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?
- 10 minutes in small groups, then we will reconvene and report out to the larger group



Report Back

- What priorities did your group identify?
- What further information do you need to inform your choices?



Next Steps



Next steps

Work will continue via email!

1. Selecting priorities

- We will send out any requested information (such as additional data), as available
- Continue conversation via email
- Gather the potential priorities identified today – and anything additional determined over email – with the hopes of voting via email

2. Who isn't here?

- What other sector, or area of expertise or experience, should be represented?
- Please reach out to Michelle or Morgan to help connect us to those folks!



Questions?

Thank you for attending!

Michelle will reach out to schedule next Advisory Board Meeting

Our contact information:

- Sarah Burns sarah.burns@courts.wa.gov
- Arina Gertseva arina.gertseva@courts.wa.gov
- Morgan Silverman msilverman@ccyj.org
- Rachel Sottile rsottile@ccyj.org
- Kelly Warner King kelly.warner-king@courts.wa.gov
- Michelle Williams mwilliams@ccyj.org