

## Extension of the Timeframe for Family Assessment Response

### Statement of the Problem:

There has historically been an underutilization of the Family Assessment Response (FAR) budget for in-home services including Evidence Based Programs (EBPs). The November 2017 report from the Washington State Institute for Public Policy showed that less than 10% of FAR families received a paid in-home service, and less than 3% received an EBP.

In-home services are designed to strengthen families and prevent the need for removal of children into out-of-home care. Increasing access to these services must be part of our work to solve the problems we are experiencing in the foster care system.

Part of the under-spending in FAR is because most of the state's in-home EBPs do not fit within the FAR 90-day time limit. While the program may be shorter than the current 90-day FAR time limit, referrals to services usually do not occur in the first weeks of a FAR case.

### Service Duration of WA State In-Home Child Welfare Evidence Based Programs

- Positive Parenting Program/Triple P Up to 126 days
- The Incredible Years Typically 120 days
- Functional Family Therapy Typically 84 days
- Parent Child Interaction Therapy Typically 84 to 105 days
- Promoting First Relationships Typically 77 to 98 days
- SafeCare Typically 154 days; 84 days for the FAR adaptation
- Homebuilders Typically 28-30 days

### Request:

We request your support of HB 2449 and SB 6309. These bills extend the time period for cases to remain open in FAR to 120 days rather than the current 90 days, which would give families time to participate in Evidence Based Programs and other in-home services.

### Cost:

DSHS estimates no additional funding will be needed. Assuming funding levels for FAR are consistent with the 2015-2017 biennium, it is anticipated passage of this bill would allow families to be better served within existing appropriation amounts.

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