



Family Separation Response Task Force Meeting #3

March 25, 2025 | 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. | HYBRID
1500 Jefferson St., Olympia, WA

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome & Introductions

- Secretary Tana Senn invited participants to introduce themselves
- Secretary Senn announced that the next Task Force meeting will be open to immigration partners, in addition to Task Force members
- Secretary Senn and DCYF will be coordinating a group to talk through special juvenile visas and will report back to the Task Force

Scenario Scoping Activity

- In-person and online participants were broken into four groups to work through exercises based on four immigration-related scenarios.

Scenario 1: Facilitated by Maria Siguenza (Virtual Participants)

- Participants were asked to imagine the following scenario: A Family (Parent 1, Parent 2, Child 1, Child 2) is packing up their car after shopping for groceries when immigration officials detain both parents.

[Insert Maria notes]

- Task Force members upon regrouping raised questions around how ICE is gathering information on families. Rep. Jayapal's office will put DCYF in contact with their liaison who is in regular contact with ICE offices in the Seattle area. Sec. Senn and/or the Task Force Administrator will look to meet with ICE representatives in order to better understand ICE's current practices
- Task Force members are curious as to whether there is a different DCYF process for children who are documented, and children who are undocumented. DCYF will follow up with the Child Welfare team and report back to Task Force members.
- The Task Force Administrator will work to better understand how emergency contacts can care for children if guardians are detained, if those emergency contacts do not have formal documentation.

Scenario 2: Facilitated by Sarah Peterson and Lillian Ferraz (Virtual Participants):

- Participants were asked to imagine the following scenario: ICE raids a neighborhood and family members are detained from many families in an urban neighborhood known to be home to immigrants from several countries. Multiple children are left without guardians, they are known



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in the neighborhood, but neighbors do not have contact information for anyone related to the child.

[Insert Sarah and Lillian Notes]

- DCYF will look more into the policy on minor children from Immigration Enforcement as shared by Grace Huang from the Governor's office. Information from this document may guide the Task Force's work and may be incorporated into FAQs on the Task Force webpage.
- There are many questions around guardianship, family plans, and legal counsel access for minors. Task Force members recommended partnering with Legal Counsel for Youth and Children (LCYC).
- DCYF to answer questions around kinship care process in the FAQs on the Task Force webpage.
- The Task Force will want to think critically about language access and how to best support families who need interpretation services.

Scenario 3: Facilitated by John Tuttle-Gates (In-person participants):

- Participants were asked to imagine the following scenario: It is a Friday at 5PM and a 4th grade student was released from school at 3PM and has yet to have been picked up. This student lives with their single mother, and does not have any other family members in their house. Their mother usually picks them up from school, but did not come to get them. It is suspected that the mother may have been detained by ICE as there were reports of raids earlier that afternoon. The school does not have any additional contact information for the child, other than the mother who is unreachable by phone.
- Task Force members discussed the potential for schools to become incident command centers in the event of a raid. The Task Force administrator will follow up with K-12 partners on the Task Force to discuss what plans school districts are already implementing.

Scenario 4: Facilitated by Charice Pidcock (In-person participants):

- Participants were asked to imagine the following scenario: There was a raid on a poultry farm in rural Eastern Washington by ICE. Many of the individuals who have been detained are parental guardians.
- Task Force members raised a need to partner with the Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN) to disseminate information. This information could be in the form of packet to community hubs, as well as PSAs to be shared with Spanish language radio stations.
- The Task Force webpage FAQs should include information on how to search the names of detainees.
- Task Force members would find it helpful to be briefed on DCYF processes currently. There were questions as to when DCYF can enter this process, and if the Agency is required to contact schools to report the detention of a parent.
- Task Force members would also like a presentation from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) regarding the representation of unaccompanied minors in court, as well as durable guardianship options.

Adams County Sheriff's Office Lawsuit Briefing- Emily Nelson, WA State Attorney General's Office



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- On March 10, 2022 the WA Attorney General's office filed a lawsuit against the Adams County Sheriff's office in an attempt to get the Sheriff's office to comply and follow Keep Washington Working (KWW).
- The Attorney General's office reached out to Adams County in November of 2022 when they were alerted that the County was engaging in practices violating KWW.
- The Attorney General's office has evidence that since KWW was enacted in May, 2019, the Adams County Sheriff's Office had shared non-public information at least 200 times.
- The Attorney General's Office found that the Adams County Sheriff's office has a regular practice of sharing in-custody lists to ICE to then assist with immigration enforcement.
- The Attorney General's office also found that the Sheriff's office had held individuals in jail based on Civil Warrants rather than Judicial Warrants, which is not a basis for detention in Washington state. The Northwest Immigration Rights Project (NWIRP) has multiple jurisdictions for similar violations and has received settlements in these lawsuits based on 4th Amendment violations.
- Before the Attorney General's office filed a lawsuit against the Adams County Sheriff's office, they tried to achieve voluntary compliance. In November, they thought that they had come to an agreement with the Sheriff's office.
- After President Donald Trump's Inauguration, the position of the Sheriff's Office and the County changed and they have made it clear that they believe KWW is non-constitutional and that they do not have to comply with it. The Sheriff's office also publicly stated that they cooperated with ICE and will continue to do so.
- The WA Association of Sheriff's and Police Chiefs has published several statements post Trump's election on their policy to continue to uphold KWW and setting those expectations with law enforcement.
- The Task Force Administrator will continue to be in contact with Emily Nelson and the Attorney General's office to receive updates on this case, as well as other cases that are related to the work that the Task Force is doing.

DCYF Early Learning Overview- Nicole Rose and Ruben Reeves

- Nicole Rose briefed the Task Force on the variety of settings in which Early Learning occurs and emphasized the fact that DCYF Early Learning is working with private businesses.

Working Connections Child Care

- There are more families than ever participating in Working Connections Child Care (WCCC). Federal funds pay for part of WCCC services, so DCYF must verify whether a child is a citizen or legal resident.
- DCYF still serves children who do not meet the Federal citizenship requirement using state-only funds. Approximately 265 children per month are funded with state-only funds.
- The DSHS/DCYF joint application for WCCC, Cash Assistance, and Food Assistance also requires Citizenship verification
- DCYF retains data collected on these statuses.




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Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP):

- ECEAP provides individualized education, family support, and health and nutrition services for Washington's 3-and 4-year old children who are furthest from opportunity for success in school and life.
- ECEAP is state funded, so citizenship/legal residency verification is not required.
- In compliance with KWW, ECEAP does not collect citizenship information
- ECEAP does inquire as to participation in Migrant Seasonal Programs, primary/secondary home language, and parent language spoken to tailor services, and retains this data.

Licensing

- There are 6,200 Licensed Child Care Providers in Washington state (1,700 Centers, 3,750 Family Home providers, 650 School Age Programs)
- In the last 2-3 months, DCYF received many questions from child care providers, especially in Central Washington, regarding what to do if the see ICE in the area, and what happens if families do not pick up their kids.
- Child Care centers are required to have policies and procedures around contacting guardians, and CPS, as well as law enforcement. Sometimes, centers do not want to call law enforcement, and when that is the case, they call CPS.
- DCYF staff can provide technical support, but cannot give providers legal advice.
- DCYF has provided centers resources around their rights, and in the event, ICE does show up to a home or center, providers are advised to contact their licensor, who will help from there.
- DCYF contracts with Child Care Aware, who provides coaching services and shares mental health materials and guidance, as well as resources on legal rights, emergency planning, and communication protocols.
- Child Care Aware supports providers in developing protocols during enforcement activities.
- Some centers are limiting enrollment and setting policies to not open doors to unknown entities, in response to increased ICE activity.
- Skagit County centers had people come in and show them what different orders and warrants looked like
- DCYF is challenged with the desire to be supportive while also recognizing the limitations they must have in place.
- Many different organizations like Imagine Institute and Child Care Aware as well as the  SEIU 925 have made resources available on google drives.
- Nicole followed up with information on service to collect parent legal status, DCYF will look into getting this information onto the Webpage.

Next Steps

- Sec. Senn and the Task Force Administrator will be meeting with Community Organizations and Advocates before the April 16 Task Force meeting. These groups will be invited to present at the next Task Force meeting.



- Upcoming meetings
 - Wednesday, April 16, 3:30-5:30PM
 - Tuesday, May 6, 3:30-5:30PM
 - Tuesday, May 27, 3:30-5:30PM