

CCFS Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location:	VIA: Microsoft Teams - Clark County Family Services Join on your computer, mobile app, or room device. Click here to join the meeting Meeting ID: 287 986 802 178 5 Passcode: bD6Cv2Ha Download Teams Join on the web Or call in (audio only) +1 725-696-5982,,856400064# United States, Las Vegas Phone Conference ID: 856 400 064#		
Date:	May 15, 2025 8:30 am – 10:00 am		
Membership		Present	Absent
CAC Members:	Alison (Ali) Caliendo		X
	Christopher Merritt	X	
	David (Dave) Johnson	X	
	Dashun Jackson	X	
	Donna Smith	X	
	Kimberly Abbott	X	
	Judge Margaret Pickard		X
	Shelia Parks	X	
County/Department Management:	Frank Prado, CCFS Director	X	
	Wonswayla Mackey, CCFS Deputy Director	X	
	Lisa Martinez, CCFS Deputy Director	X	
	Stacie Dastrup, CCFS Deputy Director	X	
Public:	Sarah Schaerrer, Deputy DA	X	
Agenda Item I:	Call to order and roll call		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The meeting was called to order at 8:36 am by Chair, Dave Johnson and roll call was performed.		
Agenda Item II:	Comments by General Public		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">None		
Agenda Item III:	Approval of November 21, 2024, Minutes	(For Possible Action)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CAC April 17, 2025, Minutes: Not Approved		
Agenda Item IV:	Clark County Family Services Director’s Report	(Information only)	
	<p>Frank Prado reported that in 2021, CCFS had the United Methodist Home for Children assess the operations at Child Haven. They provided a proposal; however, a contract was not established. A follow-up assessment was conducted at the beginning of April and now we are looking to follow that proposal in terms of training and adjusting some of the operations at Child Haven.</p> <p>Agency is in the process of reviewing many of their contracts to make sure they have appropriate deliverables. This task takes up a lot of our time and our purchasing staffs time.</p> <p>As an agency, we were able to secure access to the viral statistics system that will enable us to expedite our diligent search. When they remove a child, we will have</p>		

better information in terms of trying to find relatives and people that can be a placement for that child. The next Academy starts June 23rd; with 28 people. Currently there are 48 field vacancies, 47 case workers and one supervisor; 28 of those positions will be filled with the Academy from March, with about 19 vacancies. The agency is still having a little issue with turnover.

Donna stated in reviewing the statistical overview reports it looks like Child Haven has been on a steady increase of residents since the beginning of the year. Donna questioned with heading into summer; is the agency anticipating that number to go up or go down over the summer months? Also, how many children can be housed at Child Haven before people start sleeping on couches and so forth? Child Haven is at 94.3 for April, what is the top-out number?

Lisa responded, CCFS does not have a top out number, as an emergency shelter CCFS Child Haven must accept everyone. If the population is bursting, the agency has cots. Child Haven was doing quite well with the population trending down but seen an increase in the last 2 1/2 weeks. The agency has done a couple of things to try to mitigate; sent emails to caregivers, called all open beds for foster parents to see who could either take placements in those open beds or are willing to expand their license if they have the ability.

Dave inquired on status of the longitudinal data presentation that would show the trends in child population as well as caseload by caseworker type.

Frank shared the data report showing the Child Haven population went down to 79 back April 27 then May 2nd started seeing the spike.

Dave inquired if the report could show three years to see seasonal trends.

Frank responded he has very limited capabilities when it comes to this report. Lisa Martinez added the agency internally do not have the ability to run such a report and would have to request the programmer to re-configure.

Dave shared a data report. He stated this is public information from the County website for population of Child Haven in length of say I didn't do it for this past month, but as you mentioned it went up. The population has been relatively flat. The highest seen in the data set provided was 108 at Child Haven and unfortunately the length of stay has been trending in the wrong direction.

Kim requested the two reports to be emailed to the committee.

Discussion was made on how CCFS can report out on the seasonal longitudinal information requested. CCFS stated they don't own the Unity system, they just need to get the programmers to create a three-year report from the Unity system.

Agenda Item V:	Clark County Family Services Report Out	(Information only)
	<p>Discussion was made regarding agenda item 2. "Prevention" not being on the agenda. CCFS stated that item falls under the Office of Clinical and Community Services (OCCS) and that Jill was unable to attend this meeting.</p> <p>Wonswayla reported that she can share what she knows with regards to Family First and Prevention. There is an effort to enhance a differential response program over in Jill's area so that some of those cases can be deferred to our differential response team like the neglect cases can be deferred to differential response. OCCS is also taken over the truancy prevention program. The idea is to look at those cases and provide services to those families before they even hit the child welfare system with regard to truancy and differential response. Some of those neglect cases looking at those families and determining what preventions can be put in place. How she can help those families from both the educational aspect and the health emotional behavioral aspect so that those families aren't diverting back into the child welfare system from the prevention area. She's working with some of the providers outside, having discussions as to how they can collaborate with her to enhance that prevention piece. I cannot speak specifically in detail with regard to what the outcomes are for that. We can request updates from her on a routine basis so that we can report that out to you and confirm when she can attend the next CAC meeting. But that program no longer is under our purview and should come off the agenda for us to report out.</p> <p>Dave stated voted a while ago on the priorities of this committee and mental health were a core priority of it. I like the path of requesting during the Policy and Fiscal Affairs Committee here in a few hours, I could put forth a recommendation that our purview be adjusted to reflect these recent changes to those services and give us the latitude to review those.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. INTAKE/PLACEMENT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Martinez stated updates were in the statistical overview for April. It has the intake cause as well as our license home and then the placements for the month of April that were made with parental placements, and relatives. 2. INTERVENTION, ACCOUNTABILITY, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wonswayla confirmed that nine (9) policies and procedures were sent to the committee. • Lisa stated no updates for relative or fictive kin. 3. TRANSITIONAL AGED YOUTH SUPPORTS & INDEPENDENT LIVING: <p>Stacie stated extended foster care is in full effect.</p> <p>Will send the committee the difference between voluntary court jurisdiction and then extended foster care. Kids that are still in school stay with us and then when they graduate, they have the option of going on to step up or fight something like that. When they turn 18, they'll go to extended foster care, if that's their choice.</p> <p>They could still be in school, but they're going to move on to Social Service. It's supposed to start July 1st. We have about 85 youths that we need to transfer by June 30th. Social Service has about 300 youth that they're working with to see if they want to join in to extended foster care, so they'll be</p> 	

able to receive payments. One of the big differences is extended foster care youth, they will be able to stay in license foster homes after the age of 18, so that's huge.

We have a town hall this evening with the Social Service youth, the Step Up youth to explain the program and what we need to do to get everybody signed up, to ensure they get their payment. We need this to be completed by June 15th.

The Finance Committee is finishing up LifeSet to talk about having their program continued and being financed.

Donna inquired while CCFS is going through this transition what is the biggest weakness.

Stacie responded to ensure no one falls through the cracks and they all receive their payments. Also, CAP is getting involved, kids at step up have can keep their Caps attorney.

Shelia asked for clarification of the CASA volunteers' role with this new transition. The judge informed a Casa volunteer when the kid turns 18, they're going to extend their foster care, and they keep their Casa worker. Shelia stated when they age out Casa is no longer involved. Can you explain that difference because Casa staff is unclear and will not follow the youth at Social Service because that's not what we normally do when they exit foster care.

Stacie responded she has seen nothing about Casa staying involved after youth turn 18.

Kim Abbott stated the youth are not exiting foster care, it's extended foster care and are remaining in care.

They're going to have court hearings every six months. They're going to have case workers checking in on them every 30 days.

Kim and Shelia requested to email them the information about the town hall to share with their clients and workers for them to be aware.

Stacy confirmed that the 85 youths needing to be transferred are the ones who are 18 or about to turn 18 years.

Kim questioned that with the transferring of kids to step up and with the worker obligations is there an allocation of additional social workers to step up.

Stacie responded Step Up received new positions, new supervisors and a new manager. They will be hiring, if they have not already.

Kim stated workers informed her that there is a certain category of kids. Specifically, kids with intellectual and developmental disabilities who will be receiving services through DRC who are not eligible for extended foster care. I

	<p>know that's an issue and a concern that I have on behalf of all our high needs use if they're going to be told they're not eligible.</p> <p>Stacie stated she will follow-up and get clarity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Living: Dave stated from the last meeting; Clark County Family Services Public Information Officer was going to collaborate with foster change on the communication of availability of IL services to age-appropriate children who have not been assigned an IL worker. Has that happened? <p>Donna stated it has not happened. Although it could still happen at this point, the board of Foster change did take a vote. The organization will be dismantling at the end of June. If that information were provided to us, we do still have the ability to communicate that out to the membership until the end of June.</p> <p>David stated we could do that communication and option to go through the Courier and wouldn't mind connecting with the PIO for that.</p> <p>4. Overview of 2025 NV Legislative priorities: Frank stated the bill No reject. No reject. it's been heavily revised and now more of a keeper, status quo kind of thing.</p>	
Agenda Item VI:	Emerging Issues	(Information Only)
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Since Juneteenth falls on June 19, 2025, the next CAC meeting will be July 17, 2025. Dave met with Lisa and Jennifer with Foster parent champions and we kind of brainstorm some opportunities to move forward with the help desk system. The critical elements that is concerned about the single point of contact, the gathering of data, that seems totally doable with current systems. Jennifer is going to staff with her team and prepare a presentation on the changes to foster parent champions to present to the committee. Discussion on visitation items. Judge Pickard was going to get with the other judges to talk about. the currently defaulting when kids come into care on supervised visits at visitation center. She was going to discuss defaulting somewhere else on that. Hopefully, we can discuss during the July meeting. Dave brought up concerns about an opportunity to have supervised visitation for various approved community partners to serve that supervision and provide organized activities for it. I haven't heard anything from Clark County on if that's possible. <p>Frank stated there is a structure for us to partner with outside agencies. We would do a working agreement or a MOU. They would have to meet the</p>	

	<p>same requirements that all of our vendors do, background checks and of course, in this case you would have to state that there is no fee for the service, what it is that the agency is agreeing to do if they're going to come in every time that we have visitations to all of our sites, then that needs to be spelled out. If they're going to be focusing on one site, what capabilities they're bringing to the table, we would need to expel that out. We wouldn't object to that if it's going to help develop a structure and be helpful with the ultimate goal of reunification.</p> <p>Dave stated he will follow up on this item and work with Lisa.</p> <p>5. Dave request the agenda to reflect general public comments period at the end to be revised.</p> <p>6. Follow up item from the October 17th, 2024 meeting. Kim requested a repository of CCFS policies relevant to stakeholders as applicable to our bylaws here; not just policies that are changing but all policies that are relevant to this committee to be placed on the website for access.</p> <p>Wonswayla stated that that's something we would actually have to create outside of the intranet, and we would need to have further discussion.</p> <p>Dave stated we look forward to an update during the July meeting.</p> <p>7. Filling missing seats for the CAC.</p> <p>Wonswayla Mackey we have not received any information for anyone who's submitted applications.</p> <p>Donna Smith requested that the attendance and membership logs combined as one which includes the vacancies.</p> <p>Kim Abbott questioned whose responsibility is it to staff this committee? What is the process when one submits an application?</p> <p>Sarah clarified this is an actual discussion item to place on the agenda for next time. Maybe come with more of a presentation on how this actually goes. It ultimately goes to the Board of County Commissioners.</p>	
Agenda Item VII:	Review Priorities	(Information only)
	Dave stated he will skip this for now and will work with administration on incorporating the priorities for this committee to report out on the agenda for the July meeting.	
Agenda Item VIII:	Information Items/Announcements	(Information only)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	

Agenda Item IX:	Next Meeting Date
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting will be Thursday, July 17, 2025 @ 8:30am via Microsoft Teams.
Agenda Item X:	Comments by General Public
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave passed the metaphorical gavel to Donna Smith, deputy chair, so he may participate in public comments as a private citizen. • My name is Dave Johnson, 5133 Shockwig Court, North Las Vegas, NV. I'm a foster parent. I'm speaking today to highlight the systemic need for stronger adherence to our partnership agreement between CCFS and foster parents and to earnestly request leadership's active engagement in ensuring its principles guide our collective work. I want to start by acknowledging the dedicated career staff at Clark County Family Services. The work they do is incredibly challenging and often emotionally draining, and many serve with true commitment. But we know that it's the daily love, the stability and the unwavering presence of our fostering kinship caregivers that profoundly shape the child's journey and their future. We are privileged to be on the front lines nurturing these young lives. This is why our foster Care partnership agreement with CCFS is so fundamentally important. This isn't just another document, it's a promise. Its purpose as stated so clearly within it, is to articulate a common understanding of values, principles, and relationships necessary to fulfill this responsibility in respectful, positive and collaborative manner. It affirms that together we agree to minimize trauma, limit placement moves and promote family connections and children. These carefully considered words aren't just ideals, they are a blueprint for a sacred trust. And with those of us who open our homes and our hearts, as we all work towards our vision of safe children's healthy families and caring communities. Our county commissioners demonstrated profound wisdom in establishing this citizen's advisory committee. Their vision was to ensure that our community voices are integral to the process, providing direct feedback on the workings of our child welfare system and yes, on its shortcomings. This civilian oversight is not just helpful, it's crucial for growth and accountability. So I stand here today holding a deep and abiding hope for a better future for our children. A future where these carefully constructed partnership principles are not just aspirational. But our living foundation of every interaction, every decision, every day. When we truly honor that partnership, when we live, that agreement with the unwavering commitment we will undoubtedly achieve the best possible outcomes for every single child in trusted to our communities care. Thank you.
Agenda Item XI:	Adjournment
	Meeting adjourned at 9:50 am