



Family Separation Response Task Force Meeting #7

June 17, 2025 | 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | HYBRID
1500 Jefferson St. Olympia | Room 2208

Meeting Minutes

Overview

- Numerous changes in the immigration landscape were discussed along with their implications, including the elimination of automatic consideration of deferred action for individuals with Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) status.
- The Rapid Response Team discussed news reports that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services shared Medicaid client data it had received from the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) with the Department of Homeland Security.
- Community Partners discussed and clarified their recommendations, building on previous presentations to the body.
- Agencies discussed potential Decision Packages. The Rapid Response Team discussed collecting recommendations, Decision Package updates, and other immigration-related asks into an “Items To Watch” document for the 2026 legislative session.

Introductions and Task Force Updates

introduction

- Nathan Bays Federal Policy Lead (GOV): This has been a particularly painful and difficult week. Everything from the travel ban, to the firing of the CDC Vaccine Panel, the federal withdrawal from Columbia River Basin Agreement, violence in Minnesota against legislators, and continues escalation of aggressive immigration enforcement, and cuts to critical programs. With that, heartening to see folks here coming together to work for the good of all Washingtonians.

Florida Child Welfare Data Sharing

- Sec Senn: We saw the news that FL Child Welfare Agency has given data and cooperation through ICE. DCYF in accordance with KWW does not give information to ICE without court order or Judicial warrant- reiterate to caregivers this week this information and support for them. We are appalled by what happening in FL and remain committed to protecting youth in our care and following state and Federal law.
 - Parents could sign release of information- ex: parents release the name of



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information of a guardian- but DCYF has not received requests to share information from ICE so far.

Medicaid Data Breach:

- Grace Huang (GOV): Update on Medicaid data breach: State Medicaid system is reimbursed by Federal dollars through a regular system where the state provides data to CMS and HHS on who is accessing Medicaid – including Emergency Medicaid. Includes undocumented people as well as those who may have been eligible for emergency Medicaid in the past. CMS was ordered by the Secretary to turn their information over to ICE- CA, WA, DC, and IL. Looking at what can be done in that context, but for future reports that are being submitted- folks who were not getting Federal payment were not reported in those divisions, but in the past that would have been included. Has provider information as well as types of services accessed. Includes all of us who may have accessed Medicaid as well as all state employees. Still trying to figure out the breadth and what to do to challenge information sharing. Challenges as it relates to insurance broadly and sharing medical information.
- Kathleen Donlin HCA- state will stop sharing medical information for Apple Health programs except for those that do receive Federal funding. That information has been shared for years, however.
- Grace- Next step- notification, but also need to coordinate with other states that are impacted. If there is a need for coordination, feel free to send it through and will have a request for any information on what is needed from state agencies.

Licensing Update:

- DCYF Licensing: Lots of licensing requirements for any facilities that serve kids. We license facilities that are in the care and custody of DCYF- or those that have a contract with DCYF. Also license facilities for children who are receiving services through DDA and private pay facilities too. DCYF does not have any authority over Federal facilities.

Change in SIJs Visa

Rebekah and Roxana- KIND and LCYC

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status- children and youth under age 21 who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected a pathway to permanent residence (green card). Because of the way Government allocates green cards, often there is a 3-5 year wait between when they get the visa and when they get a green card. In 2022, the government DHS created a program called Deferred Action for Juveniles- immigration officials defer enforcement for certain categories of individuals- protection from deportation, and the ability to work. Juveniles have been given that protection while they wait for their green card, but that program has been terminated as of last week. This makes youth and young adults up to age 24 more vulnerable to immigration enforcement including deportation and detention. 100s of people effected in WA- because such



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a long waiting period there are many kids who are waiting to become eligible to apply for a green card. KIND on their own has 100s, and NWIRP probably has 100s too.

Kids who fall into that category have already filed the Visa application so are already known to immigration authorities, so on the radar of officials without any of the protections. This is a devastating policy change.

Statutory basis for the SIJ visa remains unchanged- just that the protection for those that are waiting to become eligible for the Lawful Permanent Resident card.

There is indication that there will be litigation.

Mariah NWIRP- We've already seen judges in immigration court change their approach, cases are not being closed—already seeing youth be deported rather than having their cases closed pending the waiting period for permanent status.

One of the main concerns is that youth specifically will be persecuted as they do not have permanent status, already seeing kids be removed even though they have the visa granted.

Congress intended to provide protection for kids who have experienced abuse and neglect for permanent residency- but kids across the spectrum who have the visa are now vulnerable for this enforcement. There are adjudicators who believe that children who have this status should be able to remain in the US while pending green card, and those that do not agree.

LCYC- All youth who have SIJS and are waiting in line are vulnerable to being deported, turned over information to the Federal government whether in removals or not. Immigration attorneys can look at every child with SIJS to see if another form of relief they can apply for- ex: teen visa, asylum, but would take an immigration attorney to apply for that.

Closed Session: Coordination on Decision Packages and Recommendations Discussion

PARTICIPANTS (48)

Name	Agency/Org
Brittany Lenihan	DCYF
Cacey Hanauer-Sutton	COM
Carrie Wayno (DCYF AAG)	AGO
Cassie Anderson	DCYF OTR
Chach Duarte White	LCYC
Claire Wilson, Sen	LEG
Danica Sessions	DCYC



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Allison Krutsinger	DCYF
Theresa Brooks	DCYF
Sara Games	DCYF
Dorene Perez	DCYF
Elsy Cruz	DCYF OTR
Emily Arneson	DCYF
Enoka Herat	AGO
Erin Okuno	Edu Ombuds
Ivone Guillen	DCYF
Jasmine Matheson	DOH
Jessica Spencer	DCYF
Joel Anderson	WSAC
Kathleen Donlin	HCA
Kelly Warner-King	AOC
Laura Lindstrand	DCYF
Lillian Ferraz	DCYF
Mara Eaton	CCS
Mariah Ferraz	NWIRP
Marleny Silva Velarde	WAISN
Matt Judge	DCYF
Megan Matthews	EQUITY
Michael Althausen	LEG
Molly Daggett	DSHS ORIA
Pamela Davis	DCYF
Pat McGregor	WSP
Rebecca Taylor	DCYF
Rebekah Fletcher	KIND
Cary Retlin	COM
Rhea Yo	LCYC
Sara Robbins	OCLA
Sarah Peterson	DSHS-ORIA
Susan Lathrop	OSPI
Trishia Benshoof	DCYF
Zack Turner	PESB
Allison Krutsinger	DCYF
Maria Singuenza	CHA
Carla Reyes	DSHS
Elysia Ruvinsky	OPD
Nam Nguyen	CAPAA
Jarell Sanders	DCYF
Barbara Serrano	DSHS

