



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES**

1500 Jefferson Street, SE • P.O. Box 40975 • Olympia WA 98504-0975

August 1st

Washington State Hospital Association
999 Third Avenue, Suite 1400
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Safe and Appropriate Discharge from Hospital MOU, Washington State Hospitals and DCYF.

Effective September 1st 2024 DCYF will be moving forward with the commitments that we agreed to in the draft “Safe and Appropriate Discharge from Hospitals” Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). A practice memo with the procedures will go out to all staff in the Child Welfare Division.

The memo will provide guidance on how DCYF will screen intakes on youth who are in hospitals ready for discharge when parents or guardians are unwilling to pick them up and there is no allegation of child abuse or neglect. Our actions following the intake process are guided by our commitment to make agency resources available to assist hospitals and families, while working within the constraints of our statutory authority to respond to child abuse and neglect. This guidance will ensure statewide consistency in how DCYF responds when contacted by hospitals.

DCYF will continue to reach out to hospitals statewide in an effort to collaborate in support of children, youth, and families experiencing mental health crisis. Our hope is to engage with families together in a way that connects them with needed community support to ensure they are able to meet the needs of their children and youth.

Should you have any questions or concerns you may contact Trishia Benshoof by phone at (360) 789-0049 or via email at trishia.benshoof@dcyf.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Ross Hunter, Secretary
Department of Children, Youth, and Families