

DFS Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location:	VIA: WebEx - Clark County Department of Family Services 121 S. Martin Luther King Las Vegas, NV 89106
Date:	March 18, 2021 8:30 am – 10:00 am

Membership:		Present	Absent
Public: None	Brian Adams	X	
	Shelia Parks	X	
	Crystal Bomar	X	
	Judge Frank Sullivan		X
	Andre Bailey		X
	Matthew Cox		X
	Dashun Jackson	X	
	Donna Smith	X	
	Carly Aldis		X
	Rhiannon Foreman	X	
	Ron Harris		X
County/Department Management:	Tim Burch, Administrator		X
	Debbie Croshaw, Assistant Director	X	
	Abigail Frierson, Assistant Director		X
	Margaret LeBlanc, Assistant Director		X
	Jill Marano, Assistant Director	X	
	Judy Tudor, Assistant Director		X
	Mari Parlade, DFS Legal & Strategic Initiatives Manager	X	

Agenda Item I:	Call to order and welcome	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was called to order at 8:34am and roll was called by Chair Donna Smith 	
Agenda Item II:	General Public Comments	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
Agenda Item III:	Approval of February 18, 2021	(For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Quorum. 	
Agenda Item IV:	Department of Family Services Report Out	(Information Only)
	<p>1. Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are continuing to partner with SNHD on the Thrive by Five project. We reduced our referrals to SNHD temporarily to accommodate SNHD ramping up vaccine distribution. We continue to work with DCFS on FFPSA plan. We are finalizing the survey mentioned in our last CAC meeting and hope to send it out later this month. 	

2. Intervention & Accountability: DFS Internal & External Communication

- Organizational Culture work with Partners in Leadership continues. We have held 2 work groups and plan on having a couple more work groups in April. More to come for our May meeting.
- Racial Equity work group is working in partnership with Casey Family Programs to prioritize strategies for how DFS can increase trust and collaborative efforts to address racial inequities in the black community. We are prioritizing our strategies for 2021. We have begun attending Parks and Rec events in black communities to be visible and present in communities as helpers. Some staff attended the quarterly baby shower event at Parkside community center and other participated in handing out food at their food drive.

3. Youth Supports: Independent Living & Transitional Aged Youth Supports

- DFS has enrolled over 60 young adults into the LifeSet program.
- DFS is working with DCFS on getting further direction from the Children’s Bureau on the Support Foster Youth and Families During the Pandemic Act. Clark County will receive approximately 2 million dollars in additional Chafee funding to support young adults who have aged out of care between April 2020 and September 2021. There are still a lot of questions about this bill that we are sorting through. DCFS has to get approval from the legislature to administer the funds. We hope to have additional information at our next meeting.

4. Ombudsman’s Reports:

- Tisa is updating all of her material to be able to send out to all of our community providers.

5. Policies and Procedures:

- We updated our Voluntary Interdepartmental Transfer P&P to allow staff to put themselves on a transfer list anytime during a rolling calendar year.
- We distributed our Ombudsman Process Practice Guidance to remind staff to refer the community the Ombudsman office if they are unable to resolve any complaints.
- We distributed the amended Confirming Safe Environment P&P and Placement Stability and Preservation P&P to replace outdated policy.

6. Legislation:

- Legislation is in full swing. DFS is responding daily to proposed bills.

Agenda Item V:	CAC Discussion and / or Recommendations on the Top 6 Priorities (delineated in Section IV)	(Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board voted and approved to change the top 6 priorities to Prevention, Intervention & Accountability, Transitional Aged Youth and Independent Living, Education, Ombudsman’s Reports, Policies and Procedures, and Legislation. • On the topic of accountability Donna wanted to know if the work groups will have external members? Debbie will ask Judy, Donna also suggested that Tim interview a non-licensed foster parent. • Jill will speak with Tim about bringing in community partners so they could donate money for foster parents to the respite program. • Mari emailed the bill tracker, she stated we are monitoring numerous e bills for the impact they may have on the department. • Sheila wanted to know if CCSD has received complaints from caregivers about children returning to school. Brian stated that CCSD did a survey and most parents wanted their children to return to school. Tentatively CCSD will return to school in person learning in the fall. • Sheila would like to know what is DFS policy on children being vaccinated, some caregivers want everyone in the household to be vaccinated. Jill will reach out to our DA’s office. • Jill would like Mental Health added to April’s agenda, and what we as a committee can do to meet the needs of kids in foster care in regard to mental health. 	
Agenda Item VI:	Informational Items / Announcements	(Information Only)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jill discussed the Department is introducing a new program called Normalcy Respite for licensed and non-licensed foster parents. In the last legislation session, we received from the state an allotment of TANF funding for the specific purpose of respite. The department received a \$150,000.00, this amount is enough funding for 50% of the foster parents to use for 5 days of overnight stay. The expiration of this year’s funds will end in June. The allotment has to be requested every two years, and we will be tracking the program. The department is sending out communication before spring break to staff by email, and for foster parents via Facebook and email. Tim is planning on creating a Family Matters video and interviewing a foster parent and placement worker about the process. The program will allow the caregiver’s family and friends to received reimbursement for caring for a familiar child. The daily allotment is \$20 per day for each child a receipt is needed for reimbursement. 	

- The department is exploring other ways to use respite (e.g. Care.Com we would purchase a membership with funds loaded into an account) To fund the program the department will take additional TANF dollars or the new respite program so that we can purchase their services. The only services that we would purchase are going to be related to children_(e.g. distance learning, tutoring, and childcare in home or out of home). Care.Com does background checks on their employees which includes Social Security number trace, national sex offender public website search, multi-jurisdictional criminal database search and federal and county criminal records search. The department is investigating the background clearance procedure to ensure we are within the NRS for children in foster care. We are looking at Children’s Service Guild (community partner) to monitor the funds and will eliminate the department’s responsibility regarding background checks.
- Sheila mentioned the DOJ lawsuit regarding mental health. There are 8 CASA programs within the state she attended a meeting with each CASA directors. DOJ conducted interviews about mental health services for children in foster care. The DOJ wanted input from directors and volunteers about the lack of services, placement, and resources for mental health.
- Jill stated that the department submitted their responses to DOJ, and the primary focus was kids being inappropriately left in correctional facilities and other agencies due to lack of resources in the community.

Brian Adams presented the following CCSD’s updates:

- Brian updated the committee on CCSD’s students returning to class. Sports and other extra curriculum activities are resuming in the spring. For our fall sports we are running intramural sports. Football will be full contact ending with a spring football game.
- Wrap Around Services: CCSD lobbied and secure \$2 million dollars to hire additional Social Workers and add hours and days to our current social workers to work over spring break and into the summer to provide mental health services until the end of June.
- Brian reported on the Lifeline process development and strategies, see: <https://sites.google.com/nv.ccsd.net/lifelinetoolkit/>
- Covid-19: Teachers and staff are required to have random mandatory covid-19 testing. All CCSD staff are required to use the health mobile app prior to reporting to work for mandatory daily symptom monitoring every workday. The emocha Health platform is HIPAA-compliant. Based on staff’s responses, he/she will receive a color-coded digital badge for worksite entry.

Agenda Item VII:

Comments by General Public

(Information Only)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelia informed the committee on the Pin Wheel Planting ceremony which will take place sometime in April.
Agenda Item VIII:	Adjournment -
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting will be Thursday, April 15, 2021 @ 8:30 am via WebEx