



**Parent Advisory Group (PAG)**  
**Meeting Minutes**

May 18, 2022- 7:00pm to 8:30 pm  
Virtual Meeting

**Welcome, Introductions, and Sharing Success & Accomplishments**

DCYF Community Engagement Manager, Emily Morgan, welcomed attendees and initiated introductions. Members introduced themselves and shared updates and successes with fellow members.

**Organizational License Pilot Program**

DCYF Organizational License Pilot Program Manager, Michelle Balcom, provided a presentation on the Organizational License Pilot for child care providers.

- [Organizational License Pilot Presentation](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is this project licensing multiple sites at one time, and how would this be done? What would streamlining the licensure process and oversight of the organization look like?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes, this does include multiple sites. The program receives Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) funding and with that comes certain requirements. One of those requirements includes an annual onsite inspection. All sites will continue to be licensed individually.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Regulatory items, such as Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), do not have to be monitored in person?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Correct, those items do not have to be physically seen.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• To clarify, childcare has always been a problem, however, it was highlighted by the pandemic?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes, that is correct. And by doing this collaborative work, we have identified things that could possibly be implemented in the future, such as possible licensing changes statewide.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Will this help with finding/training/opening more childcares who are of good quality that take foster kids?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes. We are involved with the Dual Licensing project, which works specifically with family home providers and child care providers at the family home level. The Organizational License Pilot Program is only for center and school age programs. We have had interest from the Child Placing Agency (CPA) asking how they could fit into this model.                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We adopted our son and our biggest mentor is the director of the child care facility that he used to go to when he was in foster care. She is still a big support, and I cannot speak highly enough of individuals in those roles.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you would like be involved in the observer group, please contact Michelle Balcom at <a href="mailto:michelle.balcom@dcyf.wa.gov">michelle.balcom@dcyf.wa.gov</a>.</li> <li>• Information for the next observer group meeting will be included in the follow up email.</li> </ul>

**In-Person Meeting Q&A**

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the date for the in-person meeting?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tuesday, July 12, and the meeting is tentatively scheduled from 9:00am-4:00pm.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If we want to attend the meeting virtually, can we pop in and out?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There will be presentations and activities scheduled throughout the reserved time, however, we understand that it is a long meeting time to be sitting in front of a</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
-------------------	---



computer. The agenda will be sent out ahead of time to help with your scheduling purposes.

- Where is the meeting being held?
  - The details are still being finalized. We will send out the finalized information within the next week or two. The meeting will be within the vicinity of SeaTac Airport.
- I remember from past meetings that the parents had separate meetings before the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) meeting the following day. Will this be the same structure?
  - No, for this meeting it will only be PAG members. DCYF staff presenting and Community Engagement members.
- How many people will be there?
  - Based on responses from the survey so far, between 15-20 individuals, however, there are about 8 individuals who still need to complete the survey.
- Any topics that would be helpful to discuss during the meeting? You can also think about it and let us know at a later time.
  - Would love to hear what the state is doing to combat maternal health, in regard to African American women. The numbers are scary - how are we being proactive?
  - Are you ok if we reach out to gather more information on that? We might need to reach out to Public Health?
    - Yes.
    - Okay, we will do that.
- I would like to know more about maternal drug use. The states foster care numbers are down immensely, so wonderful things are being done, however, there is a cost to that. Children coming into care have higher needs because they are staying in unsafe situations longer than needed. I would love to learn more about substance exposure to babies in utero, and that process is being supported.
  - Regarding babies in utero, Washington State Law states that, Child Protective Services (CPS) cannot intervene until the baby is born. Washington State is working with Plan of Safe Care around that concern. We have a contract with First Legal Clinic in Holmes County for Region 3 regarding screened out intakes getting directly connected to attorneys, pro bono. The attorneys will then connect the parents to services as needed, but will also represent the parents if CPS does become involved once the child is born. Further information regarding the First Legal Clinic can be found [here](#).
- Regarding concerns for children in foster care, I have been hearing that a lot of kids are going home to unsafe situations. For example, I recently heard that as long as there is one safe parent (such as one parent using drugs at night while the other uses during the day), the child will be returned home. That situation still sounds extremely unsafe.
- We are hearing so many scary things and with potential legislative changes coming in July, this causes more concern. Would like to hear what is being done to protect children.
  - To expand on that, I am also hearing that there is a focus on what is good for the parent(s), when the focus should be on what is good for the child(ren).
- The move to largely unsupervised visits is nerve-wracking when considering the cases of persistent abuse and how to protect these kids, emotionally as well as physically. But I also recognize that there are many parents who are able to have safe unsupervised visits and should definitely be given that bonding time.
- Thank you everyone for this feedback. We are taking notes and will work on putting an agenda together with these topics in mind. We will work on having a legislative update at the next meeting.



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

<b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Community Engagement Team will be reaching out to members who have not completed the Travel RSVP and Planning survey.</li><li>• The Community Engagement Team will be reaching out to members who have completed the survey for further travel details.</li></ul>
-----------------------------	---

**2022 Meetings, Closing Remarks and Adjourn**

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The next meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2022.</li></ul>
<b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Please reach out to the Community Engagement Team (<a href="mailto:dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov">dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov</a>) with any agenda topics.</li></ul>