



“Oversight Board 2.0” Updates and Exploration

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Oversight Board 2.0 Exploration: 2024 Events

Understanding impact; continuous quality improvement

- 1:1 Interviews (August, Sept)
- Meeting with all DCYF Leadership, the Co-chairs, Exec Director (Oct)
- In-Person Retreat (Oct)
- Meeting with Advocates
- All-Member Survey (Dec)

Context: 5-Year Mark; New OB Executive Director, and Co-chairs



Oversight Board 2.0 Exploration: 2025 Events

Continuous quality improvement

- Subcommittees Launch: JR Outcomes; Annual Report (February, March)
- Annual Report Subcommittee: Identified a need to revise statute (Spring)
- Listening Session with those involved in DCYF's Creation ("HB 1661 Group," June)
- Statute review
- Ad-hoc Statute Change Committee is launching to (a) study the statute and (b) make recommendations

Context: New DCYF Secretary; Statewide budget deficit; Federal Changes



HB 1661 Listening Session

Objective: “Looking Back to Move Forward”

1. What was the original rationale for “oversight”?
2. Do you feel the Board has been able to carry out its function?
3. What challenges do you see as we move forward?

Specific Themes

1. Board Purpose and Oversight Clarity
2. Legislative Challenges and Opportunities
3. Strategic Focus, Prioritization, and Effectiveness
4. Data, Evaluation, and Accountability
5. Proactive vs. Reactive Interaction with DCYF
6. Engagement and Voice (Internal and External)
7. Priority Area Selected by the Board: Worker Well-being



1. Board Purpose and Oversight Clarity

- Original intent was active oversight with real power, rather than an advisory role.
- Lack of clarity around the definition and execution of oversight.
- The board has broader authority than it has historically used. Examples:
 - Can receive reports from OFCO and access relevant records;
 - Can request and receive information, outcome data, documents, and records from DCYF.



2. Legislative Challenges and Opportunities

- Original legislation was overly prescriptive, limiting flexibility.
- Need to revise the statute to allow adaptability and clearer focus.
- Need to define the Board's unique value relative to other bodies.



3. Strategic Focus, Prioritization, and Effectiveness

- **Focus on Fewer, High-Impact Priorities.** Narrow goals to a manageable set of high-value areas to maximize effectiveness and avoid dilution of effort.
- **Use Subcommittees Strategically.** Subcommittees can help the Board accomplish more within its capacity by advancing work on prioritized issues.
- **Targeted Oversight for Greater Impact.** Well-focused oversight efforts can improve agency performance and potentially reduce state costs.

4. Data, Evaluation, and Accountability

- Opportunities to improve the consistency of data sharing between OIAA and the board.
- Greater collaboration with OIAA, courts, and others could enhance insight.
- Surveys seem to be under-utilized and need better design/use*
- Limited board staffing (e.g., agency of two) constrains the ability to conduct surveys, stakeholder engagement, etc.



5. Proactive vs. Reactive Interactions with DCYF

- Tendency to engage with DCYF post-crisis is counterproductive.
- Need for proactive engagement to influence decisions early.
- DCYF's challenge to meet key obligations (e.g., FFPSA data) has major consequences.

6. Engagement and Voice (Internal and External)

- Gaps in incorporating the voices of youth, those with lived experience, and community input.
- Need stronger partnerships with stakeholders, unions, and the Governor's Office.

7. Priority Area Selected by the Board: Worker Well-being

- Workforce issues at DCYF seem critical and persistent.
- Opportunity to make a meaningful impact in workforce turnover and retention to promote better outcomes for children, youth, and families.

Overarching Themes Summary

→ Purpose

→ Prioritization

→ Effectiveness



Statute Overview

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Mission

The Board is authorized for the purpose of monitoring and ensuring that DCYF achieves the stated outcomes, and complies with administrative acts, relevant statutes, rules, and policies pertaining to early learning, juvenile rehabilitation, juvenile justice, and children and family services.

[\(RCW 43.216.015\)](#).



Stated Outcomes

1. Reducing racial and ethnic disproportionality and disparities;
2. Improving child development and school readiness through voluntary, high quality early learning opportunities;
3. Preventing child abuse and neglect;
4. Improving child and youth safety, permanency, and well-being;
5. Improving reconciliation of children and youth with their families;
6. Improving adolescent outcomes;
7. Reducing future demand for mental health and substance use disorder treatment; and
8. Reducing criminal justice involvement and recidivism.



Powers

1. **General Oversight:** Provide oversight of the DCYF's performance and policies and offer advice to them and The Governor's Office.
2. **Information Access:** Can request and receive information, outcome data, documents, materials, and records from DCYF.
3. **Performance Evaluation:** Assess whether DCYF meets its performance measures for stated outcomes, with metrics by family income, race, and ethnicity.
4. **Reports and Records:** Can receive reports from OFCO and access relevant records, barring legal prohibitions.
5. **Investigations:** Can request investigations by the ombuds into administrative acts.
6. **Contract Reviews:** Conduct annual reviews of DCYF's service contracts (including contract measures) to ensure they are performance-based.
7. **Service Delivery Assessment:** Review surveys and may conduct additional surveys to evaluate the effectiveness of the department's services.
8. **Licensing Reviews** (related to childcare facility licensing).
9. **Officer Selection and Rules:** Have the authority to select officers and adopt procedural rules (bylaws).





Thank you!

Questions Welcome.

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