

Department of Juvenile Justice Services

Director's Office

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John M. Martin, Director

Michael Whelihan, Assistant Director • Eboni J. Washington, Assistant Director

Policy and Fiscal Affairs Board Minutes

August 22nd, 2019 - 12:30 pm

Joshua Conference Room
Sixth Floor
Government Center

Chair: Commissioner Justin Jones

Vice Chair: Judge William Voy

Present

Commissioner Lawrence Weekly

Judge William Voy

Judge Robert Teuton

Clark County Management

Jeff Wells, Assistant County Manager

Kevin Schiller, Assistant County Manager

Brigid Duffy, Deputy Attorney

Catherine Jorgenson, Associate Attorney

Department of Juvenile Justice Services

John Martin, Director

Michael Whelihan, Assistant Director

Eboni Washington, Assistant Director

David Doyle, CAC Chair

Shannon Freire, Administrative Secretary

Department of Family Services

Timothy Burch, Administrator of Human Services

Paula Hammack, Assistant Director

Sheila Parks, CAC Chair

Guests

Judge Bryce Duckworth

William Covington, Administrative Specialist

I. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chair, Judge William Voy with a quorum present at 12:49pm.

II. Public Comments

- a. None at this time.

III. Approval of the May 9th, 2019 Meeting Minutes.

- a. May 9th minutes approved as written.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MARILYN KIRKPATRICK, Chair • LAWRENCE WEEKLY, Vice Chair
LARRY BROWN • JAMES B. GIBSON • JUSTIN C. JONES • MICHAEL NAFT • TICK SEGERBLOM
YOLANDA T. KING, County Manager

- IV. Approval of the August 22nd, 2019 Agenda.**
- a. Agenda approved as written.
- V. Judge Voy to provide a report on current status of the State Juvenile Justice facilities**
- a. Report given informally before quorum was gathered. Please see DJJS report for current status of Juvenile Justice facilities.
- VI. Receive the Director's Report on the Activities of the Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) and Direct Staff Accordingly. *John M. Martin, Director***
- a. **Community Issues**
 - i. Thank you to the board of County Commissioners for their continued support of the Harbor program. We are currently researching potential locations within the 89030 and neighboring zip codes to best serve this area.
 - ii. Chronic absenteeism-DJJS is partnering with CCSD to develop a tiered response along with aligning themselves with evidence based best practices to assist families in getting their children to school.
 - iii. The second project is wrapping one of the Academic Centers (behavior school) in community resources and vocational education opportunities to assist this very specific population in gaining vocational supports, additional learning supports and in-home resources to assist in addressing the behaviors that got the child wrapped into the behavior school cycle.
- VII. Receive the DJJS Citizen's Advisory Committee Report. *David Doyle, Chair***
- a. David Doyle commended DJJS for their work with Chronic Absenteeism and the Harbor expansion. The Harbor locations have served more than 10,000 youth and their families with only 5% recidivism rate.
 - b. David Doyle also shared an update regarding therapeutic/specialized group homes: The State has contracted with the firm, Myers and Stauffer to facilitate and submit a 1915i waiver in effort to obtain appropriate and sustainable funding for therapeutic/specialized foster care. Providers (as well as members of the Legislature) were told the waiver application would be submitted to CMS (Federal Medicaid) on or around May of 2019 with approval coming as early as September 2019. Providers were assured they would be given a copy of the application to review for Public Comment. As on the current date, the waiver application is running behind schedule and has still not been completed. Delays and lack of performance have been an ongoing issue with the State, as they previously embarked upon a State Plan Amendment initially to obtain appropriate and sustainable funding for therapeutic/specialized foster care. The State Plan Amendment was a futile process (years of wasted effort and energy) It ultimately went nowhere and the State learned that a 1915i waiver was needed; not a State Plan Amendment. Providers have been left in limbo via the hand of the state for the last 3 years now, and as of this current date the State has not been able to deliver results or stick to proposed time-frames. This is all extremely frustrating for providers and it has left Clark County with an unfunded mandate to fund therapeutic/specialized foster care.
- VIII. Receive the Director's Report on the Activities of the Department of Family Services (DFS) and Direct Staff Accordingly. *Tim Burch, Administrator of Human Services***
- a. **Foster Parent Recruitment/Retention**
 - i. The Department is focusing on creating community awareness of the need for foster parents, and general education of how the community can support by foster parents through a community wide recruitment effort. This effort will include advertisements such as bus stop signage, radio ads, google and social media ads, etc.
 - ii. In an on-going effort to support and retain foster parents, the department has begun retention groups. These groups were created in response to focus groups of

staff and foster parents, who provided information regarding ideas for how to improve relationships between staff and foster parents.

b. Services for Older Youth

- i. DFS is applying for a grant from Youth Villages in October 2019 to pilot an evidence based IL case management practice that mirrors a similar program from Memphis, TN.
- ii. The Department partnered with the CASA Foundation and Square Salon in Summerlin to provide over 1,100 foster youth with backpacks filled with school supplies, back to school haircuts, manicures, and shoes on August 4, 2019.

c. DFS/DJJS Crossover Team

- i. The Department continues to work on the implementation of the crossover unit. They can now accept cases that are dually adjudicated and referrals for cases that have the potential of entering DJJS side. An additional position has been added to the team creating a more manageable caseload.

d. DFS/At Risk Youth Services (ARYS)

- i. ARYS Unit now consists of 1 supervisor, 2 Senior Family Services Specialist and 1 FSS. They have served over 120 youth that has been identified as CSEC (Commercially Sexually Exploited Children). With recent staffing increases, an additional staff will be moved into the unit as well.

e. Child Haven Challenges

- i. While over the past few years the daily population is slightly trending downward, it remains subject to large population swings, due to days with high removals and admits to the shelter. Average length of stay is about 5 days. The 0-6 population has remained high. Challenges with lack of foster homes for this population is the primary reason for the high number of young children in Child Haven.

f. Legislative Updates

- i. DFS is currently working to develop implementation plans on a number of new legislation that recently passed in the 2019 session. They include AB 151, AB 150, AB 111, SB 292 (BDR 38 54), and AB 298.

g. Policy Updates

- i. DFS Policy and Procedures has completed the roll out of the safety practice model which includes the installation of our last two family assessments.
- ii. They are also working with the DA's office on how to better engage fathers in the child welfare process.
- iii. NIA, PCFA, PCPA policies will be posted to public website.

h. Training Academy

- i. On August 30th, 29 new employees will graduate from our training academy. Our next academy will begin September 9th.
- ii. On August 26th, DFS in partnership with Nevada Partnership for Training at UNLV will welcome 17 undergraduate and graduate Social Work students to complete their practicums in our agency over the next year.

i. Successes

- i. We are partnering with Adoption Exchange through the Title IV-B and VOCA grant to increase our capacity for recruiting adoptive homes for children, provide training and support for current adoptive families, and provide post adoption support.
- ii. We are also collaborating with Boys Town, Differential Response agencies, Positively Kids, and Public Health to design a program to provide preventative services to children who are 3 and under that come to our attention through Intake Assessment unit but do not meet our criteria for a response. This collaboration will allow community providers to still make contact with these families and offer supportive services.

IX. Receive the DFS Citizen's Advisory Committee Report. *Sheila Parks, Chair or Representative on her behalf*

- a. DFS CAC remains supportive of efforts being made by the Department for foster care recruitment and retention groups. Several members of CAC will participate in the Retention Work Groups. Youth aging out of the system is a priority as well. CAC continues to focus on what the Department is doing to improve internal and external communication.
 - b. A survey is being developed to send to stakeholders.
 - c. Updated policies are on the DFS website and the Ombudsman form is accessible online as well. CAC is pleased to hear about the videos that are being used by Tim, to engage and inform employees about new policies/training materials, rather than staff having to read materials.
- X. Next meeting will be *November 7, 2019*, in the Joshua Conference Room, 6th Floor, Govt. Center.**
- XI. Announcements - NA**
- XII. Public Comments - NA**
- XIII. Adjournment – 1:29pm**