



Washington State Department of **CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

Home Visiting Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2025 -9:00am-11:30am

Virtual Meeting

Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols and Introductions

DCYF Home Visiting Policy and Systems Manager, Nelly Mbajah, welcomed attendees and initiated introductions.

- [HVAC Slides](#)

Program Expansion Update

DCYF Home Visiting Policy and Systems Manager, Nelly Mbajah and Home Visiting Practice and Implementation Manager, Rene Toolson provided updates on SB 6109 and General Fund State (GFS) Slot Expansion.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DCYF has created contracts review team and each contract goes through this review team before it's approved. At least 2 attempts were attempted for the service portion of SB 6109 and unfortunately it didn't work out. Also, we suggested Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) funding for training for SB 6109. We wanted to ensure we were responsive to the requests.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A concern about SB 6109 is to stay in model fidelity while working with families. This is being actively worked on and there may be potential model fidelity revision from Parents as Teachers (PAT).
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Workforce Subcommittee Update

DCYF Home Visiting Workforce Specialist, Nina Evers provides an update on Home Visiting Service Account (HVSA)- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) procurement and 2025 workforce subcommittee updates.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The convening of large groups is fear evoking for families and a target spot. We shifted and canceled (rethinking about planning, and sources). We pivoted and found a virtual training that can also host group connections via Zoom. We shared an email that protection care is a priority in these moments of fears.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Thank you for sharing, that's amazing and a quick pivot.• There's uncertainty about a grant that was awarded, and our community is struggling. We have a large immigrant community;
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	<p>we're meeting with local law enforcement to understand their partnership. A notary meeting in the event children are left behind.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Thank you for sharing, it's a difficult time. There's an expectation for us to have the answer (when not readily available or dealing with changing). We're doing the best we can.• For our domestic violence advocacy programs who are supporting immigrant and refugee families - lots of safety planning for children at school, for parents who may be separated from their children. More phone calls for getting together and bringing small groups together to share info with community members/families.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Thank you for sharing.• We are trying hard not to provide feelings of safety, when we cannot ensure that to be true.• Gov. Ferguson has created a Family Separation Response Task Force to support refugees and immigrants and recommendations will be shared. More information to come on the website.• Agreed! Been thinking about data collection and family/child protect at King County as well. Like what many shared about concern for groups, getting resources and information out to providers/families, taking care with what we can guarantee and what can change, and providing as much flexibility as we can for programs to pivot to meet emergent needs.• My staff has expressed appreciation for the work DCYF is doing with the group tackling these issues.
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Rates Setting Update

DCYF Home Visiting Practice and Implementation Manager, Rene Toolson provided updates on upcoming rate setting updates.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our plan is to ask for MIECHV funding for rates. We've hired a consultant to help review funding processes and await their report and will make those adjustments.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ We have been exploring Family Prevention Services Act (FPSA), there are MIECHV grantees who have tapped into the FPSA drawdown as well.• Which organizations or models have transitioned to rate setting and updates on the legislature?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The legislature update is dependent on the holding pattern. The organizations are: Community Doula Outreach, Family Spirit and Parent Child Plus have transitioned to the rate setting model. We're in a weird implementation phase and still learning the positive and negatives.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Do you see the rates changing in the current contract?<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Probably not, but I can't say for sure.• The past year I've noticed the difficulty in staff participation in programming. Are you seeing unusual attrition?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Higher attrition rates due to workforce. Staff not returning after maternity leave.• We're all involved in different contracts across the state/DCYF. How is that going with communications and support in the workforce?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The bilingual workforce is highly stressed, some families are making plans for leaving, first mom and child duo is leaving next week, dad will stay here for now to work, others to follow.○ I think we have seen for quite a few years that caseload, overall workload, and unprecedented circumstances have impacted on the ability of the workforce to participate in training and professional development.○ We have already heard about families not opening doors and not making cell phone contact. We have also heard concerns
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	<p>about the workforce, especially those with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). As well as the double burden of holding your own families' concerns alongside your caseloads.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ We have this as well. We also are having families decline to have a shadow visit or additional folks attend any visits.▪ I have heard from several program supervisors that families are hesitant to accept referrals to outside orgs, early interventions, etc.
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Legislative Update

Start Early Director of Policy Erica Hallock provided updates on upcoming legislative priorities, DCYF request legislation and any governor updates.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We're entering a \$12 billion budget deficit (4 years facing) and entering a state and federal budget level crisis.• Caseloads are flat, which is good from a budgeting standpoint.• Budget writers are preparing for significant budget cuts. State agencies are required to submit a 6% budget revision proposal (except for higher education- 3%).• DCYF is asked to prepare a \$300 million (estimated) revision, a bulk will come from early learning. The last resort is cutting services-funding to vulnerable families.• Something I have been thinking about is if there are ways (like Nelly clarified a bit above) to clarify what can be done federally vs. state vs. county -- so folks know what they can look for direct impacts on them, how and when.• We appreciate all your efforts for the HVSA.• Thank you so much Erica, your updates are so critical and help us all to better understand the broader context,• I appreciate everyone's holding tight to relationships, families and each other.
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HVAC Budget and Co-Chair Update

DCYF Home Visiting Policy and Systems Manager, Nelly Mbajah provided updates on State and Federal budgets and HVAC Co-Chair updates.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MIECHV funding is extended until 2026.• The goal is for the co-chairs to step in for the April meeting.
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Closing Remarks/Adjourn

Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you have any questions or additional feedback, feel free to reach out to Nelly Mbajah (nelly.mbahaj@dcyf.wa.gov).• The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2025, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
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