

**CLARK COUNTY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES**

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**Timothy Burch, Administrator of Human Services**

Abigail Frierson, Assistant Director • Margaret LeBlanc, Assistant Director  
Jill Marano, Assistant Director • Judy Tudor, Assistant Director

**Clark County Family and Juvenile Justice Services**  
**Policy and Fiscal Affairs Board Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 17, 2022 @ 12:30 p.m.**

- I. Call to order at 12:34pm
- II. Public Comments – None
- III. Approval of September 2, 2021, meeting minutes- approved
- IV. Receive report from County management regarding DFS/DJJS budgets for Fiscal 2022-2023
  - a. Jeff Wells shared that the commission has not established a final budget. The preliminary budget hearing will be held on March 22, 2022. All budgeted positions will be funded including contract increases, COLA, and merits. Supplementals are not included, and the County does not know what the supplemental amount will be until the second week of March. County has spent a total of 11.4 million to date with 9 million of those dollars being spent on Metro. The other 2.4 million was used to fund the positions needed due to the AB 424 taking effect.
  - b. The current goal for DFS and DJJS is to fill the vacant positions.
  - c. Judge Voy asked Jeff Wells about the unused County funds and the possibility of using those funds for special projects within DFS or DJJS. Jeff Wells stated that all departments, except for those that are under an enterprise fund, will have their funds swept at the end of the fiscal year. The swept funds are for the 438 and 437 program for capital improvements and IT improvements.
- V. Discuss dual jurisdiction calendar/cases
  - a. With the help of DFS and DJJS, Denise Parker shared that she has written a grant that will implement a crisis stabilization center and place the youth that need the treatment. The grant is a master service contract that will commit to providing \$225 on top of the Medicaid rate to help cover additional expenses that Medicaid does not cover. She requested for a total of \$3,000,000.00 for the remainder of the year.
    - i. Tim Burch inquired about a sustainability plan for when the grant runs out. Denise shared that it depends on the funding. The grant is currently being funded with three funding types however, she has not received the final approval from the State.
  - b. Judge Voy shared that since CYC is unable to hire staff, they are looking to recruit/hire staff and send some of the youth girls to Elko. Judge Voy is concerned with the State's plan with Elko. He shared that the State is looking for options in the community and possibly creating a Spring Mountain Youth Camp for girls.
- VI. Receive the Director's Report on the activities of the Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS).  
*John M Martin, Director*
  - a. DJJS is focused on implementing the 1915i as required by DCFS, which is requiring that we change our entire placement and supervision model of youth placed.
  - b. There will be 16 new cadets starting in the POST Academy at the end of February. Graduation will be in May.
  - c. DJJS is struggling to retain part time staff for the Truancy Outreach Program. They are looking into hiring more full-time staff and possibly contracting out. In addition, DJJS received the study results from UNLV. The study showed a 60% improvement in attendance with kids who were connected to the TPOP program.

- d. The Harbor hit a milestone and has served 21,000 families. DFS and DJJS are working together on how they can improve their services and how to prevent more kids and families from entering the system.
  - e. The first ever young women’s conference will be held of March 16 at Thomas and Mack. Theme for this year is “The Sky is The Limit.”
  - f. DJJS will be starting an automotive curriculum at Spring Mountain Youth Camp. They have partnered with Findlay Automotive and Marsh Automotive to hire the kids who are at or near 18 and have graduated the program.
  - g. Judge Voy inquired about the Residential Centers. Where are they on the RFP and the potential opening of the second one?
    - i. John Martin shared that the RFP is closed and currently in the rating process with a deadline of February 18. Only 3 business applied. In one of the RFP’s, there is a 60-day scale up for the first 12 beds. The second SMRC will potentially be open in September.
- VII. Receive DJJS Citizens Advisory Report. *David Doyle, Chair*
- a. The committee is excited about the further expansion of The Harbor. Families who live in the remote regions of Clark County will now have services readily available.
  - b. In addition, the committee is excited about the partnership with Work Force. Work Force is currently training Harbor representatives on the vocational and career opportunities and how they can use those resources for the families served
  - c. Implementation of family engagement in 2022. The committee is working on how to engage more with families and DJJS.
  - d. In April, Dave Doyle will be attending the George Town conference along with multiple partners including DJJS, DFS, DA’s office, LVMPD, CCSD, etc. to learn strategies on how to reduce racial an ethnic disparity.
    - i. John Martin thanked Ms. Dede Parker for coordinating and running the George Town Event.
  - e. On February 21, The Harbor and the TPOP program are hosting a venture program for about 100 kids.
- VIII. Receive Administrators Reports on the activities of the Department of Family Services (DFS). *Tim Burch, Administrator of Human Services*
- a. DFS is continuing to work with the State on the Oasis campus. They are finalizing the scope of work draft for the interim care facility for children with intellectual disabilities. The vendor has submitted all their paperwork to HCQU and has worked with Medicaid. The goal is to open the facility in March of 2022.
  - b. DFS has partnered with Social Service to provide housing for families and prevent removals due to homelessness. From December 5 to January 27, they have been able to divert 49 families and save around \$200,000.00. With our partners, the families have exited with case management and resources.
  - c. DFS has continued to focus on the services provided on campus. Around the state and country, the behaviors of the kids entering the system are becoming more complex. DFS did an on-site review with Methodist Home for Children, a national residential treatment provider. They recommended an increase in the types of staff that are on campus. DFS is seeking to convert vacant part time positions into three full time positions. We submitted a request for ARPA funds to increase the staffing to a 4:1 ratio at which time Methodist Home for Children will come on and help un implement a different type of care coordination model for campus.
  - d. In addition, we are working on workload management through paperwork reduction such as Adobe forms and workflow routing. DFS is also working with the DA to get an IT program and take away the responsibility of drafting court orders from the DFS staff and help the DA team take that up.

- e. Mr. Tim Burch thanked Curtis Germany and the HR team. All vacant positions in DFS will be filled. By the time the May Academy begins, they will be using intermittent positions and go into overflow.
  - f. In 2021, legislation declared SB 274 a child welfare issue. DFS has encountered 398 total youth that were trafficked and assessed. 122 were local but not known to DFS, 93 were out of jurisdiction, and 183 were identified through contact with DFS. St. Jude's started with onboarding staff for CSEC project that Clark County is funding. They will be providing alternative placements for CSEC youth.
  - g. Most of the focus has been on creating alternative placements for children. The state will be operating the PRTF on the Oasis campus and hoping to open within the next couple weeks. DFS is working with the same vendor to see if they can provide what the County needs for the second building.
  - h. Tim Burch shared that despite the shortage of staff, DFS completed more adoptions last year than their 5-year average including improved child contacts and response times. He appreciates the staff's commitment and team work to problem solve with the department's leadership.
    - i. Commissioner Jones expressed his appreciation to the Team at the Governor's office for expediting the emergency funding.
    - ii. Kevin Schiller expressed how important the provider side of this is in relation to the type because the County receives funding through those services and Medicaid. He stated the importance of keeping in communication with the Governor is critical as they try to expand services.
  - i. Judge Voy inquired if the County has researched on how to increase Foster Care rates and reimbursement.
    - i. Kevin Schiller shared there is no established rate structure available to provide to the State.
    - ii. Tim Burch shared that on the February 10, the State was directed to obtain a consultant and conduct a Medicaid rate study. Dr. Cindy Pitlock, the new DCFS State Director, has mentioned that creating a rate structure for all levels of care is a top priority. Clark County conducted their own rate study with PCG and will present their data to Senior County management within the next couple weeks. Clark County is working on establishing a base line for emergency services similar to other states and counties. Tim Burch thanked Jill Marano and Eboni Washington for working together to map out the various fee structures.
- IX. Receive the DFS Citizens Advisory Report. *Donna Rossum, Chair*
- a. No report given
- X. Identify emerging issues for the next meeting
- a. Update on the 2022-2023 budget
  - b. Updates on placement, reimbursement rates and Oasis.
- XI. Announcements - None
- XII. Public Comment
- a. Dave Doyle- Thanked DFS for including providers in the PCG rate study. As chair of the Family Focused Treatment Association (FFTA) for the state of Nevada, they would like to be involved and at the table. They can bring a degree of experience, knowledge, and insight as partners.
  - b. Kim Abbot with Legal Aid Center thanked Denise Parker for her hard work on the grant and her partnership with the community. Additionally, they have appreciated the partnership with the county as they meet weekly to discuss children's mental health.
- XIII. Next Meeting scheduled for May 19, 2022, at 12:30PM via WebEx.
- XIV. Meeting adjourned at 1:36pm