



Family Separation Response Taskforce Meeting #2

March 4, 2025 | 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | HYBRID
1500 Jefferson St. Olympia

Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions

- Secretary Tana Senn introduced herself and thanked everyone for their passion and commitment to supporting young people and families of mixed status. She then invited the room to introduce themselves.

Federal immigration update-Santos Moreno & Kory McMahan, Office of Rep. Pramila Jayapal

Outreach to Community Partners

- Rep. Jayapal's outreach and legislative staff have been in regular communication with advocacy groups and service providers both locally and nationally including Northwest Immigrant Rights Project (NWIRP), Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN), One America, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and the City of Seattle.
- Santos reported that many of these groups are concerned about the recent attacks on immigrants by the Federal government. These concerns include those related to recent Executive Orders, and funding risks for Sanctuary Cities and Sanctuary States.
- Rep. Jayapal's office organized a roundtable with prominent organizations and leaders in the immigration space. Representative Jayapal's office will be inviting DCYF to participate in future roundtable meetings, the organizations that attended the last roundtable were interested in partnering with the Family Separation Response Task Force.

Legislative Overview

- Rep. Jayapal continues to serve as the Ranking Member of the Immigration Subcommittee within the Judiciary Committee. She has introduced and sponsored several bills around immigrant rights and protections.
- Rep. Jayapal has also written and signed onto multiple letters to the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Department of State, and U.S. Attorney General's Office around wrongful detention, immigration enforcement, refugee resettlement services, and attorney reassignment.

Casework Program

- Constituents who are experiencing a difficulty related to a federal agency such as the Dept. of State or US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), can reach out to their Senator or Member of Congress for assistance. These offices can act as a liaison between constituents and federal agencies, including in the event of family separation.



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

- Casework inquiries have increased drastically since President Trump took office.
- A large portion of the immigration casework that Rep. Jayapal's office has received involves applications for employment authorization that are outside of standard processing time. Congressional offices can help address these bottlenecks and government offices are mandated by Congress to respond to inquiries from Congressional offices.
- Constituents looking for immigration casework assistance are required to fill out a Privacy Release Form before the office can take on their case.
- Congressional offices can only assist constituents in their Congressional Districts, Senators can take casework from any resident of the state. Casework staffing and response times vary across Congressional offices. It is recommended that individuals start with their Congressional office first, and if they do not receive timely assistance there, they should then contact Senate offices for assistance.
- Secretary Senn would like to include information on Casework services and contact information for Congressional and Senatorial casework contacts on the Task Force webpage.

State Agency Designee Process Update- Chalia Stallings-Ala'ilima, WA State Attorney General's Office

- The WA State Attorney General's Office (AGO) has been working to develop processes, in alignment with the Keep Washington Working Act (KWW), that ensure state resources are not used to enforce federal immigration laws.
- Recognizing the operational differences across state agencies, the AGO wants to help streamline processes for agencies to follow when immigration enforcement is happening, while allowing for appropriate flexibility.
- State agencies have designated subject matter experts who work with other agency contacts who are decision makers and can coordinate with the AGO, which will provide tailored advice based on the structure each agency puts in place.
- Designees are trained to work with the AGO to be able to identify subpoenas, warrants, etc. and determine next steps. Most agencies have already designated individuals from their agency, some agencies have designated several designees.
- Following the designee procedure, front-line workers approached by immigration officials are to contact their agency designees who will then coordinate with the AGO to determine next steps.
- The AGO's hope is that the Designee Program will minimize room for error as not every agency employee is tasked with interpreting laws which could be stressful and anxiety inducing. Instead, workers can defer to their designees, which have been trained by the AGO.
- The AGO is not aware of any cases in the Ferguson administration where agency designees have been deployed. They have heard of ICE activity on agency premises, but in that instance, there was no interaction with agency employees.
- The AGO advised that chain of command and agency protocols do not necessarily need to be made public, some of these protocols may need to be protected. AGO policies on their public site are model policies, sensitive information is not included in these policies. Sensitive information made public may be used to challenge the protections that agencies are seeking to put in place. This is an ongoing discussion to be had by the Task Force.



Office of Homeless Youth (OHY) Overview—Lillian Ferraz & Cacey Hanauer-Sutton, WA State Department of Commerce

Department of Commerce Overview and Related Work

- The Department of Commerce is mainly a pass-through agency to provide funding to private and nonprofit businesses across the state.
- Community services, housing and homelessness, and legal aid for immigrants are all programs within Commerce that are most related to the work of the Family Separation Response Task Force.

Office of Homeless Youth

- The Homeless Youth Act in 2015 created the Office of Homeless Youth (OHY) within the Department of Commerce.
- OHY provides crisis response services that address immediate needs by providing crisis intervention and emergency supplies, assessments of individual needs, connection with relevant resources (e.g. shelter, medical care, counseling, etc.) as well as ongoing case management.
- Crisis response services include Street Outreach Services (ages 12-24), Young Adult Shelters (ages 18-24), and the Lifeline Support System.
- OHY offers Youth Residential Programs (ages 12-17), Young Adult Housing (Ages 18-24), which are more long-term housing solutions.
- OHY provides prevention services-including job placement assistance and 24-hour support services.
- OHY oversees community-based initiatives which look to communities for input on what young people in their jurisdictions need.
- OHY flagged that the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) is at risk of losing funding. This program is federally funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and supports housing programs serving youth and young adults in 34 WA counties (Clark County does not have a program). Programs include Rapid Re-Housing, Transitional Housing, Supportive Services, and the Youth Lead Project.
- No challenges with immigration have come up yet, but there is fear and concerns around the new administration.

Support Around Federal Efforts (SAFE)

- The Office of Equity and Belonging, within the Department of Commerce organizes a “Support Around Federal Efforts (SAFE)” Task Force that supports Commerce staff and small business and nonprofit leaders who are targeted by the current Federal Administration based on their identity.
- Commerce staff directly liaise with on the ground organizations in the state who provide services to immigrant communities. Some of these organizations have chosen to abstain from applying to certain grant programs for fear that federal actors could target them based on the populations they serve.



- Commerce staff are experiencing fear as well, especially if they are members of communities that are being targeted by the Federal Administration. These staff members fear being “out”-ed at work and are overwhelmed.
- Commerce has organized a Subject Matter Expert (SME) Committee which is internal to staff. Members of this committee are not published, but members are staff who have lived experience and work experience around the topics of trans rights, civil rights, and immigrant rights. The SME Committee is focused on building what internal staff need most, and determining what power and authorization Commerce has to address those needs.
- Commerce has also organized a Task Force which is public-facing and comprised of leadership, the task force is concerned with institutional checks and balances and legal questions.
- Commerce is interested in participating in the Family Separation Task Force listening sessions

Legal Aid for Immigrants

- Commerce provides grant funds to legal representation for low-income immigrants with cases in immigration courts.
- Services funded by these grants include direct legal representation from an attorney or trained advocate, case management, and referrals related to self sufficiency
- Organizations providing legal aid to immigrants who are at most risk of harm are eligible for grant funding. Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, for example, is a grantee.
- Funding for 2025 is still available
- Task Force FAQs should include information on the Legal Aid funding, Commerce will also bring their program lead for the grant program to future Task Force meetings and see how the Task Force can partner with the program.

Review and Approval of Value Statement and Goals Document

- DCYF staff shall work with the AGO on wording around privacy and clarifying that KWW does not conflict with federal law.
- There needs to be specificity around “detention”, this could be conflated with “incarceration” which is not the intention of the Task Force.
- Questions around the scope of the Taskforce were discussed. It was determined that prevention of the separation of youth is outside of the scope of the Task Force.
- Interpretation and translation should be added to the goals and outcomes document, they are two separate terms that should not be used interchangeably.
- “Know Your Rights” trainings should be added to the value statement
- There should be clarity around what policies are internal to DCYF, and what policies will be applied in a mass event. If policies are referenced, they should be explained in more detail as well as linked, if possible.

Web Page Discussion

- The Task Force will provide a comprehensive list and links of resources on its webpage, many of these efforts are happening now, and are state funded. Agencies have a lot of rich services and knowledge that should be outlined on the web page and made easily accessible.
- Agencies on the Task Force may be able to provide support to families, the Task Force web page could direct people to information on these supports but would not offer the support itself.



- The Web Page should make explicit that the Task Force does not work with ICE- families are taught to not trust government officials, an organizational chart published on the site may be helpful to make apparent that ICE does not sit on the Task Force.
- Once information is gathered, there should be a child friendly resource, as children often translate information for their parents. If the web page itself is not child friendly itself, they should at minimum link to a site where children can access information that is child friendly.

Next Steps

- DCYF staff to seek clarification around child welfare policies related to undocumented families.
- DCYF to work with AGO on Value statement language.
- DCYF to assemble a roundtable of immigrant rights organizations to receive feedback on the Value Statements and Goals document.
- DCYF to meet with Task Force volunteers to determine the Agenda for the next Task Force meeting on 3/25.
- DCYF to work with Task Force volunteers on organizing listening sessions

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