



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

Parent Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2024 -8:30am-3:30pm

In-person & Virtual Meeting

Welcome, Virtual Meeting Protocols and Introductions

Executive Committee Chair members, Josie Guzman, Janel Waterman and Christianna Clinton welcomed attendees and initiated introductions.

Updates and Follow Up

Members received updates on parent/caregiver related engagement projects and had the opportunity to ask questions.

Discussion	<p>Protective Factors updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training for the Community Engagement staff would be beneficial.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Yes, I agree. It really made me feel valued.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ We're excited to have you on board and we're looking to continue to expand on this protective factor training and continue providing more training to you all. <p>Negotiated Rule Making (NRM) updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We reviewed the WAC and provided our expertise as lived experts as parents and for youth that have been in the system.• I do wish we had something like this in place beforehand. I did appreciate the experience, and it fixed some of the harm that was done to me as a child in foster care and helped me navigate both sides. I didn't feel like I had a voice like a youth. Overall, it was a good experience.• Some of things were written in a policy focused language and didn't feel true to what we had discussed. I wish they were not all virtual.• I do wish there were more parents involved because that brings in more perspectives. Being in person is effective and we're able to accomplish a lot in the meetings. It gives us an opportunity to meet each other and have constructive back and forth discussions.• I wish the social workers were separate from the parents (in these meetings) because this doesn't feel like a safe space to share our experience candidly.• To me it can feel less impactful meetings virtually. Breakout sessions were challenging for consensus and disrupted the flow. Meeting
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	<p>together in person was beneficial, we ate together and felt we were in community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It felt purposeful to meet in person, we stayed on track and focused on the agenda.• When we went into the NRM breakout sessions, we were often on our own (just the 2 of us). I brought this up to the facilitators and expressed our frustration that parent representation was underserved.• It feels like there's a confusion between parents and caregivers. They are putting us in the same category and not giving us separate protection. When I show up to these PAG meetings I show up as a parent, that is my role.• I agree, there's a tendency to force certain roles on us, and have us "wear many hats". I have a name and identity, and there's a fine line between parents and our expertise (in these areas).• When will the WACs be finalized?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Early June 2025• Any other thoughts/ feedback on this topic before we move on?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Thank you for the opportunity to have our voices heard, even if it doesn't reach everyone, I still appreciate it. <p>Family Assessment Redesign Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Chapin Hall team felt like they took our advice seriously, and the leaders seemed authentic and caring. There was empathy when conversations were difficult.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ I agree, there was follow-up, acknowledgement and they did not rush us.• I feel like they did care, and they didn't have a lot of direct experience with certain topics. They would listen to our feedback and follow up which felt right.• I agree, they seemed compassionate (although this is their job as paid researchers). They captured our voices and now let's see how DCYF incorporates it into their work.• Ultimately, it's up to DCYF of how they utilize it. The meetings were only for an hour and we met 6 times, which is not enough time for a
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	<p>true redesign. Also, Chapin Hall is a 3rd party and out of state and their knowledge is limited and didn't seem to know too much about the WA child welfare system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I felt if we had 2-3 in person meetings that would've been valuable and faster.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ I disagree, in person it is more difficult for me, and I have childcare barriers.○ I also disagree as a disabled participant, and even just a busy person remote access is critical.• We are reliving our DCYF trauma and hope that DCYF implements the changes needed.• DCYF could have paid us to re design the assessment.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Chapin Hall issued compensation for these. If you miss compensation for one or more of the meetings please let me know so we can connect with them and make sure you receive compensation.• For the Brief Support Inventory (BSI) the term "case planning" doesn't feel like a positive phrase, it's as if you're making a case against me.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Child Protective Services (CPS) is law enforcement. They are building a case against parents. There needs to be dignity in the processes for both parents and children.○ There has been situations that children have been misplaced due to CPS not being culturally and trauma informed. Being African American, my own mother felt she had to do more because of preconceived judgement. There must be a better solution and messaging. I did not want a DCYF caseworker to be involved in my domestic violence situation.• Sometimes we feel like lab rats telling our story and trauma.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ I hear you, is there a more authentic way to source information to improve our system?
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A trusted messenger and smaller focused groups. I don't feel as comfortable talking to someone like you (DCYF employee) because of my past trauma.○ In our Native communities we don't inherently trust an outsider. We prefer to have someone from our community first. <p>Additional Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feedback for the NRM foster care for region 4 can be shared to dcyf.fostercarenrm@dcyf.wa.gov.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Region 1 is actively recruiting for a chair.• Unsung Hero 2025 nominations are open! If you know of someone who you'd like to nominate, please use the form on this link. More info on Unsung Hero is available on the nomination form, or you can reach out to me Caitlyn Ishikawa, caitlyn.ishikawa@dcyf.wa.gov.
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2025 Work Planning

Members discussed work plan topics for the 2025 calendar year.

- [2025 Work Plan Feedback](#)

Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who do we call when DCYF is not doing their job?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ You can contact Constituent Relations at constrelations@dcyf.wa.gov or 360-902-8060.• Can we receive an organizational map?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Yes, we are working on creating a visual document to outline DCYF programs to children, youth and families. It will take some time to identify areas of interest and we will bring this back to you some time in 2025.
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Family Practice Model

Members received an overview of the Family Practice Model – practice profiles and guidance for workers and a proposal for future engagement opportunities.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What worked well (in general and/or a specific approach) when you've advised on a project?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ On the steering committee, spending time with us led to authentic relationship building.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Bringing in folks for us to collaborate with. They took the time to build the relationship and listen to us and understand how we felt.○ The steering committee listened to us and repaired issues. Ensured we were getting compensated. They took time with compensation and changed procedures.○ We did caucuses which helped me decide where to share.○ They didn't make us feel like we were checking a box and made us feel like our input was legitimate.● We started posting about Family Practice Models about a year ago. We're focusing on the "how".● How do workers get support and be held accountable when they make mistakes?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The profiles are intended to create space for learning and growth and continuing to be developed.
Follow up	Please reach out to Regina McDougall, regina.mcdougall@dcyf.wa.gov for any follow up questions.

Community Compensation Overview

Members reviewed the required paperwork and processes for receiving PAG related compensation.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Do I need to report my compensation/ stipends to state agencies? Does this impact my benefits?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ If you receive over \$600 in any calendar year from a single state agency, you will be issued a 1099-MISC form and need to report this to the IRS. Your benefits may be impacted by compensation. There's a section in the Community Compensation Guidelines titled "Benefits Eligibility & Amounts Impacted" and goes through details on specific programs. Please see pages 9-12 of the Community Compensation Guidelines (Volume 1)○ If you have specific questions please reach out to us and we can consult with the Office of Equity.
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Closing Remarks/Adjourn

Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2025 meetings date are TBD and will be shared soon.• Please follow up with Emily Morgan (emily.morgan@dcyf.wa.gov) or Community Engagement (dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov) for any follow up questions.
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