

# STRENGTHEN FAMILIES LOCALLY

## 3/22/2021 Bremerton Meeting Notes

### Attendees:

Kimberly Riley, Ashley Jensen, Victoria Hilt, Lisa Lechuga, Jose Castro, Melissa Lund, Alex Seifert, Melissa Pittenger, Ursula Petters, Kody Russell, Lindsey Phillips, Joy Lile

### Updates:

SFL onboarding document:

<https://dcyf.box.com/s/pirdixemujfr1hw75gj3bp0enhebg1c4>

Bremerton Project Overview:

<https://dcyf.box.com/s/f6ytycmw2dyrlyw75udyckr9q0o0r4ay>

Sensemaker FAQ document: (Check here for social media post/email wording)

<https://dcyf.box.com/s/mqkjyghhd9x6u7ilsz8n5igg0d57nfey>

Next meeting: 4/12

Topic: Review of community stories and insights

Monthly meetings: 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 1-3

### Centering Equity:

*What healing-centered approaches to racial justice have found success? How can we incorporate healing-centered practice in child welfare?*

- DCYF history in equity projects:
  - o DCYF regional + statewide improvement plan on equity - Casey Family Foundation and Family to Family - working with extended families
  - o Revising/addressing mandatory reporter referrals - identified in King County - new video piece talks about disproportionality - asking clarifying questions
  - o How can DCYF do better - sustain the energy that we start behind equity initiatives, prioritizing time and energy requirements
  - o Asking questions about cultural considerations with families
- Play n Learn Groups! Opportunities for parents to build relationships with other parents
- Seattle Times article - grandmothers/parents supporting children - new funding approved - family systems for families of color don't always look the same
  - o Connecting family members with financial support for kinship/respite care - equipping natural supports that may already be helping care for families



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

Original Date: March 24, 2021  
Family Support Programs Division

- Grupo de Mamas - Family meal time the allows for informal conversation and connections - mom's group at the library - meal and trusted community members - don't need to "dig deep" right away- making space for connection before.
- Playgroup for families after story time at library- point to build comfort and community, building connections for transient families
- 1:1 relationship building with families - NFP, PCAP
- The likelihood of having a call on your family is increased due to neighborhood - decisions on whether to make a call, safety assessments
  - o Creating opportunities for neighbors to see each other's shared humanity and work towards shared goals
  - o Navy families - how to foster connections and supports
- Shared language about trauma - shared language and understanding about equity and restorative practices
  - o Kitsap Strong, YouthNet and XParenting - looking at how to foster relational mentoring
  - o How to get potential reporters to step in and take responsibility for community supports?
- Gap in reaching mixed-race children when their parents are not members of marginalized communities - restoring community and supporting all children - how to connect children with resources and learning
- Support/belonging for parents to help nurture their mixed-race or mixed-culture children - both within the community and in the department
- Father Paul Abernathy shares that we need to consider the "invisible institutions" that may already exist in our community; i.e. the processes that already exist in the neighborhood/community that facilitate healing.
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## Timeline: 6 Month Overview

### 2 Main goals in next 6 months:

1. Contract for Strong Community Network Facilitator (to start May)
  - a. Support Community Prevention Plan writing in all 4 communities
  - b. Support "Strong Community Network" or other collaboration/shared leadership structure
2. Identify 2 "starter" projects (A "step in the right direction")
  - a. 40,000 total for both
  - b. Focus on Secondary Prevention, Equity
  - c. Initiate June-September

### Timeline:

- April - Story Building - Where we are, Sensemaking sessions
- May - Project selection #1
- June - Project implementation #1
- July-August - continued data and sensemaking, Community Prevention Plan
- September - Project selection #2
- October - Project implementation #2
- November/December - Progress review and scoping, Community Prevention Plan

### Next month:

Spreadsheet of "where we are":

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**Discussion:**

- Consultant - needing to have someone who is very relationship centered - should we invest in a new process or look at how it is already happening in the community? How can the community own the process itself rather than having the process done “to” them?
  - o *From Joy and Erinn: We are viewing this consultant role as a technical support/assistance to DCYF and the community to figure out ways to collaborate better. They may not “complete” the work of creating a community plan and collaboration process, the hope is that they can help DCYF and communities work together in more partnership-focused ways*
- Is this duplicative of efforts already made in the community?
  - o *If you know of other groups doing prevention-focused work, please connect us and let’s talk about how to align!*
- Family to Family meetings - historical community-based process of looking at intakes in county - became DCYF centered rather than community-centered

How do we make decisions?

*We did not reach this part of the discussion but a lot of our conversation centered these ideas, so here are some reminders:*

**Strengthen Families Community Values:** <https://dcyf.box.com/s/ifo8e95ipniej28yy4mxbr9tg5bjcpbk>

**SFL Guiding Principles:**

1. Approaches will be strengths-based, culturally appropriate and inclusive
2. Mobilization will occur at multiple levels, including state government, local government, local non-profits, schools, families, volunteers, tribes, faith communities, etc., and will occur through a variety of means
3. We will work to develop trust and strengthen shared values
4. Our work will strengthen community organizations
5. Teams will develop a continuum of information, services and supports to strengthen families
6. Communities will target interventions for families with complex and co-occurring risks