

DFS Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location:	VIA: WebEx - Clark County Department of Family Services 500 South Grand Central Pkwy, 1 st Floor Pueblo Room Las Vegas, Nevada 89155
Date:	July 15, 2021 8:30 am – 10:00 am

		Present	Absent
Membership:	Brian Adams (No longer a member of CAC)		
	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 (No longer a member of CAC- moved)		
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:			

Agenda Item I:	Call to order and welcome	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was called to order at 8:40 am and roll was called by <i>Chair Donna Smith</i>. 	
Agenda Item II:	General Public Comments	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
Agenda Item III:	Approval of June 17, 2021 Minutes	(For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 17, 2021 Minutes – Approved 	

Agenda Item IV:	Department of Family Services Report Out	(Priority Item)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="505 279 1588 594">• This item was prioritized as the first item for DFS to report out on, with corresponding discussion and action taken by the CAC because of the urgency and need for action to be taken. It was unanimously agreed by members of the CAC that Mental Health Crisis in Foster Care shall be identified as a Priority Topic of the CAC that DFS and DCFS must report out on at every CAC meeting so that the CAC members may take action in the form of asking questions, holding agencies accountable and making recommendations as a member of the Statewide Citizen’s Review Panel. What follows are the dialogue and discussion around this Priority Topic. <li data-bbox="505 667 1588 1234">• Jill shared that DFS is still working with DCFS but there are no updates to report. DFS remains concerned about lack of engagement and collaborative planning for solutions. The latest news is that Oasis is closing and will move ten beds to Desert Willow. Our workers who have children placed at Oasis received a 30-day notice to find alternative placement. If these children need to be placed in a locked facility, the department need to submit Mental Health Petition to the court, so they will not be simply transferred to Desert Willow. There is an upcoming meeting between the DA and AG office about this current situation. DFS requested a meeting with DCFS to discuss the transition and what DFS can do make the transition easier for the kids. DFS has not heard back from DCFS about kids who are still pending placement for Oasis. Due to the lack of communication and ability to collaborate with DCFS, the county is now considering what steps it needs to take to address the mental health needs of children in foster care, since access to services through DCFS isn’t proving to meet children’s needs. <li data-bbox="505 1266 1588 1423">• The Department is now looking at how we can develop our own residential programming for our kids. DFS recognizes that simply developing our own residential program, however, is not a short-term solution and that there is an immediate need, due to children needing a place to go. <li data-bbox="505 1455 1588 1862">• The three types of Residential Programs DFS is looking at are: 1. QRTP Qualified Residential Treatment Program 2. Contracting PRTF Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility. County is currently looking into contracting their own PRTF for immediate placement with the added benefit of keeping the kids in their community versus sending them out of state. 3. Contracting CSEC program sooner than later. Due to legislation that passed this year, full responsibility for CSEC will transfer to child welfare from Juvenile justice; DFS needs to start a program to be ready. DFS has identified two big needs in developing residential programming: ID/D (Intellectual developmental delayed) population and children who are very aggressive that have delinquency/conduct issues. The department will be releasing an RFP (it was released 	

once but had to be pulled back) for Clinical Care Coordination. Services will be similar to Medicaid targeted case management services, where DFS would be able to refer their kids to somebody to provide that care coordination. This is very similar to what WIN would do if they were accepting referrals for all children. This should help provide that service for additional support for kids in the community.

- For a long-term solution with the Family First Prevention Services Act, some of the services we would be able to provide upfront would be tailored for older kids whose parents can no longer manage them in the home. DFS could possibly coordinate with social services and try to build an array of services for this higher level of care.
- Clark County and Washoe County are discussing joining together to submit a letter of concern to the state regarding the mental health services.
- Donna inquired if the CAC could participate in the letter that Clark county and Washoe county are submitting to DCFS.
- Sheila asked if the CAC can also send a letter to the state about the mental health. She also questioned if the state is receiving funds for mental health.
- Judge Sullivan asked Jill: Due to the short-term issue and lack of engagement from DCFS has DFS given any thought to adding DCFS to the petitions for all mental health cases, as they also have a statutory responsibility to these children. Judge Sullivan stated he has personally done it on some cases but if the CAP attorneys and District Attorneys file the petition, this usual practice will assist the AGs on the case to get something done. This can give them an incentive to take responsibility or create a Call for Action. Judge Sullivan repeated that when a DA files a motion, they should always include DCFS as a party since they also have a statutory responsibility.
- Judge Sullivan asked if the DCFS could participate as a member of the CAC. Mari advised that while DCFS cannot be added as a member of the CAC, they can be invited as a guest.
- Donna ask if we could invite DCFS monthly to the CAC meeting.
- Mari confirmed that the CAC could invite DCFS to attend the next meeting and that the minutes of this meeting can serve as the written record for DCFS to be apprised, along with an invitation for a DCFS representative to attend CAC Meetings on a regular basis.
- **Motion was made by Judge Sullivan, seconded by Donna Smith, and unanimously approved by CAC to make Mental Health Crisis in Foster Care a Priority Agenda Item that DFS and DCFS must report out on. It was unanimously agreed that DCFS must attend these monthly CAC meetings as a Subject Matter Expert on this Priority Topic**

so that the CAC members can hold the agencies accountable and make recommendations as a member of the Statewide Citizen’s Review Panel.

- Donna asked Jill how long would getting the three different types of Residential Programs take?
- Jill responded to Donna that the county does not have the funds or infrastructure to build and staff it themselves, and it would take too long to do it, but that we have received some proposals from community providers who are interested. What the county is looking at doing is using emergency authorization rules and expediting a contract. We are hoping that sometime around October we could have at least one program running.
- Judge Sullivan ask if the Family First Act funding or IV-E funding would be able to be used to support this residential facility. Jill replied that it depends on the program but could be IV-E if it’s a QRTP.
- Donna inquired to Jill about assistance to families for day treatment. For the children that do not need residential treatment. Jill agreed this was an issue and would look into the Medicaid issues surrounding paying for it.
- Judge Sullivan stated RTC should be the last option, other alternatives include respite or other places. Factors include: emotional disturbance, harm to self or others and least restrictive alternative.

In the interest of time, **Agenda V DFS Report Out** was taken out of order with the majority of time devoted to **Mental Health Crisis in Foster Care (Agenda IV above)**, the remaining time was allocated to Education.

1. Prevention:

- In the interest of time, the Department will report out at next month’s meeting, August 19, 2021.

2. Intervention & Accountability:

- In the interest of time, the Department will report out at next month’s meeting, August 19, 2021.

3. Transitional Aged Youth Supports & Independent Living:

- In the interest of time, the Department will report out at next month’s meeting, August 19, 2021.

	<p>4. Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Agenda Item V below for information shared by DFS and corresponding action taken by CAC. <p>5. Policies and Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the interest of time, the Department will report out at next month’s meeting, August 19, 2021. <p>6. Mental Health Crisis in Foster Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Agenda Item IV below for information shared by DFS and corresponding action taken by CAC. <p>7. Legislation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the interest of time, the Department will report out at next month’s meeting, August 19, 2021. <p>8. Ombudsman’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the interest of time, the Department will report out at next month’s meeting, August 19, 2021. 	
Agenda Item V:	CAC Discussion and / or Recommendations on the Top 7 Priorities (delineated in Section IV)	For Possible Action
	<p>4) EDUCATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mari reported that CCSD received \$770 million dollars in American Rescue Plan Dollars for the next three years to ensure and provide for the educational needs of children affected by the pandemic. • Mari and Judy shared a four-minute power point presentation from Dr. Jara Superintendent of CCSD. 	

- Mari convened a Community Input Session by asking the committee members six questions prepared by CCSD. Each committee member provided answers to each question via the WebEx chat and/or email in real time. Mari shared the responses and advised the CAC that Dr. Leslie Murdock will compile a Report that must be sent to CCSD by August 13, 2021.

Six Questions: ALIGNING VISION FOR EDUCATION 1. What should be true for Our kids' education? 1a. What do you think a school's responsibility is in bringing this to life? 1b. What can You do to support bringing that vision to life? **PRIORITIZING OUR KIDS** 1st 2. What can your school do to ensure students are academically successful? 3. What do you want to be true regarding the social & emotional support & mental health needs provided at the school your student attends? 4. What role do you see "anywhere, anytime learning" (i.e., digital learning) playing in student success in the future?

- Mari will send the CAC members the CCSD video, power point and tool kit. Mari encouraged members to send any additional responses to her by August 1st. Sheila recommends education funds be set aside for tutoring students to promote.
- Mari inquired if the CAC members would be willing to host their own Community Input Sessions so that their constituents (i.e. caregivers, youth, parents, community leaders) can also partake in the surveys and make their voice heard.
- DaShun offered to share this with his upcoming Foster Youth Town Hall and Child Welfare Network. Donna offered to share with foster parents. Sheila offered to share with CASA Peer Coordinators. Mari thanked Dashun, Donna & Shelia for their leadership.
- Rhiannon inquired about if funding could be used in the front end for more trauma informed training for case workers, foster parents, and family members

Agenda Item VII:	Informational Items/Announcements	(Information Only)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back to School event it will be a drive-up event held the last week of July and beginning of August at Peggy's Attic. Youth in care and care givers would be able to
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	pick up bag backs, school uniforms and shoes. It's being coordinated by Department of Family Services, CASA and Square salon.
Agenda Item VIII:	Comments by General Public
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None
Agenda Item IX:	Adjournment
	Next meeting will be Thursday, August 19, 2021 @ 8:30 am via WebEx or in person 500 South Grand Central Pkwy, Pueblo Room Las Vegas, Nevada 89155.