

E2SSB 6109 Update

Home Visiting Advisory Committee
April 18, 2024

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Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



Intent of Bill (E2SSB 6109)

- Provide clarity to judges, social workers, advocates, and families about the safety threat that high-potency synthetic opioids can pose to vulnerable children.
- Increase access to services and supports to address the challenges for recovery and rehabilitation regarding opioid use.
- Recognize that supporting families in crisis with intervention and services, including preventive and voluntary services, minimizes child trauma from further child welfare involvement and strengthens families.



Changes to Child Welfare Statute

- Defines “high-potency synthetic opioid” to include fentanyl.
- Adds “high-potency synthetic opioid” to the list of reasonable grounds to believe removal of a child is necessary to prevent imminent physical harm due to child abuse or neglect.
- Further directs courts to give “**great weight**” to the lethality of high-potency synthetic opioids and public health guidance from Dept of Health related to high-potency synthetic opioids in determining whether removal is necessary to prevent imminent physical harm to the child due to child abuse or neglect.

Full language of the bill (Engrossed Second Substitute Bill 6109) linked here: [E2SSB 6109](#)

Senate Bill 6109 / Fentanyl Response Services - DCYF

Abbrev. Title	Description
Public Health Nurse Pilot	\$1.35M is provided to establish a pilot for public health nurses to support caseworkers in engaging and communicating with child welfare-involved families about the risks of fentanyl and other child health and safety concerns.
Safety Plan Participants	\$1.5M is provided to establish a pilot program for third-party safety plan participants to support safety planning in child welfare cases.
Home Visiting Contracted Slots	\$1.6M is provided to start-up targeted contracts with existing home visiting programs in locales with the historically highest rates of child welfare screened-in intake; targeted to families experiencing high-potency synthetic opioid-related substance use disorder.
Childcare Contracted Slots	\$1.6M is provided for contracted childcare slots for infants in child protective services in locales with the historically highest rates of child welfare screened-in intake due to the exposure or presence of high-potency synthetic opioids in the home, which may be used as part of a safety plan.
Intercept Evidenced-Based Pilot Program	\$972K is provided for two pilot programs to implement an evidence-based, comprehensive, intensive, in-home parenting services support model to serve children and families from birth to age 18 who are involved in the child welfare, children's mental health, or juvenile justice systems.
Legal Liaisons	\$875K is provided for at least one legal liaison in each DCYF region to work with both the department and the office of the attorney general for the purpose of assisting with the preparation of child abuse and neglect court cases.
Fentanyl Test Strips	The department shall make available to department staff high potency synthetic opioid testing strips that can detect the presence of high-potency synthetic opioids that may be provided to families for personal use or used by department staff to maintain their safety. (No funding)

Senate Bill 6109 / Fentanyl Response Services - Other Agencies

Abbrev. Title	Description
HCA Service Expansion	HCA to expand services for children and youth with prenatal substance exposure (\$1M)
Promotoras	DOH to contract for Promotoras in at least two communities (\$743K)



Training and Supports

- Provide at least one legal liaison at DCYF in each region to work with DCYF and the Attorney General for child welfare court cases (\$875K for SFY 25).
- Enhances existing court training programs to strengthen substance use disorder to account for the risk and danger presented to children & youth.
- Directs the Department of Health—in collaboration with DCYF and Poison Information Centers—to convene a workgroup on exposure of children to fentanyl and provide information broadly to groups working with children and families.



Targeted, Contracted Home Visiting Slots

Total Funding: \$1.6M for SFY 25



- Funded from Opioid Settlement Funds
- Approximately 150 slots
- Intent of contracted slots is to promote expedited access to supports that enhance parenting skills and allow providers to have predictable funding.
- Targeted slots available through a **competitive process** for **existing programs** in locales with historically high rates of child welfare screened-in intakes.

Targeted, Contracted Home Visiting Slots – DCYF Role

- DCYF to provide training on substance use disorder for home visiting providers selected for programs
- Payment – same rate as provided for existing providers
- DCYF to develop referral process to include:
 - Referrals from DCYF child welfare staff
 - Community organizations working with families meeting criteria
- Criteria for Slots Priority:
 - Families with open CPS cases
 - Families with open Family Assessment Response cases
 - Families with open Family Voluntary Services cases



Thank you!

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