

# SNOHOMISH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

## MCKINNEY-VENTO/FOSTER MEETING 5/17/19

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**IN ATTENDANCE:** 20 staff from 11 districts, 1 Rep. from: DCYF, Housing Hope, NW ESD, OSPI, and Snohomish Co.; 2 Cocoon House Reps.; and 3 Treehouse Reps.

District/ Agency	First name	Last Name	Title
Arlington	Christy	Byle	McKinney-Vento Specialist
Cocoon House	Claire	Petersen	Special Projects Manager
Cocoon House	Sam	Blair	Youth Advocate
DCYF	Laurie	Alexander	Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families
Everett	Nancy	Brown	Transportation Coordinator
Everett	Angelica	Glaser	Foster Care Coordinator
Everett	Cynthia	Jones	Director, Categorical Programs
Everett	Gina	Key	Secretary, Categorical Programs
Everett	Sarah	Koehler	Routing Specialist
Everett	Amy	Perusse	KIT Coordinator
Granite Falls	Sarah	Woolverton	Homeless Liaison
Housing Hope	Monica	Wilson	ISA Program Coordinator
Marysville	Deanna	Bashour	McKinney-Vento & Foster Care Liaison
Marysville	Vanessa	Jamison	Route Analyst
Marysville	Andrea	Wyatt	Director
Monroe	Kathy	Bernhardt	Family Engagement Liaison
Monroe	Joe	Neigel	Prevention-Intervention Specialist
Mukilteo	Cindy	Steigerwald	Transportation Manager
Northshore	Anamaria	Loera Foy	McKinney-Vento Liaison
OSPI	Peggy	Carlson	Program Supervisor, Foster Care Education
NWESD	Mark	Dennis	NWESD Regional Transportation Coordinator
Shoreline	Carol	Matsumoto	Homeless Education Liaison
Snohomish	Jami	Cross	McKinney-Vento Liaison
Snohomish County	Molly	Bauer	Grants & Program Specialist Snohomish County OCHS
Stanwood- Camano	Angie	O'Connor	Transportation Specialist
Stanwood- Camano	Lisa	Orton	Transportation Director
Sultan	Nyssa	Weideman	Administrative Assistant
Treehouse	Stacy	Bailey	Treehouse Advocate
Treehouse	Jamie	Burns	Treehouse Advocate
Treehouse	Heidi	Barden	Treehouse Advocate

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Meeting was held at Everett Public Schools, Community Resource Center in Everett. Called to order at 10:10am by Amy Perusse, KIT Coordinator, Everett Public Schools (EPS). Introductions were made among the attendees.

**Special Guest: Peggy Carlson, OSPI Program Supervisor for Foster Care Education.** Peggy reviewed state and federal laws pertaining to education and child welfare which emphasize school stability for students in foster care.

**School of Origin:** Like MV, Foster students have the option to enroll in the school that serves the location where they are staying or may remain at their School of Origin. State law requires that, whenever practical and in the best interest of the child, children placed into foster care should remain enrolled *in the school they were attending at the time they entered care*. This would be considered the student's School of Origin. DCYF caseworkers and school district Foster Care Liaisons should work collaboratively to determine which is in the best interest of the student using criteria appropriate for the student's situation. The School of Origin for Foster students is further defined in the new state law (passed in 2018): Children in foster care remain in the school of origin unless there is a determination made that it is not in his or her best interest. [Key ESSA Provisions](#) are found on OSPI's website.

**Transportation:** There was discussion about the protocol to meet the transportation needs of a student in foster care. The "Regional Education Agreement" written by Children's Administration (CA) and OSPI needs to be signed by all school districts. This agreement allows school districts to request reimbursement for the "*additional*" transportation costs associated with maintaining students in foster care in their school of origin. Please refer to [OSPI's Foster Care resources and training page](#) for details intended to help streamline transportation reimbursement requests.

**Foster and McKinney-Vento (MV) might overlap** (MV Liaison determines eligibility):

- Foster student "runs" from their DCYF placement...now UHY.
- Foster student staying at a temporary shelter.
- Foster student on a "trial return home" and *the family member they are staying with is in a homeless situation*.

If a student qualifies as Foster and MV and is successfully placed back home, they are exited from foster support but their MV status continues for the remainder of the school year that they become stably housed.

**Payment of Fines & Fees:** Peggy encouraged all staff supporting Foster Care Education to check student's school accounts for outstanding fines & fees. *While in Foster Care, DCYF will pay off any existing fines or fees on the student's record RCW [74.13.631](#).*

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**Graduation Rates:** OSPI has graduation rates posted by district, if you have over ten students in foster care you should be able to see the results for this group. Mobility data from DCYF shows that we can and need to do better for students in foster care. Research shows that it takes 4–6 months for a student to recover academically from a change in schools.

**Challenges & Barriers:** Barriers still exist between schools and DCYF. Case workers are often new or overwhelmed and the turnover is very high. If you are not getting results working with the case worker, contact the DCYF Regional Educational Lead, Debbie Gomi at [Debbie.Gomi@DCYF.wa.gov](mailto:Debbie.Gomi@DCYF.wa.gov). Peggy also offered to facilitate future trainings and/or meet and greets for new Foster Liaisons and other professionals who are interested in learning more about supporting students in foster care.

**Question:** *Is there any help for people who take in an unaccompanied homeless youth, but they are not officially in the Foster Care system?*

**Answer:** [Kinship Caregiver Support Program](#), provides support and assistance for Kinship Caregivers, who are income eligible, to meet short term needs such as: Rent/Utilities, clothing, groceries, car repairs, and recreational activities. They also provide information & resources such as advocacy, CPS, DSHS, education, court and state benefits, as well as legal options. Amy Dennis is the Program Specialist at Homage Senior Services. Note that Kinship care is not just for relatives taking care of a child, *any caregiver that is not the child's biological parent* may qualify for services through kinship caregiver support program. [Follow this link for more information and a printable infographic.](#)

*(Brief Break)*

#### **Review of [March Minutes](#)**

**Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP):** Molly Bauer, Grants & Program Specialist from Snohomish Co., gave a brief update.

The following projects were selected for YHDP funding:

- 1) **Permanency Navigator Team:** This project will provide a team of mobile permanency navigators that will work with youth under 18 years of age to identify community resources and secure safe, viable housing options. This team will provide consistent support to youth regardless of which homeless response system services they are enrolled in, therefore building important relationships and continuity for the youth.
- 2) **Joint Transitional-Rapid Rehousing:** This project highlights a new housing model, which allows for both short-term crisis stability and long-term permanent

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housing placements by using two existing homeless housing interventions, transitional housing (TH) and rapid rehousing (RRH).

More details to come as the projects come together. Anyone interested in YHDP planning and implementation is welcomed to reach out to Molly for more information and learn how to get involved in your communities.

**Cocoon House:** Claire Peterson reported on the new Colby building, “The HUB”. This is the location for many services: the top floor will house youth who have aged out of the shelters and provides long-term, affordable, apartments and shared common rooms; second floor will be for youth under 18 as a long-term shelter with private rooms as well as common areas; and the ground floor with office space, meeting spaces, as well as the Cocoon House Outreach Center. Young people who need help can build trust and get help to access the resources they need from a shower and laundry facilities to a safe place and transportation to an emergency shelter.

**Outreach Center:** For ages 12-24, located at 3530 Colby Ave, Everett

**Hours:** Weekdays 2:00 - 6:30 pm and weekends 10:00 - 1:00 pm

**Get Help 24/7:** Call or text 425.877.5171 or email [safeplace@cocoonhouse.org](mailto:safeplace@cocoonhouse.org)

Administrative offices are already up and running at the new location; however, they are still awaiting final state inspections before residents can move in. This has caused a delay and they will keep us posted as things move forward.

**Action Item:** Tour Cocoon House HUB at the August meeting. If you are not available, [sign up for a FLUTTER tour of Cocoon House](#) on a different date.

**Consolidated Program Review (CPR):** The feedback throughout Snohomish County school districts has been very positive, no major findings. MV Transportation Contracts between neighboring school districts, was the hot topic. Some school districts are advised by counsel not to sign any formal transportation contracts with other school districts. OSPI does not “*require*” that school districts enter into any formal transportation contract, however it is “*best practice*” to have some sort of proof when districts have agreed to share transportation. The best practice is to save and print any emails related to MV/Foster transportation between districts. The email communications and transportation requests can be used as proof of services in case there are any added expenses related to the MV/Foster transportation.

**Best Practices: End of Year:** How do MV/Foster Liaisons determine which students will continue to be eligible for services and which students will be removed from MV/Foster. Arlington SD has their Building Point People/Counselors send letters to their

**Action Item:** Any attendees of the MV/Foster Education Conference in Wenatchee in May, please come prepared to share any important topics or new information.

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MV families. When the families respond the MV Liaison updates their MV spreadsheet. This helps track which students will remain MV in the new school year, whether they will need MV transportation and those planning to enroll in their neighborhood schools. For foster care its more simplified as there is new data provided from OSPI that generates a list of students that are active in foster care.

#### **Partnering with Local Non-Profits:**

**Washington Kids in Transition (WA KIT)** Amy Perusse, announced the new partnership between EPS and a local non-profit, [Washington Kids in Transition](#). Washington Kids in Transition has been operating in partnership with Edmonds School District for many years; after much planning, we are now expanding their impact to Everett Public Schools' families. This partnership provides a source for items that are not provided through Federal & State funding, such as clothing, bedding, groceries and prom tickets, etc. In some cases, we've been able to help with move-in costs to prevent homelessness or provide temporary hotel/motel stays for MV families who have lost housing and have a move in date or a good plan to obtain a longer-term solution. Funds are limited and are being built through local supporters.

**Kinder Konnection** is another local non-profit organization serving underprivileged students. An example of [Kinder Konnection](#) assistance this year was when Everett had multiple students being transported in the mornings to other districts. Due to their routing, they had a "layover" in the transportation department for their connecting ride. Because they were not Everett students, we could not provide meals through our district. They had to wait until they arrived at their schools for access to free breakfast. These students did their best but were tired and hungry. Kinder Konnection was happy to assist in providing snacks.

**Annual OSPI Reporting:** The Homeless Children and Youth application in the Education Data System (EDS) for districts to review and certify their Homeless Student data is now open. **Deadline is July 9<sup>th</sup>** for districts to make any changes to their homeless student data. Reminder for MV Liaisons to make sure they accurately track Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY) in their data systems. In some districts there may be a different section, separate from "homeless status" where the UHY designation is tracked. Make sure to review the data that has been collected by OSPI regarding your districts. Corrections must be made by July 9<sup>th</sup>. After July 9, the data will be considered certified and the application will be locked.

**Special Notice of EVENT:** June 26<sup>th</sup>, 12 – 2:00pm DCYF is hosting a celebration to congratulate youth in Foster Care who are graduating from High School, GED, Trade School and Vocational Programs in Region 3. The celebration will be at Bonefish Grill, 2537 172<sup>nd</sup> ST NE, Marysville, 98271. [Please see the attached flyer.](#) **RSVP by May 1<sup>st</sup>** with 2 guests to [Sarah.Shaffer@DCYF.WA.GOV](mailto:Sarah.Shaffer@DCYF.WA.GOV) or Call/Text 425-923-5032

Meeting Adjourned at 12:00pm.

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**NEXT MEETING:** FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2019

**TIME:** 10:00AM–12:00PM

**MEETING LOCATION:**

**Cocoon House, New Location: 3530 Colby Ave., Everett, 98201**

*Please email [aperusse@everettsd.org](mailto:aperusse@everettsd.org) with agenda items.*