

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

Thursday, June 18, 2020 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., virtual meeting

Member Attendance: Annie Lee, Ben de Haan, Bobbe Bridge, Charles Loeffler, Diane Liebe, Jeannie Darneille, Katie Biron, Lois Martin, Loni Greninger, Ruth Kagi, Shrounda Selivanoff, Sydney Forrester, Tana Senn, Tom Dent, Wendy Thomas

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

Public in Attendance: Angela Kraemer, *Angela's Family Services*, Cynthia Holliman, *Office of Financial Management*, Dawn Eyechaner, *House of Representatives Staff*, Deb Hood, *Reliable Enterprises*, Erica Hallock, *Family Impact Network*, Frank Ordway, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*, Jaqueline Tutt, *Lorene's Place*, Jill May, *Washington Association for Children and Families*, Julie Dosier, *Caring Hearts Social Services*, Laura Martin, *Snohomish County Public Defense Association*, Laurie Lippold, *Partners for Our Children*, Liz Trautman, *The Mockingbird Society*, Luke Wickham, *House of Representatives Staff*, Michael Althausen, *Washington State Senate Staff*, Michael Heard, *Office of Public Defense*, Naz Qureshi, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*, Nnenna Hill, *Amaris Family Services*, Patrick Dunn, *Thrive Washington*, Patrick Dowd, *Office of the Family & Children Ombuds*, Rayanna Evans, *Office of Financial Management*, Richard Watkins, *Thomas V. Gidden Foundation and Family Impact Network*, Sheila Morley, *Family Impact Network*, Stacia Hollar, *Attorney General's Office*, Steven Grilli, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*, Vickie Ybarra, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*

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.

Tana Senn made a motion to approve the May 21, 2020 meeting minutes. Tom Dent seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Acknowledging and reflecting on the call for racial justice | Co-Chairs

The Co-Chairs commented on the recent protests taking place all over the country in response to the death of George Floyd and provided some time for members to openly comment and reflect on their experiences or thoughts.

A DCYF Oversight Board Subcommittee focused on racial justice will meet between the June and July Board meetings. The first task of the Subcommittee will be to create a draft statement

in support and response to the urgent call for racial justice. The drafted statement will be brought to the July 16 Board meeting for consideration, discussion and potential approval.

What is a Network Administrator? | Steven Grilli, DCYF Director of Child Welfare Programs and Frank Ordway, DCYF Chief of Staff

Steven Grilli provided context and background to the network administrator model in preparation for the day's meeting topic, presentations and provider panel. Frank Ordway provided context for recent budget reduction options DCYF developed in response to the OFM request from all executive branch agencies in May.

Family Impact Network (FIN) | Sheila Morley, Executive Director of the Family Impact Network and Julie Dosier, Caring Hearts Social Services

Sheila Morley presented the history of the network administrator contract that FIN currently holds for DCYF. FIN works with providers who do Family Time (parent-child visitation) services and Combined In-Home Services for Regions 1 and 2 of the state. Sheila provided data on services, discussed relationship building practices and the overall operations of FIN as a network administrator. Sheila was joined by Julie Dosier, a provider from Region 2, who spoke about her experience working with FIN and the benefits of that relationship. Sheila and Julie answered questions from Board members including inquiries on diversity of FIN staff and diversity recruitment techniques for providers, as well as the relationship with local courts and how data on tribes is collected, managed and utilized.

Public Comment

Charles Loeffler, on behalf of Stephanie Grover, DCYF Social Worker: Charles read a statement on behalf of a DCYF social worker from the King West office who could not attend the meeting in person. The statement focused on compassion and support for young people involved in DCYF's system and called on DCYF leadership to work with law enforcement to reduce youth engagement with law enforcement. And to encourage the Department to make commitment to changes now in the climate of the call for racial justice.

Laurie Lippold, Partners for Our Children, Laurie expressed how valuable and important it has been to hear from FIN today. With how much information is coming out it is so important for an organization like FIN to be able to give providers the most current data and information. Laurie also stated that she and a group have been discussion how foster care can be improved. It has operated under a racist structure for years which has led to disproportionality.

Jill May, Washington Association for Children and Families, Jill stated that prevention services need to be provided to parent and child placing agencies. She appreciates FIN and it has been so important during the COVID-19 pandemic to have a system of support from someone who is

tracking all the changes. Jill also encouraged the Oversight Board to meet with agencies privately as many may be fearful of speaking out in a meeting due to potential retaliation.

Provider Panel | Nnenna Hill, Amaris Family Services; Angela Kramer, Angela's Family Services; Jacqueline Tutt, Lorene's Place; and Debi Hood, Reliable Enterprises

Co-chair Ruth Kagi facilitated engagement with the four Family Time providers who represented providers from Regions 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Questions were designed to understand the provider experience (1) with DCYF since its creation in 2018, and (2) if there is a difference in the provider experience from those who work with the network administrator subcontractor model with FIN in Regions 1 and 2, versus the direct contract relationship with DCYF in Regions 3-6.

DCYF Concluding Statements on the Network Administrator Model | Steven Grilli, DCYF Director of Child Welfare Programs

Steve shared what DCYF's plans were moving forward regarding the network administrator model and also direct contracting models. Steve also explained the organizational structure for contracting directly with providers in Regions 3-6.

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Board members reviewed the originally scheduled 2020 calendar of Board topics for the rest of the year, including changes made to in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board approved of the future topics, but specifically requested the July meeting focus on the call for racial justice. The July meeting will include a deep dive into data on racial and ethnic disparities and disproportionality across all DCYF systems of care, as well as an engagement with DCYF to discuss concrete immediate next steps DCYF will take in further pursuit of racial justice now.

Adjourned at 1:33 p.m. on Thursday, June 18, 2020