



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

**Home Visiting Advisory Group  
Work Plan Activity Feedback**

November 1, 2024

**2025 Work Planning – World Café**

Members engaged in the World Café method to discuss work plan topics for the 2025 calendar year.

<b>Discussion</b>	<p><b>What do you want to know about DCYF?/What do you want to work on in 2025?</b></p> <p><b>Themes/Potential 2025 Workplan Topics:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. DCYF Overview (Including ORESJ/OTR) and overview of DCYF Early Learning, Child Welfare and Juvenile Rehabilitation Programs<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. DCYF – Overarching:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Without knowing about all DCYF programs and funding it’s challenging to know what to advocate and recommend.</li><li>ii. DCYF changed its name but has the same leadership and problems. DCYF has added more focus areas to a broken system.</li><li>iii. Knowing about the programs is so important and helps us in our advocacy.</li><li>iv. I appreciate knowing about the major policy and budget changes.</li><li>v. Bring in area administrators to speak/listen to PAG.</li><li>vi. Work on “mending” the reputation of DCYF – it doesn’t feel supportive.</li><li>vii. Work with our tribal communities and make sure our parents are heard.</li><li>viii. What is DCYF’s main goal/outcome? What are other goals?</li><li>ix. What is DCYF leadership and how does it work?</li><li>x. What all does DCYF encompass?</li><li>xi. What is the purpose of each division in DCYF? What are their successes? Do they have high staff turnover? Do they have parents sitting at the table? We should be creating peer positions. How can parents help make DCYF a better system?</li><li>xii. What’s the win from the state’s perspective when the kid reaches adulthood? Alive? Healthy and whole?</li></ol></li></ol></li></ol>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>xiii. I would like to know more about DCYF programs (in general). I feel like I'm going through this process there's a lot of information (involuntarily or voluntarily, direct services, or contracts), like the DDA and I want to know how they all work together.</li><li>b. Early Learning<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. What educational support exists for kids as they get older?</li><li>ii. How does DCYF partner with OSPI?</li><li>iii. It's the responsibility of the state to connect kids to educational opportunities as they get older. There's a big push in early learning but then there is a drop off. A lot of kids are behind and need supplemental help.</li><li>iv. I had a specific case with my granddaughter, and it doesn't seem the caseworkers are implementing this and following through in a proactive way.</li><li>v. We (as a community) want to be able to give feedback to DCYF on interactions with us every time a social worker, investigator etc. visits/calls.</li><li>vi. CPS has done some great things where there are good outcomes. We all have the same goals of keeping kids safe.</li><li>vii. Recognize that some foster parents come in thinking they will adopt; clarify goal is reunification.</li></ul></li><li>c. Child Welfare<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. What educational support exists for kids as they get older?</li><li>ii. What would be a success for kids in care?</li><li>iii. How does DCYF partner with OSPI?</li><li>iv. What are the purpose/goals/success of each CW?</li><li>v. How does CW engage with parents and caregivers?</li><li>vi. Family Voluntary Services/FAR overview</li></ul></li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>vii. Is the only goal to get them to graduate from high school or is there another goal for a kid that's in care and will be in care until they age out?</li><li>viii. Is getting in trouble the only way for parents and caregivers to engage services that DCYF has?</li><li>ix. Explanation of parents' rights. Clear role of caregivers; what can they do, not do?</li><li>x. It would be helpful to know about programs, funds and services to communities. It can be a challenge to source this information when in some counties it isn't equitable or accessible. I don't always know what to ask about because of the information sharing limitations.</li><li>xi. last leg session a bill was passed to create a communication coordinator between social workers and foster parents. I would like to hear an update on that</li></ul> <p>d. Juvenile Rehabilitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. DCYF told me they would give me a recommendation of services, but we never received anything. There is no follow-through. Trying to find services on your own is hard. For a kid to receive support they need to do something, have a plan to do something, or do something to someone else in order to get services.</li><li>ii. There should be more proactive things put in place versus reactive. There are different rules for different organizations that are supposed to support kids and this makes it hard for families.</li><li>iii. How does the JR system work?</li><li>iv. no help for parents. Who do we talk to? There are teens falling through the cracks.</li><li>v. What are the purpose/goals/success of each JR?</li><li>vi. How does JR engage with parents and caregivers?</li></ul> <p>2. Caseworker, Foster Parent and Bio Parent relationship, processes and rules</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. I had an experience where the foster family caring for my kids wanted to communicate with me, but the caseworker wouldn't let them.</li><li>b. Foster parents can care better for children when they have access to the bio parents to help streamline care and make the child feel safe</li><li>c. Sometimes there is a disconnect between foster parents and birth parents in CPS situations. Caregivers should go in knowing the goal is reunification, it is a huge struggle for parents when assumptions are made. There should be some type of panel for caregivers and parents, the goal should be keeping kids safe.</li><li>d. In our situation, CPS kept birth parents and foster parents completely separate. We need to find out why CPS would think it's in the kids' better interest to not connect foster and birth families and have some communication</li><li>e. How do we bridge the gap between youth in care and families (bio/foster parents)?</li><li>f. How should foster care families be connected with bio families? Can caseworkers bar this?</li><li>g. Panel with caregivers/foster parents/bio parents, about bridging relationships.</li><li>h. Include Tribal community.</li><li>i. Can we do a panel or having an opportunity to hear perspectives in a more facilitated manner (caregivers, foster parents, and birth parents or do separate panels)? Include different parents and caregivers who have had successful and unsuccessful experiences.</li></ul> <p>3. An overview of PAG responsibilities, rights, and roles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. I'm not sure where this PAG group stands within DCYF. It would be helpful to know about all the other groups and how they operate (we are siloed, and partnership is necessary).</li><li>b. Connect with other bodies within (Child Welfare, Early Learning).</li></ul>
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- c. I'm in support of creating other subgroups with parents with lived experience (foster children, foster parents etc). These in-person meetings allow for more time for us to share our lived parent experience.
  - d. PAG is large given how involved DCYF and it seems to be more helpful to not have one PAG group but separate/split PAG groups within these areas based on our expertise.
  - e. What other advisory groups does the agency have?
  - f. How do we connect with other advisory group bodies?
  - g. Youth groups that work with DCYF, share their lived experiences. How can we as parents collaborate with youth?
  - h. Where are the male perspectives? Include fathers/male caregivers in some of these spaces. I would love to hear experiences from others.
  - i. What are the barriers from keeping current members from participating?
4. The 13 Year Rule – Education for Parents and Caregivers and Opportunity for Parents/Caregivers to share how this rule has impacted their families.
- a. Parents can schedule appointments for teenagers but can't see any details. We are helpless to support but held accountable.
  - b. What can I do besides paying the bills? If my child isn't old enough to vote, why is it ok for them to say they don't want to take their medicine?
  - c. There needs to be a statute when there are mental health issues in kids. There needs to be checks and balances to make sure medication is being taken and there is mental health counseling.
  - d. If a 13-year-old doesn't feel safe, they should be heard. It's the medical aspect that's concerning.
  - e. What can parents do when there are mental health and behavior concerns, and the youth actions bridge the age of consent?

**How do you want to communicate (as an advisory group) to DCYF?**



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- More collaboration, in person or zoom meetings.
- When info from PAG or related projects is shared with leadership, we should have a PAG representative at the table. Sometimes what we are saying is not being accurately interpreted. There should be reflection and feedback loops established too.
- DCYF public slack channel sourcing the different contributors. Sharing different topics, files/ URL/ links so we could be up to date with updates and changes.
- When we're looking to communicate our agendas/topics having a direct path with leadership.
- It would be great to have our bios and pictures included on the CE PAG webpage. Also share the subcommittees we sit on to streamline our advocacy and also see how we each contribute to this work (there are so many of us).
  - We can look into adding more information on the webpage and work with our Communications Team. We will report back at the next meeting.
- How often is the membership bios/ profiles updated on the webpage?
  - When we do recruitment or receive a message from a member asking to be removed.
- I would like to look over our PAG list of top concerns and interests. See what we have addressed on the list so far and what phase of changes or improvements are in the work for these topics.
- It would be great to have a little business card to hand out so when we go to other community events etc. we can spread the word and engage. There can be an PAG parent email listed where folks can reach out, whether it be a parent wanting us to advocate for something in our mtgs or orgs that want a good contact for involved parents for other leadership opportunities.

**What kinds of training/information would be helpful in understanding your role and feeling confident as a lived expert advising DCYF?**

- Alliance (foster family training)



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is there a component in CCB (initial) training about how or when to connect with bio families?</li><li>• Can we help create a video/training?</li><li>• What other opportunities exist for involvement and growth?</li><li>• Advocacy 101 – including What’s in DCYF’s control, what’s not?</li><li>• Public speaking</li><li>• Tell your story</li><li>• How to hold those accountable</li><li>• Bringing someone from every part of DCYF would help to feel valued.</li><li>• Proof of what my experiences have done to shape policy.</li><li>• I would like the same training as CPS workers. That would help me understand.</li><li>• Protective factor training.</li><li>• Trauma informed training and self-advocating would be beneficial.</li></ul>
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