



Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs

www.doh.wa.gov/cyshcn

COMMUNICATION NETWORK MEETING

October 8, 2020

CYSHCN Communication Network Purpose:

Provide for exchange of information among those programs and entities that serve children with special health care needs and their families and facilitate an opportunity to learn more about statewide policies, programs and issues critical to this unique population.

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Attendees

Due to continued social distancing requirements enacted by Governor Inslee, Communication Network will be conducted entirely in a 2-hour, online format.

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Guests:	
Tracie Hoppis, WA Parent to Parent	
Alexandra Toney, OSPI	
Jen Cole, PAVE	

Attendees via GoTo Meeting:	
All attended via GoTo Meeting	

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Program Update

www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/InfantsChildrenandTeens/HealthandSafety/ChildrenwithSpecialHealthCareNeeds.aspx

Staff Updates

We welcomed Sarah Burdette to our team in the Process Improvement Specialist position in May. Michelle Hoffman transitioned to a new role at DSHS/DDA in June. We are excited to announce that we have hired Monica Burke as the new CYSHCN Program Supervisor. She will start work at DOH this month!

Child Health Intake Form (CHIF) Database

The CHIF database is now live!

Quarterly CHIF data does not need to be submitted to the Department of Health as done in the past. Quarterly CHIF reporting will only need to reflect the following three updates during the specified time frame:

- If a child is inactive during that quarter
- If a child has their 1-year anniversary during that quarter
- If a new client is added during that quarter

When this data is saved in your CHIF account, the Department of Health will be able to access your account information.

For more information, contact Sarah Burdette at 360-688-3251 or sarah.burdette@doh.wa.gov.

Washington Statewide Leadership Initiative (WSLI) and DOH Family Engagement

The WSLI coalition spent the summer refreshing on Results-Based Accountability, our method of shared measurement of outcomes. Now the Steering Committee is engaged in strategic planning using the concepts learned/refreshed through the summer months. Due to continued safety and health concerns, the annual in-person meeting will not happen this year. We are tentatively hoping to host one in the summer of 2021.

The Family Navigation Workgroup was on hold through most of the spring and summer months due to limited capacity among participants to attend and engage. The group is now working on mapping out Care Coordination activities in the state in an effort to find gaps in service for CYSHCN.

For more WSLI or DOH Family Engagement information, contact Nikki Dyer at 360-236-3536 or nikki.dyer@doh.wa.gov.

CYSHCN Program Nutrition Updates

Our program recently finished a statewide needs assessment on access to nutrition services for CYSHCN. This needs assessment was started in 2017 by Joan Zerzan - Clinical Nutrition Consultant with the CYSHCN Program, but it's completion was delayed by her retirement. I appreciate your patience as I have gotten up to speed and worked to finalize the report!

You can find the full report here: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/Pubs/970-226-CYSHCNNutritionNeedsAssessment.pdf>.

For more information, please contact Nila Williamson at 360-236-3573 or nila.williamson@doh.wa.gov.

CSHCN Rule (Washington Administrative Code-WAC) Update

The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Program Chapter 246-710 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) is now final.

To review details, please go to <https://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=246-710>

Thank you to the members of the CSHCN Communication Network that reviewed and provided input into the language.

For more information, contact Ellen Silverman at 360-236-3580 or (ellen.silverman@doh.wa.gov).

Essentials for Childhood (EFC)

The [EFC ACEs and Resilience Community of Practice](#) is a network of leaders from across the state. Participants are successfully putting innovative practices to work on the ground in communities and learning from research. It is a forum where we learn together and from each other about how to create community capacity, foster resilience and address ACEs in our communities. We provide the people who do this difficult, ground-breaking work a space for connection, and support, and learning together. This spring the Community of Practice held a well-received webinar series covering topics such as the science of hope, trauma informed workplaces, parenting for resilience, and others. These and our 2019 webinars are in a new [YouTube Playlist](#).

Coming soon: Funding opportunity to embed [Vroom](#) brain building tools and messages in community and tribal programs that work with families of children age 0 through 5. Successful applicants will describe how they will use Vroom to connect with families and strengthen systems that support child health and development in underserved and who have been historically marginalized communities. To receive the Request for Proposal when it is released, [join the Essentials for Childhood Vroom email list](#).

For more information, contact Marilyn Gisser at 360-236-3503 or see www.doh.wa.gov/efc.

Universal Developmental Screening (UDS)

The Universal Developmental Screening (UDS) Data System project team is making progress toward a statewide system to track UDS screening birth through five years of age. As mentioned in the April update, the plan is for an initial version that will allow user access and data input from both parents and healthcare providers. The overarching project goal is to increase early childhood developmental screening rates and connection to responsive services.

Updates:

- The team has identified data system requirements and is conducting a discovery process for platform and software approaches to building the system.
- There have been timeline adjustments due to the impact of Covid-19, and also due to multiple layers of review the CMS funding requires. The team is actively working to mitigate these challenges.
- Stakeholder engagement continues to be a priority. DOH meets regularly with DCYF and Help Me Grow partners, with the goal of coordinating the UDS project with their work on a statewide early childhood resource and referral system.
- Additional stakeholders, including LHJs, have been engaged on an ad hoc basis, and will continue to be engaged throughout the project's development.

We encourage Communication Network partners to reach out with questions, suggestions, and input!

For more information, contact Marilyn Dold at Marilyn.dold@doh.wa.gov.

MCH LHJ Contracts Updates

The new MCH contract year began October 1st. This past year the program piloted a new project requiring all the contractors to include a healthy equity plan in their annual work plan. This pilot will be used to inform further efforts to increase the focus on health equity in contracts.

This year's MCH fall regional meetings are of course cancelled, and we look forward to a time when we can once again meet in person.

Guest Presentations

Innovative Strategies for Peer Support Programs During COVID-19

Tracie Hoppis, Parent to Parent

The goal of Parent to Parent (P2P) is to provide social support for individuals with developmental disabilities and special healthcare needs and their families. To access resources, anyone can go to their website to find a map that designates resources specific to local communities across the state of Washington.

Parent to Parent has 25 programs across the state and continues to grow. They were able to expand after the legislature appropriated funding for the program. With this funding, P2P was able to develop new programs in 5 areas that have previously not been served across the state. Two of the new programs are in Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties. With the additional programs P2P is now able to provide coverage across the entire state.

P2P has had time to prepare for launching into virtual support. A year ago, a parent came in with a daughter experiencing significant health challenges. The parent asked for virtual meetings to be able to attend support groups because she could not go in person. P2P wanted to support families with access issues, so DCYF offered funding for virtual support groups. Because of this experience prior to COVID they were able to learn and prepare and expand best practices for virtual support for families.

DOH also provided funding and P2P decided to use it to pilot a virtual group. The funding was used to purchase zoom subscriptions for P2P programs across the state. Twenty-eight zoom subscriptions were purchased, and some programs purchased two for multicultural groups to have their own space. P2P provided guidance for accessing zoom meetings via phone or computer for parents, to help families get connected and offered this guidance in multiple languages.

They established P2P Coordinator Connection Calls to share support, learning, and success stories. It can be hard for coordinators to sit in their living room and facilitate support groups while at home with their own children with special health care needs. These Connection Calls provided peer support for coordinators, a space for troubleshooting how to improve virtual support groups, and the opportunity to share ideas of fun things to do on zoom to help people to connect.

P2P provides training opportunities for coordinators, this year these trainings were offered virtually across the state. There was a focus on Title V work and included local CYSHCN nurses at some of the meetings. P2P had their annual statewide training this fall which included 2 days of information sharing, including workshops on cultural humility and self-compassion and boundary setting. These topics were very nourishing for the coordinators supporting their families and others. P2P had over 90% of coordinators participating in that training, an record attendance!

P2P programs are also facilitating virtual game nights, costume parties, cooking class, talent shows, and trainings across the state, to keep everyone engaged in the community. These trainings have an added benefit of being accessible to everyone now because they are virtual.

P2P experience with the benefits of virtual groups:

Geographic barriers are gone. -- Yakima's P2P support group had a mother join the group from Seattle Children's who felt isolated in the hospital with her child. This access helped the mother feel more connected and supported during a stressful time and while out of the county.

Parents can participate trainings that are being offered across the state.

Parents who have resource challenges (transportation, child care, etc.) now have better access.

With the start of remote learning school in Yakima, P2P has seen a decline in attendance for morning groups because parents were busy helping children in school. P2P pivoted and moved the meetings to the evenings so that parents could still attend. This change provided a measurable increase in attendance. Parents across the state agreed that they want virtual groups to continue to be offered after the pandemic situation is over. It is a useful way to support access issues.

Challenges for implanting virtual support have been:

Inadequate technology and WIFI bandwidth

Participation -- Parents are working to juggle so many responsibilities (work, school, caregiving) and some parents are starting to get fatigued, leading to reluctant to attend meetings. P2P is working to try and stay nimble and change with the needs of the parent they serve.

Resources and Information to Support Families and Students During COVID-19

Alexandra Toney, OSPI

The goal of the [Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction](#) (OSPI) is make sure students are prepared for moving forward in their continued education. OSPI is working on closing education gaps and has high standards for students. OSPI regularly examines policies and practice to support students and aims to support students, families, and communities through equity and cultural competence.

The [Special Education](#) page is an excellent resource which features timely and relevant new information. It is updated as new guidance, resources, and information is made available. There is guidance available on their website for understanding systems of eligibility and guidance for transition to kindergarten during COVID. OSPI keeps an updated Frequently Asked Questions resource that families can refer to. This is a living document which changes over time to reflect the most recent and accurate information possible. It is made up of any question they receive from parents, stakeholders, and schools around the state. To make this less of a daunting document, it is easily navigable through a clickable Table of Contents which broken up by question.

The expectation for schools at all times, and even during COVID, is that a student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) will be implemented to the fullest extent possible.

There is an expectation for schools to transition to full IEP implementation this year, even while remote learning is taking place. OSPI is working to support schools to increase their communication with families. There is no mandate regarding remote learning or in-person instruction isn't mandated. Every school is in a different COVID environment and it is recommended that this decision be made at the local school district level, in partnership with Public Health. Any decisions and timing for transition around the mode of instruction will be very specific to local conditions.

Audience Question: Are schools required to provide equipment at home?

Specialized equipment is to be provided, IF it is required in the student's IEP. If it's "needed" but not explicitly required in the plan then a conversation should be had with teachers to adjust IEP plan to meet the needs of the student.

OSPI is focusing on providing resources for student progress and documenting it. If students aren't progressing and it's documented, then changes to the IEP plan will be made to make sure students are progressing.

How to find out more information:

Parents can call the OSPI office, but they will be referred to contact their student's IEP team at their school. Strategies are school-specific based on what schools can do with their configuration. If parents are not able to connect with their school, then there is a special education directory which has contact for directors at the school district. Parents can also check the OSPI website for guidance.

If the IEP process doesn't work for families, there are other options at no cost to parents. It can escalate through various steps. OSPI is contracted with an organization that provides support to families for no cost and can provide a list of legal assistance upon request.

Parent Training and Information at PAVE

Jen Cole, PAVE

Parent Training and Information Center (PTI) provides information, training, and resources to families and communities in order to support rights and responsibilities in the education system. Their main intention is to support families and provide options.

PTI plays a role in systems level work and is on several special councils across the state to keep families and students at the center of decisions.

PTI supports parents in understanding the IEP process and the rights guaranteed to a child through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

COVID and school closures have highlighted the disparities and inequities in education faced by students with disabilities, as well as other traditionally marginalized groups and the intersections. PTI works to organize content and resources to help individuals navigate the special education system.

Families seeking information or assistance can go to PAVE to fill out a request form, call their tollfree number, or communicate via Facebook.

When a family contacts PAVE for help, what happens?

A trained referral person receives the contact and then connects them to a coordinator. They can help anyone across the state, and there are PTI Coordinators across the state to connect families with local and state resources.

CSHCN Coordinator Updates by County

Gathered from counties and shared on a quarterly basis.

Grays Harbor County Public Health

Erin Schreiber, Program Supervisor, Healthy Families Division

Grays Harbor County Public Health, along with The Arc of GH, continues to coordinate an equity task force for disability and aging. The task force was initially convened to ensure information disseminated around COVID-19 was reaching this targeted population. Task Force membership is made up of community agency partners including local school district special education, Coastal Community Action Program workforce program staff, DSHS CSO, OAAA, and DD staff. We have found this group valuable to continue networking with partners and providing updates on local COVID-19 information, including changes in agency program services and common client barriers.

Our CYSHCN program staff continue to reach out to families, including new referrals, to ensure they are aware of changes in procedures and services to programs and resources due to COVID-19 and that they are accessing resources such as CARES Act funding and local food distribution events.

Our bilingual CYSHCN staff have been assisting families that are needing extra support around coordinating medical appointments for their children and understanding the new procedures that are in place due to COVID-19. One of our CYSHCN staff spent a recent weekend assisting a CYSHCN family whose son was admitted to Tacoma Children's hospital

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due to a skin infection. This client speaks a dialect and was confused as to the purpose of her toddler son's admittance to the hospital. The hospital medical staff, including the Doctor and Discharge Nurse collaborated with the CYCHSCN staff person to come up with the best way to communicate discharge and continued care instructions to the mom and the rest of the family. The Spanish and dialect speaking families we work with continue to experience a disproportionate amount of barriers when it comes to receiving and coordinating medical care for their children; the use of language lines, and translated written forms/materials is still mostly an afterthought for many providers.

Our agency has been reviewing an ADA toolkit that offers guidance around website accessibility for persons with disabilities. We have also been using this framework for our department Facebook page.

Jefferson County Public Health

Apple Martine, Community Health Director

- The Family Health Team have been busy involved with COVID-19 case and contact investigations
- Racial Equity and assessing our programming within the county departments – though we haven't gotten much traction on that yet formally
- Support of Vulnerable Families during COVID (the Roundtable) and then participation in the Recovery & Resiliency Taskforce (prioritization of response projects worthy of CARES funding – i.e., Family Navigator position at YMCA...not approved yet but certainly a lengthy process we have been involved in)
- Support of school reopening planning for our unique county who started the school year with a hybrid model; attention to all children's health and safety r/t COVID in the schools as well as attention to children with special needs; coordinating with schools on behalf of complicated cases where masking is difficult given the child's disability, etc.
- How about NFP, MSS, and WIC still doing ASQs if only via virtual visits? Via parental self-report? Continuation of emphasis in these programs for families to have developmental screening for their child on time despite the pandemic interruptions..."

Pacific County Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

Princess Klus, Care Coordinator-Family Navigator

Amanda Berube and Princess Klus have a shared email address – cyshn@co.pacific.wa.us. They also have a private group page within our FACEBOOK Pacific County Health and Human Services Dept. at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PCHHDFAMILY2FAMILY>. We share resources, trainings and supports for families with Special Health Care Needs.

San Juan County

Kristen Rezabek, MS, RDN, CD, CDE

San Juan County is working on strategies to enhance access to oral health care with school-based sealant partnerships with Island Co and ACH LIN as well as Arcora Foundation and the Smile Mobile. Current case load is ESIT-11, CYSHCN-56. COVID-19 has brought some issues to the forefront with community funders and one area of need has been accessing childcare/ early learning and the lack of infant and extended hours care. Convening meetings with San Juan Island Community Foundation to address challenges with accessing high quality early learning opportunities and working with Joyce L Sobel Family Resource Center on Commerce Planning Grant around Early Learning in San Juan. Working with School Districts to complete the Autism COE trainings and from a SMART team in San Juan County.

Spokane Regional Health District

Kristin Lester recently was hired by Spokane Regional Health District and her job description includes CYSHCN.

As she is brand new to this role, she is learning about the program and the responsibilities within it. Other roles include involvement with Birth to 3/Infant Toddler Network and involvement with a community project working on opioid use disorder in pregnancy, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, and the Eat Sleep Console model.

Additionally, the overarching focus at SRHD is COVID and COVID Care Coordination.

Thurston County Public Health and Social Services

Our referrals in general have slowed down. Many of the referrals we have received lately are related to child's behavioral problems who have a hx of childhood trauma and their mothers with a hx of trauma, untreated mental health conditions, and many chronic health conditions. We have learned from families that their anxiety has significantly increased with the lack of in-person services and the new additional responsibilities of providing their children's therapy and schooling. Virtual learning for children with learning disabilities has been a huge challenge for the families and schools.

Since suicides in our county have increased this year, we worked with Crisis Clinic to develop a flyer and a small handout on warning signs for suicide and where to go for help. The flyers were shared with home visitors and other community partners.

I have been working from home since March. I go into the office 1x week to access the Provider One website, print and mail. We now have a secure email from Neocertified to communicate client confidential information to other providers. We have been working on developing and learning a new electronic charting system called Advanced MD for our MCH programs. We are close to using the charting system.

Yakima County Public Health

Tracie Hoppis

- Developed/distributed mental health/suicide awareness flyer (with local resources) in English/Spanish
- Co-leading Yakima County Interagency Transition (to adulthood) Network (with ESD 105)- established 2 workgroups 1) Transition Educators- hosting regular meetings to support educators around virtual learning- ideas, peer support, etc 2) hosting parent/family information/support around transition-age students supports/resources
- Children's Village continues to offer the majority of services/supports virtually with minimal services offered in-person at Children's Village. Leadership has developed a phasing plan which is guiding this process.
- CLP has now held 2 clinics (since the Pandemic began) and will continue to provide in-person clinics every 2 months, with a focus on patients from specific counties (ie November's clinic will include north-central Washington counties).

Neurodevelopmental Center (NDC) Updates

Peace Health Children's Therapy - Whatcom County

Kris Gaggero Clinic Manager

<https://www.peacehealth.org/phmg/bellingham-lynden/services/specialty-care/childrens-therapy>

Began video visits for families at the end of August. We are continuing to provide safe face to face visits therapy visits. We are learning how to best use video visits to provide therapeutic services. Would love to know how others have successfully used telehealth in the therapy world.

Children's Therapy Skagit Valley Hospital

Erin Kavi Lead Therapist

www.skagitvalleyhospital.org

We are treating patients both virtually and in the clinic. We are treating less patients per day to allow for thorough cleaning in between patients. We have closed our waiting room and have patients wait in their car until the therapist is ready to have them in their room. Providing virtual services is new for us but it is going well! One challenge is our wait list is very long, about 450 kids. We are seeing less per day due to cleaning. One ongoing concern is reimbursement rates.

Children's Therapy Valley Medical Center

Kari Tanta, Rehab Manager

www.valleymed.org

We have been providing modified services with a hybrid of telemedicine and in person since May 1st. Keeping everyone safe while providing in person care is going well. One challenge has been lots of schedule changes with the start of online school. We would appreciate help with continued advocacy for keeping telemedicine an option past the pandemic. We are keeping the community updated through the VMC marketing updates which go out every two weeks. Our team aims for at least one blog article or submission with each issue.

I AM INCLUDING A LINK TO RECENT POSTS BY OUR TEAM. SAVE THE LINK AND YOU WILL CONTINUE TO SEE ALL OF OUR ARTICLES. Link: https://link.zixcentral.com/u/d013f528/tmG3m-b86hGB9HNZO49hPQ?u=http%3A%2F%2Fblog.valleymed.org%2Fcategory%2Fchildrens_health%2Fchildrens_therapy%2F

Kinderling

Kathy Fortner Director of Operations

www.kinderling.org

Kinderling, now in its 58th year, provides leading-edge therapies and special education for infants and toddlers with disabilities, delays, and other risk factors from sites in Bellevue, Bothell and Renton, and as of April 2019, Redmond as well. These services range from inclusive preschool programming and speech, feeding, and motor therapies, to supporting young children experiencing homelessness or living in foster and kinship care, as well as a range of family support services for parents and siblings of children with special needs. Since March 2020, Kinderling has offered our therapies and supports virtually, supplying the necessary technology to families who need ways to access our services from their homes.

UPDATES:

- Kinderling is weathering the storm of COVID-19. We have transitioned to fully providing all our services remotely through telehealth. Thankfully, we've been providing some services virtually on an as-needed basis since 2016, so we were able to make this transition fairly seamlessly. Our therapists and special educators have been creative and dedicated in finding new ways to connect with families and even offer our group classes online. We're thankful to the foresight of past leadership, setting us up to succeed virtually. Because of this, we've been able to work with King County to aid other organizations in best practices for providing teleinterventions.
- Since March 1, we have completed over 26,200 tele-therapy sessions, plus developmental evaluations, remotely. We've seen lots of change in the past several months, but we remain committed to serving infants and children, and their families, with gold-standard therapies and special education.

- This past month, we launched Kinderling Virtual Play Pass! Think of KVPP as the Netflix of online preschool classes, but you tune into live classes, not pre-recorded! Our wonderful special educators have put together creative and engaging activities for each class session. These classes are offered in English, Spanish, and dual language. Since these are accessed online, KVPP classes are available to anyone around the world with internet access! Learn more at kinderling.org/play-pass.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- We are happy to offer our Speaker Series via Zoom. We are still securing dates and times for these to be available, but please visit our Facebook page (facebook.com/kinderlingcenter) for updates.
- Our 15th Annual Salute to Courage Benefit is going virtual this year! Instead of gathering in person, we are asking our community to take the lead. This fall, community members can help us raise crucial funds from a distance by leading their own fundraising team or by making a donation.

To close out this fall benefit, join us online for a powerful keynote presentation, organizational update, and stories of courage:

Friday, October 30, 2020 on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com)!

Organization Update from Kinderling CEO, Dr. Lisa Greenwald

Keynote Address by Lucy Lee Helm, EVP & Chief Partner Officer at Starbucks

Stories of Courage from Event Chairs Holly & David May

You can learn more about this event at kinderling.org/2020-salute-to-courage.

HOLLY RIDGE

Alicia Skelly, Infant Toddler Program Director

www.hollyridge.org

Holly Ridge has historically been the Local Lead Agency for Kitsap and North Mason Counties. As of Sept. 1, 2020, we are now an Early intervention Provider Agency; we continue to serve Kitsap and North Mason Counties. Since the end of March we have been providing early intervention services remotely using Zoom -we continue to provide all of our services to family that are willing to participate and have technology to do so. We have purchased 8 iPads and several hotspots that we are loaning to families that do not have technology. We continue to serve over 350 children per month. We are starting to see some children in person on a very limited basis due to need when zoom appointments are not sufficient to meet the child's needs, most of these appointments are with our physical therapist or occupational therapist.

In the past several months we have hired a Pediatric ARNP, a Speech Language Pathologist Assistant, Physical Therapist and a Social Worker.

Our biggest challenge right now is ensuring our families have the technology they need to get services and also encouraging families to try a tele visit using zoom that may be reluctant to do so. We also have some families that are discontinuing services because they want services in person so they are going to clinics and hospital pediatric providers. Another challenge we are facing, once school started and parents tried to balance teaching their school age children and having zoom appointments for early intervention services we have some parents asking to reduce services or put them on hold for a while.

Our staff has done an amazing job changing the way we typically provide services and are continually striving to improve our services and embrace coaching families remotely. Families that are participating in appointments using the zoom platform are seeing improvements in their children.

Children's Therapy Center

Karen Smith Steadman Early Intervention Program Director and Jodi Van Vleet Center (3-18) Program Director

www.ctckids.org

Children's Therapy Center serves over 3,000 special needs children and their families a year at our four locations in Kent, Burien, Tacoma and Maple Valley. Our service area covers over 300 square miles and encompasses much of South King and Pierce counties. Our six early intervention teams provide home-based therapy and education services to children ages 0-3. Early intervention teams include speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, early childhood special educators, social workers and family resources coordinators who work together to meet the individual needs of each child and family. Center based therapy is provided at our Burien, Tacoma and Kent sites. Interdisciplinary teams include physical therapists, occupational therapists and speech/language pathologists. Individual therapy is family focused and centered around functional outcomes. Social skills, feeding, fitness center, and gymnastics groups as well as aqua therapy are also offered on a rotating basis for children and families.

UPDATES:

Since the stay at home order in March 2020 CTC has provided 24,327 telehealth services to 1,646 families in both our Early Intervention model and our clinic-based model. Our agency and providers moved quickly to make certain that our families would receive services needed to ensure their children's continued developmental growth and progress.

Currently our clinic based (ages 3-18) services are being provided in two ways. Some families are receiving all services through telehealth (Zoom) and some are receiving a hybrid model of services involving 2 times a month in person and 2 times a month telehealth. All groups and our aqua therapy program are currently on hold due to the pandemic.

Our Early Intervention program is providing most services through telehealth, as well as some very limited one time in person services in the community or clinic to for families needing additional support due to medical necessity or barriers to access.

Thanks to a grant from Best Starts for Kids; our center and EI teams are collaborating to develop a transition program for children and families ages 3-5. This program will provide both family navigation and special education supports to ensure access to community resources and smooth transitions to community-based education programs for children in this vulnerable time prior to kindergarten entry.

CTC continues our commitment to providing equitable services to children and families throughout South King and North Pierce counties. We have recently partnered with an equity and inclusion consultant to continue to advance our priorities in this area.

Community Events:

We would like to invite the community to participate in our fall fundraiser to increase awareness of our services and to raise funds to continue our vital mission. Our exciting Virtual Fundraiser is October 12th -17th. Each day will provide fun video clips and interesting infographics that will encapsulate who we are and the amazing families we serve. Please join the fun by clicking this link! <https://www.ctckids.org/virtual-fundraiser/>

Health Plan Updates

Amerigroup-Washington

Jackie Matter

www.amerigroupcorp.com

[Coverage Area Includes: All Counties except Adams, Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Douglas, Ferry, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Skamania, and Wahkiakum]

No updates at this time.

Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW)

www.chpw.org

[Coverage Area Includes All Counties except Clallam, Columbia, Garfield, Jefferson, Klickitat, Lincoln, Mason, Skamania, and Whitman]

No updates at this time.

Coordinated Care

Sherry Bennatts and Azka Bashir

www.coordinatedcarehealth.com

[Coverage Area Includes: All Counties except Clallam, Ferry, Kittitas, and Pend Oreille]

During these last several months both departments have been focusing on many specific campaigns to ensure our members are being reached and checked in on their routine and Other Specific Need:

- For Medicaid our outreach focus has been on child Immunization gaps and Flu Vaccine reminders. Reminding parents when children move back toward classroom they will need to be in compliance with state immunization requirements.
- Outreach to our high risk respiratory members clearing the way for early RX refills and 90 day supplies.
- COVID Specific Call Campaigns: Extra efforts have been put in place to reach members who are considered to be high risk; more prone to Anxiety and Suicide Risk during the pandemic time. These Campaigns have been designed to help connect them with telehealth services, support and for some just to check in and see how they are doing.
- Fire Assistance Call Campaigns: Outreach for fire evacuation assistance, resources and clean air information and resources.

Telehealth Services: Many efforts have been put in place to effectively coordinate telehealth services with our members ensuring their access has been easy and efficient especially due to the pandemic.

- It has shown to be a big help for our members in maintaining that consistency with their providers during the pandemic.
- Members who had limited access before COVID, reported that it has helped them obtain BH services.
- Many of our BH needs members have reported to utilize this platform more since pandemic as it has helped remove barriers.

Molina Healthcare of Washington

Mary Blakeman and Margaret Whaley

www.molinahealthcare.com

No updates at this time.

UnitedHealthcare

Cindy Spain and Mandy Herreid

www.uhc.com

[Coverage Area Includes: All Counties except Clallam, Cowlitz, Garfield, Pend Oreille, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom]

No updates at this time.

Partner Updates

Washington State Parent to Parent Network

Tracie Hoppis

- P2P Programs across the State offering virtual support and training to families via Zoom
- Currently establishing new program serving Stevens/Pend Oreille Counties; interviewing 3 candidates for this coordinator position
- Recently held annual P2P Coordinator's Training, via Zoom. 92% attendance (a new record)! Had excellent speakers/trainers: Douglass Jackson, UW- Cultural Humility; Sarri Gillman- Self Compassion/Boundaries

Washington State Medical Home Partnerships Project for CYSHCN

Kate Orville

www.medicalhome.org

Autism Center of Excellence (COE) Certification trainings July 31 (81 participants) and August 18, (96 participants) 2020. Participated as part of hub faculty to develop a new online model of doing the trainings which used to be 1.5 days in person. Participants required to complete 6.5 hours of online modules from the American Academy of Pediatrics/ PediaLinks course "[Identifying and Caring for Children with Autism: A Course for Pediatric Clinicians](#)" which they could receive continuing ed credits for. Completed a survey about questions and adapted to a 9-4 online zoom day (agendas attached?) Collaborated with HCA and DDA for the nuts and bolts section. Skagit County Autism Partnership leads Bill Cheney, Mount Vernon School District and Dr. Rick Levine, Skagit Pediatrics, presented on community autism efforts in Skagit in July. In August Dr. Julie Cheek, PeaceHealth and Monica Burke, PhD, The Arc of Whatcom County presented on Whatcom's community autism work. There are now 170+ COEs in Washington- work goes on to support these clinicians to feel confident and skilled in autism evaluation.

School Medical Autism Review Teams (SMART)- Communities developing community-based multidisciplinary team approaches to autism evaluation and connection to services for children and their families. Whatcom, Skagit, Island, San Juan, Snohomish, Kitsap, Clallam, Mason, Grays Harbor, Pacific, Thurston, Lewis, Chelan-Douglas and Okanogan either have or are actively developing SMART approaches. Cowlitz, Clark and Grant are exploring the concept. MHPP supported increased early intervention involvement in SMART. Collaborating with UW Autism Center's Dr. Jessica Greenson, Kinderling's Marcee Merriam and others to support 0-3 centers interested in greater involvement. Starting to do outreach to Neurodevelopmental Centers about interest.

Recruiting for **Project ECHO Autism** – new cohort- all COEs invited. <https://medicalhome.org/stateinitiatives/project-echo/>

Lewis County Autism Coalition's 10th annual conference- now the Southwest Autism Conference- Friday, November 13, 2020- online and open to all; majority of speakers are neurodiverse; address racism, communication between autistics and allistics (those without autism), school and parent partnerships, puberty and autism and more. Highly recommended! <https://www.lcautism.org/conference-2020/>

Child Health Notes- [Autism Spectrum Disorder: An Overview](#). Please let Sophie Lu or Kate Orville know if you have questions or would like start distributing CHNs.

Co-Occurring Disorders and Treatment Conference Oct 6, 2020 – Kate Orville part of panel presentation Project ECHO model in Washington State- focus on autism and on autism and intellectual disability.

Covid-19 strategies to support clinicians and families with CSHCN transitioning to telehealth - COVID-19 –Webpage, workgroup with Kinderling and Northwest Autism exploring parent coaching and teaching models for young children with autism – work ongoing this fall if you are interested - <https://medicalhome.org/topics/telehealth-and-covid-19/>

Medical Home Events page – Look for upcoming events and trainings- <https://medicalhome.org/event-home/>

Washington Statewide Leadership Initiative Family Navigator Workgroup- helping look at family navigation strategies and connecting to work communities are doing.

Contact us!

- Kate Orville, MPH, Director, MHPP, orville@uw.edu
- Sophie Lu, MN, ARNP, Pediatric Developmental ARNP Consultant and Child Health Notes lead sophielu@uw.edu

Questions? Contact Kate Orville (orville@uw.edu) or 206-685-1279.

University of Washington CSHCN Nutrition Project at CHDD

Mari Mazon, MS, RDN, CD and Sarah Harsh, MS, RDN, CD

depts.washington.edu/cshcnnut/

The Nutrition Training contract between the CSHCN Program, DOH, and CHDD-UW, provides training and technical assistance to registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs) that are part of the CSHCN Nutrition Network, and to Community Feeding Teams, as well as projects related to improving nutrition through medical nutrition therapy and feeding team services.

Nutrition Network (NN) Training and Development

1. **Nutrition Network Webinar** – On September 3, 2020, we had one of our Nutrition Network dietitians who has been doing all tele-nutrition since 2017 lead a 1-hour Telehealth Q&A webinar for Nutrition Network dietitians.
2. **Nutrition Network Meeting** – This annual event was held Monday, April 27, 2020 via Zoom. Recordings were available for 1 week. A total of 72 Nutrition Network dietitians attended/viewed the meeting. Agenda topics included Nutrition and Autism updates, drug-nutrient interactions seen in children with Autism or ADHD, how RDNs can partner with feeding therapists, and updates on commercial food-based enteral formulas.

WA Community Feeding Teams

1. **Feeding Team Meeting** – This annual event was held Tuesday, April 27, 2020 via Zoom. Recordings were available for 1 week. A total of 202 Feeding Team members from 26 teams attended/viewed the meeting. Agenda topics included fragile infant feeding and updates on the hospital to early intervention referral process.
2. **Addition of New Feeding Team** - We added 3 new feeding teams serving Snohomish, Okanogan, and Whitman/Garfield counties during quarter 3 of the contract year.

Hospital to Home Transition

1. **Hospital to Home Work Group** – Discussions continued with UWMC NICU and Northwest Center on developing a training curriculum for nutrition and feeding professionals who work with fragile infants in the community.

2. ColIN to Advance Care for Children with Medical Complexities: Mari Mazon continued to serve as nutrition content expert on this HRSA-funded project.

Questions? Contact Mari Mazon, MS, RDN, CD 206-598-3025 or (lilmaro@uw.edu) or Sarah Harsh (sbharsh@uw.edu).

Washington State Fathers Network (WSFN)

Louis Mendoza

www.fathersnetwork.org

WSFN CommNet Report: July-September 2020

- As a result of the response to COVID-19 several WSFN activities did not take place:
 - The annual kick off the school year breakfast
 - Free tickets to Mariner baseball games
 - Telling Your Story with a Purpose workshop for the ESIT Parent Institute for Engagement new cohort. This has been rescheduled for October in a virtual format.
- Virtual groups continue to meet from Snohomish County, East King County, South King County and South Puget Sound. The Snohomish meeting on the second Thursday of the month is announced as an all state meeting. The group in Vancouver has returned to meeting in person, while practicing social distancing.
- The WSFN continues to head up the effort at Kinderling to do Spanish language broadcasts over radio station KKMO, El Rey, 1360 AM. These broadcasts provide information that will be of interest and helpful to parents who have children with special health care needs. Our new MOU allows us to do shows every other month starting in September 2020 through July 2021. The shows are scheduled for the last Tuesday of the month from 3:00-4:00 p.m.
- Our first attempt at doing a virtual version of the Telling Your Story with a Purpose workshop was done in September. The workshop registrations were full (including registrations from Michigan, North Carolina, Maryland and Brazil) but there were a lot of no shows. The group was small but the conversation was good and we found it was possible to successfully do the workshop in a virtual format. Workshops are scheduled in October for the ESIT P.I.E. cohort and an open to the public session on November 16th. Additional interest has been expressed in the workshop from the UW LEND program, the WA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and The Arc of Spokane.
- As a member of the State Interagency Fatherhood Council, Louis serves on a subcommittee to plan the 3rd Fatherhood Summit. His focus will be on organizing panel of dads who will share their story. The topic for that dad panel is TBD.
- An effort has begun to start an informal network of people and organizations who support men who have children with special health care needs. Currently the network includes members from Toronto, Philadelphia, Houston, Chicago, Jerusalem, and New Jersey.
- Input and feedback was given to an author who has written a book called Behind Gold Doors: Seven Steps to Create a Disability Inclusive Organization and a website called DIChampion.com.

Family to Family Health Information Center (F2FHIC)

Jill McCormick

www.familyvoicesofwashington.com

No updates at this time.

Open Doors for Multicultural Families

Hodan Mohamad

www.multiculturalfamilies.org

No updates at this time.

Washington Autism Alliance & Advocacy (WAAA)

Arzu Forough

www.washingtonautismadvocacy.org

No updates at this time.

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Nicole Klein, Health Services Program Supervisor

www.k12.wa.us/HealthServices/default.aspx

See presentation [above](#).

Seattle Children's Hospital

Paula Holmes

www.seattlechildrens.org

No updates at this time.

Lifespan Respite Washington (LRW)

Linda Porter

www.lifespanrespitewa.org

No updates at this time.

WithinReach

Chris Gray

www.withinreachwa.org

No updates at this time.

State Updates

Department of Children, Youth, and Families

Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (DCYF-ESIT)

Lori Holbrook

www.dcyf.wa.gov/esit

Welcome to the ESIT Team: Noel Parrish



We are thrilled to welcome Noel Parrish to the ESIT state team as our new Sustainability Manager. This position will provide expert advice and consultation regarding effective resource allocation, distribution, expansion and sustainability for the ESIT program at all levels. This includes supporting us in developing and sustaining systems for maximizing access to available resources such as expanded third party billing.

Noel is a resident of Olympia and has lived here most of her life with her 15- year-old son. She comes to DCYF with more than 14 years of state government administration experience in finance, budgeting, policy, process improvement and organizational development. She is an alumni of The Evergreen State College and holds a bachelor of arts degree in business management. She is also very involved in humanitarian and social efforts regarding food and water sustainability, tribal sovereignty, poverty alleviation and ending human trafficking. She loves gardening and spending time in nature on hikes, fishing, swimming and being with her family. **Welcome to ESIT, Noel!**

DCYF Furlough Dates

With the state facing a severe downturn in revenue collections, Gov. Jay Inslee has [directed](#) state agencies under his authority to furlough most state employees. As of June 28, more than 40,000 state employees were required to take one furlough day per week through July 25. After July, employees are required to take one furlough day per month through November.

Most DCYF staff will be out of the office for unpaid furlough on **Friday, Oct. 9,** and **Friday, Nov. 13.**

The ESIT team is reprioritizing work in July to allow for this reduction of staff time. If you have questions or need support, members of the ESIT State Leadership Office will continue to be responsive, accessible and reachable with the exception of the required furlough days.

COVID-19 Survey for ESIT Families

On Monday, Sept. 28, ESIT sent a GovDelivery message to all currently enrolled families with an email address requesting they complete a short survey. We want to learn about their early intervention experience during the COVID-19 pandemic. We plan to share the results with early intervention provider agencies (EIPAs) **not affiliated** with a county lead agency (CLA), and with CLAs who will share the results with their EIPAs. The survey closes on Oct. 7. We hope to have the results ready for sharing by Oct. 28.

ESIT Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has provided [Policy Guidance Regarding Service Provision During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak](#). This questions and answers document

outlines states' responsibilities for both Part B and Part C IDEA services to infants, toddlers and children with disabilities and their families, and to the staff serving these children during the COVID-19 pandemic. Questions specific to Part C can be found in Section B. DCYF has also posted [COVID-19 updates online](#). Early intervention providers can submit COVID-19 questions to dcyf.esit@dcyf.wa.gov.

ESIT Staff Recruitment

Please find details regarding the most current list of DCYF job postings at:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington?keywords=dcyf>

Parent Institute for Engagement (PIE): Cohort 3

We have selected seven individuals for the Parent Institute of Engagement (PIE): Cohort 3. These members represent different counties across Washington State, including **Whatcom, Snohomish, Spokane, Grant, Kitsap** and **King**. Their first meeting PIE meeting was Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020.

The next virtual PIE meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 20.

For additional information about the leadership opportunities available through PIE, contact Vanessa Allen, ESIT Family Engagement Coordinator, at vanessa.allen@dcyf.wa.gov.

ESIT Selected for National Technical Assistance Opportunity

A team representing ESIT was selected to participate in a national technical assistance opportunity titled *Building the Case for Expanding Medicaid and Private Insurance Funding for Early Intervention*. This cross-state cohort is designed to help states make a change or add Medicaid services or private insurance to their funding pool. Information, resources and strategies on building the case for use or expansion of Medicaid and private insurance to support Part C systems and services will be provided.

Content will include establishing state context and conducting relevant data analyses.

Training and Technical Assistance (TA)

The Training and TA team is focused on many projects in support of a high-quality workforce and supports for children and families. These include, but are not limited to:

- Providing ongoing training for new Family Resources Coordinators.
- Development of interactive, online modules and live training that will be required for all new early intervention providers and program staff in the 2021/22 contract year.
- Finalizing a revised list of qualifying medical and infant mental health diagnoses to support a streamlined enrollment process for many children.
- Development of training modules for the current Data Management System.
- Revised descriptor statements for the Child Outcome Summary Process to support family engagement in program planning and discussions of child progress.
- Data analysis and continued work with implementation sites of the State Systemic Improvement Plan focused on improving outcomes for children in the area of social-emotional development.

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)

The next [SICC meeting](#) is Wednesday, Oct. 21, from 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. The meeting is 100% virtual.

State Interagency Coordinating Council Vacancies

The SICC is actively recruiting candidates for the following vacancies:

- Head Start
- Parent/Caregiver
- Tribal Leader (any Washington State tribe)
- Tribal Part C Provider (Bureau of Indian Education funded)

Interested persons are encouraged to [apply by completing the application on the Governor's website](#). In the drop-down list, SICC is titled "Infants & Toddlers with Disabilities and their Families."

If you have questions, please contact Sue Rose, ESIT Stakeholder Engagement Manager, at sue.rose@dcyf.wa.gov.

DSHS, Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), Waiver Unit

Kari Freer

No updates at this time.

DSHS / DDA, Medically Intensive Children's Program

Doris Barret

- Visiting protocols for our MIPC kiddos
- Safe Start—beginning with 15-minute visits—case managers supplied with appropriate PPE
- ND continues to support families/children when needed

DSHS, Fostering Well-Being Care Coordination Unit (FWB CCU)

Autumn Wade and Amanda McCleskey

Fostering Well-Being has no new updates at this time.

DSHS / ALTA, Kinship Care and Lifespan Respite

Rosalyn Alber

www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare

No updates at this time.

DOH Screening and Genetics Unit

Nini Shridhar

www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/InfantsChildrenandTeens/HealthandSafety/GeneticServices.aspx

No updates at this time.

Health Care Authority

No updates at this time.

Attachments

- Slide Deck

Next Meeting

Thursday January 7, 2020 (Tentative)

Virtual Meeting