

# Child Welfare Practice Communication

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September 30, 2024

To: Child Welfare Staff

From: Natalie Green, Assistant Secretary, Child Welfare  
Dorene Perez, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Child Welfare

Subject: D.S. Settlement Updates for Shared Planning Meetings

## Purpose:

Update Child Welfare staff on practice changes for Shared Planning Meetings to meet the requirements of the D.S. Settlement in ensuring youth's voice is heard directly from them. This practice communication applies to youth who are 12 years and older. DCYF is working with contractors to update the shared planning model. Subsequently, the Shared Planning Meeting and Family Team Decision Making Meeting Policies will be updated.

## Practice Impacts:

- Invite youth and their supports to all shared planning meetings.
- Solicit youth preferences and voice during all shared planning meetings.
- Respect youth's choice whether to participate or speak in shared planning meetings.
- Elicit and value the youth's preferences including, but not limited to, where to live, where to go to school, what treatment or services to receive, what supports are needed for safety, and who is involved in their lives. Honor their preferences as much as possible.

## Supports and Resources:

- [Policy: Shared Planning Meetings](#)
- [D.S. Lawsuit and Settlement Agreement](#)
- [DCYF-D.S. Lawsuit and Settlement Agreement - Home \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

## Questions:

If you have any questions, contact Melissa Hoogendoorn, Engagement Program Manager, at 360-688-4266 or [melissa.hoogendoorn@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:melissa.hoogendoorn@dcyf.wa.gov). You can also view all Child Welfare Practice Communications on the [CW Intranet](#).

