



Parent Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting Minutes

January 25, 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. Members introduced themselves and shared their personal updates and successes.

2023 Legislative Session Update

DCYF Policy Advisor, Genevieve Stokes provided an update on the 2023 legislative session.

- [Governor’s Budget: DCYF Investment Overview January 6, 2023 Webinar Slides](#)
- [January 6, 2023 Webinar Recording](#)
- [January 6, 2023 Webinar Q&A](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After bills are presented, are they voted on by the time March comes around? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are deadlines during this process but we have until April to get this work done. Please see how a bill becomes law in Washington State here. ○ Here is a short video that was created by the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) that explains how bills work in our state. • I appreciate the Crosscut Legislative Tracker. • Can we get an update on the Working Family Tax Credit bill? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DCYF is not weighing in on this bill or doing analysis but we will follow up with information on how to follow a bill through the process so you can advocate. • The school lunch bill is another great piece of legislation. DCYF is not involved, but recognizes that it is a poverty reduction tool. • In the 2023 session, how can PAG be useful in its function at DCYF? How is this group contributing toward impact or a benefit? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That’s a really great question. Legislative session is very quick and the windows for feedback are very short. I would love to figure out a way to check in with PAG about bills that have a parental impact. Is there a smaller group that wants to be deployed to give feedback? We can send PAG a list of bills that you can then take information to your lawmakers to lobby for parents. • To see updates regarding specific bills, please go here. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You can also track specific legislation, find your legislators, and testify on issues by creating an account here. • The Child Welfare Advocacy Coalition (CWAC) is a legislative group made up of various agencies serving children that follows and advocates for children's issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Also, the regional Washington Communities for Children (WCFC) Network (some have legislative agendas like the one in Pierce County). ○ I would appreciate hearing from other parents here who are involved in other communities and what they are prioritizing.
Next Steps/Follow Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please reach out to the Community Engagement Team (dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov) or Genevieve Stokes (Genevieve.Stokes@dcyf.wa.gov) with any follow-up questions.

2023 Work Plan, Recruitment and Communication Strategies

Members discussed recruitment and communication strategies and provided feedback.

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we invite other foster families?
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, definitely. This advisory group is open to the public. We share the meeting info and link on the PAG webpage and you are welcome and encouraged to share that with your network. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ While we mostly meet online now, we will be having at least one in-person meeting a year, and PAG members qualify for travel reimbursement and a child care stipend which the CE team will arrange. • Are we looking for specific regions or specific communities that don't seem to be represented here? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regionally, we'd want representation from across the state and from all different communities and backgrounds. • Is there a link to the region's map? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, please see the regions map here. • What about translation services? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We can absolutely provide translation services and get interpreters for a number of languages including Spanish and Somali. We will work on sending that information in a more proactive way ahead of meetings. But we absolutely want parents to participate in these meetings, so that their voices are heard. Language should not be a barrier. • DCYF has several groups that they work with. Are there crossovers? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) often interacts with PAG. • How do we create the appropriate support so families can participate? For example, we have a housing crisis and some families are in transitional housing or navigating houselessness. If people want to participate they have to have access to the internet and a device. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Those are great callouts. We currently don't provide those accessibility services but we can look into this more.
<p>Next Steps/Follow Up</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please reach out to the Community Engagement Team (dcyf.communityengagement@dcyf.wa.gov) with any follow-up questions.

2023 Meetings, Closing Remarks, and Adjourn

<p>Discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2023, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. • The Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) will be meeting on Tuesday, February 7, and PAG is invited to attend.
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