Black Child Development Institute—Seattle Affiliate

P. O. Box 22483, 206-860-4048, website: www.bcdi-seattle.org

Our Mission: *To look into the eyes and lives of African American children and families and advocate for public policy and innovative and progressive efforts to eliminate institutionalized racism and support positive social change.*

Child Welfare Public Policy Priorities

1. African American culture is recognized, respected and reflected in child welfare practice (e.g., social work training, Child Protective Services prevention practices, and community support practices that encourage family-to-family mentoring and kinship care support).

2. Child welfare practices found to be especially effective (e.g., the Culturally Competent Professional Practice approach [C2P2 originated in the DCFS Office of African American Children's Services) be integrated into ongoing social work practice.

3. Implement targeted efforts to actively recruit foster and adoptive families that reflect the culture and ethnicity of children in out-of-home placement and/or free for adoption, given the dearth of licensed African American foster families and adoptive parents.

4. Full implementation of SHB 1472 to ensure that the identified racial disproportionality and service disparities in the State's child welfare system are eliminated with a reduced of 20% each year for the next five years.

5. Prevention especially efforts in zip code 98118 (the area of greatest removal in King County) to keep African American children safely in their homes and reduce the number of African American children removed from their homes.

* http://www.bcdi-seattle.org/aachildwelfare/bridgestoengagement.html