



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Parent Advisory Group (PAG)

Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2022 – 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols and Introductions

DCYF Deputy Director of Community Engagement Deanna Stewart welcomed attendees and initiated introductions. Members introduced themselves and shared updates and successes with fellow members.

Fair Start for Kids Act (FSKA) Temporary Licensing Subcommittee (TLS) Update

DCYF Community Engagement Manager Emily Morgan provided an overview of the purpose of the FSKA TLS. Parents then provided feedback on recommendations developed, thus far, that relate to parents.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regarding the increased translation and language access, will more languages be added, or will more translators be added to the languages we already have?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ At this time, not all licensing materials or webinars are translated or have live interpreters in Spanish and Somali, so this recommendation is in response to that.• Is this what the providers are getting as far as instructions for applying for grants?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Yes, that could be part of it, however, it can also include anything released from the licensing division. Some materials are released in English, Spanish and Somali, but it is not standard for all communication.• How is it handled if a parent needs sign language as a form of communication?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Such as parents who are seeking services or child care?○ Yes. This looks like written communication. What if written communication is not the best form of communication for the individual?<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Thank you for that. Some Somali providers would prefer verbal interpretation. Reading translated materials in Somali is not the preferred form of communication, so it depends on the team you are dealing with in regard to translation/interpretation. The goal of the recommendations is to make language access easier.• The video seems to be the preferred communication method right now. Are other communication methods being explored?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ This recommendation came about because many of the DCYF webinars from the licensing division are only in English. Providers whose primary language is not English do not necessarily have access to those webinars.• I would recommend that there be a process where providers who don't speak any of those specified languages can request translated information and documents that the state will provide.• The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) would require the state to provide information and webinars to accommodate disabilities, like ASL or braille options?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Yes, you can request it, but many people are not aware of this, so this recommendation is an attempt to get ahead of this barrier.• Which part of a Child Protective Services (CPS) report would be redacted?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Typically, redaction would include identifying information.• I find it interesting that the title is looking at overregulation, but when you look at the applied strategy, it's about money/budget. Need to look at the essentials behind it.
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- Thank you for that. There are others under this title. We pulled ones directly related to parents and included this one because providers mentioned the cost trickles down to families.
 - Just because something isn't funded doesn't mean it isn't necessary
 - I'm generally of the mindset that there should be more training for providers.
- Are providers notified of licensing visits to their facilities?
 - At this time, monitoring visits are unannounced. Providers are asking for a window of time for the visits to take place, but not asking for the exact day/time of the monitoring visit.
 - They should stay completely unannounced.
 - As a parent, this is a no.
 - I agree- I don't think they should have a "heads up." They should always be ready
 - There should be announced & unannounced Checks. When you have unannounced they are unprepared which can provide insight
 - It's a business. Unannounced visits happen in other industries
 - If the concern is being on vacation etc., language should be added so that they can call and request blackout days for times they will not be at their site.
- What is Child Care Check?
 - Child Care Check is a website to help parents find child care. It provides detailed information about the child care organization (capacity, any founded violations, complaints, etc.). Part of this recommendation is to not include all staff's full names.
 - I want every staff member to be listed. I want to know who is working with my child.
 - So many other jobs list their staff members, and we're talking about people working with a very vulnerable population
 - Staff at our hospital have the option of only having first names on our name badge, for safety concerns. Maybe there could be some protection for staff.
 - I see both sides
 - From a teacher's perspective, lots of us have abbreviated names on our social media since our whole names are listed on the district website. This way families can't find us as easily.
- So, providers won't be held accountable for their staff's behavior under this recommendation?
 - Not necessarily. Currently, violations are attached to the child care organization, not the employee. Providers are recommending that the violation follow the employee instead of the organization, so if the organization lets the employee go/takes action regarding the violation it would not be tied to the child care, but to the employee who committed the violation.
- I would like to know if an agency is hiring employees with several violations.
 - Providers are saying that they would let the person go if there was a violation against them, but the facility holds that complaint. So if the worker goes to another facility, the violation would not follow them.
- Why doesn't the violation get attached to their record when they move centers or jobs? Wouldn't this information get pulled as part of a background check?
 - This is if they violate licensing rules. It would not go on the background check unless there was a founded finding of abuse or neglect.
- Violations should be tied to both the facility and the employee.
 - I agree
 - As a parent, allegations get the same treatment as conviction



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- Is the recommendation stating that individuals who accept subsidies should have different requirements?
 - That is correct
 - I think all children deserve educated teachers.
- Who will this benefit primarily? What type of facilities? Who gets let out of the training?
 - If by benefit, you mean to have less requirements, that would be organizations that only accept private pay.
- And what population of kids do those facilities serve? Wealthy families?
 - Yes, families who are able to cover private pay.
- Wouldn't that encourage more daycares/facilities to not take families who use subsidy, so that would be less opportunity for individuals that need subsidized child care?
 - Correct, and that has been one of the disagreements with this recommendation, that it might incentivize providers to turn away certain families.
- Thinking about the larger outcome. What is the minimum standard that we are wanting to establish? If a certain group is exempt, what's the minimum standard for our children?
 - That's a great point, and it looks like there is consensus from this group that parents do not support this recommendation.
 - Yes, it is already difficult to find childcare with a subsidy.
- Regarding the recommendation that feedback be available, available to whom?
 - To the public, particularly to the individuals who made the feedback.
 - A good example of this would be these meetings. This group is providing feedback to DCYF, so there needs to be accountability in regard to how that feedback is being used.
 - If people are going to take their time to provide feedback, the state should, at least, take the time to provide that explanation.
 - Love more accountability of DCYF on decision making.
 - People providing feedback are volunteering their time, effort, and experience. Feedback sessions should be compensated. But, if they are not, the very least that can be done is that the action (or inaction) following feedback is described

2022 Meetings, Closing Remarks, and Adjourn

Discussion

- The next meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2022.