

DFS Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location:	VIA: WebEx - Clark County Department of Family Services 500 South Grand Central Pkwy, 5 th floor Las Vegas, NV 89155
Date:	April 15, 2021 8:30 am – 10:00 am

		Present	Absent
Membership:	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	
Public:	None		

Agenda Item I:	Call to order and welcome	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was called to order at 8:39am 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 March 18, 2021 Minutes	(For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from February 18, 2021 – No Quorum (Need Approval) March 18, 2021 minutes approved 	
Agenda Item IV:	Department of Family Services Report Out	(Information only)
	1. PREVENTION:	

- Judy shared that the department continues to work with DCFS in terms of implementing Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). DCFS has contracted with the University of Maryland to assist them.
- We recently sent a survey to our community providers requesting their feedback about various evidence-based models that they are using or may be interested in partnering with us.
- There is a small amount of evidence-based services that are approved on the clearinghouse list for FFPSA. If we select a program that is already approved the responsible party would do the evaluations.
- “Safe at Home” is one of the programs that we would like to retain in Clark County. We previously worked with the IV-E Waiver for prevention services.

2. INTERVENTION & ACCOUNTABILITY:

- Judy stated we are working on a process internally to address culture. The first two workgroups focused on helping staff to understand that with culture also comes accountability.
- The two groups identified the goals and scheduled another internal workgroup, where we will develop our internal beliefs that will define how we hold each other accountable to achieve results.
- When we finalize the key measurements will we share internally, as well as the CAC, and utilize those results to guide conversations on developing belief statements internally. The next workgroups are in May and June.

3. TRANSITIONAL AGED YOUTH SUPPORTS & INDEPENDENT LIVING:

- Judy stated we are focusing on bill (SB397) to extend foster care, to ensure the language includes that a youth can say YES to receiving additional support through the StepUp program.
- The department is looking into different funding sources to serve young people, and to see who is IV-E eligible through our Chafee and SAFY funds.
- The bill requires monthly contacts and administrative review through the courts which are completed annually.
- The State holds weekly meetings for all the jurisdictions to distribute funds. For those that meet the requirements an additional \$200 along with the \$773 for the cost of their rent.

- We are also looking into providing emergency funds for those aged-out youth who haven't paid their rent due to the moratorium on eviction.
- There's additional money through Educational and Training Voucher (ETV). We are examining how to utilize the funds for youth that struggle with budgeting to provide financial literacy and incentives for them to save. We want to incentivize the training for young people who are willing to participate.
- Public Law 116 is the Covid-19 recovery act for foster youth. We are adding staff to Step-up to allow them to meet the requirements. The Pandemic recovery act extended foster care for any young person that was aged 14 through 26 from January 27, 2020 through September 30, 2021. Currently in order to receive \$773 court justification stipend, young people had to be employed or going to school or have a medical reason why they cannot attend school or work. These requirements are waived under the Covid-19 recovery act. We will communicate to our youth that these requirements are suspended until September 2021.
- The department is developing a budget. With the Covid-19 Recovery Act, there is 2.3 million dollars that must be expended by September 30, 2022.
- In Clark County we had 10 young people who have aged-out of care and are not being served by Step-Up. Diligent search is being done for those youth to make sure they are aware of the services. Through the state we are using PSA's to get the word out to that population that are in the age group of 22 through 26 to let them know that if they need financial support, they can contact us.
- The department is focusing on transportation which is a challenge for our youth from ages 14 through 17. We are exploring ways to expand and utilize our Hop Skip Drive Contract. We are looking at creating a voucher system so that if youth want to attend extracurricular activities, they will have transportation.

4. EDUCATION:

- Mari stated at the monthly Education stakeholders meeting Brian Adams, Dr. Mike Barton, and Dr. Bob Tarter spoke about Lifeline and how it has grown at an exponential pace. There are more social workers, MDT's and support staff that are equipped as Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) at the schools.
- Mari shared that at the Education stakeholder meeting, Vice Principle Jessica Benton at Del Web spoke on Lifeline at the grass roots school level. She and her school counselors check in with kids that are not able to attend school in person, convene meetups with kids every Friday and conduct home visits before calls are made to CCSD administration.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mari spoke on the SB347 bill which allows high school students to receive full or partial credit in alternative ways (as opposed to class time). We are working with CCSD as they are running reports to identify our seniors that may qualify for full or partial credit pursuant to SB347. • Mari stated that Dr. Murdock is communicating with our care giver champions and administrators (Olive Crest and Eagle Crest) via Caregiver Carrier, Facebook, and other channels. <p>5. Judy updated the committee on the department’s partnership with DJJS and the Harbor. We are trying to direct schools to contact the Harbor for educational neglect informal interventions.</p> <p>6. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judy stated the policy for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) has been updated by the state. The department updated our policy and procedure to match the statewide policy, communication went out to staff. • Judy informed the committee on the case transfer policy, when a case is transferred from one permanency caseworker to another permanency case worker, the policy includes specific requirements prior to being transferred. • Judy stated that we updated our school stability determination policy refining our process around the school of origin decisions and how we partner with the DAs in the process, to include incorporating education decision maker feedback. <p>7. LEGISLATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mari reported that we are mid-way through our session: There are five bills that we have a hard position on: SB397 extended foster care bill, SB376 disposition bill, AB426 CIP Warrant bill, SB354 Las Vegas My Brother’s Keeper Bill, AB228 Children Advocacy Center Bill, SB146 Mental Health Bill, SB274 and SB143. Mari will email the list of bills that we are following. <p>8. OMBUDSMAN REPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February and March reports reviewed. 	
Agenda Item V:	CAC Discussion and / or Recommendations on the Top 7 Priorities (delineated in Section IV)	For Possible Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys are due April 16, 2021. A reminder was sent out on April 12, 2021. • The treatment programs are not on the clearing house list. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step-Up will continue to make monthly contacts for youth turning 18 or choosing to remain in a foster home or in an independent living setting. • DCFS is creating a flyer and social media announcement (PSA's) specifically targeting this population. The flyer will be provided to your CASA's. • CAA is tracking bill SB357 which is related to gathering data on how youthful offenders are being housed and charged as adults. • Jill will share the correspondence regarding Medicaid services.
Agenda Item VI:	Mental Health Crisis Informational Items / Announcements (Information Only)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jill shared that the department is working on the mental health crisis related to children in foster care and the lack of services in the community. • SEIU requested to meet bi-monthly with the director of health and human services to discuss the issues and to make sure the state is aware of the lack of services and placements being provided. • The data showed the community base placement comprehensive mental health services in July of 2019 served 80 children and December of 2020, 11 kids were treated. • SEIU gathered a list of requests for DCFS to meet the needs of youth, to open a pediatric acute center for children age 12, and a RTC program at Desert Willow Treatment Center. • There is a weekly meeting with Pediatric care providers across the community to staff cases and strategize issues. The previous discussion involved the increase in medication requests for young children, a formal request was sent to DCFS to restart the program.
Agenda Item VII:	Informational Items/Announcements (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. • Sheila stated that on April 27th Tisa will be speaking at a CASA meeting about the Ombudsman office.
Agenda Item VIII:	Comments by General Public
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Agenda Item IX:	Adjournment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting will be Thursday, May 20, 2021 @ 8:30 am via WebEx