

DFS Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location:	VIA: WebEx - Clark County Department of Family Services 500 South Grand Central Pkwy, 1 st floor ODC Pueblo Room Las Vegas, Nevada 89155
Date:	May 19, 2022 8:30 am – 10:00 am

Membership		Present	Absent
CAC Members:	Shelia Parks	X	
	Judge Frank Sullivan		X
	Andre Bailey	X	
	Matthew Cox	X	
	Dashun Jackson		X
	Donna Smith	X	
	Rhiannon Foreman		X
	Ali Caliendo	X	
	Pamela Roberts	X	
County/Department Management:	Tim Burch, Administrator		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	
Public:	Dr. Leslie Strasser Congrove, DFS Education Liaison	X	
	Gwynneth Smith, Chief Deputy District Attorney	X	

Agenda Item I:	Call to order and welcome	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-chair, Andre Bailey called the meeting to order at 8:34am. Mari Parlade performed roll call to determine quorum. 	
Agenda Item II:	General Public Comments	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
Agenda Item III:	Approval of April 21, 2022, Minutes	(For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAC April 21, 2022, Minutes - Approved 	
Agenda Item IV:	Mental Health Crisis in Foster Care:	(For Possible Action)
	<p>DCFS invitation was sent to Dr. Cindy Pitlock, Dr. Megan Freeman and Elvira Saldana. DCFS was not present to report out.</p> <p>Jill shared the department was able to fully execute the contract with Silver State Pediatric for the intermediate care facility. The licensing is still not finalized with HCQC, the goal is to get licensed by the end of the month. The skilled nursing facility is for six children and DFS has identified three children at Child Haven campus. The plan is to transition the 3 then incorporate the other 3 children.</p>	

The County is moving forward with another scope of work for a contract to get someone to run a qualified residential treatment program (QRTP) in the other building on campus that County has leased. Initially they will be licensed as a foster family group home with a requirement on the contract that they meet all QRTP requirements. There will be a delay in meeting all QRTP requirements due to judicial orders and potential statute changes.

We are internally working on transitioning to building an intensive care coordination model within our agency. This will still be several months away; we will be transitioning away from clinical contracting process; we would send the child to an outpatient agency, and they would coordinate the care. More of a case management module but more like a WIN model without the restrictions on the kids that can participate. It will not be as in depth, but the department will be doing the clinical, case management and care coordination for kids in our care. We have awarded contracts to a few different agencies in the community we are still finalizing the scopes of work. When a child comes into care, and we have identified a big need of mental health services, they can be referred for this care coordination. They will have a case manager to ensure the youth clinical needs are being met. Those agencies will have to be staffed for us to be able to start to make referrals by the end of this summer.

Agenda Item V:	Department of Family Services Report Out	(Information only)
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1. Prevention:

Judy shared the department is still working with the State to get the Family First Prevention Services Act plan approved. The last couple of meetings we had with the state have been canceled due to having some leadership changes. The last meeting the State was determining what prevention services would be utilized statewide. They have continued to draft what the Unity window would look like to support FFPSA. We are still waiting for approval. Our goal is to have our plan approved by July 1st. We have reached out to several community providers who have submitted proposals. We are vetting those proposals so once the FFPSA plan is approved, we will have providers ready to serve these families.

The department has been offering prevention services thru our Thrive by Five and CARA programs where we refer youth 0-3 years old whose referrals may have been screened out at Intake because it does not meet the threshold for child abuse and neglect assessment. Those who are screened out are referred to either Positively Kids or SNHD if they are identified as Marijuana exposed, Opioid exposed or any other substance exposure. Both programs are voluntary, and the families can deny services. We also have services thru Empowered to serve those families where we have initiated an assessment and are providing on going services.

Ali Caliendo asked if there are specific services for screening children who have been exposed to alcohol in utero.

Judy shared Empowered can also serve those that have alcohol abuse, the department tries to send over opioid cases first since that is their specialty.

Jill shared in yesterday's meeting with DCFS, we requested to add screening and assessment of kids in their current request in ARPA. Specifically, in FAFSA assessment, neuro psych and genetic testing. For assistance in allocating some funding to build some infrastructure.

2. Intervention & Accountability:

Judy shared the department had sent out an internal survey to staff to obtain feedback on ways they would like to receive communication. Once the results are compiled, we will share the feedback with CAC members.

Our culture work has continued, we have been working with Partners in Leadership. We sent out a survey to determine a baseline. Some questions are being generated from that survey to see if there has been an improvement.

Judy shared the handout emailed this morning “The Nevada Grandfamilies Adoption Guardianship State Chart” is a great resource tool that we are sharing with our staff and care providers. This handout explains the difference between adoption vs guardianship.

3. Transitional Aged Youth Supports & Independent Living:

Judy shared we have 84 young people graduating. We will be having a graduation party on June 15th. We have asked our staff to sponsor a young person and put together a basket. Judy extended the invitation to the CAC members if they would like to contribute in some way or would like to donate a basket.

The department has continued to implement the LifeSet model and continued with the implementation of our Guide Tree for Step Up. We have continued to meet with State on a regular basis to discuss overall assessment and changes for the Independent Living program. Overall plan to develop what our extended foster care would look like.

Sheila Parks shared that Vicki Wilson is on the committee for the graduation. There was an increase in the number of young people graduating from 84 to 91. Sheila would like to support in the sponsorship of an IL Graduation Gift Basket as a CAC member.

Ali Caliendo, Pamela Roberts, and Andrew Bailey offered to contribute towards sponsoring an IL Graduation Gift basket on behalf of CAC members.

4. Education:

Dr. Leslie Strasser Congrove, DFS Education Liaison, provided a high-level overview regarding the Education Decision Makers (EDM) process. The law became effective two Legislative sessions ago, it has been around 4 years now. EDM was established to identify who could make educational decisions for the child, the biological parent, foster parent, or educational surrogate. Legal Aid introduced this bill, to have someone legally appointed as the educational decision maker; the bill reads: *as soon as possible, after a petition is filed alleging that a child is in need of protection, but no later than the date on which the disposition hearing is held, the court shall appoint an educational decision maker for the child.* The rebuttable presumption is that it is in the best interests of the child for the court to appoint a parent or guardian of the child as the educational decision maker for the child. The court may appoint a person other than a parent or guardian as a EDM upon motion if the court find that a) The parent of the child is unwilling or unable to act, b) It is not in the best interest of the child, the court may appoint someone else (i.e., guardian, relative, foster parent, fictive kin of the child, volunteer EDM). The court may revoke the educational decision maker in the best interest of the child. The EDM must have the knowledge and skills on all the educational matters, the specific duties are placed in the law NRS 432B.462. An initial meeting with the child is necessary to get information, they are to address any

	<p>disciplinary issues, special education: evaluation, identification, free and appropriate education, represent them as a parent in those proceedings. They are supposed to consult with the DFS when the child comes into care, or they move placement whether or not the child stays in school of origin or moves schools depending on what is the best interest for the child. The EDM must be present in any meeting related to the child and any proceeding as recommended in the -child welfare laws. DFS is to consult with EDM when they are providing the court with education records during hearing or semiannual hearings.</p> <p>Mari Parlade stated that DFS will email the EDM’s handout to the CAC members. Mari also shared that Department of Family Services is not allowed by law to serve as an EDM.</p> <p>Dr. Congrove shared the courts have a mechanism where the EDM orders get sent to the CCSD legal department and also to the CCSD foster care department. Then they get distributed to the schools and get placed in the child’s hard files. A request has been made with CCSD for the information to be placed for instant access in Infinite Campus.</p> <p>Mari shared the monthly Education Stakeholder meetings are taking a break for the month of May and June due to school summer break and will reconvene in July.</p> <p>5. Policies and Procedures: Judy shared there’s a lot of policies and procedures in the works but only one has been implemented since our last meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Changes to Child and Caregiver Contacts Management Directive, some updates were done for clarity in the language. • Sheila shared that not only case workers have to visit the children but CASA volunteers and CAP attorneys that need to make contact. Some of the care givers are putting barriers like not answering the phones or even cancelling last minute and not rescheduling visits. <p>Judy provided ideas of the CASA foundation to maybe do an article in the Caregiver Courier regarding the importance of CASA visitation.</p> <p>6. Ombudsman’s Report: Ombudsman Report was provided for April 2022.</p>
Agenda Item VI:	CAC Discussion and/or Recommendations on the Top 6 (For Possible Action) Priorities (delineated in Section V)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheila suggested that in reference to Policies and Procedures, that DFS continue to share the importance of the contact with CASA to the caregivers.

Agenda Item VII:	CAC Bylaw Amendment to include Proxy language	(For Possible Action)
	<p>Mari went over the proposed proxy language verbatim to the CAC members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Proxies. A member may designate a proxy from the same membership category (i.e., (CASA) Court Appointed Special Advocate, Foster and Adoptive Parent, Local Juvenile Probation Services, Parent Advocate, Private Provider of Mental Health, (CCSD) Clark County School District, Youth with Foster Care Experience, General Public, Child Welfare Advocate, etc.) for any CAC meeting. If a voting Member is not able to attend a meeting, the Member is strongly encouraged to designate a proxy for that meeting. Advance notice (i.e., prior to the meeting start time) must be given in writing to the Chair and/or DFS Admin Team (DFSAdminTeam@ClarkCountyNV.gov) for the Department. Electronic mail is acceptable. Proxies may not represent CAC members for more than 50% of meetings held within a calendar year. Proxies may vote on behalf of the CAC member they represent. A voting Member is encouraged to use the same proxy at each meeting.</i> • Language was discussed, few minor changes were made. Donna Smith made a motion to approve the inclusion of the Proxy language into the CAC By Laws. This motion was seconded by Co-Chair Andrew Bailey, followed by Pamela Roberts, Ali Caliendo, Matthew Cox, and Sheila Parks were all in favor; motion was passed by all CAC members in attendance. • Mari shared that approved Proxy language will be shared with the District Attorney for submission to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. 	
Agenda Item VIII:	Informational Items/Announcements	(Information Only)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster Youth Graduation will take place of June 15th for donations please contact Vicky Wilson (CASA) or Lisa Martinez (DFS). • Sheila shared Carolyn Muscari is a 40-year CASA volunteer previously a CAC member for many years. She will be presented with the National CASA/GAL Association's 2022 G.F. Bettineski Child Advocate of the Year on June 6, 2022. 	
Agenda Item IX:	Next Meeting Date & Open Meeting Law Requirements	
	Next meeting will be Thursday, June 16, 2022 @ 8:30 am via WebEx.	
Agenda Item X:	Comments by General Public	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
Agenda Item XI:	Adjournment	
	Meeting adjourned at 9:45am	