

Washington State Interagency Fatherhood Council

Sep 13, 10-11:30 AM

WebEx only - call in information in the appointment and email



Meeting Goal

- 1.) Welcome and Introductions
- 2.) DCYF Early Learning Needs Assessment
- 3.) Oct. 11 Meeting Agenda Special Free Training available

Participants: Joel Watson; DSHS/ESA/DCS, Delta Heiberg; DCYF, Judy King; DCYF, Dawn MaCarra Bass; DCYF/ Cider River learning group, Ellen Nolan DSHS/ESA/OAS , Amy Czerwinski; DOC, Kyle Paskewitz; Father/ Parentalink and Family Court Reform USA, Dieter Jacobs; DSHS/ESA/DCS, Louis Mendoza; Father/Kinderring, Keoki Kauanoe; Father/Family Education and Support Services, Traci Kenney; DCYF, Jed Haney; Father, Calvin Johnson; Father/Daddy Can Do It Too, Nelson Rascon; Father/DADs M.O.V.E., Frieda Ray, DSHS/ESA/DCS, Mitch Dillard; DSHS/ESA/DCS; Holly Schindler; UofW; Dante Pollard; Father & Poverty Reduction Work Group, Amanda Krotke-Crandall, DSHS/ESA/OAS

Topics	Notes
<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and approve Aug. Debrief • Review Agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summit was a success good speakers, food, and conversation • Be sure to fill out the 2nd Annual Washington Fatherhood Post Summit Survey 2019 • Don't have next year's funding so be thinking about that.
<p>DCYF Early Learning Needs Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief overview of work on the Preschool Development Grant • Statewide Early Learning Needs Assessment 	<p>Judy king from DCYF working with Cider River group today will spend some time going through the Preschool development grant. This grant allows WA to start examining families who are pre-natal so before preschool. It's a federal grant in its first year. The goal of this grant is to "build the capacity of parents/caregivers to be responsive to the unique needs of the children and families in the state".</p> <p>What are the biggest challenges you see in the system and services for young children and families?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finding/Knowing resources 2. The frustration of the Golden ticket worker even the same organizations may have very different experiences 3. Long breaks in school schedules make finding childcare difficult; Fragmented system forces parents to scramble for logistics. 4. Lack of community support, especially of children are sick and can't go to school 5. Community resource centers don't have programs for dad or not welcoming for dads 6. None custodial parents (81% being fathers) who are not allowed to see their child or limited access 7. Social Stigma about fatherhood 8. Invisibility fathers can feel; feeling pushed out of the system 9. Learning Curve for New Fathers; finding groups of men; need support networks at the local level 10. The issue with lack of resources is across the state but especially difficult in rural areas

11. New dads sitting in the hospital waiting rooms during delivery could be a great time to connect to resources and support
12. The system fails to recognize dissolved families custodial vs. non-custodial parents in DCS, no recognition for how much time anyone parent has the child in the home.
13. Labels and language are biased against dads; Seen at schools and doctors
14. Dads having to constantly prove if they are the custodial parent constantly having to prove they are the parent.
15. More inclusive language of programs example WIC; Programs only open during business hours when people work
16. A more holistic approach to government benefits; one parent applying and looking for benefits; needs a more family whole system approach based on the child's needs. If one person is applying we need to look at the entire family (non-custodial and custodial parents might both need resources)
17. Addressing cultural roles for dads that use to be only moms; getting dads involved with organizations like the PTA is important

What has worked well for fathers that we need to build on, increase, or pay more attention?

1. Home Visiting system in the state is working well but need to expand to include more dads; even 70% of residential dads don't engage with home visiting programs in their homes (Data from Holly)
 2. Fatherhood engagement programs that are made by other fathers work! Example Daddy Can Do It TOO
 3. Father mentorship programs; Parent Allies working together with one another
 4. Father Retreats allow dads to connect to learn and support parenting
 5. Community resources can sometimes be more beneficial than government resources to make people feel comfortable; the community has to find the correct fit for support for them
 6. There needs to be more follow up for dads from the hospital birth; they are giving their personal information to the hospital and could be provided with more information
 7. Family Medical Leave and Paid Family Medical leave have both been updated in the State
 8. The interagency council has been a great form to come in and ask for help and get information out to communities
- Next steps: DCYF is currently engaging with community groups, including WA communities for children who are hosting deep dives in their communities. This, along with data that has been collected, will be drafted over the next few weeks. Later this fall as they move into community development the group can help think about strategies and supporting and nurturing strong and stable families.

All	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>Future Meeting Dates</p> <p>October 11th in person at 724 Quince St SE Olympia</p> <p>Regular meeting from 10-11:30</p> <p>11:45-1:00 James Rodriguez, the founder of Father's and Families Coalition of America based in California is offering to conduct a FREE section of the Advanced Practitioner Training. More information can be found on the Fathers and Families Coalition of America website.</p>
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