

# Subcommittee Meeting DRAFT Minutes: Temporary Abatement

Friday, June 14 | 3:00 – 4:00 PM | via WebEx

## WebEx Information:

[Join WebEx meeting](#) (← link)

Meeting number (access code): 809 161 010

Meeting password: Abatement@3

To join WebEx audio-only (as a last resort), dial 415-655-0001 or toll free (855)929-3239

Facilitator: Mindy Houx  
Note taker: Mindy Houx

Attendees: Richard Okrent, Sandra Johnston, Keoki Kauanoë, Mindy Houx

## Please review:

- 5/17 draft subcommittee meeting minutes (attached to 6/13 email)
  - Provide any feedback asap, as minutes will be sent to be posted publically on 6/18 in current form if no feedback/adjustments requested.
- FC demographics research review:
  - 'Data Request – FC placement demographics' email (attached to 6/13 email) [www.pocdata.org](http://www.pocdata.org) (source of stats in email and additional information)
  - [Caseload Forecast and Licensed Foster Home Capacity](#)  
(Chart on page 2 showing the number of children entering and exiting from out of home placement by calendar year)
  - [Annual Foster Parent and Adoptive Home Recruitment Report](#)  
(Chart on page 5 showing the basic foster care and TANF rates paid based on the number of children)
  - [Washington State DCYF Racial Disparity Indices Report \(2018\)](#)  
(Chart on page 4 shows some disproportionality stats)

## Agenda Items

Topic	Presenter	Time allotted
✓ <b><u>Check-in</u></b>	Mindy	5 minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Current status</li><li>• Summary of remaining meetings<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <del>Wednesday, June 12</del> CANCELLED</li><li>◦ <del>Wednesday, June 19 from 12:00-1:30 pm</del> RE-SCHEDULED TO...</li></ul></li></ul>		

- Thursday, June 20 from 12:00-1:30 pm
- Deadlines:
  - 6/21 – Draft subcommittee final report due
  - 6/21 – Final subcommittee in person report out due

✓ **Discussion of research items** All 15 minutes

- **Keoki**
  - Did we receive Jacob D'Annunzio's office's response on letterhead?
  - Keoki put the letter in dropbox on 5/24/19. Identified no significant changes from draft D'Annunzio provided initially. Mindy will locate letter and attach it to the minutes for review and inclusion in the final report.
- **Sandra**
  - Status of parent testimonials with dependency/FC involvement?
  - No progress yet, but will work on this with the Dept of Assigned Counsel dependency group to get some testimonials. Will also work with the AG's office. Testimonials from these 2 groups should include a range of involved parties' perspectives around the topics.
- **Mindy**
  - Status of FC collections – cost effectiveness stats: Current information shows that DCS collects \$0.39 for every \$1.00 expended. Summary document is available for review and public posting.
    - How should this data be used in the report? Really simple, clear language. Pair stats w/ causes RE indigence, etc. Use stats to support statements about how child support obligations impact parents and the barriers many parents in dependency actions have.
  - FC demographics/stats – what do we want to do with these?
    - Potentially integrate into report, but will need to determine how and important to do so in a clear and simple way.
    - Richard will identify case about housing requirements and FC (Cole vs dshs?) – basics of case are that the only service the dept has to offer parents about housing is

referral to housing agencies, and nothing more. Group to review to see whether this should be included in final report as well.

**What other research do we want to include?**

- Anecdotal information:
  - Stories from parties who have experienced dependency actions. (pending)
  - Stats from other states that Wa could say is demographically similar. (have some of this info already available, per CA, MN and WI stats from web-talk; and MN Skophammer dissertation)
- Fact patterns – for different dependency scenarios (could be covered with testimonials)
- Recommendations for additional groups to continue efforts, including gathering data/research, hold work sessions, etc.
  - Identify specific things and additional work that could be done:
    - Expansion of abatement recommendations to other groups like medically, psychologically disadvantaged, suffering from severe economic impact, etc. (see minutes for other examples gives in the past).
    - Research around further impacts of current FC policy/practice, including how it affects homelessness.
    - Proposal that governor supports a special interest group to further explore this issue and unintended consequences that impact dependency parents, low income families, and family-first initiatives.

✓ **Per discussion and group drafting at 5/17 meeting:** All 20 minutes

RCW 26.19.76 (potential recommendation for additional RCW) – titled “Foster Care/Child Support Abatement”

- 1) The Court, ALJ, and/or DCS shall conduct a colloquy with parent/s currently in a dependency action, to determine the extent of said parent/s indigence and/or ability to pay support. This information shall be used to stay, adjust, abate or eliminate current or arrearage support obligations for parents who

- successfully complete the dependency action and pursuant to the return of the children to said parent/s.
- 2) It is the intent of this RCW to prevent a crippling debt being assigned to the parent/s to whom the children can be successfully returned in order to support said return and the best interests of the children in being placed with a more financially stable parent.  
*(Note: The intent of this paragraph or something similar was discussed but not reduced to text.)*
  - 3) DCYF and DCS shall create a policy requirement to give notice to said parent/s regarding the right to seek a stay, adjustment, abatement, or waiver of current support or arrearages under this statute. Further, any court, before whom comes an indigent parent, shall notify said parent of the rights laid out herein.

**Questions for consideration:**

- How would DCS respond to/interpret the draft language?
  - Feedback is pending from DCS Policy Chief, Kimberly Curtis. Kimberly is going to send summary response in email and may be able to join next subcommittee meeting to answer additional questions. If not, she will be at the 6/21 in person workgroup meeting to offer further feedback and answer questions.
- How would a new RCW impact current/existing statute?
  - Overall, feel that it wouldn't have an impact on existing statute.
- What about arrears owed to a different state? (from 5/17 workgroup meeting feedback).
  - Potentially give notice to other states about arrears owed to that state maybe being forgiven/abated under new recommended RCW.
    - Reference UIFSA (Uniform Interstate Family Support Act) as federal guidance.
- What does 'give notice' mean/look like?
  - Language added to NFFR in bold or in some way that stands out.
  - Add to colloquy: 'notice' language about rights to request stay/abatement, etc.
- Some discussion around budget.

✓ **Subcommittee written draft final report** All 15 minutes

- To include: **Overview; Key Issues; Findings and**

## Recommendations; Citations

- Next steps – How do we want to draft the final report?
  - Examples of subcommittee reports completed in past workgroups will be included with the minutes for reference (also see links below).
  - Sandra to draft subcommittee report with Richard and send drafts the subcommittee members for feedback/contributions.
  - Subcommittee members to provide feedback to drafts emailed.
- Reference: 2015 workgroup subcommittee final reports can be located here:
  - [Adjustment vs. Deviation Subcommittee](#)
  - [Parenting Plans Subcommittee](#)
  - [Formula Subcommittee](#)
  - [Unit of Measure Subcommittee](#)

✓ Other – nothing else brought up All 5 minutes

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## Decisions, tasks and next steps

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**Next (FINAL!) subcommittee meeting: Thursday, June 20 from 12:00-1:30pm**

### Tasks:

- **Mindy:** Request that the 5/17 meeting minutes be posted on the public site.
- **Mindy:** Send updated meeting information for re-scheduled meeting to 6/20, 12:00-1:30pm, including updated WebEx info.
- **Sandra:** Work with Dept of Assigned Counsel and AG's Office to obtain party testimonials representing different involvement and perspectives within dependency actions.
- **Richard:** Identify case (Cole vs dshs?) that addresses the obligation to provide housing assistance to parents in dependency action (referral only; nothing more).
- **Sandra and Richard:** Draft subcommittee report and send versions to subcommittee members for feedback and contributions.
- **All:** Review and provide feedback in response to subcommittee report drafts.

### Next Steps:

- Kimberly Curtis to provide DCS feedback and response by email to draft RCW language.