

Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force

Meeting Minutes for 2/16/2022 9:00 AM- 12:00

Virtual Meeting

[TVW recording](#)

Minutes (for review and confirmation at next meeting, May 18, 2023)

I. Welcome and Attendance Meeting convened by Rep. Mia Gregerson and DSHS Secretary Jilma Meneses

Voting Members

Senators

- Sen. Perry Dozier (R)
- Sen. Manka Dhingra (D)
- Sen. Chris Gildon (R)
- Esteban Avila on behalf of Sen. Joe Nguyen (D)

Representatives

- Rep. Mia Gregerson (D) (Legislative Co-Chair)
- Rep. Michelle Caldier (R)
- Rep. Carolyn Eslick (R)
- Rep. Strom Peterson (D)

Agency Members

- Jilma Meneses, Department of Social and Health Services (Executive Co-Chair)
- Kelly Cooper, Department of Health
- Veronica Gallardo, Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction
- Cecil Daniels on behalf of Diane Klontz, Department of Commerce (Co-Chair Advisory)
- Jennie Fitzpatrick, Department of Corrections
- Tim Probst, Employment Security Department (Co-Chair Advisory)
- Nicole Rose, Department of Children, Youth, and Families
- Dr. Lauren Hibbs on behalf of Carli Schniffner, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

Quorum? Yes No

Non-Voting Members

- Tony Bowie, Economic Security Administration Secretary
- Mystique Hurtado, Governor's Office Indian Affairs
- Dr. Karen Johnson, Office of Equity
- Kate Sowers on behalf of Regina Malveaux, Washington State Women's Commission
- Anna Minor, Office of Financial Management
- Nam Nguyen, Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs
- Ed Prince, Commission on African American Affairs
- Manny Santiago, Washington State LGBTQ Commission
- Maria Siguenza, Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Staff

- Amber Leaders, Office of the Governor
- Babs Roberts, Department of Social and Health Services
- Charice Pidcock, Neutral Facilitator, Department of Social and Health Services
- Lori Pfingst, PhD, Department of Social and Health Services

II. House Keeping – Charice Pidcock, Facilitator, DSHS

- There is a new mailbox account to communicate with LEWPRO between meetings, to ask questions, or provide information. The email address is LEWPRO@dshs.wa.gov.
- **Rules of Engagement:** Agreement on how we conduct ourselves in this meeting.
 - Maintain a respectful body language, tone, and volume when sharing our opinions

- Value the many different sources of knowledge; listening to the entire message without editorializing or interrupting
- Act in ways that edify the group’s self-esteem
- Seek first to understand before being understood
- Be honest and explain why
- Always assume good intentions; give people the benefit of the doubt
- Look for places to agree, connect, and support – it helps us get to better solutions
- Make it a safe environment to share – no personal attacks
- Listen to the entire message, literally, and mentally:
 - (a) don’t interrupt – we are modeling respectful behavior; and
 - (b) our listening implies that we care, even if we don’t agree
- **Housekeeping:**
 - LEWPRO members are designated “panelists” and will have the ability to participate
 - All other attendees are muted
 - Please use your reactions and raise hand buttons to ask questions, speak, and vote
 - Staff will count hands to determine outcome of votes

III. Task Force Business – Rep. Mia Gregerson, DSHS Sec. Meneses, and Charice Pidcock

- Review and approval of November 17, 2022 meeting minutes – approval minutes of minutes did not occur, as there were not enough voting members present to meet quorum. Minutes will be approved at the next meeting in May.

IV. Public Comment

- There were no comments from the public participants.

V. Review & Discuss Decision Matrix – Tim Probst, ESD and Babs Roberts, DSHS

- Tim and Babs provided an update about the small group decision matrix activity that will be used to prioritize the 5-year plan strategies and recommendations.
 - All recommendations are important.
 - Conversations allowed respectful sharing of differing opinions and deeper rich discussions.
 - Process used.
 - Changes made:

Was:	Became:
ROI Umbrella (Difficult to implement (operationally))	ROI Umbrella (Easy to implement (operationally))
Difficult to implement (bipartisan)	Difficult to implement (Likely to draw organized opposition)
Scalability	Scalability (added criteria and changed scale)

- More discussions need to occur. To date, the top 5 recommendations are:

3a	Adopt the Washington Kids for Washington Jobs recommendations, and bolster these with more specific, intentional strategies to achieve equity
3aviii	Increase opportunities for Washington students and adults who are disconnected from the educational system to prepare for and access affordable and high quality post-secondary educational pathways
1b	Require state entities to collaborate with the emerging Office of Equity to develop data, processes, and tools that prioritize racial equity in state government policies, programs, practices and partnerships
4f	Increase in-home Medicaid funds for supported living for seniors so they can receive care in their home and avoid costly residential programs
4e	Increase funding to support culturally appropriate outreach for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the Farmers Market Nutrition Program and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition program.

- Next steps:
 - Continue small group discussion and refinement.
 - Share matrix with PRWG Steering Committee and Advisory Council to get their thoughts and input.
 - Finalize the prioritization and share with LEWPRO.
- Email LEWPRO@dshs.wa.gov with comments and questions as the group continues working on the matrix.

VI. Subcabinet, LEWPRO, and PRWG Advisory Group Collaboration – Lori Pfingst, DSHS, Alex Panagotacos, DSHS, Juanita Maestas, PRWG Steering Committee Co-Chair, and Drayton Jackson, PRWG Steering Committee Co-Chair

- Lori provided an update about the aligned contributions of the PRWG Advisory Council, Subcabinet on Intergenerational Poverty, and LEWPRO.
- Alex, Juanita, and Drayton shared their thoughts and enthusiasm to continue this important work.

VII. Bills of Interest to the 5-year Plan – Various Agency Representatives

- Agency representatives were given time to share bills of interest to the 5 and 10-year plans. These are some of the bills related to the plans and not an exhaustive list.
 - DCYF

Bill #	Title	Description
HB 1186 SB 5256	Making permanent and expanding the child welfare housing assistance program	Administer a child welfare housing assistance program, which provides housing vouchers, rental assistance, navigation and other support services to eligible families
HB 1199	Addressing licensed child care in HOAs or common interest communities	Cannot prohibit the use of an apartment as a licensed family home child care operated by a family day care provider or as a licensed child day care center.
HB 1386	Establishing a youth development grant program	
HB 1451	Expanding the child care workforce.	K-12 child care worker pilot, curriculum development, Imagine Institute
HB 1511	Concerning calculation of income for certain early	Excluding child support, SSI, and supplemental security income from Working Connections Child Care

Bill #	Title	Description
	learning and child care programs	and Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program eligibility
HB 1525	Concerning eligibility for working connections child care benefits for persons participating in state registered apprenticeships	Allowing first year apprentices to income qualify for WCCC up to 85% SMI
SB 5225	Increasing access to the working connections child care program	Increasing eligibility subsidies for certain families
SB 5243	Concerning high school and beyond planning	OSPI shall facilitate a common online platform for high school and beyond planning
SB 5423	Providing eligibility for working connections child care benefits	Allowing first year apprentices to income qualify for WCCC up to 85% SMI

○ SBCTC

Bill #	Title	Description
HB 1559 companion to SB 5566	Establishing the student basic needs at public postsecondary institutions act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes the Benefits Navigator Grant Program to fund, in part, a benefits resource hub at institutions of higher education, university campuses, and tribal institutions. Creates Student Basic Needs Task Forces and a Student Basic Needs Work Group. Enacts the Free and Reduced-Price Meals Pilot Program (4 colleges) Passed out of executive committee with significant amendments. Will move to House Appropriations
HB 1693	Expanding the students experiencing homelessness and foster youth pilot program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes the expiration date for the student's experiencing homelessness pilot program. Expands the program to include a tribal college. First public hearing in appropriations.
SB 5666	Establishing a community or technical college student housing pilot program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a pilot program to provide subsidized housing or housing vouchers to Washington College Grant recipients at community or technical colleges. Scheduled for executive session on Friday.
SHB 1316	Expanding access to dual credit programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a dual credit subsidy program for eligible students from low-income households. Allows students participating in Running Start programs to be funded up to a combined maximum enrollment of 1.6 FTE, including enrollment during the summer academic term. Expands requirements to notify students and their parents or legal guardians about dual credit programs and available financial assistance. Creates a dual credit incentive rebate.

Bill #	Title	Description
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passed out of executive committee with one amendment. Should be moving to House Appropriations

o DOH

Bill #	Title	Description

o ESD

Budget Provisos	Description
Economic Security for All (EcSA)	\$8.188m biennial increase above existing base funding
AmeriCorps Equity Enhancements	\$7.929m biennial increase above existing base funding

o DSHS

Bill #	Title	Description
HB 1260	Accelerating stability for people with a work-limiting disability or incapacity	Removes the Interim Assistance Reimbursement (IAR) requirement for recipients of the Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD) cash assistance program. Washington would no longer garnish any portion of an ABD client's initial Supplemental Security Income (SSI) lump sum payment in order to "reimburse" the state for months where retroactive SSI and ABD cash payments overlap.
HB 1447	Strengthening the ability of assistance programs to meet foundational needs of children, adults, and families	
HB 1652	Concerning child support pass through	
SB 5413	Concerning housing for essential needs and aged, blind, and disabled assistance programs	
HB 1094 SB 5125	Creating the Washington future fund program	
HB 1477	Making changes to the working families' tax credit that clarify program qualification requirements	

Bill #	Title	Description
HB 1238 SB 5339	Providing free school meals for all	
HB 1525	Concerning eligibility for working connections child care benefits for persons participating in state registered apprenticeships	
SB 5225	Increasing access to the working connections child care program	

○ OSPI

Bill #	Title	Description
HB 1186	Child welfare housing	The bill seeks to make permanent a housing program for child welfare involved families that is currently a pilot. 2/6 Update: Expands eligibility and establishes the Child Welfare Housing Assistance Program (pilot) as a permanent program instead of a pilot expiring on June 30, 2023.
HB 1204	Family connections program	The bill is updating an existing program, family connections, eliminating timeframes and allowing for the contracted provider to serve additional locations. 2/6: Update: The substitute bill establishes the Family Connections Program as a permanent program, instead of one that expires on June 30, 2023.
HB 1278	Nonrelative kin placement	Updating guardianship requirements for nonrelative kin and voluntary placement of children into foster care. 2/6 Update: New substitute bill expands guardianship assistance subsidies to include certain nonrelative guardians and expands placement options to include "suitable persons".
HB 1295	DCYF placement agreements	Concerning voluntary placement agreements with the department of children, youth, and families. The bill updates right of parents and guardians in voluntary placements, provides for legal counsel within resources; makes technical definition fixes and sets target goals for provision of legal requests. 2/8 Update: Adds requirement for the Office of Public Defense to provide parents with a legal consultation when DCYF proposes a voluntary placement agreement and ongoing legal representation.
HB 1338	DOC ed. and vocational prgs.	The bill intends to ensure that people in DOC custody who are pursuing a postsecondary education do not have progress interrupted by a transition to another facility.
HB 1397	Dependency	The bill intends to increase the safety of children returned to birthparents by requiring 6 months demonstrated sobriety before a child's return home.

Bill #	Title	Description
HB 1406	Youth seeking housing assist	The bill addresses access to shelter for youth under the age of 18 experiencing homelessness when a parent cannot be located or doesn't request the young person's return. The bill adds language clarifying youth access to shelter when they don't have parental permission a parent's permission (if they can't be located or don't request the young person come home). It requires family reconciliation services to be offered. 2/8 Update: Adds language clarifying that a youth can stay in shelter even if a parent who does not request the youths return home does not give consent for the youth to stay.
HB 1430	DCYF-caregiver communication	This bill is proposing to improve DCYF communication with caregivers by establishing a Caregiver Communication Specialist position at DCYF and the development of recommendations legislative report on the topic.
HB 1432	Juvenile justice	This bill proposes to reduce barriers to successful community participation for youth involved in the juvenile justice system by eliminating fines and establishing a taskforce to develop a community compensation fund.
SB 5124	Nonrelative kin placement	The bill intent is to support guardianships and voluntary placement with nonrelative kin by expanding child eligibility for guardianship subsidy payment and allowing for the use of state funds for this purpose. 2/6 Update: expands eligibility to any guardian who is a licensed foster parent at the time a guardianship is established. Authorizes DCYF) to accept custody of children from parents through a voluntary placement agreement to provide child welfare services. Now directs DCYF to provide specific data to the Legislature and Governor annually.
SB 5230	Extended foster care	Providing extended foster care services and public benefits payments to former foster care youth up to the age of 26 from 21. 2/6 Update: The substitute bill limits post extended foster care to just a financials subsidy and makes a few other technical fixes.
SB 5332	Homeless camps/schools, etc.	The bill will prohibit the location of encampments near schools and early learning facilities.
SB 5474	Juvenile justice	This bill proposes to reduce barriers to successful community participation for youth involved in the juvenile justice system by eliminating fines and establishing a taskforce to develop a community compensation fund. 2/13 Update: A Community Compensation Account was added.
SB 5434	JJ Court Jurisdiction	This bill proposes a taskforce to examine expansion of the Juvenile Courts jurisdiction from the age of 18, up

Bill #	Title	Description
		to 21. 2/9 Update: The minimum age of juvenile court jurisdiction from 14 years old to 13 years old and increases the maximum age of incapacity of committing a crime from 12 years old to 13. Establishes that children ages 8 through 12 to 8 through 13 charged with murder in the first or second degree are presumed incapable of committing the crime unless rebutted by clear and convincing evidence of sufficient capacity. No longer includes 20 year olds for consideration of the task force.
HB 1440	JJ Court Jurisdiction	This bill proposes a taskforce to examine expansion of the Juvenile Courts jurisdiction from the age of 18, up to 21.
SB 5127	Clarifying school districts' ability to redact personal information related to a student.	As it relates to child welfare it prohibits the disclosure of substitute caregivers providing overnight care with the approval of DCYF. 1/23 Update: Adds students who were enrolled in a school district
HB 1607	Concerning admissibility of juvenile statements and physical evidence.	The bill amends current law requiring law enforcement to provide a juvenile who is suspected of committing a criminal offense with access to an attorney for consultation. It clarifies limits on juvenile's statements and evidence collection by law enforcement as well as the ability of legal counsel to assert constitutional rights. Additionally, it provides juveniles the right to age appropriate applicable rights.
HB 1622	Supporting the needs of students experiencing homelessness.	increase educational stability through housing support for students experiencing homelessness and improve collaboration related to housing stability between CBOs and school districts
SB 5556	Transferring ownership of the Naselle Youth Camp property to the Chinook Indian Nation.	The Naselle Youth Camp has been shut down. This bill will return the property to the Chinook Indian Nation.
HB 1679	PEI-Modifying and extending requirements of a work group convened to address the needs of students in foster care, experiencing homelessness, or both.	Adds students in the Juvenile justice subgroup to the Project Education Impact's focus, and new required members to include: ERDC, and Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration, youth representative of populations served. Extends annual legislative reporting requirements; end date to 2027; and adds a few reporting requirements.
HB 1685	Concerning resource and assessment centers.	This bill amends several requirements for DCYF resource and assessment centers to among other things, raising age for service from 12 to 18 and allowable uses for emergency placements and respite care.
HB 1693	Expanding the students experiencing homelessness and foster youth pilot program.	This bill permanently establishes a program to meet basic needs, including housing and case management,

Bill #	Title	Description
		for college students who are experiencing homelessness or were in the foster care.
SB 5644	Concerning juvenile records.	Makes all juvenile records protected from public disclosures with limited exceptions. It also creates penalties for individuals who disclose these records in any manner. An individual who thinks their records may have been shared can bring a civil action. Additionally, disposition hearing ((of a juvenile), the court must provide notice of their eligibility for juvenile records sealing to the juvenile and the victims of the offense.
SB 5591	Providing dependent youth with financial education and support.	This bill requires providing dependent youth with financial education and support by assisting them with creating their own accounts as early as 14 years ago and through extended foster care or end of dependency care; DCYF required to deposit \$25/month while youth is in care. 2/14 Update: Clarifies the program is to be fully implemented statewide by July 1, 2027. DCYF, vs. caseworkers, opens the account. The initial deposit is to be made within one month—vs 2 weeks—of the account opening. Modifies the role of temporary advisory committee.
HB 1701	Institutional Education	Requires OSPI to be responsible for the delivery and oversight of education services in JJ DCYF state institutions. OSPI must report (through 12/15/2026) to the Governor and the Legislature with a timeline and plan for assuming these responsibilities and progress reports. It also establishes a temporary Joint Select Committee on Governance and Funding for Institutional Education tasked with examining and evaluating revisions to statutes, funding formulae, funding sources, and operating and capital budget appropriation structure in a report due to the Governor and Legislature by 2024.
HB 1373	Funding the removal of illegal encampments near schools, child care centers, parks, and courthouses	The bill assigns to Commerce the administration of a cleanup grant, it defines edibility for the grant and the development of an on line data base. Additionally, it requires by 5/25, the county legislative authority of each county and/ city that is required or that chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 must adopt an ordinance making encampments near specified locations unlawful.
HB 1769 SB 5644	Concerning juvenile records.	Makes all juvenile records protected from public disclosures with limited exceptions. It also creates penalties for individuals who disclose these records in any manner. An individual who thinks their records may have been shared can bring a civil action.

Bill #	Title	Description
		Additionally, disposition hearing ((of a juvenile), the court must provide notice of their eligibility for juvenile records sealing to the juvenile and the victims of the offense. The bill is identical to its companion-5644
SB 5702	Expanding the students experiencing homelessness and foster youth pilot program.	This bill permanently establishes a program to meet basic needs, including housing and case management, for college students who are experiencing homelessness or were in the foster care. It adds annual joint reporting and tribal college.
SB 5691	Concerning resource and assessment centers.	This bill amends several requirements for DCYF resource and assessment centers to among other things, raising age for service from 12 to 18 and allowable uses for emergency placements and respite care.
SB 5719	Modifying and extending requirements of a work group convened to address the needs of students in foster care, experiencing homelessness, or both.	Makes all juvenile records protected from public disclosures with limited exceptions. It also creates penalties for individuals who disclose these records in any manner. An individual who thinks their records may have been shared can bring a civil action. Additionally, disposition hearing ((of a juvenile), the court must provide notice of their eligibility for juvenile records sealing to the juvenile and the victims of the offense.

VIII. End of Public Health Emergency Benefits – Babs Roberts, DSHS

- Babs provided an update on the impacts of ending emergency public health benefits.

IX. Card Skimming – Tony Bowie, DSHS

- Tony Bowie provided an update about what is being done about a card skimming issue, both to address the immediate needs and prevention.

X. Opposite the Editorial (Op-Ed) Piece – Lori Pflingst, DSHS

- Lori provided an update on an opposite the editorial piece prepared that will be published soon.

XI. Public Comment

- Comments were shared thanking LEWPRO members for continuing this important work.
- **Question**

XII. Good of the Order

- A friendly reminder, if you have any additional comments or questions for task force members, please email LEWPRO@dshs.wa.gov.
- Next meeting date: Tentative – May 18, 2023 from 9am to noon

XIII. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 10:24 am