

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

Thursday, May 21, 2020 10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., virtual meeting

**Member Attendance:** Katie Biron, Annie Blackledge, John Braun, Bobbe Bridge, Jeannie Darneille, Tom Dent, Loni Greninger, Ben de Haan, Ruth Kagi, Annie Lee, Diane Liebe, Charles Loeffler, Lois Martin, Tana Senn

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

**Public in Attendance:** Lynn Urvina, *Kinship Navigator*, Susan Anderson-Newham, *Pierce County Library System*, Laurie Lippold, *Partners for Our Children*, Pat Dunn, *Ounce Washington & Empire Health Foundation*, Jim Theofelis, *A Way Home Washington*, Ray Deck III, *Skookum Kids*, Erica Hallock, *Family Impact Network & Ounces Washington*, Luke Wickham, House of Representatives Staff, Rayanna Evans, Office of Financial Management, Jenny Heddin, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*, Vickie Ybarra, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*, Alison Mendiola, *Senate Human Services*, Carrie Wayno, *Office of the Attorney General*, Dawn Eychaner, *House of Representatives Staff*, Jill Malat, *Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid*, Jim Theofelis, *A Way Home Washington*, Kate Ginn, *Help Me Grow Pierce County*, Kristin Wiggins, *Council for a Strong America*, Michael Althaus, *Washington State Senate Staff*, Matt Tremble, *Senate Republican Caucus Staff*, Stacia Hollar, *Office of the Attorney General*, Jill May, *Washington Association for Children and Families*, Natalie Lente, *Child Care Resources*, Patrick Dowd, *Office of the Family & Children's Ombuds*, Erin Kerrigan, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*, Liz Trautman, *The Mockingbird Society*, Sarah Brady, *Public Attendee*, Ailey Kato, *Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee* Donna Christensen, Carrie Wayno, *Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid*, Stacia Hollar, *Attorney Generals Office*

### Welcome, Roll Call & Opening Remarks

The meeting was called into order at 10:00 a.m. Crista Johnson introduced ground rules for engaging on the Zoom online platform for both DCYF Oversight Board members and members of the public in attendance. Roll call of DCYF Oversight Board members was taken.

Bobbe Bridget made a motion to approve the February 20, 2020 meeting minutes. Lois Martin seconded the motion. Minutes were approved. Bobbe Bridge made a motion to approve the April 16, 2020 meeting minutes. Diane Liebe seconded the minutes. Minutes were approved.

### Overview of DCYF Budget & DCYF Budget Reduction Exercises | Jenny Heddin, DCYF Chief Financial Officer

Jenny Heddin provided an overview of DCYF's budget with a particular focus expenditures from the General-State Fund (GF-S) by program area within the fields of child welfare, early learning and juvenile rehabilitation. Jenny also described the process and timeline DCYF was internally

using to make final decisions to fulfill the 15% budget reduction exercises requested by the Office of Financial Management (OFM). This presentation was provided to support Oversight Board members in developing guiding principles to DCYF as the department makes final decisions prior to the June 1<sup>st</sup> submission deadline to OFM.

## Public Comment

Laurie Lippold, Partners for Our Children, Laurie acknowledge the work of DCYF during the pandemic and expressed appreciation on their transparency during these times. Laurie stated she was pleased to hear the Oversight Board's conversation around emphasizing and increasing the reliance on community solutions, but expressed a desire to maintain a focus on accountability for the department. She expressed the importance of not making reductions that will result in systems like Child Protective Services and Juvenile Rehabilitation taking on additional work and challenges.

Erica Hallock, Family Impact Network & Ounces Washington, Erica echoed the comments from Laurie Lippold and thanked DCYF for their transparency. She also applauded DCYF for their ability to figure things out quickly during the COVID-19 pandemic. She expressed that the amount of change this system has withstood is incredible, but also urges DCYF to take a look at lessons learned for the future. Erica stated that the June 18<sup>th</sup> Oversight Board meeting will feature the Family Impact Network and the network administrator model which will help with addressing a conversation on lessons learned during these times.

Ray Deck III, Skookum Kids, Ray expressed appreciation for the way the thoughtful way the Oversight Board is approaching the meeting's objective of creating guidance for DCYF budget reduction exercises. Ray encouraged the Oversight Board to consider a budget reduction principle that aims to eliminate duplicated work conducted by DCYF and providers. By reducing duplicated work, such as home visits and licensing background checks, DCYF can increase trust with community organizations.

Jim Theofelis, A Way Home Washington, Jim appreciated the Oversight Board's conversation to develop guiding budget reduction principles. Jim encouraged the Board to be as direct as possible in the development of the principles, to take this opportunity to directly address how systems are built on institutional racism, to ensure youth are housed and remain housed, to ask families what they need in order to keep children and youth safe, and to expend efforts to protect adolescent and young people in the same way we expend efforts to protect toddlers and babies.

## Board Discussion on Developing Budget Principles

The DCYF Oversight Board discussed and created guiding budget principles for DCYF as the department makes decisions to accomplish the 15% budget reduction exercises. The full finalized version of the DCYF Oversight Board's guiding budget principles can be found at [dcyfoversight.wa.gov](http://dcyfoversight.wa.gov) or [here](#).

## **Closing Remarks and Adjourn**

**Adjourned at 12:10 p.m. on Thursday, May 21, 2020**