



## Offices selected for January 2014 Implementation

Twelve offices completed readiness assessments to help determine which offices will be the first to offer Family Assessment Response (FAR). The office and regional leads worked hard to complete assessments that reflected the strengths of the offices and the challenges they will face as they implement FAR. Rory Schilling, the Lynnwood office lead, said that writing the readiness assessment gave him an opportunity to dream about what a better child welfare system could look like in Lynnwood and the surrounding communities. He said, "No one has ever asked me to put the dream on paper before."

Choosing the offices that will go first was difficult. Each of the 12 offices provided well-thought-out plans to implement FAR. In addition to the offices' overall readiness, CA management wanted to make sure the offices would provide the broadest opportunity to learn lessons about statewide implementation. The readiness assessments helped us select the offices that will begin offering FAR to families in January 2014. They are:

- **Spokane** (two Zip code areas initially: 99201 and 99207)
- **Lynnwood**
- **Aberdeen**

Thank you to the office leads, regional leads, area administrators, and office staff who helped create the readiness assessment. The creativity, problem solving, and dreams of these staff are helping us create a better child welfare system for the children and families we serve.



“Remember that the  
happiest people are not  
those getting more, but  
those giving more.”

— H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

## Schedule of Coming Events

### July 2013

- FAR business brochure distributed
- Contracted evaluator selected

### August 2013

- Selected offices prepare for FAR implementation
- FAR policy
- FAR practice guide developed
- FAR brochure for families distributed

### September 2013

- Begin FAR /FamLink tools and practice training

### Fall 2013

- FamLink changes released

### November - December 2013

- FAR Training for Phase 1 Offices

### January 2, 2014

- Implement FAR Phase 1

**For more information about FAR, please contact:**

### Regional Leads

**Region 1** Julie Ellis: (509) 363-3495

**Region 2** Kara Rozeboom: (425) 673-3113

**Region 3** Anita Teeter: (360) 725-6807

### Headquarters Leads

Jeanne McShane: (360) 902-7858

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**For more information about FAR:**

<http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/about/far.asp>

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Each edition of this newsletter will feature thoughts on the program from someone working on FAR



**Jeanne McShane**  
Headquarters Lead on  
Family Assessment Response

I have worked for Children's Administration for over 15 years. The majority of that time I have worked with foster parents and group homes in the Division of Licensed Resources (DLR).

Every day, someone asks me why I am working on Family Assessment Response. The answer is simple: Family Assessment Response speaks to all of my passions drawn from my own values growing up in a large close knit family of 8 children. FAR is designed to:

- keep families--parents, children, and siblings together
- reduce the number of children in foster care
- build better, stronger community connections

There are two pieces of art on my parents' dining room wall. One is a picture of my father's childhood home in New York. The second is a framed quote I read every night for 18 years:

*"There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other wings." – Hodding Carter*

It wasn't always easy for my parents to give us the roots and wings that helped us fly. They were transplants from the East Coast; they left their family and friends when my father got a teaching gig in Nebraska. To grow roots you have to have community. So, my parents built themselves and their children a community. Our community of university professors, nurses (my mom was a nurse at a local hospital), church, neighbors, and friends helped us to grow the wings to become loving, successful adults.

Many of our clients have lost their ties to their families and their community. Some feel the shame of the stigma related to poverty, homelessness, unemployment, loneliness, mental illness, and addiction. They don't have a community that will celebrate with them and help when times are tough.

FAR gives us the opportunity to help reconnect families to the people in their lives who can support them in their efforts to create life changes that will keep their children safe and well cared for into adulthood. Building community with families gives them the chance to grow roots and give their children wings.

We can do this. We can work with families in our neighborhoods, churches, work, and schools to improve their lives. And, in the process, we will enrich our own.

## Region 1

FAR Lead Julie Ellis has been with Children's Administration since 2008.

She has worked in several program areas including Child Protective Services, Child and Family Welfare Services, Family Reconciliation Services and Family Voluntary Services. Julie has extensive experience working with Native American children and families and with families in crisis. Julie has a passion for engaging families in creating changes to increase the safety and well-being of their children.

"I am enthusiastic about being involved in this innovative plan for Washington's families. I look forward to increased collaboration efforts within communities and working hand in hand with other CA programs. The opportunity to involve families and communities more extensively in the assessment process is exciting!"



Julie Ellis

## Region 2

FAR Lead Kara Rozeboom has worked as the Children's Administration

Region 2 North CPS Program Manager since 1997. Kara has worked as an intake and CPS social worker, application trainer, program manager, and intake supervisor.

"I am excited that Family Assessment Response will be implemented in Washington State soon. I am excited that FAR builds on our current Child Safety Framework and Solution Based Practice models while focusing on early intervention, improved engagement, and family centered practice. There won't be any subject or findings made on FAR intakes but child safety will remain the focus. The success of FAR depends on community involvement and communities want their families and children to be safe. It has been a pleasure working closely with the four office leads and Area Administrators in Region 2 who are preparing to implement FAR."



Kara Rozeboom

## Region 3

FAR Lead Anita Teeter has been with Children's Administration for more than 14

years. She has gained social welfare experience while working as a CPS investigator, a CPS supervisor and Area Administrator. Anita has a wealth of experience and is excited to join the FAR Team.

"I am very excited about the potential to build even better community partnerships. States that have implemented FAR suggests the key to success is partnering with our communities to build Community Resource Teams. I am excited to work with offices to assess their current community resources and develop unique ways to partner and develop increased resources that allows children to remain safely in their family homes.



Anita Teeter

Thank you Julie, Kara, and Anita for your dedication to Children, Families and FAR!

# The 2013 FAR Tribal Colloquium, a Fancy Word for Smart People Gathering to Talk About Something Important

In late April, Tribal and Children's Administration (CA) representatives from across Washington gathered at Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound to discuss how CA can work with the Tribes using FAR. Hosted by the Chehalis Tribe and funded by Casey Family Programs, the day-long event allowed participants to talk about their hopes to improve the safety of children and to voice their concerns about the new CPS response pathway in an atmosphere of cultural respect and hospitality. Nancy Dufraime from the Chehalis Tribe facilitated the event and invited elders from different Tribes to bless the proceedings. Nearly 70 people from 24 Tribes, Recognized American Indian Organizations, Children's Administration, DSHS Office of Indian Policy, the Attorney General's Office, and partner agencies attended the event.

Collaboration with communities is essential to improve child safety at the local level. The success of FAR will rely on the investment and cooperation of everyone from parents and faith communities to business owners and our Tribal partners.

Jeanne McShane, the Family Assessment Response Implementation Lead explained that FAR is a different kind of CPS response, "FAR allows a proportionate response based on the level of threat to children."



Ron Murphy and Eddie Screechowl from Casey Family Programs

When FAR is fully implemented, it could serve as many as 15,000 Washington families annually.

Children's Administration Assistant Secretary, Jennifer Strus discussed how FAR will be implemented incrementally, subject to available funding. Our goal is to offer FAR to families in every office across the state by the end of 2016. When FAR is fully implemented, it could serve as many as 15,000 Washington families annually. Evidence shows this approach supports families in their own communities, keeps children safer in their own homes, and reduces repeated referrals of abuse or neglect.



Betsy Tulee of Children's Administration and Vickie Carlson from the Makah Tribe

The day ended with a plan to gather again and closed with an elder's blessing for the work ahead.

## FAR FAQ

### How will medical neglect cases fit with FAR?

**ANSWER:** The FAR pathway may be a great alternative for some medical neglect cases. Children with significant medical problems often require many medical appointments. They may need to go to multiple therapies such as physical, speech, and occupational therapy. Some of these children need medical equipment, monitoring, special diets, and multiple medications.

When families of chronically ill children have limited resources, the issues can be overwhelming. FAR may be able to help prevent out-of-home placement for some medically fragile children by providing their caregivers with additional resources and support.

Some issues that might be present with medical neglect cases that may be good candidates for the FAR pathway include:

- The family lacks resources to care for children with acute or chronic illness. For some parents, taking time off from work to care for a sick child can be a financial impossibility.
- Parents who lack access to care (e.g. transportation issues or appointments that require long distance travel).
- Parents who lack awareness, knowledge or skills to identify signs or symptoms that their child may be seriously ill.
- Developmental delays that limit parents' capacity to respond to the child's health care needs.

Depending on the situation, the FAR pathway can help the family reduce the risks that brought them to the attention of the Department by connecting them with community resources such as:

- Transportation.
- Finding a doctor who takes medical coupons.
- Help with expanding the circle of caregivers to help with the child's medical care.
- Volunteers to help organize the medical care and or appointments and help the family understand the medical plan.
- Visiting nurse.

Cases that involve parents who intentionally put their children's safety in immediate danger will be assigned to the traditional CPS Investigative Pathway.