

In response to your Chair Ann Pugh's questions, here is the data:

From August, 2010 until the present VPRC has served 57 families of whom 39 pre-CHINS families and 18 minor guardianship families. In 8 out of the 39 pre-CHINS petition families a CHINS petition was filed. Thus, no petition in 79.5% of our families. In all 8 cases, the affidavit supporting the CHINS petition was materially incorrect. The affidavits were also written in such negative ways that the families all felt that they could not trust the DCF worker to treat them fairly.

VPRC received 185 referrals in the same time period whom we could not serve. 80 of these were from individuals who were already involved in a CHINS case and had an attorney, and therefore VPRC could not serve them. 64 of the 80, or 80% called VPRC for help because of unresponsiveness of their court appointed attorney. This issue comes up all the time. Washington State addressed this by adding social workers to the parent attorney program and made accountability for preparation and out of court representation a central issue.

Thank you.

Best
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