



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
1500 Jefferson Street, SE • P.O. Box 40975 • Olympia WA 98504-0975

November 9, 2023

TO: Interested Persons

FROM: Michael Campbell, Placement Stability Program Manager

SUBJECT: CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (RCW 34.05.325)

For rules proposed under notice filed as WSR 23-19-078 on September 19, 2023:

Repealed WAC 110-50-0260; 110-50-0270; 110-50-0560; 110-50-0570; 110-50-0580; 110-50-0590; 110-50-0600; 110-50-0610; 110-50-0620; 110-50-0630; 110-50-0640; 110-50-0650; 110-50-0660, 110-50-0670, 110-50-0680, 110-50-0690; 110-50-0700; 110-50-0710; 110-50-0720; and 110-50-0730, and Amended WAC 110-50-0230; 110-50-0240; 110-50-0250; 110-50-0400; 110-50-0410; 110-50-0420; 110-50-0430; 110-50-0440; 110-50-0450; 110-50-0460; 110-50-0470; 110-50-0480; 110-50-0490; 110-50-0500; 110-50-0510; 110-50-0520; 110-50-0530; 110-50-0540 and 110-50-0550.

REASON FOR ADOPTION: The Child Welfare Placement and Foster Care Rate Assessment (FCRA) Chapter 110-50 WACs are being amended to allow DCYF to pay additional levels of foster care maintenance payments based on the specific needs of the child or youth. The changes also allow the standardized assessment tool to be updated to center on the child's or youth's needs, not on the home they are placed in.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED	THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERED ALL THE COMMENTS. THE ACTIONS TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO THE COMMENTS, OR THE REASONS NO ACTIONS WERE TAKEN, FOLLOW.
<p>DCYF received four public comments on the Child Welfare Placement and Foster Care Rate Assessment (FCRA) Chapter 110-50 WAC revisions.</p> <p>All four commenters shared personal experiences and their concerns with DCYF relying on the child's or youth's diagnosis as part of the rate assessment determination. The issues they noted were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That it can take months or even years to get children diagnosed based on the lack of providers.• There are providers that don't like to diagnose or label children, but the department is now making them so they can get services.• Young children are often unlikely to receive a formal diagnosis.	<p>No action taken. The diagnosis requirement was determined through research and analysis as the new rate assessment will be based solely on the needs of the child or youth, not the placement. DCYF will still review children and youth on a case-by-case basis as needed for exceptional costs. Foster parents may contact DCYF when they have additional information that may impact the rate levels.</p>

<p>Two of the four commenters requested that caregivers continue to be contacted as part of the rate assessment determination.</p>	<p>No action taken. The rate assessment process is an internal process and out of scope of these WACs. Foster parents may contact DCYF when they have additional information that may impact the rate levels.</p>
<p>One of the four commenters noted that they thought the leveling system was inaccurately ordered, because children in mental health counseling will be a higher level than children with physical disabilities or that are medically fragile.</p>	<p>No action taken. This process was created with the assistance of DSHS Research and Data Analysis (RDA) utilizing a study size of 25,000 youth in care. Not all youth with medical complexities will fit inside the level three or five categories. An exceptional cost plan will be considered for those with high complex needs. We are aware of this concern and will continue gathering data and evaluating as this new process is rolled out.</p>

This document also serves as the summary of public hearing comments to the agency head required under RCW 34.05.325(4).

cc: DCYF Rules Coordinator