

FWCC Meeting Notes 1/9/2023

[Family Well-Being Community Collaborative](#)

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

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Implementation Progress

- FYJP staff gave an update on what has been happening in the FWCC workgroups regarding the Crosswalks, iDecide, HB 1227 Court Readiness Toolkit, and Training.
- Removal and Placement Decisions Workgroup
 - HB 1227 Court Readiness Toolkit
 - FYJP is developing a suite of tools that court systems can use to assess their current capacity for HB 1227 implementation and begin working on identified areas for improvement. Anticipated release of this tool is early February.
 - Progress Towards Goals
 - The Removal & Placement Decisions will be working on developing guidance on “imminent physical harm”.
 - The Harm of Removal Guidance Subgroup is working on developing guidance on harm of removal and balancing test of safety.
 - Training
 - The Training Library is now available in iDecide. The categories of trainings correspond to the domains of harm of removal that the Harm of Removal Guidance Subgroup identified.
 - Multiple training opportunities will be available in 2023 for courts and system partners to receive training that supports HB 1227 implementation, including iDecide.
 - Courts and system partner agencies can contact Laura Vogel about scheduling iDecide training.
- Ex Parte Removal Workgroup
 - Working on the Ex Parte Removal crosswalk.
 - Identified that the iDecide tool would also be helpful for that, so Laura has been attending their meetings and doing the crosswalk there.
 - Discussed that best practice should be putting emergent removals on the record.
 - A question the workgroup had was: How much training is planned for law enforcement and hospitals regarding imminent harm standard and how it impacts their work? Potential Children’s Justice Conference (CJC) session.
 - Workgroup members should let Sarah Burns know if they are interested in developing and delivering the CJC session.
- Family Time and Placement Decisions Workgroup
 - The Workgroup’s plan is to create a crosswalk for HB 1194, so Laura can add it to iDecide. That will be the focus of today’s Work Session.
 - The Workgroup has two more meetings this month to work on finishing it.
 - If anyone is interested in participating, please contact Jennifer Nguyen.

Terminology Discussion: In Home Placement vs. In Home Dependency

- Judicial officers have identified a problem with the term “in home dependency” for cases in shelter care. Dependency has not been established, so it is an inaccurate descriptor for all cases.
- Tarassa Froberg shared a draft chart created by DCYF with suggested terminology for describing where a child is placed (see below).
 - DCYF staff think that “In Home Pre-Dependency” seems to make sense, but they are open to considering other options.

DCYF (in development)			
Type	Sub-Type	Description	First Hearing from time of filing
In Home Pre-Dependency	Non-Removal Petition	Never ask for removal but file for a dependency	Summons Date (First Set Fact Finding)
In Home Pre-Dependency	Non-Removal Petition with Conditions	Never ask for removal but file for a dependency and ask for conditions for the child to remain home (safety plan in court order)	Shelter Care
In Home Pre-Dependency	Denied Removal Petition	Ask for removal at the time filing or at the first shelter care	Shelter Care
In Home Dependency	Is this a Return Home or Trial Return or does it matter?	Child Returned at the Same Time as Dependency Established	N/A
In Home Dependency	Trial Return Home	Child Returned after Dependency Established	N/A

- Feedback from the group included:
 - Judge Hirsch shared the feedback she received from judicial officers about possible names for in-home placement that occurs during the shelter care process (see below). She suggested focusing on terminology that does not assume dependency will be found. We should strive to be technically correct, and not project the potential outcome.

Judicial Officer Feedback
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-home placement • Conditional placement • Supervised placement • In home review • In-home assistance • Collaborative supervision • Removal prevention work • Keeping kids at home work

- One challenge we have is that DCYF tracks placement separately from court involvement. Would a good term address where the child is living AND the status of the case?
 - DCYF wants case workers to understand the status and enter it correctly into FamLink.
- Some suggestions offered included:
 - In Home Filing
 - In Home Shelter Care

- In Home Pre-Fact Finding
- In Home Post Filing
- An agreed-upon term is needed so that we can collect baseline data.
 - It would be good to have the data on the different categories and what does “success” look like. We don’t have much of a baseline now, so the sooner we can get a definition the better.
- Next Step: Arrange a Data Conversation to agree on identifiers for shelter care. Matt Orme from the AOC Washington State Center for Court Research (WSCCR) will be part of that meeting. The following people asked to be included in this meeting:
 - Tarassa Froberg
 - Jasmin Hodges
 - Brett Ballew
 - Doug Savelesky
 - Marci Comeau
 - Judge Ann Hirsch.
- Next Step: Invite more tribal representatives to the FWCC. FYJP staff will follow up.

Work Session – Workgroup members and interested FWCC members joined the featured FWCC Family Time and HB 1194 Implementation Workgroup meeting. More information about the meeting and/or the Family Time Workgroup is available on the Workgroup’s Hub:

- [Family Time and HB 1194 Implementation](#) Workgroup.

Next FWCC Meeting – February 13, 2023, 12-1:30pm. The 2023 FWCC Meeting Schedule is available on the [FWCC webpage](#).