

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

Thursday, February 20, 2020 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Capitol Court Building – Olympia, WA

Member Attendance: Annie Blackledge, Annie Lee, Bobbe Bridge, Ben de Haan, Charles Loeffler, Diane Liebe, Tom Dent, Ruth Kagi, Lois Martin (via phone), Tana Senn, Wendy Thomas

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

Public in Attendance: Vickie Ybarra - *Department of Children, Youth and Families*, Laurie Lippold - *Partners for Our Children*, Diana Carlen, *Foster Parent*, Jess Lewis - *Department of Children, Youth and Families*, Tleena Ives - *Department of Children, Youth and Families*

Welcome, Opening Remarks, Approval Meeting Minutes & Recap of 1.16.20 Meeting

The meeting was called into order at 5:47 p.m. Ben de Haan made a motion to approve the January 16, 2020 meeting minutes and Diane Liebe seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Crista Johnson announced that current co-chair two year term will expire at the end of July 2020. Nominees for co-chairs are to be given to staff at the Oversight Board June meeting with elections to take place at the July Oversight Board meeting. The legislative co-chair position must be filled by a legislative Board member of the Republican caucus.

The Board has launched a new website now publically available at www.dcyfoversight.wa.gov.

The Board will convene a conference call before the regular March Board meeting for a phone to develop a formal response to DCYF on their draft 2020-2025 strategic plan.

DCYF Adolescent Programs Unit Presentation | Jess Lewis, DCYF Director of Adolescent Programs Unit

Jess Lewis provided information about the development of the Adolescent Programs Unit. Integrated adolescent services was an essential component of HB 1661 of 2017, the legislation that established DCYF. Jess stated that for DCYF an adolescent is referring to the population of young people in the state ages 10 to 25 years old. The unit, acknowledging that 40% of youth in juvenile rehabilitation have been involved in the child welfare system, seeks to align services that are needed by both populations.

The Adolescent Programs unit currently includes programs and services such as: mentoring and youth engagement, K-12 education supports, employment supports, Independent Living Services, Responsible Living Skills Program, Family Reconciliation Services, and Missing from

Care services. The unit is in the process of transferring Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) programs into Adolescent Programs and seeking to enhance substance use disorder screenings and treatment referrals.

The Adolescent Programs Unit is the first attempt at integrated services within DCYF. As it develops, the unit is focusing on a deep root analysis of current policies and protocols in an effort to streamline services to only those that are effective and beneficial to the young people they seek to serve. The Unit is prioritizing youth voice in development of these services and identifies that the data that the department currently collects does not help to answer questions that determine (1) meaningful outcomes for adolescents, and (2) if the department is successful in its means of services provision.

Public Comment

Diana Carlen – Foster Parent: Diana expressed concern over a recent situation where a father released from incarceration early got visitation rights granted to his five year old daughter at his sober living facility. He had requested unsupervised overnight visits. The concern being the safety of the girl in a facility that has eight other men living there with no mandatory background checks needed for this type of facility. Group homes have different policies in different counties, there needs to be consistency throughout all counties. Diana expressed the need for changes at a legislative level to address this.

Laurie Lippold – Partners for Our Children: Laurie stated she went through the current legislation affecting DCYF and said this would be a good time for the Board to look at HB 1661 and look at how implementation of that legislation is going. The Board needs to pay attention to how implementation is going to determine how things have changed at DCYF. Laurie also acknowledged that an observable change since the creation of DCYF was the department's willingness to make common sense changes without requiring a legislative change. An example provided was the Department's proactive and supportive position on allowing foster youth to incorporate their own personal statement as the first document in their file to be reviewed by potential foster parents.

Working Dinner: Legislative Updates related to DCYF

The Board reviewed a handout summarizing all the current bills in the Legislature related to DCYF. Tana Senn took some time to highlight specific bills and answer questions from the Board.

DCYF Tribal Relations Presentation | Tleena Ives DCYF Director of Tribal Affairs

Tleena Ives opened the presentation with a land acknowledgement of the Squaxin Island Tribe's indigenous land and shared territory with the Nisqually Tribe. Tleena then provided background on Government-to-Government relations between the State of Washington and the 29

federally recognized tribes within Washington State, as well as providing a thorough overview of DCYF's 10.03 Tribal Consultation Policy.

DCYF engages with tribes through the Tribal Policy Advisory Council (IPAC), the Indian Policy Early Learning (IPEL) Committee and the Indian Child Welfare (ICW) Subcommittee. Work is currently underway to establish the Tribal Leaders Advisory on Social Services (TLASS) to streamline the State's engagement with tribes on all social services administered by state agencies.

DCYF shared excitement regarding the evidentiary review process with the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare to support the classification of tribal evidence-based programs for Family First Preventions Services Act (FFPSA) funding. The tribal programs in Washington State to undergo this process include: Family Spirit, Healing of the Canoe, Positive Indian Parenting and Talking Circles. Additional successful partnership outcomes were highlighted with the mention of a current contract with one tribe to pilot Early ECEAP for birth to three year olds and that Nisqually tribe was the first tribe in the country to be licensed as an outdoor preschool.

Adjourned at 8:26 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, 2020