

DFS Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location:	VIA: WebEx - Clark County Department of Family Services https://clarkcountynv.webex.com/clarkcountynv/j.php?MTID=medfb9a0b779196d4ea251cfad1dd00fc Meeting number (access code): 2499 239 8177 Meeting password: Hvupym7jW85
Date:	November 17, 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	
	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. Cindy Pitlock, DCFS Administrator	X	
	Judge Stephanie Charter	X	
	Kim Abbott, Team Chief Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada	X	
	Gwynneth Smith, Chief Deputy District Attorney	X	

Agenda Item I:	Call to order and welcome	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was called to order at 8:32am by Mari Parlade and roll was called by Chair DaShun Jackson. 	
Agenda Item II:	General Public Comments	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
Agenda Item III:	Approval of August 18, 2022, September 21, 2022 & October 20, 2022, Minutes	(For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAC August 18, 2022, Minutes motion was made by Donna and Second by Andre – Approved. CAC September 21, 2022, Minutes motion was made by Sheila and Second by Pamela – Approved. CAC October 20, 2022, Minutes – motion was made by Sheila and Second by Andre – Approved. 	
Agenda Item V:	Mental Health Crisis in Foster Care:	(For Possible Action)

- Dr. Cindy Pitlock with DCFS expressed she can answer any questions that CAC members have. DCFS is working on establishing the ARPA programs through the funding for Mobile Crisis Response Teams. DCFS' goal is to build the State's community provider network for mobile crisis response training and technical assistance. Once they have a community provider network, DCFS hopes to transition the roll out to Clark County Schools and Washoe County Schools for Mobile Crisis Response. DCFS is working on a Development of an RFP for a Care Management Entity to include Wraparound Services, Intensive Care Services, Intensive In-Home Services, Emergency M-plan Respite and Family to Family Peer Support. DCFS is also working with Medicaid for the sustainability of upcoming programs/projects. The State asked Mercer to do a rate study for specialized foster care because the rates have not been increased for the last twelve years. DCFS continues to have challenges with out-of-state PRTF residential treatment centers refusing placements because of reimbursement rates. Legislator just dropped 132 bills for the upcoming Legislative session, and DCFS is working on establishing a tracking system.

DaShun Jackson inquired about the partnership and progress between DCFS and DFS for the Oasis building, and inquired if there are any updates on the FFPSA plan?

Dr. Cindi Pitlock shared that the PRTF for the Oasis Campus was awarded to Bamboo Sunrise, and they are currently in contract negotiations. DCFS is still providing services to youth until after negotiations are completed. Oasis has a need for ADA construction. The construction will be covered by DCFS or the vendor. Specialized foster care will be presenting at the December IFC meeting regarding a bridge increase for specialized foster care in the rural area. Never Give Up Youth Healing Center is working on improving their processes, services, and training. DCFS is tentatively planning on touring Never Give Up Youth Healing Center, Aurora, and Hawthorne before the 1st of the year. No changes have been made for the FFPSA plan, and the plan is currently on track for re-submittal.

Donna Smith inquired about what state is looking for regarding step-up and/or step-down programs for youth who need extra support before or after residential treatment. Additionally, current available services start for children at age 13. Donna Smith inquired about the plan for the younger population.

Dr. Cindi Pitlock shared DCFS' focus is to build a community provider network to include Intensive In-Home and Wraparound Services with Intensive In-Home services three to five days a week. These services would provide addition support and positively impact the Step-Down program in order to decrease the use of the Step-Up program. The plan is to complete the RFPs within a couple months. In the Southern Nevada area, DCFS will start a Latency Age Day Treatment and Northern Nevada will also start a Day Treatment program.

Kim Abbott acknowledged the efforts from DCFS; However, she is concerned about building a full array of services instead of only concentrating on the Intensive In-Home piece. She stated that there is a missing component for Step-Up and Step-Down. Kim Abbott inquired if there are any plans or efforts to find a solution?

Dr. Cindi Pitlock agreed that there is a gap for services in Step-Up and Step-Down. DCFS had intended putting forward an ARPA fund for additional PRTF services in an unlocked facility setting. Unfortunately, they are unable to do so due to a lack of Medicaid funding. Dr. Pitlock is open for any suggestions.

Jill Marano shared that after reviewing Aurora Pine's exclusionary criteria, she is concerned about them not being a resource for the children with a high level of needs. Additionally, DFS previously shared concerns regarding the type of proposed ADA improvements. The proposed improvements no longer make it a safe building for suicidal youth. Jill requested an update on the ADA plans and inquired if any changes were made. DFS does not want the new improvements to be a barrier for services as they have been in the past.

Dr Pitlock echoed Jill Marano's concerns regarding children with a high level of needs. Dr. Cindi Pitlock invited Clark County DFS to go tour the potential facilities alongside DCFS to discuss their concerns and share suggestions. Dr. Pitlock is not aware of all the ADA improvements. She will contact Dr. Wade for more information on the improvements.

Jill Marano shared that DFS has been funded to pilot a QRTP for 12 beds. DFS is still deciding if they need one or two facilities. Jill shared that Bamboo Sunrise is waiting on the fire marshal to inspect the other building at the Oasis Campus. Once that happens, DFS will license the buildings for boys. Regarding the CSEC population, DFS is in the contracting process. Another barrier is regarding specialized foster care and the current rates. Additionally, there are concerns regarding the therapeutic foster care providers. The providers have asked the State for an increase of \$20 dollars per day effective January 1st. If the increase is not provided, the providers will not take any more placements. Half of the agencies have already declined to sign providers agreements. DFS did a rate study which found that \$153 dollars per day with Medicaid's reimbursement of \$70-80 yielded a \$35-40 daily rate dollar amount. DFS is having problems reconciling the additional \$20 dollars a day. We are hoping our current providers sign their agreement to help prevent placement disruptions. If the providers do not sign the new agreements, DFS would have to look at a transfer of homes that are willing to stay open under another agency or with the department.

DaShun Jackson inquired about placement burn outs and asked if there is a plan to ensure that there is no burn out and loss of homes?

Jill Marano shared DFS has been using a day respite with a local provider with some State funding that was awarded in last year's legislative session. It was so successful that DFS no longer has funding. One of our primary ways to prevent foster parent burn out is to expand respite funding. DFS will be doing a community wide recruitment starting in January and a kickoff during foster parent month in May.

DaShun Jackson inquired what is being done for staffing on the facilities?

Jill Marano shared DFS has not required that the providers do anything specific. DFS has given the providers the flexibility to maintain staffing on their own. At the County level, HR is starting to look at doing things differently.

Gwynneth Smith shared the ongoing issue with step-up and step-down gap which causes a lot of children to go out of state into residential treatment facilities. An option can be a community based residential home with a group home model that meets the high-level needs but does not compete with Medicaid. Gwynneth asked for Dr. Pitlock if she felt progress was being made with Medicaid regarding the request to establish the rate.

Dr. Pitlock shared that Medicaid has been open to all conversations.

Agenda Item VI:	Department of Family Services Report Out	(Information only)
	<p>1. Prevention: Judy Tudor shared that DFS is working with the State to resubmit the FFPSA plan by January. Thrive by Five serves families that come to our attention, DFS screens out children who are 0-3 years old and refers them to SNHD or Positively Kids.</p> <p>She shared that today is her last day in DFS and they have identified the new Assistant Director, Wonswayla Mackey, as her replacement.</p> <p>2. Intervention & Accountability: Judy Tudor shared we have been working on improving our internal website, DFSNet, with DFS employee feedback on what information they would like to see and how it can be user friendly for staff. DFS site visits are still being conducted approximately every other month.</p> <p>3. Transitional Aged Youth Supports & Independent Living Judy Tudor shared this week was the Transitional Aged Youth Convening in partnership with DFS, Youth Villages, Administrative Professional Health Services Administrators and Chapin Hall. Jurisdictions from twenty-seven child welfare agencies were also part of this meeting. On Tuesday, we had a panel of four young people who provided their own personal experience with the LifeSet program.</p> <p>4. Education: Mari Parlade shared there are no new updates. Dr. Leslie Murdock Congrove is working with Child Haven support team creating a support plan. Dr. Murdock Congrove will be invited to next month meeting to provide more details on the two projects she is working on: Child Haven Support Team Education Support Team. Dr. Leslie Murdock Congrove has been our Education Liaison for the past five years.</p> <p>5. Policies and Procedures: Judy Tudor shared no new Policies and Procedures.</p> <p>6. Ombudsman's Report: Ombudsman Report was provided for October 2022.</p>	
Agenda Item VII:	Discussion and/or recommendations on the top 6 priorities <i>(Delineated in Section V)</i>	(For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative Updates for the new 2023 session. 	
Agenda Item VIII:	CAC Membership, Vacancies, Attendance & Bylaws	(For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Updates 	
Agenda Item IX:	Informational Items/Announcements	(Information Only)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmed with CAC members that the third, Thursday of every month at 8:30am-10am still works for everyone. 	
Agenda Item X:	Next Meeting Date & Open Meeting Law Requirements	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting will be Thursday, December 15, 2022 @ 8:30 am via WebEx or in person 500 South Grand Central Pkwy, 1st Floor Pueblo Room Las Vegas, Nevada 89155. 	
Agenda Item XI:	Comments by General Public	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
Agenda Item XII:	Adjournment	
	Meeting adjourned at 9:57 am.	