



## **Child Welfare Reform (2106)**

### **Background**

In October 2008, Partners for Our Children hosted a two day meeting of public and private child welfare organizations, legislators, and others involved with the child welfare system. The focus of the meeting was to examine ways the sectors could work together differently and better in order to improve outcomes for children and families involved with the child welfare system. Child welfare leaders/experts from around the country presented different models, with considerable attention being paid to performance based contracting. The legislation introduced in the 2009 session regarding child welfare system reform, including performance based contracting, was greatly informed by information presented at the October meeting.

HB2106 recognizes the importance of a public private partnership with respect to the provision of child welfare services, as well as the growing evidence that performance based contracting can result in children being safer and having a greater sense of well-being.

### **What does the legislation do?**

Generally speaking, HB2106 has two primary components:

- Consolidating and converting current contracts for child welfare services to performance based contracts by July, 2011; and
- The selection of two demonstration sites in which all child welfare services, save CPS and licensing, will be conducted by private agencies.

HB2106 creates a Transformation Design Committee (TDC), which is made up of 24 members representing private agencies, the state child welfare system, national experts in performance based contracting, tribes, judges, foster parents, veteran parents, and the Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee. Legislation passed in 2010 (SB6832) added a foster youth/alum to the TDC.

The TDC plays a critical role in the implementation of HB2106 as it is charged with selecting the two demonstration sites and developing a transition plan that will be submitted to the Governor and Legislature. The demonstration sites must be fully implemented by Dec. 30, 2012. The TDC will also act in an advisory capacity with respect to the Children's Administration's conversion to performance based contracting.

In June of 2015, the Governor must decide whether to expand or terminate the demonstration sites. Performance based contracting continues ad infinitum.

### **Current Status:**

Proposals were submitted in response to the 2106/Lead Agency RFP on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The WA Federation of State Employees had filed a lawsuit, claiming that part one of 2106 exceeded legislative authority, and had contracted out state jobs/functions. On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the Thurston Co. court heard and ruled on the case. They found in favor of the WFSE which put a halt on further action related to part one of 2106.

Since that time discussions have occurred among the various parties; however, at this point, the injunction is still in place and the next steps are unclear.

With respect to part 2 of 2106, the TDC continues to meet, demonstration sites have been recommended, and unless the legislature acts to modify current statute, the department is required to move forward with implementation.