



Parent Advisory Group (PAG)
Meeting Minutes

September 21, 2021 – 7:30pm-9:00pm
Virtual Meeting

Welcome & Introductions

DCYF’s Deputy Director of Community Engagement Deanna Stewart welcomed attendees and initiated introductions. Members also shared family updates and local successes.

American Rescue Funding for Concrete Goods

DCYF Strengthening Families Washington Administrator Laura Alfani and Program Specialist Joy Lile provided details about the American Rescue funds DCYF received for child abuse neglect and prevention efforts and used an online storytelling tool to gather stories about family supports, to help inform the planning process.

- [Presentation](#)

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What would be an example of the primary or tertiary? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ That is a great question, one example may be focused policy work on increasing the income requirements for child care subsidy. Another one may be paid family medical leave. • It would be beneficial to work at stopping the cycle of generational Child Protective Services (CPS) involvement in families. • We can measure our success by the number of families that break the CPS cycle. • There is fear that asking for help lets the "government" in. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes! Making help available and not making parents feel bad for asking. ○ Parent leadership and peer (parent support). • Access to doula services. • Connecting moms to other moms in a healthy way (facilitated groups) can be critical to mental health. • More support and help to people on what resources are already available to them. • There's a big need for mental health access (easy/no- or low-cost) for parents (especially moms) who carry medically induced post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or chronic traumatic stress when they have kids with significant disabilities. • Normalizing mental health therapy and providing that resource for parents. Often medical coverage may not cover these visits. • It seems like the Coordinated Access Points through Help Me Grow would be helpful. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Also mental health services that will work after 'normal' business hours so those who have kids with extra special needs can still have access to care without needing to bring their child with them. ○ Every parent should be connected with a therapist for long-term support when their child receives a medical diagnosis
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Closing Remarks/Adjourn

Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) and the Provider Supports Subcommittee on October 5, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
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