

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

Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., virtual meeting

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

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

Public in Attendance: Michael Althaus, *Washington State Senate*, Mike Canfield, *Foster Parent Allies of Washington State*, Ray Deck, *Skookum Kids*, Patrick Dowd, *Office of the Family & Children's Ombuds*, Dawn Eychaner, *House of Representatives*, Steven Grilli, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*, Erica Hallock, *Family Impact Network and Ounce Washington*, Jenny Heddin, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*, Stacia Hollar, *Office of the Attorney General*, Cynthia Hollimon, *Office of Financial Management*, LaToya Holmes-Ware, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*, Chen-Chen Jiang, *TeamChild*, Ailey Kato, *Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee*, Rebecca Kelly, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*, Erin Kerrigan, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*, Allison Krutsinger, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*, Sarah LaGrange, *Family Education and Support Services*, Laurie Lippold, *Partners for Our Children*, Erin McCaan, *Legal Counsel for Youth and Children*, Jill Malat, *Office of Civil Legal Aid*, Jill May, *Washington Association for Children & Families*, Alison Mendiola, *Senate Human Services*, Ryan Murrey, *Washington Association of Child Advocate Programs*, Frank Ordway, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*, Jordan Rogers, Nicole Rose, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*, Dae Shogren, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*, Deanna Stewart, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*, Jim Theofelis, *A Way Home Washington*, Liz Trautman, *The Mockingbird Society*, Matt Tremble, *Senate Republican Caucus*, Kendrick Washington, *American Civil Liberties Union*, Luke Wickham, *House of Representatives*, 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.

DCYF COVID19 Agency Updates | Led by Frank Ordway, Director of Government Affairs, and Allison Krutsinger, Deputy Director of Government Affairs

Frank Ordway presented agency-wide updates on the Department's response to COVID-19 including efforts to equip frontline DCYF staff with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) where

needed, the awareness and attention the Department is putting towards tracking the 50% drop in intakes and screened-in intakes due to school closures, and the efforts by the licensing unit to ensure work is moving forward.

Allison Krutsinger provided updates on the impact of the pandemic on the home visiting and early learning environments. Home visiting services are continuing virtually. ESIT services considered in a medical capacity are continuing in person. ECEAP and ECLIPSE services are pivoting to engage families online since classrooms are closed.

Nicole Rose, Director of Eligibility and Provider Supports, discussed the impacts on child care and how DCYF is working with providers to address closures, payments and ensuring care options for essential workers. Some changes include adjustments made to applying for subsidies, waivers for co-payments and flexibility around work requirements for parents.

Steve Grilli, Director of Child Welfare Programs, presented the work underway to support transitioning Family Time to videoconferencing platforms, and providing necessary IT equipment to families in order to comply with the Governor's proclamation. DCYF is tracking how many visits are being provided, but there is an expected delay in data reporting due to the changes underway to ensure children and parents are getting the frequency and duration of their visits through on online platform.

Rebecca Kelly, Juvenile Rehabilitation Senior Manager, discussed the changes occurring at locked down and community facilities to ensure social distancing, while also ensuring youth are able to be outside and have recreation, as well as get treatment services where needed. Providers are continuing to go to facilities to work with youth, but all facilities have monitoring and screening, including the use of thermometer, for anyone entering a facility. Changes to parole services and educational services to ensure support and continuity of services for youth.

Jenny Heddin, Chief Financial Officer, briefing discussed how payments to providers are reflecting previous month's service delivery rates for the time being.

Public Comment

Chen-Chen Kiang, Staff Attorney for TeamChild & Kendrick Washington, American Civil Liberties Union: Chen-Chen and Kendrick discussed a letter submitted on March 23rd to DCYF and co-signed by a coalition of community-based organizations, legal service providers, and stakeholders regarding concerns for juveniles in all Juvenile Rehabilitation facilities in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Erica Hallock, Family Impact Network and Ounce Washington: Erica expressed concerns over the use of federal money and wanted to urge everyone to consider how this money could be used to provide comprehensive care.

Laurie Lippold, Partners for Our Children: Laurie acknowledged the work everyone was doing in response to the pandemic and the quickly changing circumstances. She stated that the Oversight Board needs to hear from providers, family members and kinship caregivers who are doing this work at this time. Currently there is not a clear understanding of what the impact of the communication and the guidance being sent out by the Department and how it is being received and experienced. Decisions cannot come quickly enough. Laurie also acknowledged FIN and their performance during this time of crisis.

DCYF Racial Equity & Social Justice | LaToya Holmes-Ware, EDI Administrator for Juvenile Rehabilitation, and Dae Shogren, Child Welfare LGBTQ+/CSEC/Disproportionality Program Manager

Dae and LaToya introduced DCYF's strategy for developing a Racial Equity Plan to reduce and eliminate disparities and disproportionality across all systems of care under the DCYF umbrella. The DCYF Inclusive Racial Equity Change Team (DIRECT) is currently involved in the discovery and community engagement process of the strategy. Once finished, the Racial Equity Plan will fold into DCYF's Strategic Plan. The team is revisiting the community engagement strategy in light of the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The team has engaged a few existing advisory bodies to start under the current circumstances.

Adjourned at 12:10 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2020