

Achieving Collaborative Compliance

This document explains how to use a strength-based approach for achieving collaborative compliance.



What is Collaborative Compliance?

Collaborative compliance happens when you use a strength-based approach to work with licensees to identify the personalized ways they will comply with the intent of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) while meeting the unique developmental and cultural needs of children and youth in care.

Collaborative compliance is not just about meeting rules, it's about building strategies that work for everyone. By empowering licensees, promoting collaboration, and encouraging innovation, collaborative compliance lays the foundation for more effective, equitable and impactful care.

Key Strength-Based Principles to Achieve Collaborative Compliance

- **Shared decision making:** Collaborative compliance thrives on licensors and licensees working together to meet both WAC intent and child and youth safety and well-being needs. This partnership transforms both parties from a place of enforcement to shared problem-solving.
- **Encouraging innovation:** Collaborative compliance relies on licensors empowering licensees to think creatively about customizing WAC compliance solutions to better meet the developmental and cultural needs of children and youth in care while accounting for the structural design of the licensed facility or home and the surrounding community culture.

- **Empowering licensees as experts:** Collaborative compliance assumes that licensees are the experts of their facilities, homes, and programs. It encourages them to take ownership of compliance processes, leading to greater buy-in and sustainable solutions.
- **Embracing perspective and critical thinking:** Collaborative compliance requires critical thinking from both licensors and licensees. Licensors are encouraged to view situations from the licensee's perspective and emphasize licensee capabilities, knowledge, and capacity for invention.

Essential Components of Collaborative Compliance

The following three components must be in place to achieve collaborative compliance:

- **Procedure:** A clear plan that describes how compliance will be met.
- **Training:** Ensuring that all relevant staff or caregivers understand and follow the plan.
- **Verification:** A process to confirm that compliance is achieved and maintained.



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