

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

## Board Meeting Record

Monday, December 11, 2023, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., virtual meeting & Helen Sommers Building

**Member Attendance:** Ben de Haan, Justice Bobbe Bridge, Sen. Claire Wilson, Danielle Johnson, Dr. Diane Liebe, Sen. Judy Warnick, Katie Biron, Lois Martin, Ruth Kagi, Co-chair Shrounda Selivanoff, Co-chair Rep. Tom Dent

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

**Public in Attendance:** Kristin Lamson, *Office of the Attorney General*, Patrick Meyers, *Office of the Attorney General*,

*Only public attendees who chose to identify themselves 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 1:00 p.m. Co-Chair Representative Dent started the meeting and roll call of DCYF Oversight Board members was taken. The November 17, 2022 meeting minutes were approved.

### Co-Chair Elections | Board

The two-year co-chair term for Representative Dent and Shrounda Selivanoff has come to an end. Following the Board's Bylaws the elected legislative co-chair must switch caucuses every two-year term. Ruth Kagi nominated Senator Wilson as co-chair, Senator Warnick seconded. Approved with a vote of yeas, 8 and abstentions, 3.

Senator Warnick nominated Ben de Haan as community co-chair, Shrounda Selivanoff seconded. Justice Bridge nominated Diane Liebe as community co-chair, Ruth Kagi seconded. Ben de Haan removed himself from consideration. Approved with a vote of yeas, 8 and abstentions, 3.

### DCYF 2023 Organizational and Leadership Update | Frank Ordway, DCYF Deputy Secretary of Operations, Jenny Heddin, DCYF Deputy Secretary/Chief of Staff

Frank and Jenny provided an overview on current DCYF successes and challenges, as well as on the agency's recent restructuring and leadership changes.

### DCYF 2024 Legislative Session Priorities | Allison Krutsinger, DCYF Director of Public Affairs

Allison provided an overview of DCYF's legislative priorities for 2024 with a focus on supporting agency staff and core agency needs, maintaining forward progress toward agency goals, and new legislation needed to implement new laws from 2023-2025.

### Public Comment | Dr. Diane Liebe

**Public Comment:** The following are summaries of public comment participant contributions. To observe full public comment remarks, [please view the meeting recording](#).

Silvia Zarate, foster parent, Silvia stated advocacy for foster parents without a voice and without access to

resources when they are falsely accused of child abuse. Silvia stated that due DCYF's actions she had to go through a lengthy and expensive appeal process for her own case. She concluded that her case ended with her not being charged with anything due to a lack of evidence, and advocates for improved systems to protect the foster parents from going through a similar situation.

**Written Public Comment submissions were received by November 8, 2023, and sent to Board members on November 9, 2023. Please see a summary of them below.**

Lisa Kinzel, Lisa wrote that she has gone through all the proper channels for getting her questions answered regarding her case but has not been getting responses from DCYF or her caseworker. Lisa continues she feels at a loss on where to turn without readily available resources for parents who have had their children removed.

### **Board Discussion | Board**

The board discussed the presentations they heard as well as their priorities for the coming year.

### **Closing Remarks and Adjourn**

The next meeting is being tentatively planned for March 21, 2024 following the completion of the 2024 legislative session.

**Adjourned at 4:00 p.m. on Monday December 11, 2023.**