



WASHINGTON COUNTY
COMMISSION ON
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Together for Children

**Washington County
Commission on Children and Families**

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**JOINT WAYS AND MEANS SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Testimony on HB 3231 A and Clarifying Amendments – May 22, 2013
William Thomas, Washington County Department of Health and Human Services**

Co-Chair Komp, Co-Chair Monroe and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is William Thomas and I live in House District 43. I am testifying on behalf of the Washington County Department of Health and Human Services and Commission on Children and Families related to HB 3231 A and clarifying amendments to HB 3231 A.

- 1. We urge the Subcommittee on Education to schedule a hearing and work session on HB 2392 A and to support its passage.** HB 2392 A would establish needed legislative direction and mandates for the Youth Development Division (YDD) established through HB 3231 A. Without passage of HB 2392 A, there is insufficient direction to shape implementation of a new statewide Youth Development System for school-age children and youth and inadequate transition planning for funding community-based services until this new system is in place.
- 2. We believe there needs to a thoughtful design for, and public involvement in designing, transformation of the current Youth Development System's partnership among state, county and tribal governments for funding services to school-age children and youth.** For that reason, we urge the Subcommittee to adopt an amendment to HB 3231, in the event HB 2392 is not passed, directing the Youth Development Council (YDC) and the YDD: a) to develop a report and strategic plan for designing a unified Youth Development System that supports academic success, reduces criminal involvement and is integrated, measurable and accountable; and b) to submit this plan by February 2014 for approval by the Legislature and implementation during the second year of the biennium. While there was testimony at the February 13 hearing on HB 2392 that the YDC has been working on a Strategic Action Plan, during the past year no strategic plan for transforming the Youth Development System been distributed to counties, tribes and other stakeholders, nor posted on the YDC's website, nor publically debated, discussed or adopted at three public meetings the YDC held in FY 12-13.
- 3. We believe that, during the transition to this new Youth Development System, it is essential to ensure that effective, community-based services, which meet the goals of supporting academic success and reducing criminal involvement, continue to be funded and provided to school-age children through youth 20 years.** For that reason, we also urge the Subcommittee to adopt an amendment to HB 3231 A that directs the YDD to continue funding for delivery of youth development services through intergovernmental agreements with counties and tribes, commencing July 1, 2013 until implementation of the new Youth Development System has been approved by the Legislature. This amendment would prevent disruptions in effective, community-based local services, including for 14,472 7-18+ children and youth in Washington County who have been served by blending and braiding Title XX Youth Investment funds through performance-based contracts with demonstrated outcomes.

2011 – 2012 Washington County Youth Investment Performance Indicators

Service Strategy	Number Served	Outcomes	Comments
After School Activities	5,000+	81% of participants reported increased commitment to school and positive peer relations	Target population – middle school youth in five school districts
Alternative Ed/Student Retention	431	87% of youth improved or maintained at least 80% attendance 99% of youth remained enrolled in school at the end of the school year	Target population – middle and high school youth in five school districts
Children's Intervention Services	148	95% of children served reported increased self esteem, and that they learned new methods of non abusive self expression	Target population – school-age witnesses of domestic violence countywide
Community Based Positive Youth Development	335	90% enrolled in school at end of school year 85% reported positive academic attitudes and performance	Target population – under-served school-age youth – Latinos and sexual minorities – countywide
Family Coaching	97 families	97% reported youth in stable living situation, enrolled in school and/or working, and not involved in Child Welfare or Juvenile Justice systems (6 & 12 month follow up) 98% of families reported improved family communication and problem solving	Target population – families of school-age youth countywide
Family Resource Centers	8147 families, 20,000+ individuals	96% reported their involvement with the family resource center enabled them to access needed community resources	Target population – families of school-age youth countywide
Parenting Education	145 families	98% reported improvements in parenting knowledge, skills and practices	Target population – families of school-age youth countywide

2012-13 ALLOCATIONS OF ELC/YDC FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES SUPPORTED BY THE WCCCF

FUNDING STREAM SERVICE STRATEGY	Basic Capacity (ELC)	Children Youth & Families (ELC)	Great Start (ELC)	Family Preservation & Support (ELC)	Healthy Start (ELC)	Youth Investment (YDC)	County General Fund	TOTAL	Ages served
After School Activities		\$12,906				\$118,926		\$131,832	Middle school youth in 5 school districts
Alternative Ed/ Student Retention		\$ 6,954				\$117,236		\$124,190	Middle/ High school youth in 5 school districts
Children's Intervention (Family Violence)		\$23,985				\$ 20,457	\$ 2,408	\$ 46,850	Witnesses of domestic violence 4-18 countywide
Community-Based Positive Youth Development		\$ 6,775				32,377		\$ 39,152	Underserved school age youth - Latinos/ sexual minorities - countywide
Community Mobilization	\$237,860							\$237,860	Children 0-18 countywide
Early Literacy			\$47,555					\$ 47,555	Children 0-8 countywide
Family Coaching		\$ 9,896		\$ 40,000		\$ 67,343		\$117,239	Children 3-18 countywide
Family Resource Centers		\$10,000	\$15,885	\$111,410		\$105,764	\$75,048	\$318,107	Children 0-18 countywide
First Step to Success			\$21,000					\$ 21,000	Children 5-8 TUSD/Sherwood
Healthy Start					\$945,166			\$945,166	Children 0-3 countywide
Parenting Education		\$14,478	\$10,000			\$ 16,827	\$ 5,545	\$ 46,850	Children 3-18 countywide
TOTAL	\$237,860	\$84,994	\$94,440	\$151,410	\$945,166	\$478,930	\$83,001	\$2,075,801	

Total served FY 2011-12 = 22,339 children, youth and their families: 8,897 0-6 children & 14,442 7-18+ children and youth 5/14/13