

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Children's Administration (CA)
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 childcare resources and referrals	1-800-446-1114
To resolve concerns about CA or foster care	1-800-571-7321

Websites

Adoption:

Catalyst for Kids	www.catalystforkids.com
Washington Adoption Resource Network	www.nwresource.org
Northwest Adoption Exchange	www.nwae.org
Families Like Ours	www.familieslikeours.org
Adopt U.S. Kids	www.adoptuskids.org

Child Care:

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

DSHS Domestic Violence Program	http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/victimservices/dvvicervbut1.asp
WA State Coalition Against Domestic Violence	http://www.4woman.gov/violenceStateResourcesDetail.cfm?ID=3754

Foster Parenting:

CA Foster Parent Website	http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ca/fosterparents/index.asp
Foster Youth Central	http://www.fycentral.org

Social Services and Child Welfare:

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

Substance Abuse:

DSHS Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse	http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/dasa/
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Admin.	http://www.samhsa.gov/index.aspx

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.

Glossary and Acronyms

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 reporting and data information system for Children’s Administration.

Chafee Foster Care Independence Program: 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. It deals with 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): A federal review of state child welfare practice which evaluates efficacy in the provision 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 five divisions: Management Services, Program and Policy, Field Operations, Practice Improvement, 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 (CRCs): Short term placements 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 and placement 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 Chafee Foster Care Independence Act, to youth exiting 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 for Children (ICPC): A statutorily established mandate (RCW 26.34) safety net for children being placed into or out of Washington state.

Kids Come First (KCF): An action agenda that proposes a comprehensive approach to improving child welfare in 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).

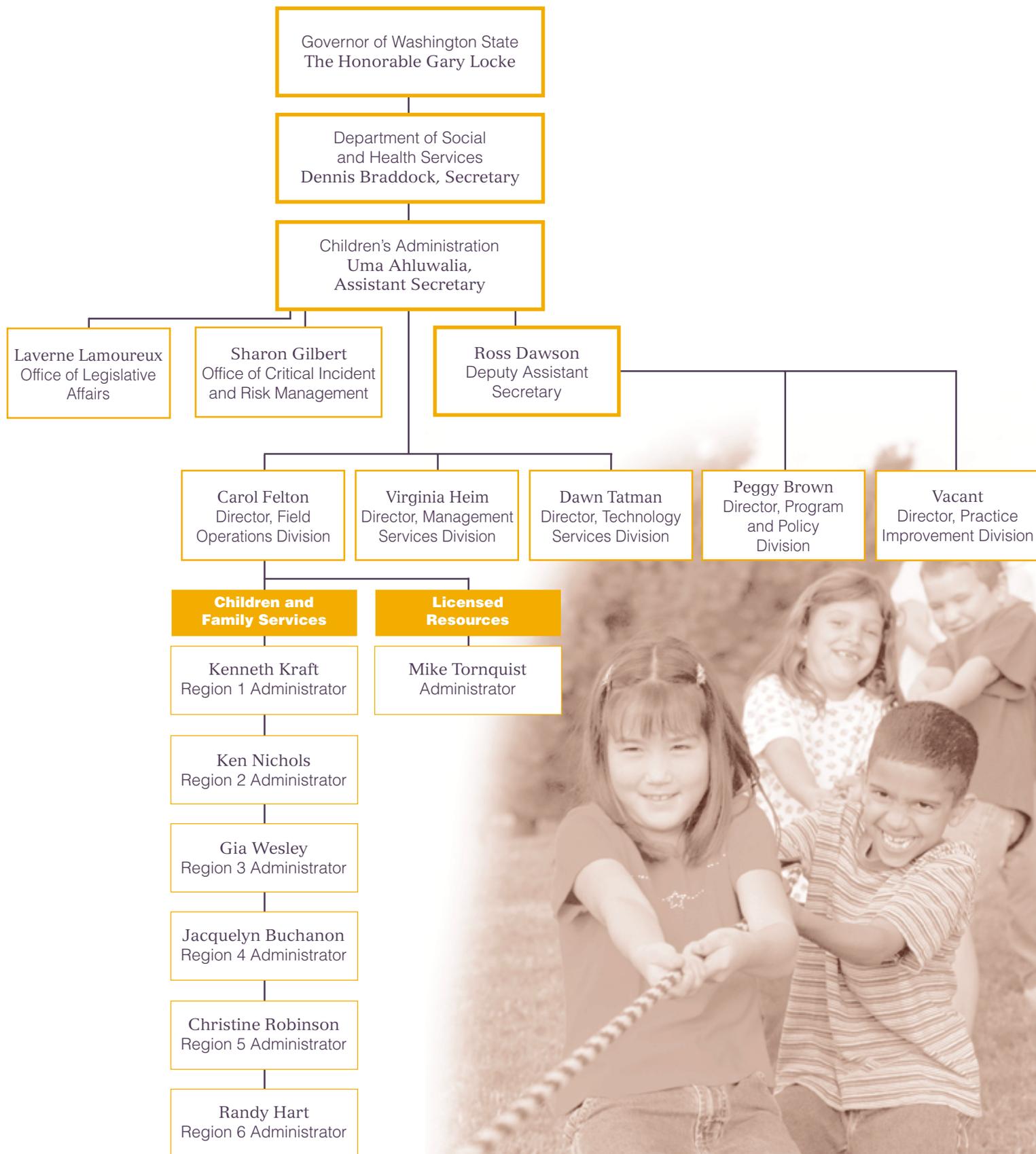
Out-of-home placement/out-of-home care: Placement in a foster family home or group care facility or placement in a home, other than that of the child's parent, guardian, or legal custodian, not required to be licensed under RCW 74.14C.010.

Passport Program: Program in which a 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): If 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.

Organizational Structure



Field Offices and Regional Map

