Legislative-Executive WorkFirst
Poverty Reduction Oversight
Task Force

August 26, 2019
Agenda

• Welcome and Introductions
• Taskforce Business
• Updates on ESSHB 1603 implementation
• DCYF Transitions – Update on Phase 2
• Drivers of Homelessness in Washington State
  – Tedd Kelleher – Managing Director, Housing Assistance Unit Dept. of Commerce
• Strategic Plan – Review and Discussion
• Public Comment
ESSHB 1603 Implementation

Effective July 28, 2019 ESSHB 1603 ends permanent sanction disqualification and adds homelessness as a criteria for time limit extension.

- Rule changes effective 7/28/2019
- Communication and training for agency staff
- Outreach to potentially impacted households and partners
Department of Children, Youth & Families

Update on Phase 2
Drivers of Homelessness in Washington State

Tedd Kelleher – Managing Director, Housing Assistance Unit
Department of Commerce
Strategic Plan
Five-year plan due December 1, 2019

- Develop and align with recommendations coming out of the Task Force Advisory Committee (Governor’s Poverty Reduction Workgroup)
- Focus:
  - Intergenerational poverty
  - Workfirst/TANF
  - Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Recommendation Themes

- Health
- Overarching/Social Capital
- Criminal Justice/Re-entry
- Benefits/Program Concerns
- Employment/Workforce
- Education
Recommendations
Overarching/Social Capital:

**Continuum of Care**
- Comprehensive career services
- Wrap-around services
- Provide choices

**Access**
- Streamline eligibility
- Eliminate fiscal cliffs
- Ensure respectful customer services
Recommendations

**Overarching/Social Capital:**

- Continue to Enhance Efforts to Ensure Equity & Cultural Competency
- Common Professional Development

- Cultural competency
- Trauma-informed Care
- Implicit/explicit bias & institutional racism
- Building empathy
- History of racism & discrimination in the U.S., its economic impact and resulting trauma
- Engaging case management approaches (strength based)
Recommendations
*Criminal Justice/Re-entry:*

**Ensure Supports for Families of Incarcerated People**
- Assign a case manager to assist in accessing social/economic support services
- Prioritize family unification

**Better Re-entry Preparation & Resources**
- Develop a need/risk assessment – equitable social & economic services/resources
- Connect individuals to appropriate community resources
- Support community college re-entry education programs for people leaving incarceration
**Recommendations**

**Benefits/Program Concerns:**

State Agency Coordination & Strategic Goals

- Coordination of programming between DSHS, HCA, DCYF, Commerce, ESD, SBCTC, and OSPI

- Agency accountability to a shared set of outcomes for individual, child, and family well-being

- Restructure programs to provide a respectful, integrated, seamless continuum of care

Effective Assistance Programs

- Update the Standard of Need and public assistance benefit levels

- Ensure access to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families by restoring recession-era program cuts

- Reorient Washington’s “work-first” approach to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families around “families-first”
Recommendations

Education:

Access

- Expand eligibility for the Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP) to 180 percent of the federal poverty line

- Ensure funding for post-secondary education for children who are in TANF households

Support

- Provide funding for childcare services to post-secondary students
Recommendations

Employment/Workforce:

Accessible Programs

- Adequately funded
- Accessible to people living in poverty or experiencing homelessness

Relevant Programs

- Living-wage workforce development and employment training programs
- Specifically tailored to those most impacted by poverty - including youth
- Include a broad range of opportunities - entrepreneurial and small business
Recommendations

Health:

Access:

- Necessary funding and resources targeted directly to increase access and availability of mental health services
- Expand capacity of inpatient facilities
- Opportunities for interpersonal relationship building between providers and clients

Children & Families:

- Additional school-based counselors and screenings
- Teacher trainings on early intervention steps
- Training to help Child Protective Service workers understand parental culture, parenting styles, struggles that single parents face, etc.
Discussion

- Thoughts on how these recommendations connect with the five-year plan to reduce intergenerational poverty and promote self-sufficiency?

- Next steps