



OVERSIGHT BOARD

## Who Are We?

The DCYF Oversight Board was created by [HB 1661](#) in 2017 and was fully formed in March 2019. The Oversight Board is an independent body consisting of 21 members housed in the Office of the Governor.

The Oversight Board exists for the purpose of monitoring and ensuring that DCYF achieves the stated outcomes as intended by the legislation, and to ensure that the department complies with administrative acts, relevant statutes, rules, and policies pertaining to early learning, juvenile rehabilitation, juvenile justice, and children and family services.

# Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Oversight Board

## 2019 Legislative Report One-pager (RCW 43.216.015)

**In addition to fully implementing all federal and state laws, the Oversight Board expects DCYF to:**

1. Prioritize departmental culture change;
2. Ensure sustainability of performance-based contracting;
3. Maximize opportunities provided by a secured integrated data warehouse;
4. Improve external communication strategies regarding law, rule and policy changes and implementation;
5. Streamline and create efficiencies in processes, data collection and sharing; and
6. Adhere to the Indian Child Welfare Act and Washington State Indian Child Welfare Act.

**The Oversight Board also identified expectations to improve outcomes in the following targeted priority areas:**

- 1** **To reduce racial and ethnic disproportionality and disparities...**
- Prioritize racial and ethnic equity, add geography, LGBTQ+ and ability status
  - Report performance data by race, ethnicity, income and geography
  - Report disaggregated workforce retention rates
  - Measure race and ethnicity similarly across continuum of care

- 2** **To improve child development through quality early learning...**
- Implement Internal Review Process for Child Care Facility Licensing Compliance Agreements
  - Design communication strategies to be inclusive to providers

- 3** **To prevent child abuse and neglect...**
- Fully implement the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), with cultural responsiveness
  - Develop workforce culture that is responsive to trauma experienced by staff

- 4** **To improve child and youth safety, permanency, and well-being...**
- Address retention rates for Social Services Specialists
  - Formalize partnerships with external entities
  - Develop relationships between biological, foster and kinship caregivers

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The Oversight Boards identified expectations to improve outcomes in the following targeted priority areas continued:

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### To improve reconciliation of youth with their families...

- Increase services in geographic regions, with a particular rural focus
- Support a collaborative approach for families involved in court systems
- Ensure tribal law is understood and supported in practice
- Add family reunifications measure to agency performance dashboard

### To improve adolescent outcomes...

- Prevent youth being released from state care into homelessness
- Prioritize diversion opportunities and service provision for adolescent services
- Align child welfare, juvenile justice and juvenile rehabilitation
- Develop adolescent outcomes to be measured and tracked
- Develop youth feedback mechanism at each field office or facility
- Continue to understand county needs for implementing SB 5290 (2019)

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### To reducing future demand for mental health and substance use disorder treatment...

- Approach child safety with social-emotional learning and child well-being needs on same footing
- Prevent youth exiting treatment from entering into homelessness
- Increase flexibility of services available to parents in treatment

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### To reduce criminal justice involvement and recidivism...

- Strengthen relationships with county juvenile courts
- Investigate the link between early interventions and juvenile rehabilitation outcomes
- Partner with county courts to implement of SB 6550 (2018)
- Fully implement "JR to 25" and track outcomes

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## Get More Information:

Website:


<http://ofco.wa.gov/dcyf-oversight-board/>

Find the full report, upcoming & past meeting dates, agendas, and how you can join the meetings!


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