

# Department of Children Youth and Families

## Missing and Exploited Youth Program

### Year in Review

Statewide Coordinating Committee

May 2022

[www.dcyf.wa.gov](http://www.dcyf.wa.gov)



Washington State Department of  
**CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

# OVERVIEW

1. House Bill 1775 – Safe Harbor
2. Missing & Exploited Youth Program
  - Meet the Staff
  - Partnerships & Collaboration
3. DCYF Data
4. Receiving Centers
5. Looking Forward



## House Bill 1775 – Services

DCYF to provide services to youth suspected to be Commercially Sexually Exploited and youth can decide whether to engage; in doing so, it may provide:

- At least one liaison position in each region where receiving centers are located
- One statewide program manager
- A designated person responsible for supporting CSE youth in regions where there is not a liaison
- Coordinate appropriate community based services following discharge of CSE youth

HB1775:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=1775&Year=2019&Initiative>

CSEC Statewide Coordinating Committee:

<https://www.atg.wa.gov/commercially-sexually-exploited-children-statewide-coordinating-committee>



## House Bill 1775 – Services

DCYF to administer two receiving centers (west/east side) for Commercially Sexually Exploited youth age 12-17:

- Utilize existing facilities and not construct new ones
- Case management
- Short-term evaluation 24/7 that can meet immediate needs
- Assess youth for mental health and substance use disorder
- Individual and group counseling

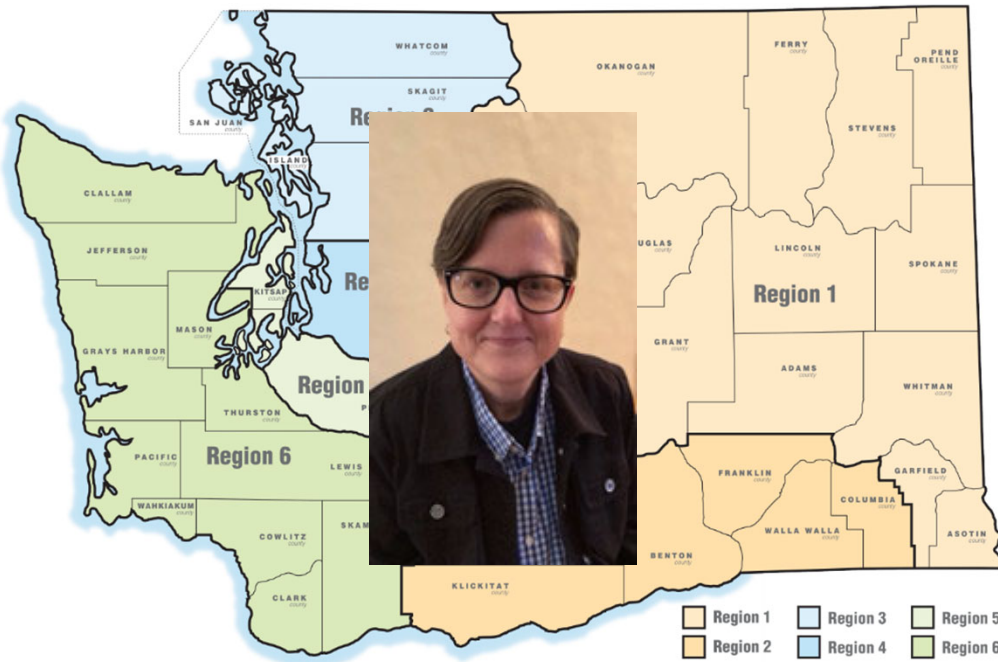
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## Missing & Exploited Youth (MEY) Program Manager Cameron Norton

- Working in social services since 1991 – extensively with “at-risk” and state dependent youth in various settings
- Joined DCYF in 2008 – working in, then supervising Family Reconciliation, Family Voluntary Services, and Child Protective Services
- MEY Program Manager – starting December 2020





**Judy Johnston, MAIS  
MEY Liaison-West**  
Lived experience subject  
matter expert, providing  
direct social services since  
1989.



Both Hired May 2021



**Mabel Elsom, M.Ed.  
MEY Liaison-East**  
Developed and implemented  
the first HTTF in Eastern  
Washington, providing direct  
social services since 1998.



# Program Manager

## Developing & Fostering Community Connections

- Facilitate Work Groups with Community Partners
- Office of Homeless Youth
- Office of Crime Victim Advocacy
- Collaboration and Consultation with Wellspring Living in Atlanta, Georgia and DCF in Nevada as to Safe Harbor and Receiving Centers.
- MMIWP Task Force Sub Committee Meetings through Washington State Patrol connections.

## Actively Participating in Regularly Scheduled Meetings RE:CSEC

- Statewide Steering Committee
- OCVA Statewide Committee
- Regional Task Forces

## DCYF

- Program Oversight for MEY, CSEC, and MFC.
- Collaboration and Partnerships with Regional MFC and CSEC Staff and Leadership
- Community Connections
- Policy Updates and Data Improvement
- LGBTQIA+ Committee and Lead for Adolescent Programs



# West Side Liaison

## Developing & Fostering Community Connections

- Tribal, military, city, faith-based and non-profit community victim advocates
- Local and County Court Staff
- Local LE, Washington State Patrol, FBI and Homeland Security
- Housing and Shelter Programs
- Hospitals & Medical Programs

## Actively Participating in Regularly Scheduled Meetings RE:CSEC

- 6 MDT /case review meetings- to include 1 Child Advocacy Center
- 8 Task Forces
- Cedar Rising Coalition

## DCYF

- Consultation
- Providing Individualized Resources
- Community Connections





# East Side Liaison

## Developing & Fostering Community Connections

- Tribal and non-profit community victim advocates
- Local and County Court Staff
- Local LE, Washington State Patrol, FBI and Homeland Security
- Housing and Shelter Programs
- Hospitals, Medical & Mental Health Programs

## Actively Participating in Regularly Scheduled Meetings RE:CSEC

- 6 MDT /case review meetings- to include 5 Child Advocacy Centers
- 2 Task Forces
- Spokane Homeless Coalition
- Spokane County Continuum of Care's Youth Subcommittee

## DCYF

- Consultation
- Providing Individualized Resources
- Community Connections



# Partnerships: Receiving Center Admissions Work Group

Starting in September of 2021, DCYF convened a cross-sector work group to establish protocols for receiving center admission that **prioritizes law enforcement** as specified by HB 1775. The work group also established policies and procedures to ensure equitable access to the 6 beds for all youth at significant risk or experiencing sexual exploitation.



# Partnerships: DCYF “Cell Phone” Workgroup

**This group began convening in October 2021 and concluded April 2022**

The findings from the Subcommittee survey suggest:

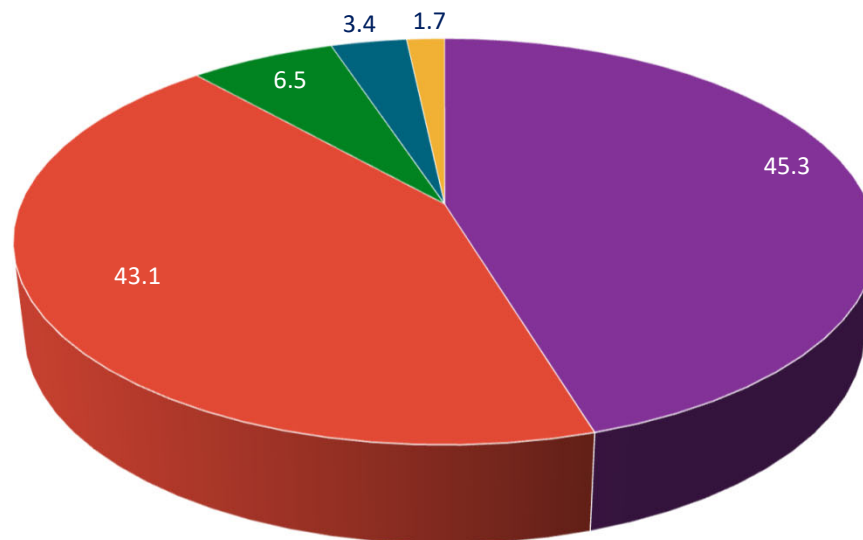
1. CSEC investigations have decreased
2. Barriers to accessing cell phones is more closely related to perceived effects of changes in the laws on Probable Cause and Use of Force
3. LE reported that establishing probable cause for a crime other than that of prostitution can provide an effective method to searching a cellphone
4. Using a victim centered approach and establishing trust and rapport may lead minors to voluntarily provide their phones without having to rely on arrests
5. Need for comprehensive training on Safe Harbor and related issues
6. Safe Harbor does appear to be working in some areas in the state, but it is not at all consistent.
7. The need for CSEC resources for LE cannot be emphasized enough; it will be difficult for Safe Harbor to succeed and for CSEC to be kept safe without them.



# CSEC Assessment Outcomes- CY 2021

## n=919 Assessments

Assessment Outcome	Count	Percentage
No Indication of CSEC	416	45.3%
Indicated CSEC but not confirmed	396	43.1%
Confirmed CSEC prior to care, but not during	60	6.5%
Confirmed CSEC, but not prior	31	3.4%
Confirmed CSEC Before & During Care	16	1.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>919</b>	



- No indication of CSEC
- Indicated CSEC but not confirmed
- Confirmed CSEC prior to care but not during
- Confirmed CSEC during care but not prior
- Confirmed CSEC Before and During Care



# DCYF - Youth identified as Missing From Care during Calendar Year 2021

	Total Count of Children (throughout Calendar Year 2021)	% of Youth who had runs documented
Region 1	2,219	2.4%
Region 2	1,308	3.9%
Region 3	1,548	3.0%
Region 4	2,067	2.7%
Region 5	2,261	3.7%
Region 6	2,728	4.9%
State	12,241	3.5%

**Notes:** Count of Children include all children in DCYF Custody throughout CY 2021, ages 0-17. The % of Youth with Runs is an unduplicated count of youth who are/were on the run during the selected period





# DAYBREAK

## youth services

igniting hope • saving lives

“Daybreak has been successfully treating teens for substance use disorder and mental health challenges since 1978. We are committed to serving teens and their families, and have become an innovative leader in the adolescent mental health and substance abuse treatment field. We provide Inpatient, Outpatient, and Crisis Stabilization services in Eastern and Western Washington. Daybreak serves more than 1,000 youth each year.”

<https://daybreakyouthservices.org>



# EAST SIDE CSEC RECEIVING CENTER

- An independent program run by Daybreak, launched as a joint effort with DCYF.
- Specifically serves Commercially Sexually Exploited Children/Youth or those who are at risk, ages 12-17 years old of any gender.
- Differs from shelters or other services in that it offers assessments for mental health and substance use disorders within 72 hours, followed by a referral.
- Is voluntary and youth receive case management, discharge planning, and referrals to other housing as needed with the possibility for up to 30 days of individual and group counseling in a therapeutic environment
- Daybreak 24/7 hotline: 509-879-0744  
Daybreak website: <https://daybreakyouthservices.org/programs/csec-center/>

## West Side Receiving Center

Request For Proposals for a West Side Receiving Center contract were posted twice, once in late 2020 and again for an extended period in early 2021, with no bidders. DCYF is again exploring avenues for reposting, and may hold pre-bid conferences.

The King County CSEC Task Force generated an informal survey to obtain feedback from stakeholders and community providers about the receiving center and found that many eligible applicants did not apply for the RFP as they believed the contract did not provide adequate funding.

The survey also indicated many organizations who worked with commercially sexually exploited children were not eligible to apply for the receiving center contract as they are not licensed as a behavioral health agency through the Department of Health. Receiving licensure as a behavioral health agency can be a lengthy process.





# Looking Forward

- 1. DCYF Data Alignment and Routine Reporting**
- 2. Updates to policy**
- 3. West Side Receiving Center Implementation**
- 4. Expanded collaborations and trainings with National, Tribal, State and Regional Partners**
- 5. Developing Mentorship and Transitional Programs for Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth in Washington State**



# Thank You!

## **Cameron Norton**

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