

Prevention, Investigation, and Family Services CRP

2024-2025 Panel Members

Jennifer Justice – Jennifer is currently serving as Co-Chair for the Prevention, Investigation, and Family Services CRP. Jennifer is a parent who was previously involved with the child welfare system. She entered the dependency system in 2015 due to substance use disorder and unaddressed mental health issues. Her dependency ended with the termination of her parental rights. Jennifer maintains a healthy connection with her children because they were placed with loving relatives. Subsequently, Jennifer had a family voluntary case in 2020. However, with the help of FIRST Legal Clinic Team, she immediately addressed her parental style, and her family voluntary case was dismissed within six months. Her extensive lived experiences with the child welfare system led to her becoming a passionate advocate in helping divert new mothers from becoming involved in the child welfare system. Jennifer became a member of the WSPAC in 2021 and graduated with her Associate of Applied Arts Degree in Legal Administrative Assisting in 2022. In August of 2022 Jennifer began her career as a Parent Ally with the FIRST Legal Clinic.

Carol Mitchell – Carol founded and currently serves as the Director of Advocacy for the Institute for Black Justice (IBJ). IBJ's mission is to relentlessly pursue equity and justice for all, with people of Black/African descent as its highest priority. Carol joined the Washington State Bar in 1997 and spent most of her legal career in public service. She also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees for Clover Park Technical College and is an active member of the Tacoma City Association of Colored Women's Clubs. In addition to all the work Carol does for her community she is a lover of international cultural travel.

Tiffani Buck – Tiffani is licensed as a nurse practitioner with a specialty in women and perinatal health. For over 5 years she led the Washington State workgroup that is working to address the impact substance use is having on women, people who are gender nonconforming, pregnancy, children, and parents. She is committed to birth equity, reproductive justice, and eliminating racial/ethnic gaps in maternal and infant outcomes and working beside community partners to improve access to doulas and midwives.

Taila AyAy – Taila is a graduate of Seattle University School of Law. She has been a parents' representation attorney since 2009. Her law practice focuses mainly on representation of parents and children in dependency litigation, prevention matters, administrative law, and family law. She also has experience in tribal representation and has worked as guardian ad litem. She is currently the executive director for the FIRST Legal Clinic. FIRST Legal Clinic is a medical/legal partnership that works with parents that are pregnant or have recently given birth and are at risk of CPS intervention. The clinic connects parents to attorneys and parents with lived experience to aid in preventing the

removal of their infant. She is passionate about social justice and increasing equitable access to resources for her clients, their families, and the community.

Paula Reed - Paula Reed is the Executive Director for Children's Advocacy Centers of Washington (CACWA) and has been in that role since 2018 after moving from Minnesota to Washington with her husband, Mark. She spent the first 20 years of her career in the nonprofit sector, serving 14 years as the President for United Way of Greater Duluth, and later moved into the government sector, where she spent two years in the Mayor's Office as Public Relations Officer and three years as the Manager of Workforce Development for the City of Duluth. At the State Chapter, Paula and her team support the work of accredited and developing CACs and their multidisciplinary (MDT) partners through training, funding, advocacy, research, data sharing, outreach, individualized technical assistance and more. CACWA also supports local communities interested in establishing CAC services. Paula is currently a member of the Prevention Citizen Review Panel, the Victim Information & Notification (VINE) advisory committee and the statewide CSEC Task Force. In her spare time, Paula enjoys spending time with her family and trying to keep up with her 1-year-old grandson.

Tif Junker - Tif is a mother by foster-adoption to two (2) children with vastly different attachment and trauma related needs. She is also the biological / first parent to two (2) daughters for whom she made an adoption plan as a teen mother. Her award-winning documentary, "My Name Is Faith" captures the Junker's early journey, coming to terms with the impact their daughter's difficult beginning would have on them all. Through her own growth process and lessons learned with her brilliant, challenging and hilarious, now adult children, Tif now shares stories and raises an authentic understanding for the kind of specialized care and community needed to support children whose early experiences caused them to develop a sensitized nervous system. Tif has had the opportunity to learn from and work with national leaders in the areas of Nervous System Development, Interpersonal Neurobiology & Attachment. She is a 2017 Angels in Adoption Award recipient by Senator Patty Murray (WA), a board alumni and professional member of the Attachment & Trauma Network, an affiliate of the Alliance Against Restraints and Seclusion, Leadership Committee Member of Kitsap Strong. Tif now works as a Coach and Consultant, helping children, their adults and their communities find nervous system and relational SAFETY through play and positive memory building experiences.

Cheri Kilty - Cheri Kilty is a seasoned nonprofit leader with a deep commitment to empowering women and children. Born in Muncie, Indiana, and raised in Kokomo, she has dedicated her career to helping those in need since 1984. Cheri's journey with the YWCA began at a young age, where she participated in a variety of activities—swimming, tennis, dancing, and leadership classes—offered by the YWCA in her hometown. It was during these formative years that Cheri discovered the profound impact of community service and developed a lifelong passion for making a difference.

Cheri's professional career has been built around serving women and children, with her experience spanning several YWCA locations before joining YWCA Yakima. She moved to Washington State in 1999, where she continued her work with nonprofit agencies, focusing on providing critical programs and services to victims of domestic violence and homelessness. In August 2017, Cheri took on the role of Executive Director at YWCA Yakima, later becoming the Chief Executive Officer.

In her leadership position, Cheri thrives on connecting people who share similar interests and goals. She is particularly passionate about mentoring young women as they navigate their careers and personal development. Outside of her professional life, Cheri enjoys listening to late-night talk radio, where the mysteries of the world are explored with intriguing discussion.

Cheri remains deeply committed to the YWCA's mission of eliminating racism and empowering women, and she continues to serve the Yakima community with dedication and heart.

Tiffanie Colombini – Tiffanie Colombini's personal journey through opioid use disorder (OUD) has equipped her with a unique and insightful perspective. Her recovery began with the use of medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD), a pivotal step that coincided with the birth of her daughter. Thankfully, during this critical time, she navigated her situation without any involvement from the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF).

Approximately four years ago, Tiffanie joined We Care, where she began her role as a peer counselor. In this capacity, she has been instrumental in developing the Perinatal Program, an initiative focused on supporting families affected by DCYF. Her experience has allowed them to work closely with these families, understanding her struggles and facilitating her access to vital resources. Through these interactions, she has gained a deeper understanding of the challenges these families face and the systems that impact their lives.