



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 40002 · Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 · (360) 753-6780 · www.governor.wa.gov

EXECUTIVE ORDER 12-04

SUPERSEDING OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 95-04

AMENDING THE USE OF COMMUNITY PROTECTION TEAMS

WHEREAS, despite efforts of child welfare and child protection agencies, children in the United States continue to face violence in their own homes, often as a consequence of poverty, homelessness, substance abuse, domestic violence, or mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, the family unit is a fundamental resource of American life which should be nurtured and which should remain intact unless a child's safety is jeopardized; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social and Health Services, through innovative family-centered practices, provides effective child welfare and child protection services that include families in developing safety and service plans, and engage families in increasing protective capacities for their own children; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers, physicians, mental health and substance abuse treatment providers, child guardians ad litem, public health nurses, school counselors, and other professionals collectively possess skills and expertise that can help the Department of Social and Health Services in assessing the safety of children; and

WHEREAS, the collaboration and consultation of multidisciplinary teams in assessing child safety can improve outcomes for children and their families; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 95-04 mandated the use of Community Protection Teams.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, by virtue of the power vested in me, do hereby order the following:

- I. The Department of Social and Health Services shall consult with a Multidisciplinary Community Protection Team, established pursuant to RCW 74.14B.030 as follows:
 - A. In all child abuse or neglect investigation cases in which the assessment requires the Department of Social and Health Services to offer services, and a Family Team Decision Making (FTDM) meeting will not or cannot be held, and the child's age is six years or younger;

- B. In all child abuse and neglect cases where serious professional disagreement exists regarding a risk of serious harm to the child and where there is a dispute over whether out-of-home placement is appropriate; and

Additionally, the Department of Social and Health Services may consult with a Multidisciplinary Community Protection Team in any case where the Department of Social and Health Services believes such consultation may assist it in improving outcomes for a particular child.

- II. The Department of Social and Health Services shall maintain and staff Multidisciplinary Community Protection Teams sufficient to conduct the required consultations and shall continue to recruit a broad array of team members who will work with the Department of Social and Health Services to make the best decisions possible to protect and improve the lives of the children in our state.

This Executive Order, which amends and supersedes Executive Order 95-04, shall take effect immediately.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington, on this 25th day of July, 2012, at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/

Secretary of State