

**JOIN HANDS FOR CHILDREN**  
**MINUTES FROM ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SITE SELECTION AND TRANSITION ISSUES**

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**August 2, 2011**  
**9:30 am – 12:30pm**

DSHS CA Region 3  
Pierce West Office  
3rd Floor, Room 348  
1949 S. State Street  
Tacoma, WA 98405

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**Members Present:** Nancy Sutton; Jeanine Livingston; Judge Leonard Costello; Maureen McGrath; Trudy Marcellay; Liz Mueller; Benjamin deHaan;

**Staff Present:** Benjamin Berres, Partners for Our Children; Tammy Cordova and David Del Villar Fox, DSHS Children's Administration; Jennifer Strus; Megan Palchak; Carl Yamagida; Andi Smith

**Others:** Stephanie Lee and Marna Miller, Washington State Institute of Public Policy (WSIPP); Brenda Kaufman; Laurie Lippold; Mary Stone Smith; Linda Thomas; Dan Evans; Mark Eddy

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Benjamin Berres, staff to the Child Welfare Transformation Designed Committee, called the meeting to order and turned over the meeting to Advisory Committee Co-Chairs, Jeanine Livingston and Nancy Sutton. The members took some time to introduce themselves then opened the floor to the public to introduce themselves.

**Review Advisory Committee Membership**

Benjamin Berres reviewed the list of advisory committee members. He mentioned that there were a couple requests to update the advisory committee membership. Before looking at the list of individuals nominated to join the committee, he reviewed the advisory committee's ground rules because the committee had not met in long time. The advisory committee then reviewed the nominated names and chose John Lawson and June West. The Advisory Committee will contact both and invite them to the next scheduled meetings. Next, the advisory committee reviewed the nominations for the birth parent representative. Trudy Marcellay, Jeanine Livingston and Benjamin deHaan vocalized support for Brenda Kaufman. The Advisory Committee voted to bring Brenda Kaufman on to the committee.

**Discussion of Research Support to the Site Selection Committee**

Nancy Sutton mentioned that David Marshall would be available to be a resource to the committee.

**Discussion of Site Selection Advisory Committee Materials, Obligations and Future Tasks**

Benjamin Berres reviewed the Transformation Design Committee co-chairs', Asst Secretary Denise Revels Robinson and Judge Leonard Costello, expectations for the Advisory Committee on Site Selection and Transition Issues relative to the full committee meeting that will take place on October 7, 2011. He explained that the co-chairs were desired for the advisory committee to come forward with a proposed demonstration sites for the full committee to deliberate. Nancy Sutton said that the co-chairs would work with Tammy Cordova and the Research and Data Analysis Section of DSHS to get a mapping session scheduled.

The Advisory Committee reviewed previous timelines. Nancy Sutton said that the committee should work really hard towards the deadline outlined in statute.

The Advisory Committee reviewed reporting obligations.

Nancy Sutton moved on to a discussion of the data and maps relative to the proposed demonstration sites. Benjamin deHaan added that he had been hearing that the FamLink data is getting better. Nancy Sutton agreed that the data is improved, even in the last year. Tammy Cordova agreed and reiterated this point.

Benjamin Berres presented a number of previous Advisory Committee documents for review:

- A WSIPP document describing sample size relative to the demonstration sites
- A list of suggestions given to the full TDC by the Advisory Committee
- Draft Criteria for the Selection of Demonstration Sites

The Advisory Committee reviewed and had short discussions on each of the above documents and talked about the process through which delivered the Advisory Committee to present day.

There was a comment to turn the whole state into a demonstration site but only transfer the number of children required to complete an evaluation to private agencies. Jeanine Livingston suspected there would be a number of issues inherent in making a proposal consistent with this suggestion.

The committee took a brief break.

When the Advisory Committee reconvened after break, they reviewed the last iterations of the maps. Nancy Sutton said that she had engaged in conversation with Tammy Cordova about recent advances in data through using FamLink, rather than older CAMIS data. One of the advances in data is in regards to the numbers of children in in-home placement. Tammy Cordova said that there would be additional information at the next Site Selection Advisory Committee meeting. Tammy Cordova handed out a document (*Case Level Report to Site Comm 8-2-11*) that depicted recent case counts of children. The document counted children using a point-in-time methodology. One important note, Tammy Cordova mentioned, is that FamLink cannot count the number of children in in-home cases because these cases are recorded as family-cases, not as children. Advisory Committee members made a number of requests for additional data elements for the next meeting.

The Advisory Committee briefly discussed some of the transition issues. The Advisory Committee resolved to talk about some of these issues moving forward.

Jeanine Livingston recommended that the data be distributed to the Advisory Committee as soon as it is available and to meet with RDA as soon as they are able.

The Advisory Committee spent some time scheduling subsequent meeting times. The group tentatively put holds on September 19th and 27th.

After the scheduling was completed, the Advisory Committee opened up the floor to public comment. Laurie Lippold of Children's Home Society of Washington asked a clarifying question about the point at which children would be referred to the supervising agencies. Nancy Sutton answered that the referral might occur while the investigation is still active.

After the Public Comment period the committee adjourned.