

Executive Director's Board Report
October 13, 2022

Celebrations

We are just wrapping up our 5th 40-hour of 2022 with 25 participants, including Board member Eloise and MANY staff from our WA State Legislature. Several participants wish to become volunteers as well!



Programs Snapshot

Our bilingual mediation program is growing with Yul's focus on it – there are two active cases, which is more work than it may sound like it is. Forms translation is coming along nicely and we are well poised for the word-of-mouth growth we anticipate in this area of program expansion.

Please remember that we have our annual Reconnect, Refine, Rejuvenate event with mediators, staff and volunteers. This is a great overview event to the organization and the core of our work, for current and former mediators, as well as anyone interested in what we do. See the volunteer news for the link or go to the volunteer portal to register.

Strategic Direction & Revenue News

Legislative advocacy meetings are happening pre-session. I met with Senator Hunt earlier this week, who remains a strong advocate of our work. I have an appointment with Representative Bateman's office later this month. More are in the works and will continue through session, where we will be requesting maintaining the current level of funding allocated in the state budget (\$7.1M for all of Washington's DRCs).

Staffing & Volunteer Updates

Leah, our Case Support Specialist was the successful candidate and is now transitioning to being our new Training Coordinator. As such, we're hiring more case support for the housing program now, with two very likely candidates in the background and reference check process right now. We are also close to hiring a new Communication and Development Specialist to replace Robyn, who moved into the position of Administrative Manager. Ash has begun his period of shadowing to replace Logan at the end of the year. Everyone is excited about the new folks joining our team and the possibility that this further offers to learn alongside and from one another.



Statewide Frame

ResWA is actively finalizing our position on the future of ERPP, given that the program is set to sunset June 30th. The discussion will emphasize what's working, what trends we are noticing, where refinements could be made and what we can offer moving forward to address housing stability. For your own talking points, here's what's working:

- People directly involved and impacted are empowered to communicate with one another on a human level, when able to fully participate in good faith;
- The process creates a pathway to supportive resources, when and as they are available, as well as a frame for reality testing durable outcomes and documentation of shared agreements;
- When engaged, landlords get paid, have viable tenancies, and keep their properties within the rental market resolve their disputes without the cost and delay of going to court;
- Tenants maintain stable housing with current landlords or create supportive move-out plans, while not receiving barriers to future housing through unnecessary unlawful detainer filings; &
- Courts experience smaller dockets, allowing for resources to be allocated towards other high-need areas.