



## Parent Advisory Group (PAG)

### Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2023 - 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

#### Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols and Introductions

DCYF Community Engagement Manager, Emily Morgan, welcomed attendees and initiated introductions.

- [PAG Proposed Community Agreements](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I'm interested in the changes to the caregiver report to court that were recently made. I'm curious how those changes came about and who got to make those decisions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For more information on this, please reach out to <a href="mailto:Geene.Delaplane@dcyf.wa.gov">Geene.Delaplane@dcyf.wa.gov</a>. We are working on scheduling a future agenda topic around this.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• I'd love to find a way for DCYF to have a better understanding of kids who are not "normal"/twice exceptional (developmentally, medically, behaviorally, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We need to look at how to educate people at DCYF instead of just going to individual parents.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Regarding the proposed community agreements, are these the full list of suggestions or a shortened list? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This is the full list taken from the August 11 in-person meeting. We did not want to consolidate or take any out without showing the full survey results to the group. This will be done in November.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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#### Government Affairs

DCYF Government Affairs Advisor, Stephanie Budrus provided an update to submitted Decision Packages (DP) and Agency Request Legislation (ARL) and preparing for the 2024 Legislative Session.

- [2024 Legislative Session Presentation](#)

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The submitted Decision Packages can be found on the <a href="#">Government Affairs webpage</a>.</li> <li>• What age does extended foster care go up to? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The goal is to create successful transitions to adulthood so it must be aimed at the high teens as they age out.</li> <li>○ Extended Foster Care (EFC) is a voluntary program that offers dependent youth the option of remaining in care until age 21 to support a successful transition to independence.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Regarding the <a href="#">Making Child Care Work for Families Decision Package</a>, how does this compare to last year's package? I'm curious if they reworked the fiscal note on that. It was on the table last year and it didn't pass because it was going to cost so much. Does that mean the money has been lowered? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Twelve million dollars sounds like a lot of money to support 1,500 kids. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ So that's specifically for that one component of the ask. The participation in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and Head Start as an approved activity for Working Connections. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• So, the twelve million is for all of those components? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes, it is for all of the ask including the staffing to support these programs.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Educate parents so they can leverage that funding. That will be important.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If I understand correctly, DCYF submits the decision package to the governor for his budget - but we can still do advocacy with our local representatives because they need to know</li> </ul> </li></ul>
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	<p>why this is important. Do they have to pass bills also or do they just have to agree with the governor's budget?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The legislators don't have to agree with the governor's budget. As a state agency we are constrained by what the governor decides to put in his budget. This is basically what we're asking him for and then he'll make decisions, yes or no, scale them back, or choose not to do some of our priorities. Then we are mostly limited to doing education around the things he has given us authorization to move forward on. However, we share these packages with you because it's important to see the full range and scope of our asks for the legislative session. The local legislators can introduce amendments and advocate for things that either are or are not in their ideal budgets. All of those negotiations will happen near the end of the legislative session.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The <a href="#">session calendar</a> will be posted online once the dates are set.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Next Steps/Follow Up</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please reach out to <a href="mailto:stephanie.budrus@dcyf.wa.gov">stephanie.budrus@dcyf.wa.gov</a> or <a href="mailto:dcyf.govaffairs@dcyf.wa.gov">dcyf.govaffairs@dcyf.wa.gov</a> with any follow-up questions.</li> </ul>

**PAG ELAC Seat**

Members discussed and voted on two members to represent PAG on the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC).

- [ELAC Charter](#)

<p><b>Discussion</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christianna Clinton and Shereese Rhodes are the current PAG members sitting on ELAC. They are both interested in continuing, however this recruitment needs to be opened up every two years and be voted on by PAG members.</li> <li>• Will we get one vote and then you will elevate the top two? Or will we vote twice, one for each seat?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ You will vote twice, one for each seat.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Members volunteering for the ELAC seat:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christianna Clinton was unable to attend this PAG meeting due to a family conflict and will be sending out her statement through the Community Engagement team.</li> <li>• Shereese Rhodes: I would love to continue my learning journey and being able to support those that come from disenfranchised communities. I am a disabled mom who supports disabled children and a lot of times our voices aren't carried through to certain tables. I would love to be able to continue serving on ELAC and continue to be that voice.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ I support Shereese to continue.</li> <li>○ I think it's especially important to have someone representing disabled caregivers and kids. Thanks for your service.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Krystina Morton: I love being involved. I have been a huge advocate for early learning as well as all children in the community. It is a passion of mine to make sure that truths be heard.</li> <li>• Tafra Jones: I am also interested. I have been involved in early learning and served in the past on ELAC, DEL, and PAG. I would definitely love to continue to give a voice for special needs families across the state because all voices matter.</li> <li>• Al'Dianna Hale: I would be interested as well. I would love to continue to learn and advocate for our youth. I love to bridge the gap between the policy makers and the parents and children these things directly affect. I am a woman of color and a single mom to my son who would be entering the school system in the upcoming years. It is my passion to be a part of change making.</li> <li>• Katrina Peters: I have a challenging history with DCYF and would like to be at the table to help make policies work better for families. I feel like I can take everyone's experiences and be the voice of the PAG members to get things done.</li> </ul>
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<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 follow-up questions.</li></ul>
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**2023 Meetings, Closing Remarks, and Adjourn**

<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Our next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2023.</li><li>• For the in-person meetings, how do you decide which side of the state to go to?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ We typically rotate, however since it is November we may be on the West side again in case of bad weather.</li></ul></li></ul>
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