

STRENGTHEN FAMILIES LOCALLY

Port Angeles/Sequim Citizen Journalist Workshop

2/18/21

Participants:

Lutheran Community Services, First Step Family Support Center, United Way, Clallam County Juvenile and Family Services, Sequim Police Department, Developmental Disabilities Administration, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Port Angeles School District, DCYF local and state staff

Meeting Materials:

<https://dcyf.box.com/s/l6qxxee9vk4xjk3gjl3wf06li79wqsz0>

Sensemaker links:

For stories in Port Angeles and Sequim:

<http://ourtomorro.ws/PortAngelesSequim>

For stories in other parts of Clallam county or Washington state:

<http://ourtomorro.ws/WADCYF>

Discussion:

General thoughts and questions:

- What age group does this project focus on? Prenatal to 18, or same overlap as DCYF youth-focused services
- Use child race, rather than community race, as comparison demographic to race of children in child welfare cases
- "Menu of services" and opportunities at different levels of prevention – primary, secondary, tertiary – similar to Pennsylvania County, who's prevention plan is pyramid-shaped
- Is data collected on recidivism rates in child welfare? What is bringing families back, and how many of the families were in foster care themselves?
- Chemical dependency – rates of need is high in Port Angeles/Sequim, but rates of families who are able to access care is higher than the state (see slide added to Meeting Materials folder)

What has helped you, or a family you know, find strength and support in a challenging time?

- Parenting fatigue during pandemic – reaching out to people who you can trust and support, vent with, knowing "you are not alone"
- Critical strategizing and planning with children – including them in the process



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Original Date: 2/18/21
Family Support Programs Division

- Some of the children who have trauma reactions and high behavioral needs are doing much better with one-on-one, in-home teaching through Zoom. One child has moved from 3 grades below reading level to only 1. This is a good learning opportunity about meeting children's' needs.
- Families are being treated with a lot of flexibility and lower pressure

What frequent, unmet needs (related to health and safety) are families experiencing in your community?

- Housing
 - o Lack of housing for those with severe needs
 - o The families (in the Blyn/Jamestown S'Klallam tribal area) need better housing
- This is a small community with low access to healthcare and rural pockets that are not well served.
- Thinking about parents who are themselves cognitively limited. Maltreatment is not necessarily connected to the parent, but to people who take advantage of the situation to maltreat children
- Respite care – DDA has some options
 - o Some families don't want strangers in their home or take a while to adjust to it
 - o Lack of providers with respite services available
 - o Lack of programs that DDA can contract with
 - o Day programs with Parks and Rec used to be an option but availability has decreased
- Childcare – lack of spaces during pandemic
- Parents not having space for themselves – added stress of caring for kids 24/7
- Fewer activities and entertainment for children can be exhausting

How can better support families?

- Our partnerships with each other are important. As a new Supervisor I am trying to connect with more community services and create a could contact list. It is nice for everyone to understand each others programs. This in turn will better support families
- Therapeutic care or drop-off centers – therapeutic respite options
 - o Less than 4 hours (due to childcare regulations)
 - o So mom and dad can get a therapist appointment for themselves while child is in a safe place
- The pool is open – is there a way to extend that opportunity to everyone as an activity?
- Housing-first approaches – help to stabilize families who have severe needs
- Needs for more mental health vouchers and family reunification vouchers