



**STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
PO Box 45710, Olympia WA 98504-5710**

May 4, 2012

Dear Valued Child Welfare Partner:

I am writing to invite you to participate in one of two statewide meetings to be held in May to provide input on **Family Support and Related Services**. The meeting schedule is listed at the end of this letter.

[Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2264](#) becomes law on June 7. It requires the department to issue a request for proposal for Family Support and Related Services by December 2012, and to contract for these services under a performance based contract by December 2013. Family Support and Related Services are not defined in the bill. The bill requires the department to consult with Children's Administration (CA) caseworkers, Tribal representatives, parents formerly involved in the child welfare system, youth currently or previously in foster care, the employee bargaining representative (Washington Federation of State Employees), child welfare researchers, and the Washington State Institute for Public Policy to assist in identifying categories of Family Support and Related Services by July 15, 2012. In addition to this required consultation, Children's Administration would like input from our other child welfare partners.

This consultation requirement provides CA with an important opportunity to carefully consider what families need as we develop these service categories, including needs we are not able to address today. Your experience in working with families in the child welfare system provides you with a unique perspective in understanding families' needs and we would like to hear about those needs from you.

Each of these meetings will provide an opportunity for you to tell us about the **services and concrete resources families need to:**

- **Reduce the likelihood of abuse and neglect**
- **Keep their children safely at home**
- **Promote permanency more quickly, including facilitating and maintaining safe reunification**

In addition to the meetings to be held, you can also provide input through an on-line survey Children's Administration has developed, which includes the same information and input opportunity as will occur during these two meetings. The survey can be accessed at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FamSpt\\_Partner](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FamSpt_Partner). The survey asks that you enter your role in the child welfare system and provides an opportunity to share personal information if you choose. There is a separate survey for youth currently or previously in foster care and for parents formerly involved in the child welfare system.

The input received during in-person meetings, as well as the input received from the survey, will be considered by the Children's Administration in identifying categories of Family Support and Related Services. We are requesting that all input be submitted by June 1 to allow us adequate time to carefully consider all of the comments.

**Meeting Dates and Times:**

**Eastside Public Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 22, 1:30-4:00 p.m.**  
Spokane Office  
Southwest Conference Room  
1313 N. Atlantic St., Suite 2000  
Spokane, WA 99201

**Westside Public Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 29, 1:30-4:00 p.m.**  
King South Office  
Tahoma Conference Room  
1313 W. Meeker Street #102  
Kent, WA 98032

We would like to hear from you about the services or concrete resources that make the most difference in families' lives, whether or not these resources are currently available. I hope you will take the opportunity to attend one of these scheduled meetings or complete the survey on-line, as your input is valued.

Sincerely,



Denise Revels Robinson  
Assistant Secretary  
Children's Administration