

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

### **Board Meeting Record**

Thursday, July 16, 2020 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., virtual meeting

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

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

**Public in Attendance:** Laurie Lippold, *Partners for Our Children*; Vickie Ybarra, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*; Frank Ordway, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*; Dae Shogren, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*; Evette Jasper, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*; LaToya Holmes-Ware, *Department of Children, Youth, and Families*; Shoshana Wineburg, *YouthCare*; Jason Bragg, *community member*; Ray Deck III, *Skookum Kids*; Stacia Hollar; AGO

*Only public attendees who chose to identify themselves in the chat box during the meeting, or who made public comment, are recorded in the official meeting minutes.*

### **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. Roll call of DCYF Oversight Board members was taken.

Bobbe Bridge made a motion to approve the June 18, 2020 meeting minutes. Ruth Kagi seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

### **Review and discuss DCYF Oversight Board statement in response to call for racial justice | Co-Chairs**

A subcommittee met twice in between the June and July Board meetings to draft a DCYF Oversight Board statement on racial justice. Subcommittee members include Loni Greninger, Lois Martin, Shrounda Selivanoff, Tana Senn and Jeannie Darneille. This draft was presented to the whole Board for discussion. Due to feedback and a request for further edits, the Board decided to hold a special meeting in the following weeks to consider an updated statement for approval. The special meeting will be scheduled for July 27, 2020 from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm.

### **DCYF Data Presentation on racial and ethnic disproportionality and disparities across DCYF systems of care | Dr. Vickie Ybarra, DCYF Director of Innovation, Alignment and Accountability**

Dr. Ybarra presented metrics on racial and ethnic disproportionality throughout DCYF systems of care, including: kindergarten readiness and children served by DCYF early learning programs; child welfare including intakes and removals; and throughout the levels of involvement in juvenile rehabilitation system. Dr. Ybarra took several additional data questions from Board members and will provide a follow up briefing for the Board during the August meeting.

## **DCYF Next Steps in response to the call for racial justice | Frank Ordway, DCYF Chief of Staff; Dae Shogren, RESJ Program Manager; Evette Jasper, RESJ Racial Equity Administrator; LaToya Holmes-Ware, RESJ EDI Administrator**

DCYF announced that the Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) Team – Dae Shogren, LaToya Holmes-Ware, and Evette Jasper – was officially formed as of July 1, 2020. The RESJ Team presented their initial work with the DCYF workforce. Frank Ordway highlighted DCYF's work on removing barriers in the background check process and licensing processes for both foster care and child care. Both areas have had racially disproportionate impacts on applicants. DCYF will provide the Oversight Board with updates on this work as progress continues.

### **Public Comment**

Shoshana Wineburg, YouthCare: Shoshana was encouraged about hearing some of the steps DCYF is taking toward racial equity. One issue she mentioned seeing was the WAC that requires post-secondary credentials for those wanting to work with youth. She stated this WAC was problematic because it does not fall in line with best practices of providing youth facilities with quality workers. She also stated that this WAC disproportionality impacts non-white applicants.

Jason Bragg, community member: Jason stated that it has taken DCYF two years for any kind of reasonable action to take place on their mission to dismantle systemic racism and lay out concrete steps. He also mentioned that DCYF had access to a racial equity tool that had been proposed by the Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee (WSRDAC), but stated that DCYF no longer uses it due to it being too expensive. Jason expressed concern that no other equity tool had replaced it and stated that it shows a lack of commitment to culture change.

Laurie Lippold, Partners for Our Children: Laurie encouraged the Oversight Board and DCYF to look at strategies for when schools go back in session to address the assumed increase of referrals from educators. Laurie mentioned that 90% of all calls by educators are unfounded and are often about neglect due to poverty, not abuse. Yet Laurie acknowledges there are not enough resources to address this issue.

### **Board discussion on DCYF's presentations | Oversight Board**

In response to the DCYF presentations earlier in the meeting, each Board member reported out areas they would like to dig deeper into for better understanding of how certain programs or policies are contributing to racial disproportionality across the systems of care. Staff will work to incorporate these queries into a work plan moving forward.

### **Closing Remarks and Adjourn**

Staff will schedule the special meeting for the Board to review an updated statement on racial justice. Next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 2020 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Zoom.

**Adjourned at 1:17 p.m. on Thursday, July 16, 2020**