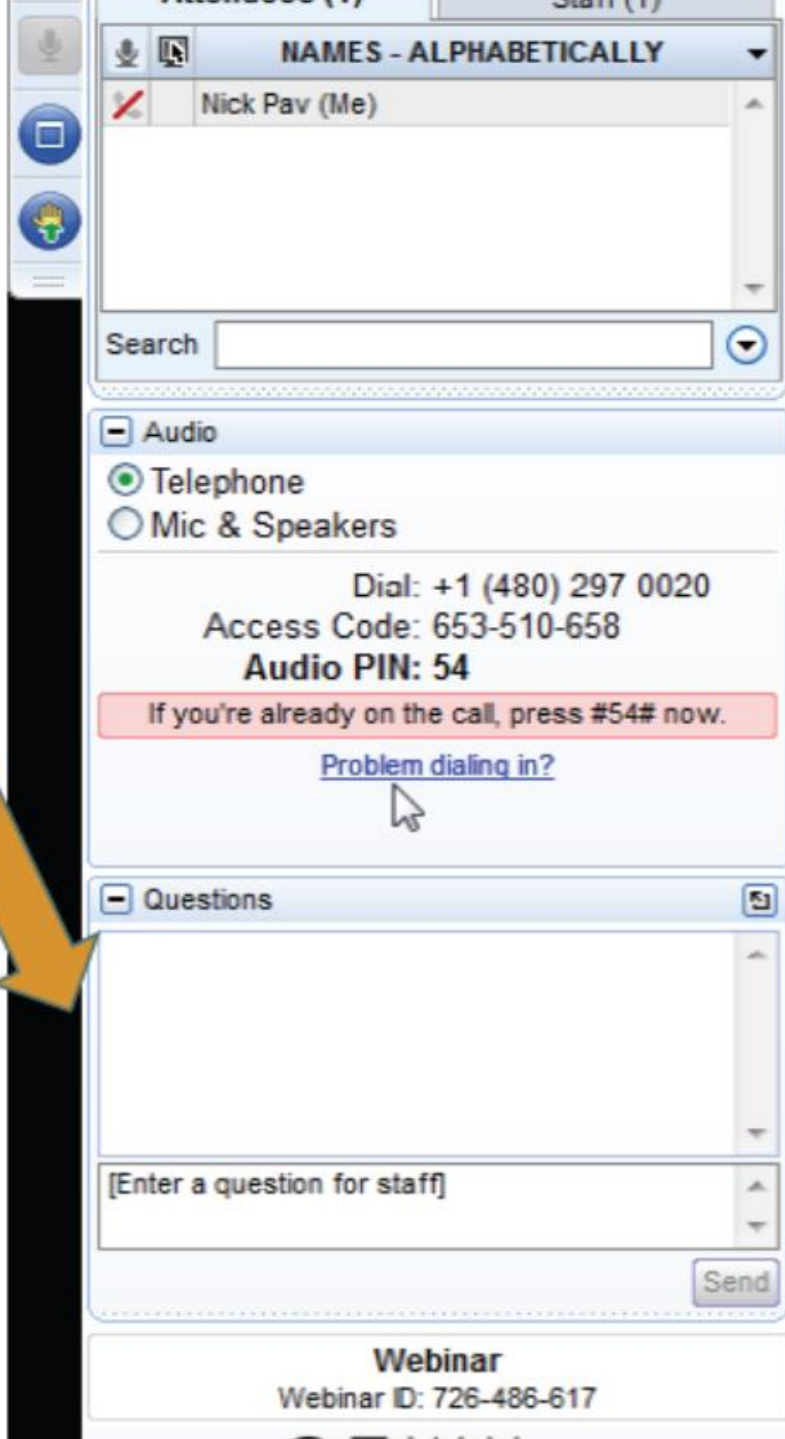
A stylized sun graphic on the left side of the slide. It features a solid yellow circle at the bottom left, with several short, thick yellow dashes of varying lengths and orientations radiating from its top-right edge, suggesting rays of light. The background is a solid orange color, and a large white semi-circle is positioned on the right side, framing the text.

The Latest Updates on the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and Washington State's Implementation Plan



Attendees (1) Staff (1)

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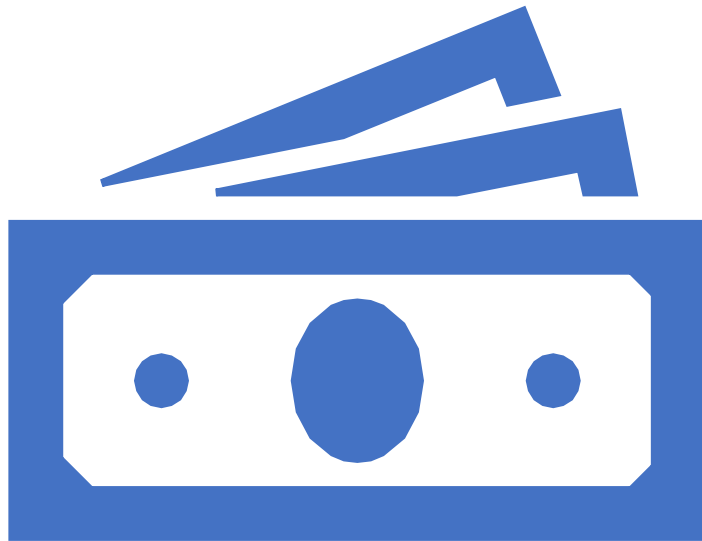
Agenda

- Brief Overview of the Family First Prevention Services Act
- Special Populations
- Federal Action and Proposals to Aid in Transition to FFPSA
- Outstanding Questions from Around the Country
- Washington State Family First Prevention Services Prevention Plan

Presenters

- Steven F. Grilli, Director, Division of Child Welfare Programs, Department of Children, Youth & Families
- Sean Hughes, Managing Partner, Government Relations, Social Change Partners
- Rachel M. Mercer, FFPSA Administrator, Department of Children, Youth & Families
- Angie Schwartz, Vice President of Policy and Advocacy, Alliance for Children's Rights
- Vickie Ybarra, Director, Office of Innovation, Alignment, and Accountability, Department of Children, Youth & Families

Level Setting: Family First and Budget Neutrality



- Family First is not an infusion of new federal funding to states – it’s redirecting existing federal funds
 - Family First redirects federal savings currently used to support children in congregate care (\$641 million) and delays additional federal funds for the Adoption Assistance program for another six years (\$505 million)
 - Redirects those federal savings to allowing states to claim federal dollars for prevention services under Part I



A Difficult Fiscal Landscape for Implementation

- Economic recession has resulted in significantly reduced state revenues, necessitating some program cuts and jeopardizing the ability of states to provide required matching funds to leverage federal funding for IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse programs
- DCYF asked by Governor to prepare significant cuts
- History shows that recession can slow implementation/uptake of federal child welfare programs - especially with a match requirement (see: Fostering Connections Act of 2008)
- FFPSA non-supplantation and maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements mean state will have to come up with new dollars for match

Brief Overview of Family First Prevention Services Act

FFPSA: Entitlement for IV-E Prevention Funding for Eligible Populations

- Open-ended entitlement to claim federal dollars for prevention services, but eligibility is restricted to:
 - **Candidates** for Foster Care, Parent(s) or Relatives Caregiver(s) of Candidates for Foster Care – OR – Expectant and Parenting Foster Youth
 - Prevention Services must fall into one of **three categories**: (a) mental health; (2) substance abuse prevention and treatment; (3) in-home parent skills-based programs
 - **Evidenced-Based Program** that is included in the IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse AND 50% of all funding on a well-supported program
 - Title IV-E is **payer of last resort**
 - **Per child** claiming
 - Ongoing continuing **evaluation**

Definition of “Candidate”

For purposes of this title, “candidate for foster care” means the following:

- A child who is identified in a prevention plan as being at **imminent risk** of entering foster care, but who can remain safely in the child’s home or in a kinship placement as long as services available under the new title that are necessary to prevent the child’s entry into foster care are provided
- Includes a child whose adoption or guardianship arrangement is **at risk of a disruption or dissolution** that would result in a foster care placement

NOTE: EPY in foster care do not have to meet a definition of candidate for foster care!

EBP: IV-E Prevention Clearinghouse

- **9 Well Supported Programs:** (1) Brief Strategic Family Therapy; (2) Functional Family Therapy; (3) Healthy Families America; (4) Homebuilders – Intensive Family Preservation and Reunification; (5) Motivational Interviewing; (6) Multisystemic Therapy; (7) Nurse-Family Partnership; (8) Parent-Child Interaction Therapy; (9) Parents as Teachers
- **4 Supported Programs:** (1) Families Facing the Future; (2) Interpersonal Psychotherapy; (3) Multidimensional Family Therapy; (4) Safe Care
- **8 Promising Programs:** (1) Child-Parent Psychotherapy; (2) Incredible Years – School Aged Program; (3) Incredible Years – Toddler Basic Program; (4) Methadone Maintenance Therapy; (5) Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy; (6) Triple P – Positive Parenting Program Self-Directed (Level 4); (7) Triple P – Positive Parenting Program – Standard (Level 4); (8) Triple P – Positive Parenting Program – Group (Level 4)

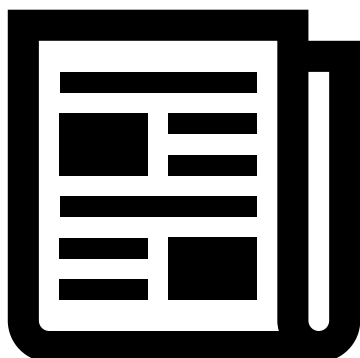
Case-Level Outcome Reporting

For each child receiving services the state must collect and report:

- Specific services/programs provided and total expenditures for each service/program
- Duration of services/programs provided

Also, for children identified as candidates:

- Child's placement status at beginning and end of 1-year period of service/program eligibility or receipt
- Whether child entered foster care within 2 years of being determined a candidate



Maintenance of Effort for States

States opting in **must** maintain their level of prevention expenditures for FFY 2014



- Defined in statute, includes TANF, IV-B, SSBG, and other state programs outside of the IV-E program, including waiver spending
- Also includes local agency spending
- Includes spending that is matched by the federal government as well as unmatched state/local spending
- Prohibits “double dipping” of federal matching funds

Special Populations

Pregnant & Parenting Youth: Opportunity for Primary Prevention



- Can serve any youth in care who is pregnant (expectant) or parenting (no candidacy requirement)
- Must be included in youth's case plan
- Must list services or programs to be provided to or on behalf of child to ensure youth is prepared (in the case of a pregnant youth) or able (in the case of a parenting youth) to be a parent
- Must describe foster care prevention strategy for any child born to the youth
- Must comply with other requirements that HHS Secretary may establish

Homeless Youth

- Many homeless youth have experienced significant abuse and/or neglect
- Conceptually, FFPSA may provide an opportunity to leverage federal dollars to provide these youth with MH/SA services that might benefit them
- However there are a number of complicating factors that would need to be worked through to leverage IV-E funding including:
 - Youth may need to be screened into the CPS system – and questions remain whether that would be appropriate
 - Federal data reporting requirements would require state systems upgrades
 - Regular safety and health checks would be required to be performed on youth – questions remain about who would perform these checks and whether youth would welcome them

Federal Action and Proposals to Aid Transition to FFPSA

Family First Transition Act (Enacted)

- Includes three major provisions supporting state implementation of FFPSA:
 1. Delays the requirement that 50% of prevention funds be used on well-supported programs for two years
 2. Provided \$500 million in flexible, one-time funds to states through Title IV-B to support implementation efforts (WA State received about \$9.4 million)
 3. For states with expiring Title IV-E waivers, ensures any loss of funds will be gradual

Pandemic Guidance and Flexibility from Federal Government

- ACF guidance allowing waiver of education and employment requirements for extended foster care during pandemic
- ACF guidance allowing for flexibility for QRTP programs in meeting accreditation requirements to maintain IV-E eligibility

Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act (H.R. 7947 - **Pending**)

- Waives state match requirement for Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse programs through 9/30/21
- Waives state match and evidence-based requirements for kinship navigator programs through 9/30/21
- Provides flexibility for home visiting programs (virtual visits, sustained funding for staffing, technology acquisition, etc.)
- Provides \$350 million one-time funding increase for the Chafee Foster Care Program for Successful Transition to Adulthood and \$50 million for Chafee Education and Training Vouchers (ETV); waives state match requirements; extends Chafee eligibility up to age 26; increases maximum ETV award to \$12,000
- Waives work and school requirements for extended foster care eligibility and requires states to allow youth who have aged out during the pandemic to re-enter
- Provides \$85 million one-time funding increase for Title IV-B, including \$10 million for courts; waives state match requirements

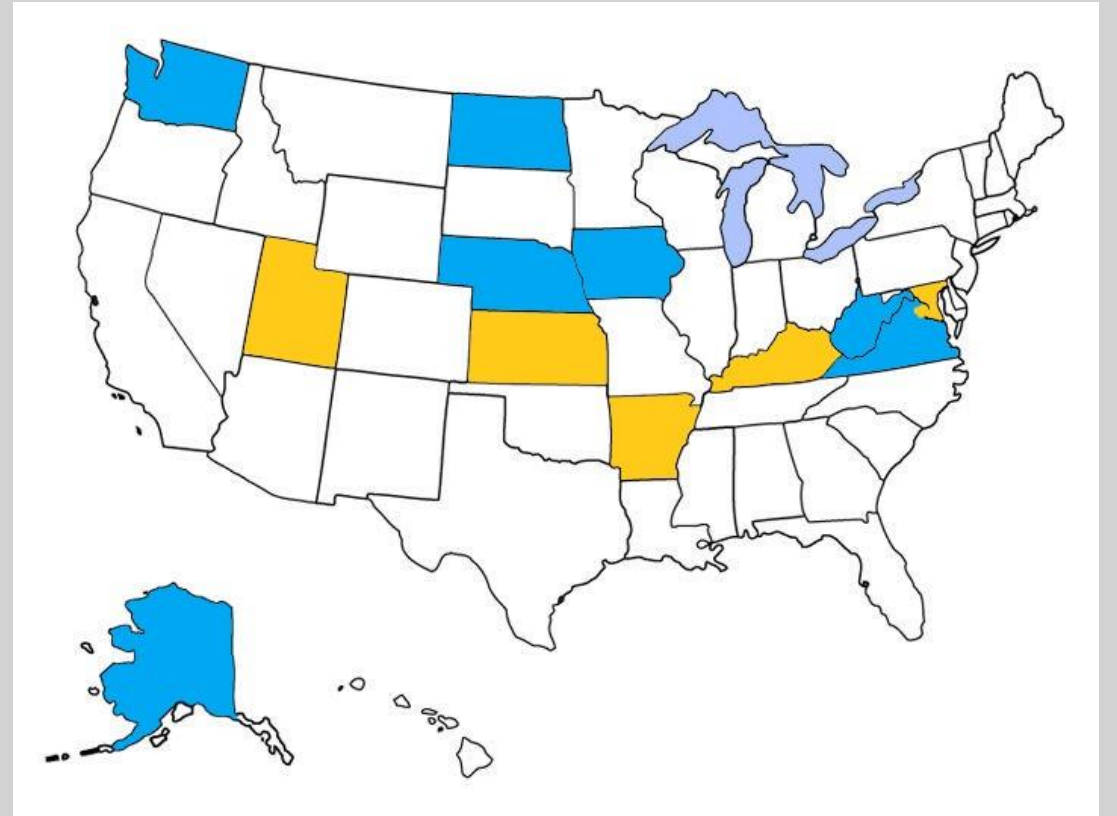
Outstanding Questions from Other States

States Seeking Further Federal Guidance on a Number of Issues

- Candidacy – treatment of EPY, treatment of NMDs, homeless youth
- Can states utilize VPAs for children who cannot be safely kept at home while leveraging IV-E to pay for prevention services for parents?
- QRTPs being potentially classified as IMDs (lost Medicaid eligibility)
- IV-E as payor of last resort/Medicaid fundable services/blending of funds

By the Numbers

- # of states with **approved** plans: 6 (Arkansas, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Utah, Washington DC)
- # of states that have **submitted** plans to ACF that are not yet approved: 7 (Alaska, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia)



Washington State Family First Prevention Services Prevention Plan

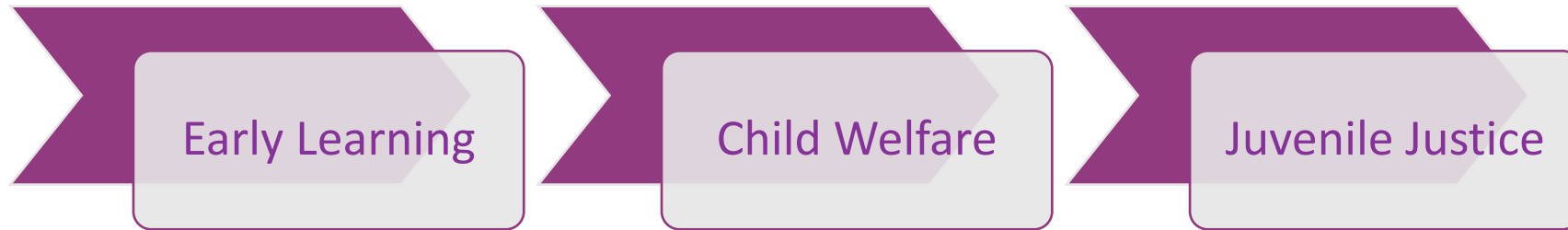
September 14, 2020

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Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Prevention Principles



- Prevention all along the DCYF continuum of services
- Primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention
- Prevention services provided both voluntary and court-involved children, youth and families
- Prevention at multiple levels – individual, family and community
- Informed by the voices of children, youth and families
- Informed by data and evidence
- Prevention to address disparities and disproportionalities
- Early learning is prevention
- Endorse Children’s Bureau vision for child welfare: “Strategies to Strengthen Families”

FFPSA Prevention Pathway Options



A family that has identified Prevention needs has a series of ways they can receive assistance and services

CPS Family Assessment Response (FAR)

For cases where allegations are considered to be low to moderate risk and are non-emergency, the family would be eligible for a FAR assessment versus an investigation. If in addition, the child(ren) can remain safely in the home with the safety plan, the case remains in FAR for ongoing service provisions.

DCYF is considering an FFPSA prevention pilot with some FAR units as part of the implementation for the FFPSA Prevention plan.

CPS Family Voluntary Services (FVS)

After a CPS investigation, if the family is identified as being moderately-high or high risk (SDM) for future abuse or neglect and the child(ren) can remain safely in the home, the case is transferred to FVS.

FVS will develop a prevention plan, monitors ongoing safety, risk and progress and provides services to address the needs of the family.

This pathway is part of the initial implementation phase for the FFPSA Prevention plan.

Additional DCYF Program

There are multiple programs within DCYF that can provide Prevention support to families. Children on trial return home following placement, Family Reconciliation Services (FRS), youth discharged from state Juvenile Rehabilitation services and potentially others.

DCYF is interested in exploring how FFPSA Prevention services can support these families in these programs.

This pathway will be part of future implementation for the FFPSA Prevention plan.

Community

There are Washington Families that are not yet involved with Child Welfare, but may demonstrate risk factors for involvement

DCYF is interested in developing a pathway to ensure these children and families are supported in their communities.

We will look to our community partners to help in developing the best way to meet these families' needs.

This pathway will be part of the future implementation for the FFPSA Prevention Plan.



Washington State FFPSA Prevention Plan

- On December 20, 2019, Washington State submitted the FFPSA Prevention Plan to the Children's Bureau.
- To date, DCYF has gone through two rounds of revisions with the Children's Bureau. The most recent submission was on July 31, 2020. The plan can be found on our website: <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/FFPSA-Jul20.pdf>
- The plan must be approved by the Children's Bureau before we can access the Title IV-E funds. DCYF does not yet have an approved plan.



Candidacy for Prevention Services

- CPS Family Assessment Response (FAR)
- CPS Investigation
- CPS Family Voluntary Services (FVS)
- Children on trial return home following placement
- Substance Abusing Pregnant Women
- Adoption Displacement
- Family Reconciliation Services (FRS)
- State Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) discharge
- Pregnant or parenting Foster Youth
- Pregnant or parenting JR Youth
- Children with developmental disabilities and/or intensive mental health needs

Candidate groups will be phased in for implementation over multiple years



Evidence Based Program Selection

- These practices were chosen as the initial set of EBPs based in part on contracts DCYF already has in place for prevention, as well as stakeholder and partner feedback, and federal guidance.
- Washington state intends that the list of evidence-based family services available to children and families served under this plan will be more than eight.
- Other services in the existing service arrays have not yet been reviewed by Title IV-E Clearinghouse. Approach for choosing additional services 1) Opportunity to address racial disproportionality, and 2) Gaps identified in a Statewide Service Needs Assessment.



DCYF Proposed EBPs for Initial FFPSA Prevention Plan

	Practice	Type of Service	Title IV-E Clearinghouse Rating
1	Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	mental health	well-supported
2	Motivational Interviewing	mental health substance abuse	well-supported
3	Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)	mental health substance abuse	well-supported
4	Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP)	parent skill-based	well-supported
5	Parents as Teachers (PAT)	parent skill-based	well-supported
6	Homebuilders	parent skill-based	well-supported
7	SafeCare	parent skill-based	Supported
8	Child-Parent Psychotherapy	Mental health	Promising

Tribal Prevention Practices

- DCYF has partnered with Tribes to learn what prevention practices are implemented, embraced, and effective in tribal communities
- Four prevention practice identified that had at least some published research showing effectiveness
 - Family Spirit, Positive Indian Parenting, Healing of the Canoe, Healing Circles/Talking Circles
- Tribal preferences with these practices
 - Evidentiary Review by a Native Researcher
 - Evaluation of FFPSA-approved programs by tribal evaluators



Tribal Prevention Practices

- DCYF will submit Family Spirit evidentiary review in our first amendment to our approved plan.
- DCYF/OIAA wishes to partner with tribal evaluators to together create a plan for evaluation of FFPSA-approved practices in tribal communities.
- We are in continued dialogue with Tribes about implementation, contracting, and evaluation.
- You can view the literature review on the four identified tribal prevention practices:
<https://dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/reports/TribalCWPrevention2020.pdf>



Implementation

- Implementation of FFPSA Prevention in Washington State is a huge transformation effort that will take multiple years to fully implement. This project will be phased, focusing on the required implementation tasks necessary to meet FFPSA requirements, and then subsequent phases will focus on roll out to the different candidacy groups.



Thank you!

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Additional Resources

- Learn more about FFPSA online
 - <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/practice-improvement/ffpsa>
- DCYF FFPSA Prevention Website
 - <https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/practice/practice-improvement/ffpsa/prevention>
- Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse
 - <https://preventionservices.abtsites.com/>



Questions

