

## CCFS Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

<b>Meeting Location:</b>	VIA: Microsoft Teams - Clark County Family Services <b>Join on your computer, mobile app, or room device.</b> <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a> Meeting ID: 299 538 190 133 2 Passcode: ht33os9Zf <a href="#">Download Teams</a>   <a href="#">Join on the web</a> <b>Or call in (audio only) +1 725-696-5982,,83394576#</b> United States, Las Vegas Phone Conference ID: 833 945 76#
<b>Date:</b>	March 26, 2026 8:00 am – 10:00 am

<b>Membership</b>		<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>CAC Members:</b>	Alison (Ali) Caliendo	X	
	Angela Cook	X	
	Christopher Merritt		X
	Dashun Jackson		X
	Donna Smith	X	
	Madyson Wier	X	
	Judge Margaret Pickard	X	
	Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod	X	
	Shelia Parks	X	
	Tammy Malich	X	
<b>Clark County Management:</b>	Abigail Frierson, CCFS Interim Deputy Director	X	
	Wonswayla Mackey, CCFS Deputy Director	X	
	Lisa Martinez, CCFS Deputy Director	X	
	Stacie Dastrup, CCFS Deputy Director		X
	Robynn Bell, CCFS Deputy Director	X	
<b>Public:</b>	Laurie Iscan, Deputy DA	X	

<b>Agenda Item I:</b>	<b>Call to order and roll call</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting called to order at 8:09 am by Vice Chair, Ali Caliendo. Quorum was confirmed.</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item II:</b>	<b>Comments by General Public</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item III:</b>	<b>Approval of February 19, 2026, Minutes</b>	<b>(For Possible Action)</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes approved unanimously</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item IV:</b>	<b>Discussion of 2026 CAC priorities and if adjustments should be made</b>	<b>(For Possible Action)</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee members reviewed the draft priority list created in a previous year but never finalized. The committee agreed to clarify and streamline priority categories.</li> <li>Priority Categories: Family of Origin, Children, and Placements</li> <li>Agreement to retain the three priority areas</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rename “Children” to Children’s Needs to better reflect focus.</li> <li>• Possibly refresh titles under “Placements” to reflect recruitment, adequate placements, and visitation.</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Family of Origin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consensus this should remain a priority, emphasizing family preservation and timely reunification.</li> <li>• Discussion about referrals beyond parenting/substance abuse classes.</li> <li>• Identified need for early intervention and mentorship models to support minimally functioning families.</li> <li>• Need to clarify what the committee can influence vs. what is strictly departmental or state-level (e.g., Medicaid).</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Children (Children’s Needs) <p>Topics raised for inclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental/behavioral health access</li> <li>• Higher level of support care</li> <li>• CCSD educational performance and IEP/504 monitoring</li> <li>• Need for provider education on Medicaid eligibility and prior authorization processes</li> <li>• Concerns about long waitlists (e.g., neurodivergent services, FASD evaluations)</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Placements <p>Significant discussion on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster home shortages and bed availability</li> <li>• Importance of matching children appropriately to prevent disruptions</li> <li>• Recruitment and training challenges, especially with recent funding changes to “Raise the Future”</li> <li>• Need for better support to foster/kinship families to reduce burnout</li> <li>• Visitation logistics (safety, availability, geographic issues) as a major factor impacting placement stability</li> <li>• Family Services leadership emphasized: • Challenges with meeting federal “Home for Every Child” expectations</li> <li>• Need for more community providers, especially for neurodivergent and higher-needs youth</li> <li>• Limitations caused by state-controlled systems (childcare subsidies, Medicaid)</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
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<b>Agenda Item V:</b>	<b>Clark County Family Services Report Out</b>	<b>(Information Only)</b>
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	<p>Family Services reported their Strategic goals for 2026 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing foster home recruitment and preparedness</li> <li>• Enhancing Child Haven services and campus environment</li> <li>• Workforce morale and communication improvements</li> <li>• Ongoing evaluation of federal “Home for Every Child” model and whether Nevada will opt in</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Haven priority projects: programming expansion, building improvements, and services for IDD and trafficked youth</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item VI:</b>	<b>Identify Emerging Issues to be addressed at future meetings and receive updates on activities of the CAC members related to their duties as committee members</b>	<b>(Information only)</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donna will be leaving the committee at end of May due to relocation (vacancy: Foster/Adoptive Parent seat).</li> <li>• Shelia will be leaving CASA at end of May (CASA seat becomes vacant and must be filled).</li> <li>• Committee members encouraged to share potential candidate names.</li> <li>• General Public seat remains vacant.</li> <li>• Ali and Judge Pickard will consolidate revised priorities into a draft for review at the next meeting.</li> <li>• Possible future informational session on Medicaid processes (pending clarification of scope and roles).</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item VII:</b>	<b>Next Meeting date to be set</b>	<b>(For Possible Action)</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motioned to conduct next meeting Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 8:00am</li> <li>• Motion approved unanimously</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item VIII:</b>	<b>Comments by General Public</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item IX:</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>	
	Meeting adjourned at 9:44am.	