

While every single one of us has the power and the moral responsibility to act if we suspect a child is at risk, not one of us can single-handedly stop child abuse and neglect. It is only through the combined efforts of state and Tribal governments, child welfare professionals, child advocates, legislators, substitute caregivers, families, and the community that we can begin to impact positive change in the lives of vulnerable children.

Despite sometimes overwhelming odds and often in the face of great personal peril, there are those who keep speaking out on behalf of those who have no voice. They speak with their words, their actions, their resources, their hearts and their homes.

They are the unsung heroes of child welfare and these are some of their stories.

Community

The news story was horrific. The tendency was to turn off the television or change the channel. The mere thought of a grown man picking a seven-month-old baby girl up by the arms and swinging her around to gain momentum before slamming her tiny body to the floor was unthinkable. Yet, the 19-year-old boyfriend of the infant's mother did just that after growing frustrated from the baby's cries. The little girl became known only as the "Enumclaw baby." Somehow amid their shock and horror, neighbors from the surrounding community mobilized on behalf of the battered little girl. The residents of Enumclaw raised \$15,000 toward her care. Today the toddler is thriving in her new home, the man who brutalized her is incarcerated and the funds raised by a generous community are in trust for her future!

Social Worker, Law Enforcement, Department of Health

Whenever Jeff Monnett walks into a home, he never knows exactly what he will find. Most of the homes of meth users and meth manufacturers have similar themes. They are filthy, dangerous and show evidence of adults who are highly sexualized and paranoid. Nearly every home of methamphetamine addicts has two prominent accessories, weapons and pornography. Even knowing this, Jeff is not always prepared for what will confront him behind the door of a meth lab. Jeff describes a home in which one child's bed was surrounded by animal feces. The home had no electricity or running water and the only toilet facility was a five gallon plastic bucket. The wall that had once separated a child's bedroom from the parent's bedroom had been demolished, and a huge hole occupied the space that once provided privacy. Jeff has seen meth labs next to bassinets and methamphetamine next to baby bottles. Jeff is a DCFS social worker in Region 6 who volunteered to take part in a pilot program combining the efforts of CPS, the Thurston County Sheriff's Department and the Health Department toward protecting children in meth affected homes. Although the future is usually somewhat grim for those addicted to meth, Jeff remembers one young mother from who he had taken a child. The mom got treatment, has stayed clean, was reunified with her child, is working, and personally thanked Jeff for intervening in her and her child's life.

Foster Mother and Licensing Supervisor

She weighed one pound ten ounces, tested positive for opiates, and had a host of physical maladies at birth. Her foster mother, Debbie, has literally been the little girl's lifesaver on more than one occasion. The first time Debbie saved the baby's life, they were on a routine trip to Olympia. Debbie sensed the baby had gone silent in her rear-facing car seat and pulled over. Indeed the baby had stopped breathing and there, by the side of the road, Debbie performed CPR and began breathing for the infant until she began to breathe on her own. It seems this little girl has a couple of guardian angels because later, while visiting with her mother in the local Children's Administration office, the baby again stopped breathing. DLR licensing supervisor Scott Minnick administered CPR and the baby was breathing and crying by the time paramedics arrived. This little girl, who doctors predicted would not survive, is now a chunky baby who is sitting up, rolling around, and giving the gift of giant grins to the foster mom who saved her life and all who have the privilege of meeting her.

Social Worker, Tribal Welfare, Law Enforcement, Community Members

The foster parents actually knew the biological father of one of the children placed in their home and neither they nor anyone else expected the lengths he would go to in an effort to get his son back. The biological father kidnapped his son from foster care, which set off what in retrospect seemed to be a well-choreographed series of events. The social worker alerted law enforcement who prepared to issue an Amber Alert. Law enforcement intensified their search and, just before the Amber Alert went out across the airwaves, a Tribal social worker who was unaware of the case had an encounter with the father and child that caused her to investigate. It was then that she learned the child had been abducted. Tribal law enforcement, a local detective, and the Tribe coordinated so that the father could be arrested away from view of the little boy and the child could be temporarily placed in a Tribal foster home. The little boy, spared the trauma of his father's arrest, played and visited with other children until his foster parents could come and take him back to their home.

"I know there are tremendous people who every day perform critical, complicated and sometimes dangerous work to protect children and give families the support and strength they need to succeed in life."

—Cheryl Stephani

These stories represent what can happen if just a few people get involved. Imagine... **just imagine what could happen if every single one of us got involved.**



Sapphire S., Age 9

ART CONTEST WINNERS

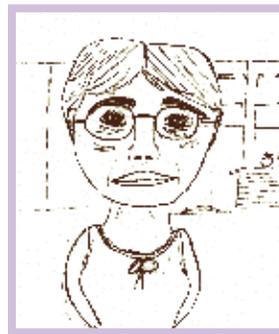
The Children's Administration Annual Performance Report strives to tell the story of vulnerable children in Washington State. Through performance outcome data, actual case information, written stories submitted by field staff and families and stories passed along in conversation, we keep the struggles and successes of these children ever-present in our minds. It has long been a dream of the annual report publication team to provide a mechanism through which children in state care could tell their own stories through images and written descriptions of their artwork. In Fiscal Year 2005, with funding from the National Center for Civic Innovation Government Performance Reporting Demonstration Grant, the Children and Youth art contest became a reality.

Children from every corner of the state submitted images related to their experiences with the Children's Administration. Whether reuniting with her mom, four children being adopted by "Grandma and Papa" or teens living in a foster care with a "caring and encouraging" foster mom, these kids tell their stories better than we could ever hope to. Children were awarded gift cards in values from \$50 to \$100 in five age groups and honorable mention prizes of \$25 were also awarded to children in each of the five age groups. In addition, every child who submitted a drawing received a certificate of recognition and letter from the administration. The children's artwork, shown throughout this report, is taken from those contest entries and these images are now a part of a catalogue of children's art that will be used in years to come.



Jacob W., Age 3

Winner in the 2-5 year age group
Jacob has been adopted by grandparents. He drew a picture of the Salt Lake City Judge who granted his adoption.



Charitie H., Age 13

Winner in the 12-14 year age group
(This age group had a tie for 1st)
Charitie lives in a foster home while CPS helps her mom. She drew a picture of her foster mom whom she describes as, "helpful and encouraging."



Nilsha V., Age 7

Winner in the 6-8 year age group
Nilsha lives in a foster home. She drew a picture of herself dreaming.



Francis C., Age 14

Winner in the 12-14 year age group
(This age group had a tie for 1st)
Francis lives in a foster home. She drew a picture of a mother and a foster child taking a walk.



Sebastiana R., Age 11

Winner in the 9-11 year age group
Sebastiana live in a foster home while CPS helps her parents. She drew a picture of a foster family campout and said, "Camping with a family is so fun."



Ashley G., Age 16

Winner in the 15-18 year age group
Ashley is in the process of entering foster care. Ashley drew a picture of her mom and her reuniting and "the broken heart is in the garbage."

Child and Family Resources



Important Telephone Numbers

To report child abuse or neglect.....	1-866-EndHarm, or 1-866-562-5624
To become a foster or adoptive parent.....	1-888-794-1794
To find child care resources and referrals.....	1-800-446-1114
To resolve concerns about CA or foster care.....	1-800-571-7321

Websites

Adoption:

Washington Adoption Resource Network.....	www.nwresource.org/af_ware.htm
Northwest Adoption Exchange	www.nwae.org
Families Like Ours	www.familieslikeours.org
Adopt U.S. Kids.....	www.adoptuskids.org

Child Care:

Licensed Child Care	www1.dshs.wa.gov/esa/dccel/carechoices.shtml
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Domestic Violence:

DSHS Domestic Violence Program.....	www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/victimservices/dvicservbut1.asp
WA State Coalition Against Domestic Violence.....	www.wscadv.org

Foster Parenting:

CA Foster Parent Website	www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents
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Mental Health:

DSHS Mental Health Division.....	www1.dshs.wa.gov/mentalhealth
SAMHSA National Mental Health Information Center	www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/child

Social Services and Child Welfare:

Children's Administration Internet	www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/general
DSHS Internet	www1.dshs.wa.gov
Department of Health and Human Services.....	www.os.dhhs.gov

Substance Abuse:

DSHS Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse.....	www1.dshs.wa.gov/dasa
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The following summary of the Children’s Administration Strategic Plan outlines the broad goals, strategic outcomes, and objectives the administration is working to achieve. We are identifying our progress in achieving these objectives in a variety of ways, some using outcome data and performance measures, and others by case record reviews and client, stakeholder and employee satisfaction feedback. We are continually working to improve our services and child and family outcomes.

CHILD SAFETY

- Goal:** Children will be safe from abuse and neglect
- Strategic Outcome:** Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.
- Strategic Outcome:** Children are safely maintained in their own homes whenever possible and appropriate.

CHILD & FAMILY WELL-BEING

- Goal:** Help families and communities improve the well-being of children in their own homes and in out-of-home care
- Strategic Outcome:** Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children’s needs.
- Strategic Outcome:** Children receive age-appropriate services to meet their educational and developmental needs.
- Strategic Outcome:** Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

PERMANENCY

- Goal:** Provide stable, nurturing, and permanent placements as quickly as possible for children who are placed into out-of-home care
- Strategic Outcome:** Children will have permanency and stability in their living situations.
- Strategic Outcome:** The continuity of family relationships and connections will be preserved for children.

SUPPORTING CLIENT OUTCOMES

- Goal:** Continuously improve the organization’s capacity to achieve better outcomes for children and families
- Strategic Outcome:** The Children’s Administration partners with and is responsive to Tribes, consumers, communities, courts and public and private agencies to serve children and families.
- Strategic Outcome:** Adequate quality resources are available for foster care, behavior rehabilitation services, and adoption.
- Strategic Outcome:** Service array ensures appropriateness, quality, accessibility and flexibility.
- Strategic Outcome:** Information technology and Case and Management Information System (CAMIS) has capability to support field and management needs.
- Strategic Outcome:** Federal requirements for case review system are maintained.
- Strategic Outcome:** Quality assurance system promotes satisfactory outcomes for children and families.
- Strategic Outcome:** Staff and provider training and development adequately support the goals of the agency.
- Strategic Outcome:** Agency has adequate and efficient structure, staffing and fiscal resources.

Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA): Federal legislation passed on November 19, 1997, strengthening Titles IV-E and IV-B of the Social Security Act. ASFA requires more accountability and better efforts and results from state agencies receiving funding, as well as from parents who have children placed in foster care. The law focuses on the safety, permanency, and well-being of children in care and other positive outcomes.

Adoption Support: Financial assistance provided to adoptive parents following the adoption of a special needs child. According to RCW 74.13.109, a child is eligible if that child is “legally free” and “hard to place” at the time the adoption support agreement is established.

Alternative Response System (ARS): Children’s Administration contracts with agencies to provide ARS services to low risk families. Services help families develop community support systems in an effort to keep families intact without intrusive CPS intervention.

Behavior Rehabilitation Services (BRS): Agency contracted services for behavioral rehabilitation services for children and youth with serious emotional, behavioral or medical difficulties who cannot be adequately served in regular foster care.

Case and Management Information System (CAMIS): Automated information system for Children’s Administration.

Chafee Foster Care Independence Act: Federal law passed in 1999 to offer services to adolescents in their transition to adulthood. CA contracts with community-based agencies to offer outreach, individual assessment and plan development, skill building through instruction, independent living plan reviews and case management.

Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA): Federal legislation providing guidelines for states regarding child protection.

CA/N: Child abuse and neglect

Child in Need of Services (CHINS): A part of the state’s Family Reconciliation Act, RCW 13.32A., addressing children over the age of twelve, who are beyond the control of their parents, have run away and have substance-abuse or other at-risk behavior, or whose parents are unable, unwilling or unsuccessful in providing for their basic needs.

Child and Family Services Review (CFSR): The federal review of every state child welfare system which evaluates the service provision and achievement of safety, permanency and well-being of children.

Child Protective Services (CPS): Entity within Field Operations Child and Family Services and Licensed Resources which responds to reports of suspected child abuse and neglect and provides services and/or placement if warranted.

Child Welfare Services (CWS): Entity within Field Operations Child and Family Services which provides appropriate out-of-home placement, adoption and/or ancillary services to children and families.

Children’s Administration (CA): One of the administrations under the umbrella organization Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS). Children’s Administration is composed of four divisions: Program and Practice Improvement, Finance and Operations Support, Field Operations, and Technology Services. CA is responsible for a full continuum of services in Washington State and administers child protective (CPS), child welfare (CWS), family reconciliation (FRS), and licensing services throughout the state.

Crisis Residential Centers (CRC): Facilities available for short-term placement of children twelve years and older. These are often used for children who run away or are in conflict with their families.

Custodian: A person appointed by the parent, guardian, or court to provide care for a child.

Division of Licensed Resources (DLR): In July 2004, DLR became part of the Field Operations Division. It is charged with the licensure and oversight of state licensed foster homes, group homes and other child placement facilities and responsible for investigation of allegations of abuse and neglect in licensed care.

Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS): In July 2004, DCFS became part of the Field Operations Division. It is responsible for child protection, placement, and adoption services administered through 44 field offices in six regions throughout Washington State.

Early Intervention Program: Trained public health nurses are available to provide voluntary in-home nursing services which can prevent the need for more intrusive interventions in at-risk families with young children.

Family Preservation Services (FPS): Services provided to families whose children face substantial risk of out-of-home placement (per RCW 74.14C) which draws on the strengths of families and addresses needs in an effort to keep the family intact.

Family Reconciliation Services (FRS): Voluntary services available to families with adolescents who are experiencing conflicts, devoted to maintaining the family as a unit and preventing out-of-home placement.

Guardian: A person or agency appointed by the court to care for and supervise a child and who has legal rights to the custody of that child.

Guardianship: A permanency option that provides a child with long-term connection to a family while maintaining financial supports for the child. Guardianship placements are often preferred for older youth who may not want to be adopted, children who maintain ongoing and frequent contact with their parents and children for whom religious or cultural factors discourage termination of parental rights or adoption.

Independent Living Services (ILS): Services provided, in accordance with the Chafee Foster Care Independence Act, to youth in the foster care system to help prepare them for independence.

Indian Child Welfare Services (ICW): Child welfare services provided to Indian children consistent with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) in areas of child protective services, foster care, dependency guardianship, termination of parental rights, and adoption proceedings.

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC): A statutorily established mandate (RCW 26.34) safety net for children being placed into or out of Washington State.

Legally Free: A child is legally free for adoption if the child has no legal parent, either because the parent has died or because parental rights have been terminated through relinquishment or involuntary termination by court order.

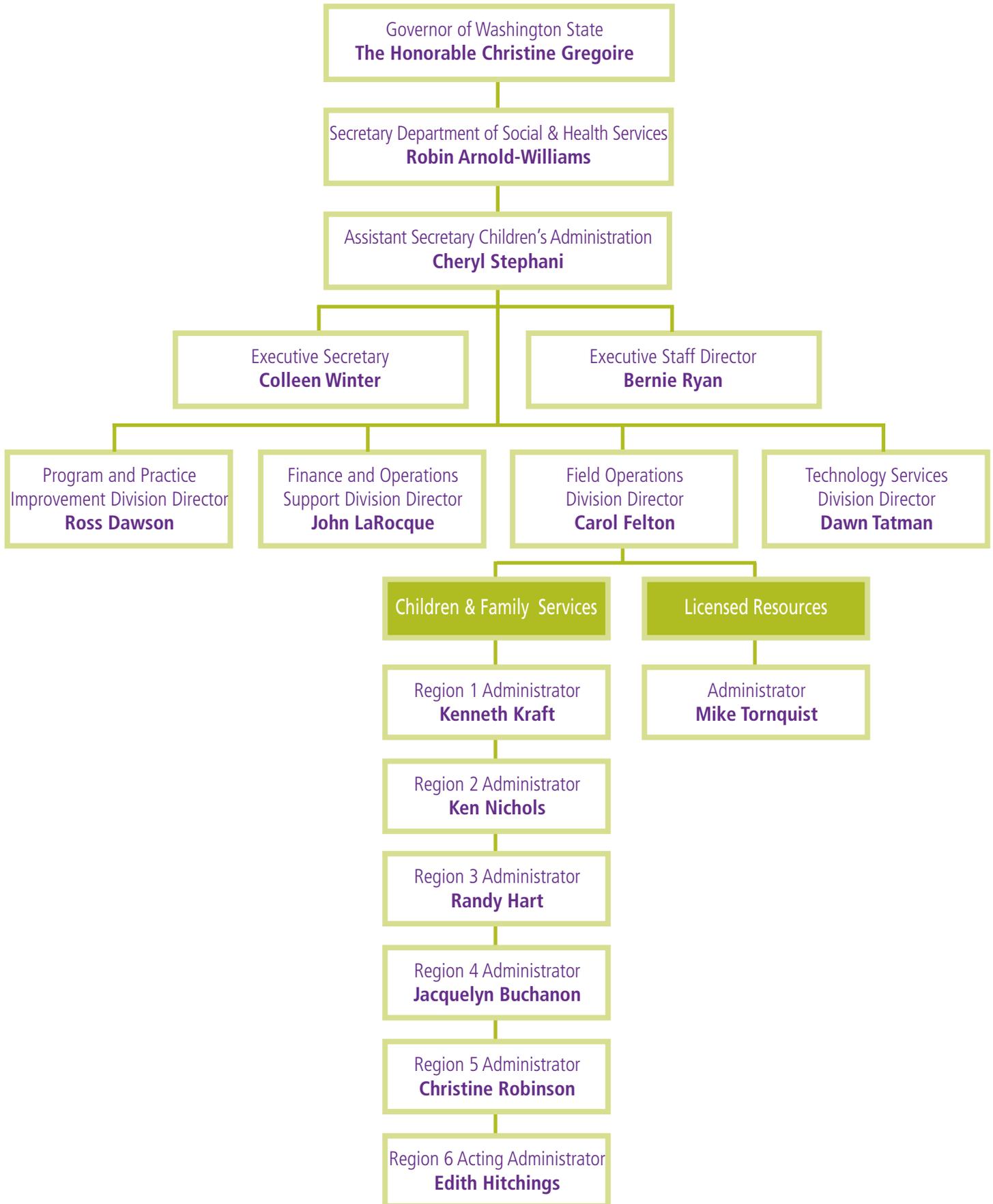
Out-of-home placement/out-of-home care: Placement of a child by CA into a foster family home, relative placement, or group care facility.

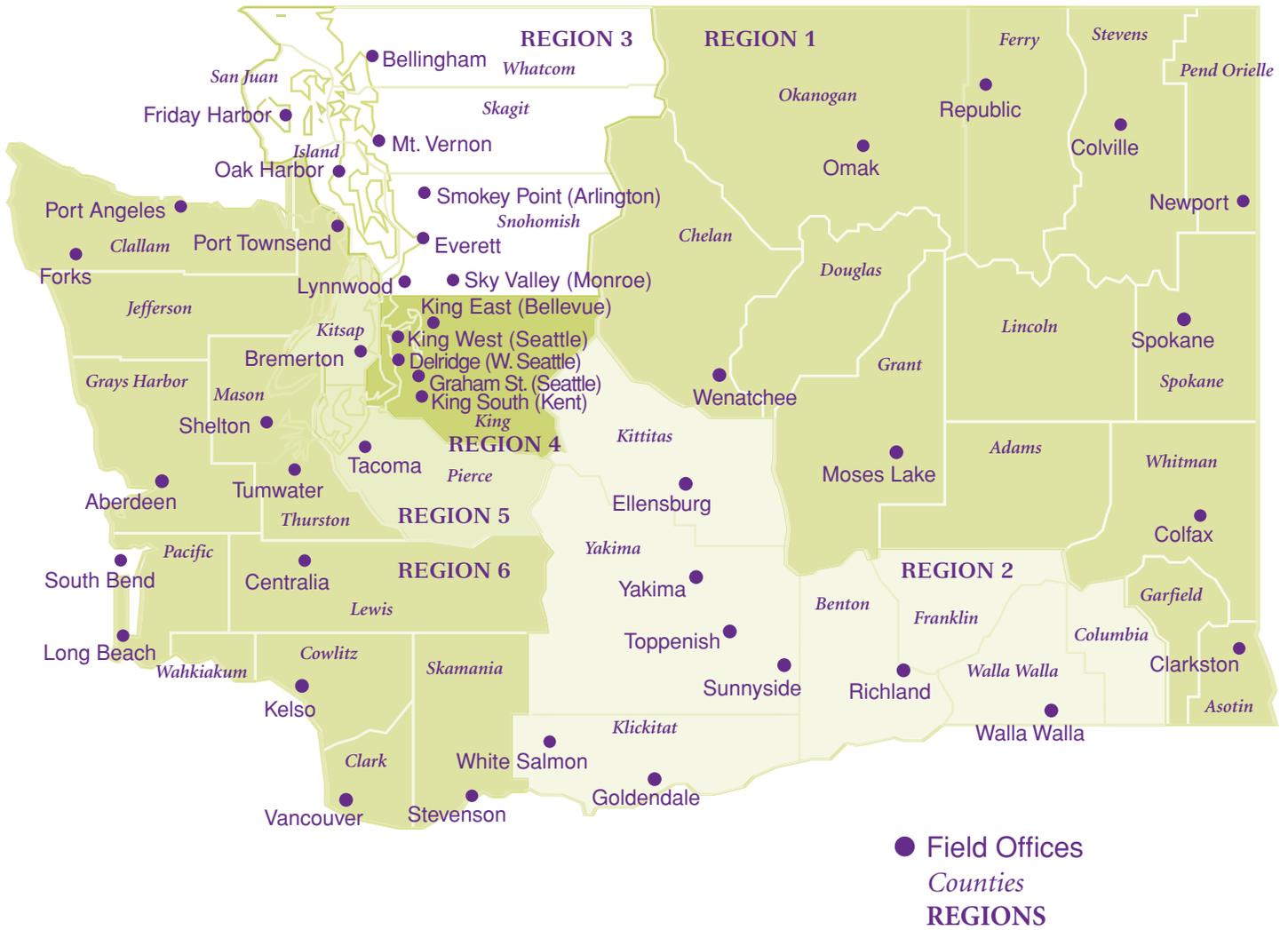
Passport Program: Program in which concise, printed, child-specific health and education summary information is provided to a child’s caregiver. A “Passport” consists of two main parts: 1) the printed summary; 2) the Health Recommendation Letter.

Termination of Parental Rights (TPR): When a child cannot return home and adoption is the permanent plan for that child, parental rights must be terminated in order to proceed. The Adoption and Safe Families Act requires states to terminate parental rights when a child has been in foster care for 15 of the last 22 months unless there are compelling reasons not to file for termination of parental rights.

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act: The Title IV-E program became effective October 1, 1980. It provides financial assistance to certain AFDC eligible children who are removed from their homes and placed into foster care, as well as children who are at risk of being removed from their homes.

RESOURCES / Organizational Chart





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We acknowledge and honor all of the dedicated workers who are tireless in their efforts to protect children and preserve families. We also want to thank the many community partners without whom our work would be impossible: Foster parents, adoptive parents, Guardians ad Litem, CASA volunteers, BRS providers, tribal partners, Washington state legislators who are committed to child welfare and child welfare advocates statewide.

Most of all we want to thank the children for being our models of strength, courage, resilience, patience and forgiveness. The children are our reason for being and we could learn a lot from them.



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