

## Who are we?

The DCYF Oversight Board was created by HB 1661 in 2017 and was fully formed in March 2019. The Oversight Board is an independent body consisting of up to 21 members housed in the Office of the Governor.

The Oversight Board exists for the purpose of monitoring and ensuring that DCYF achieves the stated outcomes as intended by the legislation, and to ensure that the department complies with administrative acts, relevant statutes, rules, and policies pertaining to early learning, juvenile rehabilitation, juvenile justice, and child and family services.

## Board Co-Chairs:

Senator Claire Wilson  
30<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
&

Dr. Diane Liebe  
Developmental Behavioral  
Pediatrician  
Yakima Valley Farm Workers  
Clinic & Children's Village

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<https://dcyfoversight.wa.gov>

# Department of Children, Youth and Families Oversight Board

## 2024 Annual Legislative Report and Board Overview



### High Level Takeaways from the 2024 Annual Legislative Report

#### DCYF achieved improvements for:

- Increasing the number and proportion of children kindergarten-ready as measured by the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills (WaKIDS) assessment
- Reducing the number of children entering out-of-home care
- Reducing the length of stay in out-of-home care
- Licensing more foster homes than there are children in foster care
- Increasing stability of placements for children in out-of-home care
- Reducing the discharge of youth from institutional settings (i.e., foster care, juvenile rehabilitation, and residential behavioral health) into homelessness

#### This report indicates that improvements are needed for:

- Increasing the available supply of licensed childcare in childcare centers and family homes, including providers not receiving subsidies
- Reducing child and youth maltreatment while in out-of-home care
- Reducing the number of children re-entering out-of-home care within twelve months
- Increasing family reunification
- Reducing future demand for mental health and substance use disorder treatment for youth involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems
- Decreasing the number of youth who commit subsequent crimes after exiting juvenile rehabilitation

*For a detailed breakdown of outcomes including background information, data, and recommendations see the full Legislative Report [here](#).*

### 2025 DCYF Oversight Board Priorities

- Continue to monitor and address disparities across DCYF programs that limit opportunities and success for children and youth.
- Track the trends for outcomes identified in the 2024 Annual Report as “needing improvement” to determine whether these areas are making progress or remain a concern.
- Establish relationships and communication between the Board, DCYF and its new Secretary, and the incoming Governor’s Office.
- Prioritize monitoring adolescent outcomes in light of the agency's continued implementation of JR to 25 and Reentry Supports.
- Review the implementation and early impacts of recent reforms to juvenile rehabilitation facilities.

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