

# STRENGTHEN FAMILIES LOCALLY

6/21/21

## In attendance:

Shannon Selland, Connor Murphey, Christina Stretch, Marilyn Nelson, Jennifer Hansen, Jessica Hertlein, Stephanie Courtney, Kristena O'Hara, Rummyana Kudeva, Annie Murphey, MJ Taylor, Jene Ray, Natalie Tazuin, Carmen Pacheco-Jones, Dan Aune, Erinn Havig, Jenn Nguyen-So, Joy Lile

## Important documents:

### SFL onboarding document:

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

### Spokane Project Overview:

<https://dcyf.box.com/s/8929lbze46wh7ycjxnj50v9adpd3z43t>

### 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: August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 pm

(We are skipping the July meeting to take time off and hold more 1:1 meetings)

Topic: Priority Project presentation

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, 1-3

## Highlight Introductions: What systems behaviors, practices, or policies are preventing families from thriving?

- HJRA - serving a lot of these communities intersectionality - systems perpetuate the continued marginalization and oppression of individuals - ex. An organization receiving funds to support people at risk of eviction - agency doesn't know how to reach people most in-need. People already accessing services continue to get better access.
  - o Diverting resources from "non-profit industrial complex" towards trusted navigators who have connections and access
- The system is designed to keep people in poverty - if you have some success, you lose benefits
- Embracing "holistic" approaches - a gap in being able to support and fund these programs - minority groups who have been subjected to medical abuse might not embrace traditional approaches to the medical field. Holistic approaches can create a bridge for these folks to re-engage
  - o Applies in the prevention world - not limited to "EBP"
  - o We are here to provide evidence about these approaches
- Improving collaborations between agencies and within systems to better utilize resources and work in collaboration so multiple orgs. Can help people access supports - "create a village around those needing assistance"
  - o Reducing complications in housing applications and referrals to services - they are too long, requiring a lot of justification (income statements, bills, etc.)
  - o Breaking down silos - it always comes back to funding streams, accountability, barriers



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in the way of collaboration

### Strengthen Families Locally updates:

#### **Parent Support Gift Cards Available!**

Reserved for individuals who are not paid by an organization to attend SFL meetings, including parents, youth, and family members with lived experiences in family support and/or child welfare systems. Apply within 1 month of the meeting. Form and details:

<https://dcyf.box.com/s/ysd6dkewzb916qzcl87so0ufo8qfzgkj>

(Download, fill out, and attach to an email - or just email me your information!)

#### **Community Cafe Q&A**

Learn how Community Cafés spark leadership and build relationships to promote social justice and strengthen families. This meeting is appropriate for parent leaders who want to connect with other parents in their community, and Strengthen Families Locally partners. \$25 gift cards are available to support participation of volunteers and parents with lived experience in family support systems.

July 2, 11-12 (on Zoom)

Presented in partnership with the Community Café Collaborative: <https://thecommunitycafe.org/>

Registration: <https://dcyf.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsfuuoqD4vHNNGuVlqJuD5ZCqxIn1Lt1ux>

#### **Medicaid and Me: Providing Trauma-Informed and Healing-Centered Supports for families who are Medicaid-eligible**

July 15th, 2-3:30

The purpose of this meeting is to begin the conversation with hopes of ongoing multi-system collaborative around supporting families that are Medicaid and Medicaid eligible. The purpose of this meeting is to begin a conversation about multi-system collaboration to support families that are Medicaid and Medicaid eligible. Participants will brainstorm how to provide trauma-informed and healing-centered mental and behavioral health services to parents and children with support from Medicaid. This meeting will include community providers who are Strengthen Families Locally partners, DCYF and Health Care Authority staff, and Managed Care Organization representatives. To support those with lived experiences in these systems, \$50 gift cards are available to attendees who are not employed by Medicaid and Family Support system partners.

Registration: <https://dcyf.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlde6uqT4iHNAdK8AW4UEDWDBSkRZ2Fp t>

### Community Updates:

- HJRA taking referrals for Summer-Fall cohort for individuals who have experienced incarceration - peer support program, trained as peer navigators.  
You can access that referral here: <https://www.ppntp.org/referral-form>
- Empire Health Foundation and Healing Families Initiative - going to release an RFP for agencies to hire individuals with lived experiences to serve as agency/community liaisons (Family Navigator approach) - 120,000 for 2 projects - can re-apply - also providing training for how to integrate these positions

### Racism as a Root Cause Approach

#### **Framing:**

- When to apply:

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- When there's clear evidence of racially distributed inequity
- Disproportionality in referrals, foster care intakes in Child Welfare
- Black and Indigenous families at highest risk of child welfare cases and removals
- 4 Principle Components:
  - Precise impact on the racially marginalized group(s)
  - Focus on systems change: "change the system around the family" rather than "change the family"
  - Long-term investment: A clear path to sustainability
  - Reparations: Investment in BIPOC community members and organizations - resources, job opportunities, and leadership are focused within the target community
- What thoughts do you have at this point?
- What can existing agencies and programs tell us about addressing racism?

**Discussion:**

- This can be a challenging conversation - we have the data but the disparity is often attributed to individual challenges rather than systems bias. The system is set up to dehumanize black and brown individuals - need to investigate this with curiosity, without reflexivity, with self-reflection
- Reparations - thinking about "diversifying" an organization - can put a lot of weight on that one person who is trying to lead the change - leads to tokenizing and marginalizing
- Who is having these conversations internally in DCYF? How can we bring in others to be a catalyst for change? Revealing and shifting narratives

**Priority Project Discussion: Designing a Family Peer Support Program**

**Framing:**

- Peer Mentor/Family Peer Advocates
  - Valuing those with lived experiences
  - pay, support, training
  - Creating "culturally-responsive systems of care"
  - Strength-based approaches - towards "thriving", not just needs-based
  - Parental Improvement certificate from DCYF - supporting parents who have had DCYF involvement
- Considerations:
  - Explore existing racial gaps in peer support availability
  - "Meet families where they are" with connections to community, school, culture, etc.
  - Embed in existing programs or projects, share resources
  - Racism as a Root Cause: Precise Impact, Systems Change, Sustainability and Reparations
  - Funding flexibility: 2 projects can overlap on activities, amounts can differ
  - DCYF Funding opportunities that may support projects:
    - Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) funds
  - Ballmer Flex Fund (supporting innovative Family Support opportunities)

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**Discussion: (Facilitated in EasyRetro for voting and comments)**

Who is well-suited to do this work?

- The Zone Project (4 votes)
- Peer Spokane (3 votes)
  - o At The Zone - leading support groups and partnering with residents
  - o Part of a wider Peer Washington network - they may struggle with partnerships to BIPOC communities, and hiring individuals that are representative of these communities
  - o Has been a challenge - not able to develop relationships with BIPOC folks after multiple attempts at collaboration
  - o Have many different types of peer programs - they're very adaptive - they incorporate the desire of partner organizations into their programs - partnering with The Zone
- Latinos en Spokane (3 votes)
- Health and Justice Recovery Alliance (3 votes)
- Community-based organizations, BIPOC organizations, Current community projects with a focus on families, Homeless family housing organizations
  - o BIPOC providers can develop a different relationship with community agencies
  - o Empire Health Foundation - Amplifying Community Stories grant - going to BIPOC communities and agencies to help tell stories about the work that they do
  - o We don't know a lot of agencies and are not connected to a lot of the community agencies doing this work - we have a lot of black and brown community members leaving SPOKNE right now - "brain drain" -
  - o How can we help more of these organizations be a part of the conversation and understand with us how racism is really impacting and being addressed in our community? - The Strong Community Network model and how to incorporate anti-racist practice and learning.
  - o Need a database or way for people to share what work they are doing, so they don't just go back to the same organizations repeatedly - how to engage the folks actually doing this work?
  - o Look within the communities to provide space for those most closely involved in the system
  - o Childcare centers owned by African American community members
  - o Housing and homelessness - people working very closely with high-needs families
- MLK Center, The Native Project, American Indian Center (3 votes)
- Mujeres in Action (MiA) (2 votes)
- Transitions (1 votes)
- YWCA (1 votes)
- Catholic Charities (0 votes)
  - o Have several different family support programs already - well linked-in and may be able to develop something - early childhood programs
  - o Catholic Charities already have services that supposedly target these families, but they are still missing serving the BIPOC community.
- Carl Maxey Center (0 votes)
- Priority Spokane (0 votes)

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What additional resources or capacity will be needed?

- Understanding of Peers as subject matter experts (5 votes)
- Coordinating organization, Training & support, Hard funding support opportunities (4 votes)
  - o Someone who can work with other organizations who have peers - can we find opportunity to have a coordinating position? "Systems liaison" moving between different communities and peers
- Equitable wages, benefits for peers (3 votes)
  - o Honoring as a career instead of a volunteer position - may be a challenging system to change - building a relationship with community members rather than having people who cycle through the position. Low pay = high turnover - not respectful to the people, the community
- training specific to target demographic (2 votes)
- Administrative support for family peers (2 votes)
- Relationships with those they serve (1 votes)
- ongoing continuing education training for peers, and empowering peer voices to be heard, and their experience to be valued just as deeply as the work that clinicians do. Equitable wages and benefits. (1 votes)
- Access to Peer training for state certification (1 votes)
- BIPOC-hire preference for those serving those populations (0 votes)
  - o If working with the BIPOC community, have peers that have shared experience but also like speaks to like especially when you are working with people of color.
- Coordination between agencies to ensure access to all available avenues of funding, services, housing, childcare, etc. (0 votes)

How can other agencies rally behind this work?

- Collaborative & coordinated system development; Integrated client care solution - electronic (1 votes)
- Offer meeting space (1 votes)
- Could Peer Spokane partner to help build capacity in a more local organization? (0 votes)
- Promote the service/program (0 votes)

**Other thoughts and ideas:**

- Food sovereignty/food scarcity task force from Health Department - trying to bring in BIPOC voices. Is there a pastor who would like to do this?
- Partnering agencies - YWCA or SRDVC - partnering them with an agency that is BIPOC-led?
  - o Anna Franklin - chair of YWCA Racial and Social Justice Group
- Trusting people who have navigated these systems

**Next Steps:**

- Seek out conversations with individual agencies to build programming ideas, work on presentation for August meeting