



Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs

www.doh.wa.gov/cyshcn

COMMUNICATION NETWORK MEETING

October 9, 2025

CYSHCN Communication Network Purpose:

Provide for exchange of information among those programs and entities that serve children with special health care needs and their families and facilitate an opportunity to learn more about statewide policies, programs and issues critical to this unique population.

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Attendees

Due to continued social distancing requirements enacted by Governor Inslee, Communication Network will be conducted entirely in an online format.

Attendee	Phone	Email Address
Alaina Kube, Arc of Snohomish County		
Ama Owusu-Madrigal, DOH		
Amanda Simon, Process Improvement Specialist, DOH		
Amanda Sloan		
Angela Randel, HCA		
Ayan Elmi, Family Advocate WMSL		
Becky Carrell, WA HCA		
Bonnie Peterson, CYSHCN Coordinator, Thurston County		
Brittany Lenihan, DCYF		
Charla Morrow, Wellpoint		
Cindy, Case Manager with Coordinated Care		
Cynde Marx, Jefferson County Public Health		
D'Andrea Floyd, Coordinated Care		
Daniella Alban, WCPH		
Elizabeth Stringer, CYSHCN Coordinator, Garfield County Public Health		
Emily Martinez, CYSHCN Coordinator, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department		
Estasia Collins, Columbia County Public Health Nurse	509-382-2181	estasia_collins@co.columbia.wa.us
Faire Holliday, DOH		
Gabriela Guel, DSHS DDOS		
Gayle Reid, Cowlitz County		
Gina Cabiddu, KMHPC		
Hodan M, WMSL		
Iana Bezman, ONC RN, HCA		
Janet Vaupel, CYSHCN Coordinator, Walla Walla County		
Janey Wyatt, Kitsap County		
Janette Garza, CYSHCN Coordinator, Grant County Health District		
Jennifer Hieb, DSHS		
Jennifer Sass-Walton, Skagit County Public Health	360-416-1529	jennis@co.skagit.wa.us
Jill McCormick, PAVE		
Jillian Bingham		
Jolene Erickson, Lincoln County Health Department		

Attendee	Phone	Email Address
Kaelyn Carlson		
Kara Seaman, WA ST DOH		
Kari Tanta, Mary Bridge Children's Hospital		
Kate Orville, Medical Home Partnerships for CYSHCN , UW Center on Human Development and Disability	206-685-1279	orville@uw.edu
Kathleen Donlin, HCA		
Kathryn Defilippo, CYSHCN Coordinator		
Kelly Anderson		
Kelly Temby-Sturtevant		
Khim Schoenacker, DOH CYSHCN Nutrition Consultant	360-236-3573	Khimberly.Schoenacker@doh.wa.gov
Kristen Rezabek, San Juan County	360-370-7518	kristenr@sanjuanco.com
Kristin Lester, RN, Spokane Regional Health District		klester@srhd.org
Kristy Scheidt, Joya Child and Family Development		
Kyser Corcoran, DSHS/ALTSA/Fostering Well-Being		
Lance Sherwood		
Leah Bretland, Snohomish County Health Dept		
Lianne Stafne, Holly Ridge Center		
Linda Porter		
Linda Ramirez, Communication and Early Childhood Specialist, DOH		
Mady, WA DOH		
Mae Lucy, WA DOH		
Mari Mazon, University of Washington, Nutrition Program	206-598-3025	lilmaro@uw.edu
Mary Jo Schatz, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department	360-728-2235	mindi.outhwaite@kitsappublichealth.org
Megan Works, RN, CYSHCN Coordinator, Island County Public Health		
Melissa Petit, HCA		
Michelle Barbeau, FWB/HCS		
Molly Corvino, NETCHD		
Monica Burke, DOH CYSHCN Director	360-236-3504	monica.burke@doh.wa.gov
Natalie Tood, NETCHD		
Nikki Dyer, DOH/Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs	360-236-3536	nikki.dyer@doh.wa.gov
Nini Shridhar, DOH/Screening and Genetics Unit	253-395-6743	nirupama.shridhar@doh.wa.gov
Patricia Squires		
Sara Brugger, Clack Co.		
Sarah Bunney		

Attendee	Phone	Email Address
Shanna, Providence Children's Center		
Sherry Bennatts, Coordinated Care	253-442-1543	sbennatts@coordinatedcarehealth.com
Stefani Joesten, CYSHCN Coordinator, Grays Harbor		
Stephanie Larsen, PHN, MCH, Cowlitz HHS		
Stephanie White, NETCHD		
Suzie Tallar, Coordinated Care		
Todd Holloway, CFI		
Tracie Hoppis, Children's Village/P2P	509-574-3263	
Vanessa McCollum, BFHD		
Whitney Wheelock, Kittitas County Public Health		
Ysabels		
Zahra Roach		

<i>Guests:</i>	
Brittany Tybo, WIC, DOH	brittany.tybo@doh.wa.gov
Lillian Ferraz, DCYF	lillian.ferraz@dcyf.wa.gov
Rebecca Carrell, HCA	
Jaime Bond, DDCS	

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Program Update

www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/InfantsChildrenandTeens/HealthandSafety/ChildrenwithSpecialHealthCareNeeds.aspx

Child Health Intake Form (CHIF) Database

No updates at this time.

For more information, contact Amanda Simon at Amanda.Simon@doh.wa.gov

Washington Statewide Leadership Initiative (WSLI) and DOH Family Engagement

Sign up for the [Washington Statewide Leadership Initiative \(WSLI\)](#) newsletter

New CYSHCN [Family Advisory Council Report](#)

For more WSLI or DOH Family Engagement information, contact Nikki Dyer at 360-236-3536 or nikki.dyer@doh.wa.gov.

CYSHCN Program Nutrition Updates

New resource: [Strong and Growing: A Health Care Transition Guide for Young People with Chronic Health Conditions](#) available in English and [Spanish](#)

Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) Teen Connect on hold until further notice, reach out to Khim for other alternatives or [subscribe to WA T1D Workgroup updates](#)

For more information, please contact Khimberly Schoenacker at 360-236-3573 or khimberly.schoenacker@doh.wa.gov.

CYSHCN Communication and Early Childhood

Quarterly GovDelivery CYSHCN Communication Network newsletter! Sign up here: [Washington State Department of Health \(govdelivery.com\)](http://WashingtonStateDepartmentofHealth.govdelivery.com)

New CYSHCN Social Media Emergency Preparedness Toolkit, please email Linda at Linda.Ramirez@doh.wa.gov

For more information, contact Linda Ramirez at Linda.Ramirez@doh.wa.gov

Guest Presentations

Women, Infant, and Children Nutrition Program Updates

Brittany Tybo, Washington State Department of Health

There are sufficient food funds to support WIC participants through the month of October. Please share this with those you work with who use WIC. We've updated the WIC Shopper App with this information.

The state WIC team is operating as a small continuity team as there were no additional administrative funds.

There are some clinics that are able to support ongoing operations, but please check with your clinic before going in to confirm hours of operation.

At the moment, the Tri-City WIC Clinic closed on 10/3 and the Benton-Franklin Health District is working actively to support WIC participants in this area.

WIC Nutrition Program Update: Impact of the Federal Shutdown

Currently, Washington State WIC has enough food funds to operate through mid to late November. We have received some funding to support administrative operations. A prolonged federal government shutdown puts babies, young children, and pregnant people at risk. Families may lose access to infant formula, breastfeeding support, and other critical WIC services, which would lead to negative health outcomes. Families will be forced to make hard choices about how to feed their newborns and young children.

- The state WIC office is now operating with a 10-person Continuity of Operations team after temporarily laying off about 50 people. Even with additional funding, we still are not able to sustain state WIC staffing costs longer than a few days. More layoffs are possible if the shutdown continues.
- Three primary funding sources support food costs during the shutdown. The first source includes available food funds used for September benefit issuance, with redemptions occurring in October. The second source consists of infant formula rebate funds allocated in October and November. The third source is 2 additional food allocations from USDA: one resulting from a USDA national survey that identified states with available funds for redistribution to those requiring additional support, and another through Section 32 tariff funds referenced by the White House. Collectively, these funding sources enable Washington to sustain all anticipated participant redemptions through mid- to late November.
- Washington has received 2 allocations of administrative funding to support program operations and local WIC clinics. Similar to food funding, one allocation resulted from a USDA

national survey that identified states with available funds for redistribution to those requiring additional support. The second allocation was provided through Section 32 tariff funds referenced by the White House.

- We are in the process of distributing these funds to local WIC clinics. For most agencies, this funding will provide approximately 30 days of operational support, with smaller agencies and Tribes expected to remain funded into November. Despite these efforts, some clinics may be unable to maintain operations through the entirety of November.
- Once federal funding resumes, WIC program costs from the shutdown period might be reimbursed — but only if the program followed all federal rules and requirements during that time. The funding period for the grant won't change, but there's no guarantee that all costs will be covered. USDA is being cautious and doesn't want states to spend more money than what's likely to be available in the final budget.

Questions and Answers:

Q: Can families go use their benefits now?

A: You can tell your families to go redeem their WIC benefits in the store.

Q: Would you happen to know when or if goat milk formula would be added to WIC benefits?

A: Goat milk formula is not a standard option but participants can request it through their local WIC clinic. Goat milk formula is currently available in some Walmart store and can be purchased through SNAP.

DCYF Family Separation Rapid Response

Lillian Ferraz, Washington State Department of Child and Youth Families

An executive order was signed on January 27th, 2025 by Governor Bob Ferguson. This order is to support children whose parents or caregivers are detained or deported. This will provide stat policy recommendations for the governor. This work will be reported every 3 months.

Partnership Mapping: There are many amazing immigrant-serving organizations across WA state. For efficiency and responsiveness, DCYF is working with a small number of mainly legal aid organizations: KIND, NWIRP, LCYC, and WAISN.

First Six Months:

- Presentations of recommendations, building FAQ, and learning from partner agencies and CBOs.
- Two reports (available on website)
- Two informational flyers
- DCYF Decision Package & Cross-agency DP coordination

Handouts

- Resources for Families Impacted by Immigration Related Concerns
- In Care of Separation: Placement Process Flow Chart
- (coming in Fall) Post-Separation Resources

- Languages: English, Chinese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Vietnamese, French

Gov't Websites

FSRRT Page:

- Scope of work and reports
- Video & flyer of family separation & state care
- Flyer & linked resources for families & providers
- FAQ

CHA Rapid Response Hub:

- DACA, financial, and family emergency planning
- Refugees & immigrant information
- County resources
- Immigration at a workplace

Previous Six Months

- Presentations of recommendations, questions, and learning from partner agencies and CBOs
- Two reports (available on website)
- Two informational flyers
- DCYF Decision Package & Cross-agency DP coordination

August to January

- Completing policy reviews outlined in [Executive Order \(EO\) 25-04](#)
- Completion of final report
- Governor office leading collaborative discussion on next iteration of RRT

Family Separation Resource One Pager Contents

- Introduction to Task Force
- Family Safety Planning document & training links
- Instructions on RealID
- Resources (CHA, WAISN, DSHS)
- *Keep Washington Working* highlights
- OSPI guidance for immigrant families
- Know Your Rights
- Finding immigration-related legal supports

Questions and Answers:

HCA Medicaid Updates

Amanda Simon & Monica Burke, DOH

Impacts of the Federal Budget on Medicaid in Washington State:

Federal Budget Background:

- Congress passed a continuing resolution for the federal budget on July 3, 2025 – signed into law by President Trump on July 4.
- The budget contains numerous provisions that impact Medicaid, food assistance, and the individual market.
- Hundreds of thousands of Medicaid-eligible Washington residents will be impacted.
- HCA and state partners are still assessing the full scope of impacts to Apple Health but anticipate significant administrative changes and new state costs associated with implementation

State funding and enrollment impacts:

Proposed work requirements, increased frequency of redeterminations, and other changes to eligibility and enrollment rules will impact access and state funding.

- Over 620,000 Washingtonians will be impacted by work requirements and changes to redeterminations.
- Lawfully-present non-citizens will see direct restrictions to access.
- Our state is projected to see a reduction of billions in federal funding 2025-2034

Prohibiting payment for protected health services:

- Prohibits federally funded Medicaid payments to nonprofit organizations that primarily engage in family planning services or reproductive services and provide abortion services.
- Applies for 1 year, from date of enactment (July 4, 2025).
- Will reduce federal funding by over \$11 million a year for family planning services in Washington.
- Washington remains committed to funding services for these critical providers with state resources.

Medicaid eligibility changes:

- Reduces federally funded Medicaid eligibility for refugee, asylee, and other non-citizen adults, effective Oct. 1, 2026.
- HCA anticipates this could impact over 30,000 individuals currently enrolled in Apple Health.
- Individuals may be eligible for other programs:

- o Apple Health Expansion
- o 1332 waiver coverage on Exchange
- o Emergency Medical
- o Pregnancy or After-Pregnancy Coverage

- Q: Are the non-citizen barriers going to impact children and youth?
- A:

- Q: If they are “medically frail”, does that mean they will need to participate in the cost-sharing requirements?
- A: We aren’t sure yet, we are waiting on more guidance on what “medically frail” covers and whether there will be exceptions for cost-sharing.
- Q: Does the cost-sharing requirement apply for daily care or re-occurring treatment? Such as ABA treatments that may take place every day of the week?
- A: We will need to follow up on this.
- Q: Are you familiar with the federal Medicaid matching our state funds for providers of community services?
- A: We’re not sure yet, we will follow up on this.
- Q: Who at the state-level can we contact regarding Rural Health Grants? Recently formed Public Hospital District in the Lower Yakima Valley is exploring options – Yakima Valley has been impacted by the closing of hospitals, including the lose of a maternity unit in Toppenish.
- A: We will need to follow up on this.
-

DDCS Updates

Jaime Bond, WA Department Disabilities Administration

- Follow up on Medicaid/HB1 discussion
- Most of the DDCS population will not subject to new 6 month eligibility redetermination requirement in HB1. They will stay at 1 year. HB 1 does not directly impact services offered by the DDCS Home and Community Based Services waivers, but cuts to Medicaid will impact the overall state budget which may lead to impacts in the future.
- The DSHS website has a page dedicated to HB1 impacts on their services including SNAP benefits: [DSHS benefits and H.R. 1 | DSHS](#)
- DSHS/DDA Reorganization
- Designed to streamline access to services. [Reimagine DSHS: Frequently Asked Questions | DSHS](#)
- DDA split into 2 and combined with other administrations
- 24/7 services like SOLAs and RHCs are in a new administration with behavioral health in new Behavioral Health and Habilitation Administration
- The rest of DDA services are now part of Developmental Disabilities Community Services (DDCS) which has combined with Aging and Long Term services to form the new Home and Community Living Administration
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- 5.5 billion in this biennium budget
- Increases in rates for Home Care Agencies, community residential (supported living), community engagement

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- Cuts to DDA staffing:
- Case resource managers for caseload reduction
- 22 No Paid Services case managers - eliminated
- 3 transitions consultants
- 20 benefits specialists - financial eligibility for Medicaid, food assistance, etc. Reduced call center hours
- 5 staff working on electronic records project - still have paper files moving to electronic records
- 59 positions lost at headquarters (1/3 of their staff)
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- New positions:
- Has some project positions funded on financial eligibility for federal rule changes
- Access rules project (new CMS rules for financial eligibility and rules)
- New health related social needs project that is part of our new Medicaid waiver.
-

CSHCN Coordinator Updates by County

Gathered from counties and shared on a quarterly basis.

Grays Harbor County Public Health

Stefani Joesten, CYSHCN Coordinator

Grant County Health District

Janette Garza, CYSHCN Coordinator

Island County Public Health

Megan Works, CYSHCN Coordinator

Jefferson County Public Health
Cynde Marx, CYSHCN Coordinator

Pacific County Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

San Juan County
Kristen Rezabek, MS, RDN, CD, CDE

Spokane Regional Health District
Kristen Lester, CYSHCN Coordinator

Thurston County Public Health and Social Services
Bonnie Peterson, CYSHCN Coordinator

Yakima County- Children's Village
Tracie Hoppis

Neurodevelopmental Center (NDC) Updates

Peace Health Children's Therapy - Whatcom County
Kris Gaggero Clinic Manager

Children's Therapy Skagit Valley Hospital
Erin Kaui Lead Therapist

www.skagitvalleyhospital.org

Children's Therapy Valley Medical Center
Kari Tanta, Rehab Manager

www.valleymed.org

Kinderling
Kathy Fortner Director of Operations

www.kinderling.org

HOLLY RIDGE

Children's Therapy Center

Karen Smith Steadman Early Intervention Program Director and Jodi Van Vleet Center (3-18) Program Director

Health Plan Updates

Amerigroup-Washington

Jackie Matter

www.amerigroupcorp.com

[Coverage Area Includes: All Counties except Adams, Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Douglas, Ferry, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Skamania, and Wahkiakum]

No updates at this time.

Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW)

www.chpw.org

[Coverage Area Includes All Counties except Clallam, Columbia, Garfield, Jefferson, Klickitat, Lincoln, Mason, Skamania, and Whitman]

No updates at this time.

Coordinated Care

Sherry Bennatts and Azka Bashir

www.coordinatedcarehealth.com

Molina Healthcare of Washington

Mary Blakeman and Margaret Whaley

www.molinahealthcare.com

No updates at this time.

UnitedHealthcare

Cindy Spain and Mandy Herreid

www.uhc.com

[Coverage Area Incudes: All Counties except Clallam, Cowlitz, Garfield, Pend Oreille, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom]

No updates at this time.

Partner Updates

Washington State Parent to Parent Network

Tracie Hoppis

Washington State Medical Home Partnerships Project for CYSHCN

Kate Orville

www.medicalhome.org

University of Washington CSHCN Nutrition Project at CHDD

Mari Mazon, MS, RDN, CD and Sarah Harsh, MS, RDN, CD

University of Washington – Center on Human Development and Disability (CHDD)

Nutrition Training Contract <http://depts.washington.edu/cshcnnut/>

Mari Mazon, MS, RDN, CD and Sarah Harsh, MS, RDN, CD

Washington State Fathers Network (WSFN)

Louis Mendoza

www.fathersnetwork.org

Family to Family Health Information Center (F2FHIC)

Jill McCormick

www.familyvoicesofwashington.com

No updates at this time.

Open Doors for Multicultural Families

Hodan Mohamad

www.multiculturalfamilies.org

No updates at this time.

Washington Autism Alliance & Advocacy (WAAA)

Arzu Forough

www.washingtonautismadvocacy.org

No updates at this time.

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

Nicole Klein, Health Services Program Supervisor

www.k12.wa.us/HealthServices/default.aspx

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Seattle Children's Hospital

www.seattlechildrens.org

No updates at this time.

Lifespan Respite Washington (LRW)

Linda Porter

www.lifespanrespitewa.org

No updates at this time.

WithinReach

Chris Gray

www.withinreachwa.org

No updates at this time.

State Updates

Department of Children, Youth, and Families

Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (DCYF-ESIT)

Lori Holbrook

www.dcyf.wa.gov/esit

DSHS, Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), Waiver Unit

No updates at this time.

DSHS / DDA, Medically Intensive Children's Program

DSHS, Fostering Well-Being Care Coordination Unit (FWB CCU)

Autumn Wade and Amanda McCleskey

DSHS / ALTSA, Kinship Care and Lifespan Respite

www.dshs.wa.gov/kinshipcare

No updates at this time.

DOH Screening and Genetics Unit

Nini Shridhar

www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/InfantsChildrenandTeens/HealthandSafety/GeneticServices.aspx

No updates at this time.

Health Care Authority

No updates at this time.

Attachments

- Agenda (PDF) (wa.gov)
- Meeting presentation slides (PDF) (wa.gov)
- Meeting recording (youtu.be)

Next Meeting

January 29, 2026

Virtual Meeting