

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

Thursday, September 17, 2020 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., virtual meeting

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

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

Public in Attendance: Angelia Maxie, *Tiny Tots Development Center*; Mary Curry, *Pathways Enrichment Academy*; Lisa Conley, *Child Care Resources representing Family, Friend or Neighbors (FFN) Providers*; Luc Jasmin, *Head Start & ECEAP/School Age Care Provider*; Travis Hansen, *DCYF Statewide Licensing Administrator*; Tyler Farmer, *DCYF Policy Program Manager*, Jim Theofelis, *A Way Home Washington*, Erica Hallock, *Family Impact Network and Ounce Washington*, Stacia Hollar, *Attorney General's Office (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 August 20, 2020 meeting minutes. Tana Senn seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

DCYF Child Care Licensing, Regulations and Enforcement Changes Over Time | Travis Hansen, DCYF Statewide Licensing Administrator; Tyler Farmer, DCYF Policy Program Manager

Travis Hansen and Tyler Farmer presented a chronological timeline of changes to DCYF child care licensing, regulations and enforcement efforts. Through stakeholder engagement, DCYF received feedback from providers over time that resulted in a change away from “see it, cite it” approach and towards a technical assistance and mentoring approach to enforcement. DCYF also stated that the Internal Review Board (RCW 43.216.395) is currently available to providers as an appeals option for those who wish to request a further review of a violation issued. Other topics presented included information on emergency licensing and enforcement changes that have happened during the COVID-19 pandemic, and agency request legislation that will make further changes to improve licensing processes for child care and foster care providers.

Provider Panel | Lois Martin (facilitator), Community Day Center for Children; Angelia Maxie, Tiny Tots Development Center; Mary Curry, Pathways Enrichment Academy; Lisa Conley, Child Care Resources representing Family,

Friend or Neighbors (FFN) Providers; Luc Jasmin, Head Start & ECEAP/School Age Care Provider

Board member Lois Martin facilitated a group discussion focusing on child care and early learning with a panel of licensed early learning providers. This discussion focused on changes to DCYF licensing and regulations enforcements over time and also allowed for panelists to discuss changes that have occurred with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public Comment

Jim Theofelis, A Way Home Washington: Jim thanked Lois and the provider panel for their inspiring discussion. Jim pointed out common themes between all providers, as “first responders” – child care providers, foster parents, group home providers – with licensing issues, compensation issues, concerns with retaliation issues for speaking up. Jim identified some key takeaways about common issues that are impacting providers that the Oversight Board should be paying attention to, regardless of system. He encouraged the Oversight Board to look further into issues like licensing to make an impact, as well as encouraged the Oversight Board to reexamine the concept of “oversight” and how work is being done.

Erica Hallock, Family Impact Network; Ounce Washington: Erica thanked the panel and staff for the conversation presented in the meeting. She posed a question regarding how Board meetings can be better broadcasted and marketed for more people to join and know they are occurring. Erica commended the effort to bring in the people who are doing the important work every single day in child care, child welfare and juvenile rehabilitation.

Board Q & A with DCYF Licensing Division Staff | Board Members

As a follow up to DCYF’s presentation at the beginning of the meeting, and the child care provider panel that followed, the Oversight Board had the opportunity to ask DCYF licensing staff follow up questions about any issues or concerns raised by panelists. Additional follow up questions from Board members were also collected after the meeting and sent to DCYF for response. They are included in meeting materials.

Draft DCYF Oversight Board 2020 Annual Report Discussion | Crista Johnson

Crista Johnson showed the Board the first draft version of their 2020 Legislative Report. The Board was given time to review it and then provide feedback for staff to work on the next draft for the October meeting.

Closing Remarks and Adjourn

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2020 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Zoom.

The date of the Oversight Board November meeting has been changed to November 5 from 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. The change of date is to ensure the annual report will be finalized in time to begin the internal approval process with the Governor’s Office for publishing. **Adjourned at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 17, 2020**