

Washington Chapter AFCC Newsletter

Issue 14

December 8, 2021

Letter from your President

by: Dr. Melanie English.

You... are *incredible*. You really are! In the midst of... you know what... you have continued working with families in various AFCC roles including Guardian Ad Litem, lawyer, supervised visitation provider, advocate, mediator, therapist, psychologist, social worker or judge. COVID clichés aside, you continue to do the work this field needs and that is incredible.

Your Washington Chapter of AFCC has also been doing the work. Though we had to cancel our very exciting conference from last April 2020 titled, Trauma on Trial, we've instead used this time period to assess the virtual world of connection and training. While I sincerely hope 2022 will bring us back to live events, such as our Chips-N-Chat and/or another all-day conference, I hope you all have been able to participate in some of the AFCC webinars that have flourished over the past year.



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

<https://wa-afcc.org>

These free or nominal cost webinars have covered challenging issues such as parent-child contact problems, deconstructing a child custody evaluation, understanding diversity in family law, shared parenting research and interviewing children in sexual abuse cases.

Your Washington Chapter has also used this time period to update our bylaws. A summary of these changes and updates will be sent in a separate email to AFCC members. Your vote on these bylaws help us to continue the structure of this chapter.

I look forward to 2022 and lots of possibilities. Until then, keep up the incredible work.

Very truly yours,
Melanie English, PhD, MSW
WA-AFCC Chapter President

Happy Holidays & Welcome 2022!

by: Dana Dean Doering

AFCC PC Guidelines 2019: As many of you already know, the Washington PC Task Force, collaborated with the Ohio PC Task Force, and submitted ideas for revisions to the 2019 AFCC Parenting Coordination guidelines. We attended the Toronto, Canada AFCC conference and got to sit and talk with Deb Carter, the National PC Chair. Deb Carter and her team were very appreciative of the efforts made by our AFCC WA Chapter on this project.

A special shout out to Mary Ericksen, Hank Finesilver & Paul McVicker for their many hours of work on the 2019 PC task force! In 2021, we now have Kathleen Royer, Jennifer Keilin, and Hank & myself working hard on practice standards within our State of Washington. We are all excited to share with you our many hours of work over the past 3 years.

Cont. on Page 2

SAVE THE DATE!

March 16, 2022 5pm - 7:30pm

Parenting Coordinator Round Table
Washington Athletic Club Board Room (Virtual Zoom option too)
PC Group - watch for invitations to go out in January 2022.

Hopefully by now, all active PC's working in Washington have had a chance to study the new AFCC 2019 PC Guidelines, and to revise your PC practices accordingly. The Round Table discussions will allow us all to share with one another how the Guidelines have improved our PC practices, and how to move forward with higher standards in 2022.

Best,

Dana Dean Doering & Hank Finesilver
Co-Chairs WA-AFCC Chapter PC Task Force & Professional Roles & Standards Committee

AFCC WA. Chapter

Professional Roles & Practice Standards Committee: PC Task Force

Our Goals for 2021 and 2022 include:

1. To educate our membership, as well as our larger community to what a PC is and can do, including discussion of the practice guidelines, and the necessary training and expertise needed to serve in the role;
2. To create a sense of protocol/best practices around the use of PC's and have it be research referenced, based on AFCC Guidelines and less of a free-for-all;
3. Create a template for a methodology/judicial training- so judges know what to expect from a PC;
4. Facilitate a Round Table- a state-wide stake-holders conversation about what should be included in a good PC Order;
5. To integrate the newly revised AFCC Parenting Coordination 2019 Guidelines into our PC work in all 39 WA. State Counties, and into our PC work that appears before the Washington Courts.

REMINDER TO ALL AFCC MEMBERS: Please watch for the coming email with proposed changes to our AFCC Washington Chapter bylaws and voting ballot.