

# STRENGTHEN FAMILIES LOCALLY

8/9/21

## In attendance:

Shawnda Hicks, Victoria Hilt, Nijhia Jackson, Ashley Jensen, Lisa Lechuga, Joy Lile, Yolanda Marzest, Jill McCormick, Cindy Meyers, Lindsey Phillips, Dr. Kimberly Riley, Sarah Vancleve

## Important documents:

### SFL onboarding document:

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

### Bremerton Project Overview:

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

### Sensemaker "Share a Story" flyer:

[https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/FS\\_0057.pdf](https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/FS_0057.pdf)

### Next meeting: Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 pm

Topic: Priority Project Presentations, Strong Community Network development with PAVE  
2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 1-3

### Attention volunteers! Complete this form for an honorarium:

<https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/child-development-supports/sfwa/sf-locally/sfl-giftcards>

## Transitioning to PAVE staff as facilitators

- Joy explained the purpose and process of transitioning to local facilitation, which has been the intention but has been slow to implement this year!
- PAVE (Partnerships for Action, Voices for Empowerment) was interested in this opportunity because they want to support parents and families to get the supports and resources they need and help elevate parent voice. Much of the work that PAVE does surrounds families of children with special healthcare needs, and they recognize Adverse Childhood Experiences, trauma, and child welfare involvement as having impacts on children's life-long health outcomes.
- The following PAVE staff introduced themselves, and shared personal stories – all have children with special healthcare needs and balance parenting, families, and work. Shawnda and Cindy will be the main group facilitators and Jill will support as needed.
- Shawnda Hicks | Family Navigator  
(c) 360.999.6633  
shicks@wapave.org
- Cindy Myers | Parent Support Specialist  
(c) 253-820-4713



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cmyers@wapave.org

- Jill McCormick | Director | Family to Family Health Information Center  
(P) 253.278.5952 | (c)253-722-9309  
jmccormick@wapave.org

### Centering Introductions: Lived Experiences in Family Supports and BIPOC voices

**Prompt: Please share an experience where you and your family felt engaged, connected, or that your voice was valued by your community.**

- Pre-COVID - involved in a monthly support group for parents with special healthcare needs - able to share and find commonalities with other parents
- Headstart policy council - being part of a bigger group and with other parents with lived experiences - can lead to other opportunities for parents to engage
- Feeling disconnected because of moving during COVID - how ZOOM can help keep us connected and heard
- Were able to be a part of a church youth group during COVID because of Zoom - Had been hard to make those meetings in person. 2x moth in the evenings
- Bringing young adult children into advocacy - participating in symposium with healthcare professionals - youth sharing their own journey - building the next generation
- Qualities that make people feel welcomed - Food (hard during pandemic), place to meet, acknowledging each individual and allowing them to introduce themselves, “community builders”
- Technology of ZOOM is somewhat of a blessing - creates opportunities to meet that wouldn't be there otherwise

### SFL Updates

- Priority Projects: We now have \$40,000 per project for 2 projects for the 2021-22 year.
- Projects being explored: Family Navigators (/Advocates)
  - o Marvin Williams Center – We are exploring how to contract with Marvin Williams Center to offer a Family Advocate position. This position is envisioned to be a person with lived experiences, who can do targeted outreach and engagement with African American community members living in Bremerton to provide connections and supports to families to meet basic needs, as well as reach personal and family goals.
  - o Kitsap Community Resources has offered to host this position.
  - o We are also exploring how to provide a similar support to Native American residents living in Bremerton, by partnering with a Native-serving and operated program.
    - Partnering with United Indians in King County or SPIPA (Pierce co.) - or Health Board in King County - Satellite position for Kitsap county?
    - Could hire someone living in the county to hold the position
    - Tribal connection - KYAK - serving Guatemalan people who are indigenous but speak Spanish
    - Telehealth opportunity through Suquamish wellness center? Connecting people with the technology they need
- We will convene a working group to help Marvin Williams Center and Kitsap Community Resources “dream” about this project

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## Review of SFL Bremerton Goals

### Framing:

- Link: <https://dcyf.box.com/s/hix34ypp0yr5pob50edwxlgko9vanp5t>
- How did we set these goals?
  - o Identified through a consensus process in the early meetings of the project (Sept-Oct 2020)
- Do these goals still fit the reality of the current Strengthen Families Locally priorities and work?
  - o Progress?
  - o Challenges?
  - o Changes or additions?

### Discussion:

- We have very broad ideas but haven't narrowed in on what the specifics will be yet.
- These are the goals we need from DCYF - but how we do it is more flexible
- Don't feel like we know where we're headed yet - this is OK based on where we're at right now
- Successes –
  - o DCYF just sent a client to a community partner for therapy - culturally/racially responsive
  - o expanding therapeutic definitions and using science-informed practices - Medicaid and Me event - offering options for how to use Medicaid for trauma-informed therapy - using tools in ways that are culturally relevant to individuals Strengthen Families Newsletter has a lot of information on equity, maltreatment rates, and social supports
- Can we report to these goals? How do we measure success?
- How do we create space that is accessible for folks to share success - space to check-in with one-another that we can all access - so we can all share updates - the meetings are good but not enough
- How do we make this work more "boots on the ground" - concrete ways to connect families with services and resources? - might be a conversation to have around goals
- Systems - reflects the conversations we've been having since the beginning - the scope of the work - can help us move forward
- Science about "positive supports and experiences" that are helpful for behavioral and mental health - the science and research that points towards how to strengthen families
  - o Focus on science and research, while not requiring "evidence-based"
- **Next steps:** starting conversations about how to connect families and community members with this work - PAVE to create neutral ground

## Transitioning to Local Facilitation and the Strong Community Network

### Framing:

- The SFL Bremerton planning group has been meeting for almost a year now!

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Family Support Programs Division

- We have slowly included more community members and parents, but even more parent engagement is needed for the project to be “by and for” the community
- DCYF will step back, PAVE will step in as local facilitator
- Transition to local facilitation:
  - o Building on what we have developed for SFL Bremerton over the last year - community partners and collaborations continue and grow
  - o “Look and feel” of local project will probably shift to reflect local preferences
  - o More parent and community engagement opportunities - safe, open and engaging spaces for parents to share and collaborate
  - o Outlining strategies for parent and community voice in decision making
  - o Building/supporting a sustainable, community-owned space to plan for community child maltreatment prevention
- ...The result: A Strong Community Network!

**Discussion:** There wasn’t time to discuss, but the following questions were raised. **Next step suggested:** send out a survey to collect ideas from participants with these questions.

- How do we center voices of families and those with lived experiences in our systems?
- How can we be intentional in structuring meetings to create safe space and buy-in from families, to provide voice and direction on prevention planning?
- How can we integrate and align the Strong Community Network and local/state SFL priorities with other community collaborations?
- What components could be changed or added to create a more community-based feel?

### Closing: Plus/Delta

#### Plus: what worked well today?

- Reviewing goals and strategies was a helpful reminder of where we’ve been, where we’re going
- reminder to check in with others and see if they’re interested in joining
- Closing - plus/delta

#### Delta: What would you change for next time?

- Start with parent voices - Intentional questions for parents who are in the group with us
- More time for intros of PAVE facilitators at the next meeting - “what would you like to know about us” - icebreaker questions to get to know each other better - getting to know each other personally