



Home Visiting Advisory Committee (HVAC)

Date: April 12, 2025

Time: 9:00 am to 12:30pm

Meeting Minutes

Welcome, Meeting Protocols and Introductions

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

Legislative Update

Start Early Washington Director of Policy and Advocacy, Erica Hallock, and DCYF, Senior Policy Advisor, Julie Watts provided an update on the status of the state budget and home visiting.

- The underspent funds may not truly be underspent. It can be frustrating for the work that we are trying to do.
 - It is unfortunate, and not surprising. The legislature was looking anywhere to save money with the \$6 billion budget cuts. DCYF took cuts in other areas of “underspend” as well. This was a legislative approach.
- Is there a dollar amount connected to the 10% reduction for cannabis funds?
 - 10% is a flat rate reduction, a \$230,000 reduction.
 - Of the general fund dollars, \$1.5 million in reductions over the biennium total \$3 million.
- Is there a dollar amount connected to the 6% increase with the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) funding?
 - 6% increase for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 23 and 24. Dedicated Cannabis Account (DCA): SY25 \$2,434,000, FY26 \$2,190,500 & FY27 \$2,190.

Home Visiting Savings Account (HVSA) Budget Update

DCYF Strengthening Families Washington Administrator, Laura Alfani, and Home Visiting Policy and Systems Manager, Nelly Mbajah, provided updates on various programs.

- That is so sad for the community to lose 3 organizations doing this important work!
- For the 3 programs that closed, were their clients referred to other programs?
 - This is a sad loss. We’re exploring where those families from these programs can be referred to. One program is in the Spokane and Walla Walla area, and they both lost a lot of slots. Spokane does have some slots in the area and can make the Early Head Start referrals. The other program is in the Mt. Vernon/Skagit communities, and we looked at sister programs in Whatcom or North county that could serve them, and connections weren’t made. We do follow up, and there are gaps now in the communities. We do have other programming, though in Spokane we have a nurse family partnership (NFP), and we also have the early head start home.



Home Visiting Advisory Committee (HVAC)

- MIECHVI funded sites see partial funding increases, does that mean Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has approved these rates?
 - HRSA has not approved these rates, we're using a rates informed budgeting approach.
- This is a tough situation, and these decisions were challenging. Thank you from our team, we're all appreciative of the care and consideration that went into this decision making.
- Are dollars going to become available in other ways?
 - The funding has been redistributed to the Local Implementing Agencies (LIAs).
 - I suspect that this approach has reduced the potential for other programs closing in the near future.
- Question about "availability of dollars". If there's 3 agencies who aren't going to be providing services, then those dollars are going to become available in other ways?
 - The availability of funds is basically within the funding resources that exist within each HVSA. The funding has been redistributed to LIAs and reabsorbed back into the budget and back out to programs.
 - So, have those already been pushed out?
 - Yes
 - Because is that a way we could have underspend again?
 - If we did not do that, yes it would be. But it wouldn't impact the general funding state (GFS) dollars. The underspend that the legislature was looking at was from the GFS dollars. So, that one program that had substantial GFS dollars has been considered as part of that reduction.
- And in the past, we have come to HVAC when a program has closed and talked about what the options are. With those 3 programs, we moved with absorbing them because in our perspective we have so many programs that are operating on margins right now. We felt like that would have just delayed the process for maybe redistributing dollars to programs that need needed it.

Updates

DCYF, Home Visiting Workforce Specialist, Nina Evers and Department of Health (DOH), Senior Epidemiologist, Martha Skiles provided subcommittee updates to help prioritize subcommittee activities for the new fiscal year.

Closing Remarks/Adjourn

- If you have any questions or additional feedback, feel free to reach out to Nelly Mbajah (nelly.mbahaj@dcyf.wa.gov).
- The next HVAC meeting is Thursday, July 17th, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Meeting slides, recordings and more information can be found on the [HVAC Webpage](#).