

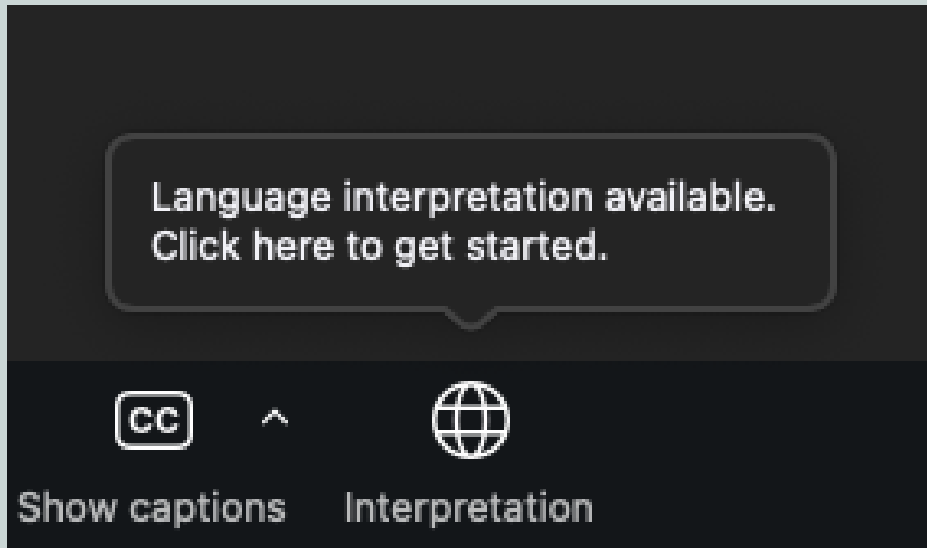
Parents & Caregiver Voices: **Why and How Did We Co- design an Advisory Cabinet?**

Thursday, July 24, 2025

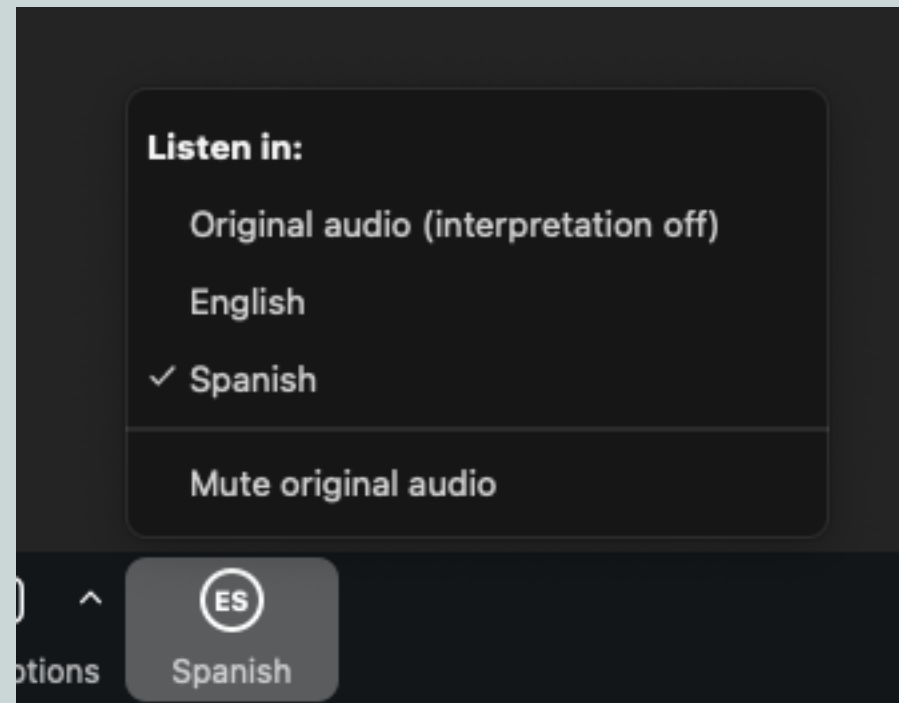


Language Interpretation

Once the interpretation function is activated, click the globe icon at the bottom of your screen.



Then click Spanish to listen in that language. (To turn off interpretation, click "Original audio.")



Presenters



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Centering Lived Expertise in Early Childhood Policy and Advocacy

A TA Opportunity for State Advocates



**Why and How Did We
Co-design an Advisory
Cabinet?**





<https://bit.ly/4kMqIOI>

The Opportunity



What...



Connect

Bring together 10-12 **parents/caregivers** who understand and can represent the urgent needs of their community.



Listen

Cabinet members will work with community organizations to **host feedback sessions** to listen, share information and gather feedback on state policy.



Inform

Cabinet members will **represent their community's concerns**, pose questions, and share information with DCF to inform state policy and priorities.



Act

DCF will **prioritize discussion, actions and decisions** that directly address questions, concerns, and challenges raised by members of the Cabinet.



Successful family engagement and leadership requires

- an intentional focus on building trusting collaborative relationships over time;
- recognizing, respecting, and understanding families' needs and unique experiences as well as historical, cultural and linguistic assets; and
- embracing a philosophy of partnership where power and responsibility are shared or ceded.



It also requires..

- Removing barriers to participation
- Including diverse family perspectives
- Providing appropriate stipends and compensation
- Engaging in professional development
- Providing coaching and ongoing support to parents
- Creating regular feedback loops



Engagement Continuum

Transactional

- One-way communication that aims to inform families
- Examples: Participating in surveys, workshops, trainings, and events

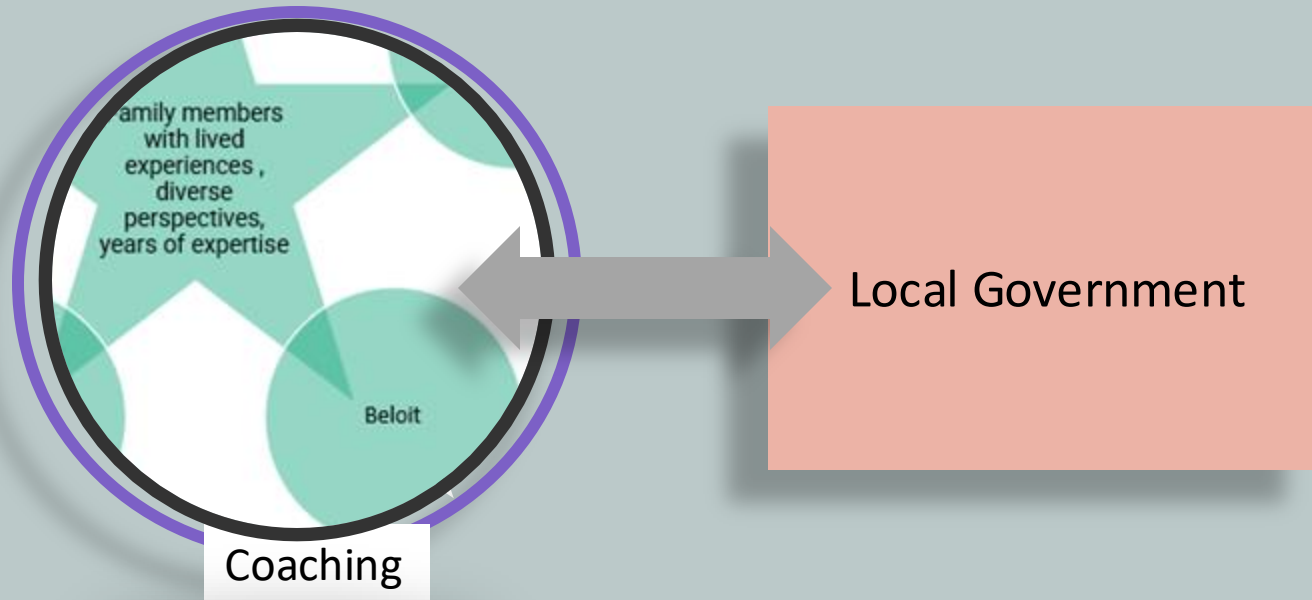
Transitional

- Two-way communication that aims to consult and involve families
- Examples: Providing feedback on survey development and analysis, co-develop or facilitate trainings and events, participate in community advisory committees

Transformational

- Two-way communication and co-design that aims to shift power to families
- Examples: Families co-develop and facilitate trainings, co-design policy and implementation, shared decision-making

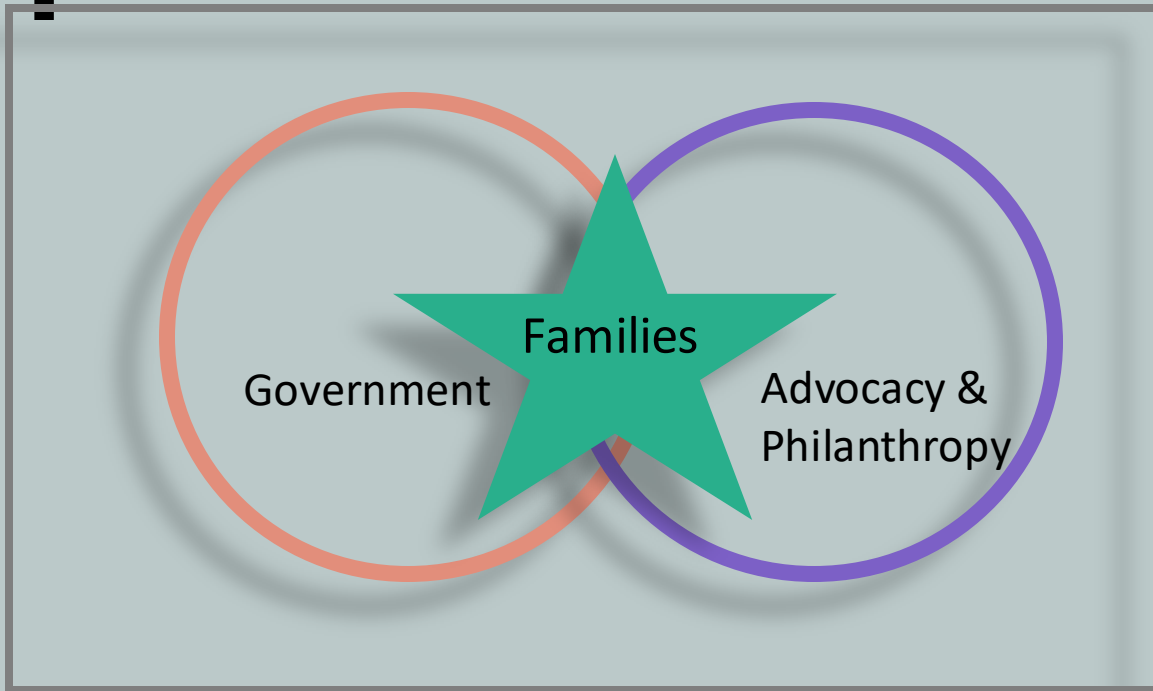




- Held community conversations with county executives, city officials, philanthropic partners, and stakeholders
- Identified barriers and solutions in accessing child care options (e.g., lack of public transportation after 5pm)
- Co-designed the City of Beloit's Child Care Action Plan that is currently being implemented
- Successfully advocated for additional \$1.5M from the county for child care providers and parents



Through a co-design process...



Potential reimagined structure



Families would like to have space and be centered at the decision-making table to

- Provide input throughout decision-making process;
- Drive policy, program, and funding decisions;
- Determine implementation strategies; and
- Ensure decisions and implementation meet the needs of community.



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Thank You for Attending! Please Fill Out the Survey.

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SAVE THE DATE

Collaboration in Action: Community Voice Shapes Policies for Wisconsin Children and Families

August 14
Early Educators' Voices: Why & How Did We Co-design
Research That Translates To Systems Change?

August 21
Advocacy Efforts: What Tools Are Needed to Drive
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