

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

Board Meeting Record

Thursday, August 15, 2019 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., WorkSource – Wenatchee, WA

Member Attendance: Bobbe Bridge, Ben de Haan, Charles Loeffler, Diane Liebe, Justice Sun, Ruth Kagi, , Jeannie Darneille, Shrounda Selivanoff, Tom Dent, Wendy Thomas

Staff in Attendance: Crista Johnson (Executive Director), Nickolaus Colgan (Administrative Coordinator)

Public in Attendance: Erica Hallock, *Fight Crime: Invest In Kids and the Family Impact Network*, Laurie Lippold, *Partners for Our Children*, Richard Watkins, *Thomas V. Giddens Foundation and the Family Impact Network*

Welcome and Opening Remarks & Approval of July 18 Meeting Minutes | **Action: meeting minutes were approved led by Crista Johnson and co-chairs**

The meeting was called into order at 12:45 p.m. Bobbe Bridge made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes and Ben de Haan seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Working Lunch: Debrief on Morning Site Visits

During the morning portion of the day the Board broke into two small groups and went on site visits engaging with providers to learn more about their experience with the transition from the Department of Early Learning and Department of Social and Health Services into the Department of Children, Youth, and Families.

The site visits for the entire day included: [Cascade Christian Childcare](#), [WA Children's Home Society](#), [Canyon View Community Facility](#), and [Pathways to Parenting](#).

The Board took this time in the middle of the day to debrief on what they heard from each site visit including positive and negative aspects to the department changes and what could be potential focus areas for the Board to address as it partners with DCYF in the work moving forward.

Major themes that arose from this time included: availability and access for provider training opportunities, quality assurance mechanisms, distribution of resources, and communication strategies.

Public Comment

Laurie Lippold from *Partners for Our Children*: Laurie discussed the shift to performance based contracting and how you can actually see the implementation of them in a way that has not been done before in Washington state. She asked if while at Children's Home Society anyone brought up the Network Administrator in the room and explained that eastern Washington has been very patient and hopes that DCYF can help to implement the Network Administrator plan. She explained that with Family Assessment Response (FAR) it offers an alternative to families needing to use CPS and would like to explore further why some Board members had heard it was not working well from one of the site visits.

Erica Hallock from *Fight Crime: Invest in Kid sand the Family Impact Network*: Erica thanked the Board for coming out to eastern Washington since it is very different regionally from other parts of the state.

She explained that Family Impact Network helps to provide Network Administrators to eight different counties. Her team is doing outreach throughout eastern Washington helping to strengthen the reach of the Network Administrators. She mentioned that consistent communication is going to be the key between DCYF and those working with them.

Richard Watkins from *Thomas V. Giddens Foundation and the Family Impact Network*: Richard echoed that he has heard similar concerns about FAR and partners not seeing the outcomes they have expected to see. Citing that the length of time for service provision is insufficient for addressing identified issues such as substance abuse disorder and the needed treatment. Richard also acknowledged that preschools are not designed to address the behavioral health needs of some children. Richard expressed a need to design a system that meets the needs of all development stages for all children of all need levels, not just for an average child. Richard also acknowledged that the DCYF leadership in Olympia has great ideas, but there seems to be a disconnect or gap with middle managers and field offices around the state. Along with Board member Ben de Haan, Richard supported the idea of replicating a 2008 survey of parents and child welfare staff on the provision of services.

Adjourned at 2:06 pm on Thursday, August 15, 2019