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### Reflections

In 2023, the CRP experienced tremendous growth with the implementation of HB 1219 (2021) into seven additional counties and right sizing the program with two new program counsel, a training coordinator, and two dedicated support staff. The CRP also secured a needed funding increase for contractors, reexamined programmatic training strategies, and built cross-agency collaborations to better support our statewide panel of attorneys.

We enter 2024 excited for the future of the program. In January we welcome OCLA's new director, Sara Robbins. Under Sara's leadership, we see great things for OCLA and the CRP as we continue to grow towards full implementation and tackle a host of programmatic objectives.

Lastly, we want to thank you for your dedication and commitment to children's representation and for all that was accomplished in 2023. We look forward to seeing what we will do in 2024.

### Trainings

Over the course of the last year, the CRP has learned a lot about your training needs and desires. With your feedback, we have revamped our newsletters and website and taken an opportunity to explore numerous subjects as broad ranging as HB 1227 to Apple Health for children. We have also held a first for OCLA: an in-person joint conference for contractors. With each of these projects, we experienced success and learned many lessons.

As we look forward, we are extremely excited for 2024. The CRP is nearing finalization of the CRP Training Academy and we look forward to the build-out of our contractor toolkit, the future home for briefs, case law,

trainings, and more. We are eager to explore additional training content through webinars and, hopefully, more regional trainings. We are also excited to host our second in-person conference, a conference that, based upon your feedback, will be centered on your successes, celebrating all the work that you have done, while also looking forward to the hard work we have yet to accomplish.

## OTHER NEWS FOR 2024

### The Infamous A-20 Travel Voucher

We understand that the A-20 Travel Voucher can be confusing; however, it continues to be a requirement for travel expense reimbursement. We have uploaded a walk-through regarding the form to our website. We hope this helps you navigate our reimbursement procedures.

### DOH Online Health Resource for Teens and Young Adults

Teen Health Hub WA (the Hub) is a new webpage on DOH's website. DOH cocreated it with Washington teens and young adults, including members of DOH's Youth Advisory Council (YAC). The Hub features a curated online directory of youth-friendly information and resources on behavioral health, primary care, navigating the health care system, sexual and reproductive health, and teen dating and violence prevention. Teens and young adults, parents and caregivers, and youth-serving professionals can use the new webpage to find easy links to health-related resources that have been vetted by experts at DOH and approved by the YAC.

Over the next year, DOH will work with the YAC to expand the Hub. This will include adding more high-quality online resources, creating guides on health topics young people want to know about - like how to schedule doctor's appointment - and developing an inventory of youth-serving resources in the state. DOH will also be adding content in Spanish, soon.

Check it out [here](#).

### Hear Me Washington

We have heard that the AGO is developing a statewide program called "Hear Me Washington." A link can be found [here](#). While we do not have a lot of details, we understand it to be a tip line or call center to receive and respond to risks or potential risks to the safety or

wellbeing of youth. We have been told that program may serve youth from birth to age 25 in a youth centered format. Please watch for more to come.

#### AOC's Continued Work in iDecide and Other Initiatives

AOC recently developed a Legal Standards Comparison Chart and has released the tool for system-wide use. It can be found on the FYJP website, under the "Judicial Resources" header menu and at this link: <https://www.wacita.org/legal-standards-comparison-chart/>. There is also an interactive version of the chart built into iDecide, located under "Tools" on the Main Menu. Please let me know if you have any questions or further feedback regarding this tool.

#### OPD's VPA Hotline

On January 1, 2024, the Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD) Parents Representation Program will be launching the Voluntary Placement Agreement (VPA) Attorney Hotline! The VPA Attorney Hotline will allow parents, guardians, and legal custodians (parents) who are being offered VPAs to have the opportunity to receive legal advice, consultation, and support prior to making the important decision to agree or not to agree to the removal of their child. Here are some Frequently Asked Questions about the new VPA Attorney Hotline:

- **What is the VPA Attorney Hotline?** The VPA Attorney Hotline is a legal consultation telephone hotline that will be launched on January 1, 2024. Through the VPA Attorney Hotline, parents will be offered the opportunity to receive advice and consultation from an attorney when a VPA is proposed by DCYF.
- **Who can contact the VPA Attorney Hotline?** Any parent, guardian, or legal custodian may contact the VPA attorney hotline when the Department proposes a VPA and there is no pending dependency case.
- **How does a parent get hold of the VPA Attorney Hotline?** The telephone no. is (833) 240-9746.
- **When is the VPA Attorney Hotline available?** The VPA Hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- **How will a parent be notified of the VPA Attorney Hotline?** Notification may happen in one of several ways:
  - The Department has indicated it will provide verbal notification of the hotline to parents when a VPA is offered.
  - OPD is also providing written materials to the Department to be provided to parents when a VPA is being proposed.
  - You can also be critical in notifying parents of the VPA Attorney Hotline! Please spread the word that the VPA Hotline will be available as of January 1. Please provide the telephone number to community partners, other stakeholders, and parents who may be offered a VPA when there is no pending dependency. Should we bold or italicize this to make it stand out from other bullet points?
- **What if I have questions about the VPA Attorney Hotline?** If you have questions about the VPA Attorney Hotline, contact OPD Managing Attorney Marci Comeau at (360) 485-7484 or [marci.comeau@opd.wa.gov](mailto:marci.comeau@opd.wa.gov).

### TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

#### Education Law CLE.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS as OCLA will host a half-day CLE on January 22, 2024, on the topic of education law. We are requesting that you make your best efforts to attend. More details on the training will be released soon.