

Family Well-Being Community Collaborative (FWCC)

Meeting Summary – November 10, 2025

Mission: Collaborate to keep families safely together and supported in their communities and radically reduce inequities within the child welfare court system.

Welcome

Facilitated by Co-Chairs, Natalie Green (DCYF) and Kelly Warner-King (FYJP).

Workgroup Updates

Engaging Parents at Shelter Care – Sarah Burns (FYJP) & Shrounda Selivanoff (OPD)

- Completed Phase 1 of Purpose to Practice. Now working on defining a shared vision and next steps.
- Parent Journey Map: Exploring how to share broadly.
- Emerging themes for what's needed:
 - Clear, honest communication with families.
 - Shared tools for courts and agencies to collaborate effectively.
 - Trust-building and emotional safety, framed with Hope science language. Help for families to regulate their emotions.
 - Clarity for staff and families.
 - Support motivation by celebrating progress.
 - Well-being focus—support healing and connection.
- Next Steps:
 - FWCC survey on system readiness for implementation.
 - Next workgroup meeting scheduled Nov 18.
 - DCYF is also conducting mapping exercises for SUD system – could have some overlap.

Guardianship Workgroup – Tarassa Froberg (FYJP)

- Title 13 tip sheets will be widely accessible:
 - All tipsheets available here: [Guardianship Workgroup - Family and Youth Justice Programs](#)

- Available for courts on the Inside Courts site, where bench cards can be downloaded.
- New Self-Help Portal for self-represented litigants (includes Title 11 resources). [Self-Help Washington](#)
- Training scheduled: Jan 27, 12–1 PM.

Harm of Removal Workgroup – Laura Vogel (FYJP)

- [Guidance for Courts: Harms of Removal Across Stages of Child Development](#)
 - Workgroup has completed the harms of removal guidance document for ages 9–11.
 - Now focusing on developing guidance for ages 12–14.

Court Process for Cases Without Removal – Laura Vogel (FYJP) & Michelle Hetzel (DCYF) – starting in February 2026

- Goal: Develop structure and recommendations for handling cases without removal.
- Interest: Over 50 participants signed up, including seven county courts, lived experts, DCYF Office of Tribal Relations, and community partners.
- Timeline:
 - First meeting scheduled Feb 24, 2026 (4th Tuesday monthly).
 - Aiming to provide recommendations by end of 2026.
- Discussion Points:
 - Focus on transparency – there is not a predetermined outcome for this workgroup.
 - Main focus is to create guidance for courts to encourage more consistency in how cases move through the court process – including how non-removal cases are handled after dependency is established.
 - Issues that are raised but deemed outside of the scope of this workgroup will be recorded and gathered in a “parking lot” in the online hub.
- Online Hub: <https://fyjp.org/family-well-being-community-collaborative-fwcc/court-process-for-cases-without-removal-workgroup/>
- Related Work: Regina McDougall (DCYF) described her work using prototyping methods to collect client voices (personas, first-person reflections).

Dependency System Data Discussion

Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) – Doug Savalesky (DCYF) and Matt Burroughs (DCYF)

- Washington is participating in a required federal review (Round 4) of child welfare systemic factors and case-level outcomes.
- Timeline:
 - Statewide assessment due June 2026
 - Onsite case reviews held Aug 17–21, 2026
 - 3 sites: King County + two counties to be determined.
 - 65 cases will be reviewed - out-of-home (40) and in-home (25)
 - Focus groups and interviews in August 2026 – 150-180 people across the system
 - Focus on systemic factors that impact the child welfare system
 - FWCC will help to identify partners
 - Federal Children’s Bureau will provide report back to WA identifying strengths and areas in need of improvement.
 - DCYF and partners develop a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) to be implemented over a two year period.
- Participation: FWCC members are invited to participate in system partner interviews – contact Doug Savalesky douglas.savelesky@dcyf.wa.gov.

AOC/DCYF Data Sharing Update – Dr. Arina Gertseva (AOC)

- Data Sharing Agreement renewal is underway
 - Currently AOC is drafting new data elements based on responses to a cross-system needs assessment and SB 6068 report recommendations.
- During this transition, some court reports have been made available by using the court’s BIT system. These reports are only available at the local court level, upon request.
- Next Steps:
 - AOC will provide summary data in the FYJP legislative report.
 - AOC and DCYF will collaborate on CFSR needs.
 - AOC/DCYF data sharing agreement anticipated by June 2026.

SB 6068 Data Workgroup

- SB 6068 report, “[Recommendations for Measuring Relational Permanency and Child Well-Being Among Children and Families Involved in Washington’s Child Welfare Dependency Courts](#),” recommended creating a standing Dependency Data Workgroup with cross-system participation.
- Group will be co-led by Dr. Arina Gertseva (AOC) and MaShelle Hess (DCYF)
- Goals:
 - Reestablish AOC/DCYF data-sharing agreement.

- Develop data plan and agree on indicators to measure relational permanency and child well-being in Washington State.
- Co-design new data tools with youth, parents, and caregivers.
- Ensure ethical use of data.
- Kick-Off: Dec 4, 2025; recruiting partners now (tribal leaders, lived experts, agencies, and judicial/legal partners).
- Funding: Commission has access to funds for lived expert participation – Kelly exploring options.

Key Takeaways

- FWCC workgroups advancing key initiatives: parent engagement, guardianship resources, harm of removal guidance, and new court process structures.
- Major data efforts underway: CFSR preparation, AOC/DCYF reinstating data sharing agreement, and SB 6068-driven data governance work.
- FWCC members encouraged to participate in interviews and data workgroups.

Next Steps

- Engaging Parents at Shelter Care Workgroup: Next meeting on Nov 18.
- Guardianship Workgroup: Share Title 13 tip sheets; training on Jan 27, 12–1 PM; resources available at <https://fyjp.org/family-well-being-community-collaborative-fwcc/guardianship-workgroup/>.
- Harm of Removal Workgroup: Continue development of guidance for ages 12–14.
- Court Process for Cases Without Removal Workgroup: First meeting scheduled for Feb 24, 2026; review materials on HUB: <https://fyjp.org/family-well-being-community-collaborative-fwcc/court-process-for-cases-without-removal-workgroup/>.
- CFSR Participation: FWCC members interested in systemic factor interviews should email douglas.savelesky@dcyf.wa.gov.
- SB 6068 Data Workgroup: Kick-off meeting on Dec 4, 2025; recruiting partners now. Contact Arina Gertseva (arina.gertseva@courts.wa.gov).