

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

## Board Retreat Record

Friday, October 18, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., virtual meeting & Helen Sommers Building

**Member Attendance:** Barbara Serrano, Dr. Ben de Haan, Co-Chair Sen. Claire Wilson, Danielle Johnson, Co-Chair Dr. Diane Liebe, Sen. Judy Warnick, Katie Biron, Lois Martin, Ruth Kagi, Rep. Tom Dent

**Staff in Attendance:** Dr. Lyscha Marcynyszyn, *Executive Director* & Nickolaus Colgan, *Administrative Coordinator*

**Note:** There was no public comment at the DCYF Oversight Board retreat because it was a special meeting. Special meetings are held for the purpose of discussing specific topics that are listed on the agenda for the special meeting. This type of meeting is not for general discussion on items outside of the agenda. Although, RCW 42.30.240(1), states that public comment must be taken at or before every regular meeting; it does not extend that requirement to special meetings.

### Welcome, Roll Call, & Opening Remarks

The meeting was called into order at 9:00 a.m. Co-Chairs Senator Claire Wilson and Dr. Diane Liebe welcomed all to the full day retreat. The goals for the day were outlined as:

- Determine the board's (a) purpose and (b) role.
- Determine the board's priorities at this time (knowing that these may change annually).
- Determine *how* the board will achieve these priorities (Next Steps).
- Determine *how* the board will involve stakeholders.

### 1-Minute Bios | Lyscha Marcynyszyn

Each board member and staff provided brief introductions about themselves.

### High Level History of the Board | Representative Tom Dent & Ruth Kagi

The two representatives on the board who helped create DCYF provided background about the initial creation of DCYF and the DCYF Oversight Board as well as the original aims of both.

### Top 5 Takeaways from Individual Board Members Meetings | Lyscha Marcynyszyn

Lyscha provided her top takeaways from her initial meetings with each board member:

- Greater clarity about role and purpose is needed.
- Strengthen the board's oversight functions.
- Prioritize the DCYF workforce at the system level (workload, mental health, staff shortages) as well as the children, youth, and families served.
- Need a strategic plan.
- Increase community involvement.

### Purpose and Role: SWOT Analysis | Lyscha Marcynyszyn & Dr. Diane Liebe

The DCYF Oversight Board reviewed their legislative statute and analyzed it based on its strength, weakness, opportunities, and threats.

### Purpose and Role: Activity #2 | Lyscha Marcynyszyn

The DCYF Oversight Board had a discussion guided by the following questions:

1. Are the 5 takeaways in the statute?

2. After reviewing the “1-pager,” which work activities are we doing? (The DCYF Oversight Board was provided with a 1-pager outlining their stated outcomes, powers and work activities)
3. What is your vision of the board’s purpose?

**Action items/follow up:**

- Seek legislative change to adjust the due date of the annual report from December 1 to March.
- Determine which groups are currently tasked with the same items that the DCYF Oversight Board is tasked with.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes | Lyscha Marcynyszyn**

Lyscha presented the August 28, 2024 meeting minutes for approval. With no edits suggested Katie Biron made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Senator Claire Wilson seconded. With no objections the August 28, 2024 meeting minute were approved.

### **Reflection on DCYF Leadership Team Meeting | Senator Claire Wilson**

On October 15, 2024, DCYF Oversight Board staff and co-chairs met with DCYF leadership. Senator Claire Wilson provided an overview of the discussion regarding collaboration to date and identified areas for improvement moving forward.

**Action items/follow up:**

- Invite DCYF to meetings more frequently for them to provide updates on their work, not just when something happens publicly.

### **Discussion: Current Priorities | Lyscha Marcynyszyn**

The DCYF Oversight Board discussed their current priorities while considering the boards vision and goals, current challenges as well as stakeholder needs.

**Action items/follow up:**

- Update public comment statement to make it clearer that the board and meeting presenters are unable to speak and respond during public comment.
- Develop new member orientation materials because it can be challenging to understand government board procedures.
- Create consistent bi-monthly meeting times while still allowing for some flexibility to accommodate legislative session and the needs of different stakeholders.
- Create a communication plan that identifies ways for the DCYF Oversight Board to communicate updates to stakeholders and the public who are interested.
- Focus on using data about the well-being of DCYF child welfare workers to improve outcomes for both the workers and, in turn, for children, youth, and families, based on research that suggests a positive correlation between the two.

### **Plus-Delta Debriefing Activity | Lyscha Marcynyszyn**

The DCYF Oversight Board provided staff with feedback about what went well during the meeting and areas that could be strengthened for future retreats.

### **Closing Remarks and Adjourn**

Co-Chair Senator Wilson and Dr. Diane Liebe thanked the members for attending. The next board meeting will occur on November 14, 2024. The purpose of the meeting is to review an interim draft of the annual legislative report. **Adjourned at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 18, 2024.**