Parent Advisory Group Minutes

May 20, 2026| Parent Advisory Group Meeting

Time: 7:00pm-8:30pm

Agenda

7:00 – 7:15pm | Welcome, Introductions & Updates | Christianna Clinton, Janel Waterman, Marcella Taylor (PAG Executive Committee)

PAG Executive Committee member Marcella Taylor welcomed attendees and initiated introductions.

DCYF Community Engagement Manager Joey Charlton provided an update on upcoming PAG recruitment. Recruitment closes at the end of May and new members begin their term July 1.

7:15 – 7:50pm | Strategic Planning - Emily Morgan DCYF Deputy Director

DCYF is creating the 2027–2031 Strategic Plan. PAG discussed what the plan should cover and what success means to members.

Members were separated into three breakout rooms to respond to the below prompts. Responses can be found in the feedback loop when complete.

Break out group 1:

Share one worked for what success means to you and your family

What do you need from staff to feel respected, understood, or safe?"

Breakout Group 2:

Where does the system feel confusing or disconnected?

Where have you experienced challenges/issues because different parts of DCYF were not connected or working well together?

Breakout Group 3:

What makes a relationship with a worker or program feel supportive?
What supports or resources would make the biggest difference for you?

7:50 – 8:25pm| Grow the Green – Erinn Havig, Marcella Taylor, Nicole Anthony

PAG members received an update on the Grow the Green project. Grow The Green focuses on prevention and increasing the number of children who can remain safely at home and outside the system over time.

Erinn summarized the process of how Grow the Green was developed with input from lived experience and co-designed with parent leaders. It is about rethinking how systems support families. This is a partnership between DCYF, PAG, Foster America, community partners and researchers. The goal is to reduce entries into foster care and reduce repeated system involvement using data to guide our decisions.

The public facing dashboard will go live in June of 2026. It will allow for multiple variables to detect trends.

The group talked about how important it is to connect personal lived experiences with data. This approach isn't just for DCYF. It can help people understand and work with data in any field. When planning the learning arc, the goal was to make sure everyone could use their own story and point of view. We also want to recognize that some topics may bring up stress or past trauma.

Grow the Green plans to start this work later this year in both Spokane and Pierce County. They are looking for community members and people with lived experience to help lead and support the sessions. They will return to give an update and invite the group to join a community where Grow the Green will be implemented.

8:25 - 8:30pm | Closing | Janel Waterman, Marcella Taylor (PAG Executive Committee)

During closing, questions were asked about PAG's recruitment process and how we would be evaluating new members. Joey discussed basic requirements such as dedication to attending meetings, participation and lived experience with DCYF systems.

PAG members asked for an in-person meeting during the next year. I shared the state's ongoing travel freeze, but that DCYF will continue to explore options.

Next Meeting: July 15th, 2026