

# WA Blue Ribbon Commission on the Delivery of Services to Children and Families

## Initial Organizing Principles for Discussion

- **Prevention rather than repair**
- **Addressing the needs of those furthest from opportunity**
- **Focusing on a normal developmental pathway**
- **Improving the interaction between adults and children**
- **Outcome-driven**
- **Cost effective**

### **Prevention rather than repair**

- What do we want to prevent?
- What type(s) of prevention (primary, secondary, tertiary) offer the greatest opportunity for impact?
- Who is the target of the prevention intervention: child, family, community or a combination?
- What data should be considered re: Health? Mental Health? Child Welfare? Education? Poverty? Domestic Violence? Substance Abuse? Other sectors/issue areas?

### **Addressing the needs of those furthest from opportunity**

- What is the “opportunity” we are talking about? What “needs” are we talking about?
- What factors indicate a child and their family being “furthest from opportunity”?
- Are we trying to provide access to opportunity, create some alternative that can lead to the same outcome, or something else?
- What data should be considered re: Health? Mental Health? Child Welfare? Education? Poverty? Domestic Violence? Substance Abuse? Other sectors/issue areas?

### **Focusing on a normal developmental pathway**

- What does “normal” mean? (Reaching specific developmental milestones by a certain age? Being free from abuse and neglect? Not being exposed to trauma/traumatic events? Not encountering the juvenile justice system? Other criteria?)
- Is there a gap in the developmental pathway that this Department will meet that is not currently being addressed by existing Departments?
- What ages of children are we focusing on? 0-18 or beyond?
- What data should be considered re: Health? Mental Health? Child Welfare? Education? Poverty? Domestic Violence? Substance Abuse? Other sectors/issue areas?

### **Improving the interaction between adults and children**

- What does ideal and/or positive interaction between adults and children look like?
- Are we referring to families of origin (parents) or broader than that? If broader, who is in that group?
- Is there something to consider around service delivery (who is providing a service, to whom, etc.) in improving adult/child interactions?
- What data should be considered re: Health? Mental Health? Child Welfare? Education? Poverty? Domestic Violence? Other sectors/issue areas?

## **Outcome-driven**

- What is the scope of the child-focused outcomes for the Department to focus on (safety, permanency, well-being, academic achievement, etc.?)
- What are the implications for the service delivery array and target population given these outcomes?
- Are there system outcomes that we also want to be measuring in addition to outcomes for children and families?
- What data should be considered re: Health? Mental Health? Child Welfare? Education? Poverty? Domestic Violence? Substance Abuse? Other sectors/issue areas?

## **Cost effective**

- What are the elements of cost effectiveness? How are we defining cost effectiveness?
- At the end of a biennial budget cycle, what factors would we use to measure whether or not this new department has functioned in a cost-effective way?
- Can we innovate and be cost effective? If so, what does that look like?
- What data should be considered re: Health? Mental Health? Child Welfare? Education? Poverty? Domestic Violence? Substance Abuse? Other sectors/issue areas?

**WHAT'S MISSING?**