

Department of Children, Youth, and Families Oversight Board Agenda



Date: July 17, 2025 | **Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

In-Person: Helen Sommers Building, Room G020
106 11th Ave SW, Olympia, WA 98501

Zoom: [Link](#) | Meeting ID: 874 6000 5137 | Passcode: 619202

Call-in: 1-253-205-0468 | Meeting ID: 874 6000 5137 | Passcode: 619202

Co-Chairs: Dr. Diane Liebe and Senator Claire Wilson

Staff: Lyscha Marcynyszyn, PhD, *Executive Director* & Nickolaus Colgan, *Administrative Coordinator*

Time	Agenda Topic	Lead
9:00 – 9:15 am (15 mins)	Welcome, Roll Call, & Approval of Meeting Minutes	Co-Chair Senator Wilson and Lyscha Marcynyszyn , Executive Director
9:15 – 10:00 am (45 mins)	Access to Substance Use Disorder Treatment	Sarah Veele, PhD, Director , DCYF Office of Innovation, Alignment & Accountability, Michelle Balcom, MSW , Early Learning Program Manager, Jimmy Vallembois , Substance Use Disorder Program Manager, Ted Ryle, MSW , Juvenile Rehabilitation Clinical Director, Kym Ahrens, MD , Juvenile Rehabilitation Medical Director
10:00 – 10:50 am (50 mins)	DCYF Oversight Board Statute Updates and Themes Discussion	Lyscha Marcynyszyn , Executive Director, Sharon James , Government Compliance and Enforcement, Office of the Attorney General
10:50 – 11:00 am (10 mins)	Annual Report Subcommittee Update	Dr. Ben de Haan , Annual Report Subcommittee Chair
11:00 – 11:20 am (20 mins)	Public Comment Public Comment Statement. The DCYF Oversight Board operates under state law, which outlines its authority and responsibilities RCW43.216 . Specifically, the Board is responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring DCYF's progress toward achieving outcome measures • Ensuring DCYF's compliance with applicable laws and policies • Overseeing DCYF's performance and policies • Offering advice and input to DCYF, the Legislature, and the Governor While the Board may consider information brought to its attention as part of its general oversight and monitoring role, it does not have the authority to investigate, direct, or alter DCYF's decisions in individual cases. Additionally, during public comment periods, neither the Board nor meeting presenters can respond to	Co-Chair Dr. Diane Liebe

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	<p>comments beyond a simple acknowledgment. All public comments related to DCYF will be compiled and sent to DCYF leadership following the board meeting.</p> <p>To respect individuals who may have sensitive stories to share or wish to discuss details of individual cases, we'd like to remind you that the Board is subject to the Open Public Meetings Act. This means our meetings are open to the public, recorded, posted on the Oversight Board's website, and livestreamed on TVW. Written public comments submitted in advance have been sent to the Board members. To ensure everyone has an opportunity to speak, please try to limit your comments to 2-3 minutes.</p>	
11:20 – 11:30 am (10 mins)	Break	
11:30 – 12:20 pm (50 mins)	<u>2025 Office of the Family and Children's Ombuds Report on Child Fatalities and Near Fatalities in Washington State</u>	Patrick Dowd , Director Office of Family and Children's Ombuds
12:20-12:55 pm (35 mins)	DCYF Briefing: 2025 Increase in Critical Incidents and Response	Dr. Vickie Ybarra , Assistant Secretary, Partnership, Prevention, and Services, Dorene Perez , Deputy Secretary of Child Welfare
12:55– 1:00 pm (5 mins)	Closing Remarks and Adjourn	Co-Chair Senator Wilson

Equity Questions to Consider during Discussions:

1. Which underrepresented or underserved groups are impacted, and what are the effects on them?
2. Does this decision exacerbate existing disparities or produce unintended consequences?
3. If yes or uncertain: How have you engaged those affected groups?

Public Comment Process: The DCYF Oversight Board welcomes public comment in two forms: Orally (virtually, telephonically, or in-person) during the allotted time on the agenda, or in writing submitted to Nickolaus.Colgan@gov.wa.gov by end of the day on July 14, 2025. Written public comments will be distributed to Board members via email two days prior to the beginning of the Board meeting to allow for sufficient time for Board members' review. DCYF leadership will receive a summary of public comments from each meeting.