

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, NV 89155
Date:	November 18, 2021 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	
	Carly Aldis		X
	Rhiannon Foreman		X
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:	None		
Guest:	Kim Abbott, Team Chief Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada Gwynneth Smith, Chief Deputy District Attorney		

Agenda Item I:	Call to order and welcome
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was called at 8:38am and roll was called by Mari Parlade. Due to lack of Quorum, no official action could be taken nor could an official CAC meeting be conducted. Therefore, this convening was for purposes of DFS sharing information with the stakeholders present.
Agenda Item II:	General Public Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

Agenda Item III:	Approval of August 19, 2021 & October 21, 2021 Minutes	(For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 19, 2021 & October 21, 2021 Minutes – No Action could be taken due to lack of Quorum 	
Agenda Item IV:	Department of Family Services Report Out	(Information only)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Crisis in Foster Care <p>Judy reported that her colleagues are at the W. Charleston campus which the county is trying to lease from the state, with the intention to hire a contractor to provide services.</p> <p>DFS is waiting for an update from the state, as they have provided more of a long-term planning. The department is more concerned about the short-term efforts to assist with the current mental health crisis.</p> <p>The state has provided the county with some mental health technicians and behavioral technicians at Child Haven. The assistance is particularly during the evenings and weekends to help manage some children with significant needs. The current staff at child haven have been struggling to help serve these children.</p> <p>The department is currently working on contracts within the next six weeks to have six beds to assist with placement of children with developmental delays or intellectual delays. The department is working with St Jude’s to place young females who are at risk of being sexually exploited.</p> <p>The department has had a lot of conversations in developing community outpatient services also for the state to look at residential care resources.</p> <p>Abigail shared 5 to 6 children have only been placed out of the 20 children. Understaffing is an issue along with underfilling beds. Staffing with Enterprise PRTF in the North the house manager stated they have a total of 18 beds, they are staffed for 10 and currently they have 6 beds. It seems to be the same at Desert Willow and Desert Oasis, understaffing is an issue but also underfilling the capacity of beds.</p> <p>Kim A. agreed with Judy about the state addressing the long-term problems versus the short-term problems we currently have. Tuesday the 3rd was an upcoming follow up meeting with the state but was cancelled.</p> <p>Gwynneth S. shared she would like for the State to be part of this meeting to help address the current crisis. To address the main problem not only in county child welfare but at a state level.</p> <p>DaShun asked if having Technician positions at Child Haven has helped staff.</p> <p>DaShun asked if the department knew whether or not the State will maintain Desert Oasis and if there is an increase in beds at Desert Willow Treatment Center.</p>	

- **Prevention:**

Judy shared on behalf of DFS, the department has been meeting with various community service providers who are currently providing evidence-based services and/or partnering to provide new evidence-based services to help serve two different populations: (1) any cases that are brought in through our department, where we have not done a removal, but instead are working with the parents on an In-Home basis or (2) if there has been a removal and the children are placed with relatives or fictive kin. Family First would allow the department to provide preventive services.

The Prevention side of Family First Prevention Services Act went into effect October 1st of this year. After the department submitted our plan, the Children's Bureau had some questions, a total of nine pages. The department has been meeting with them on a weekly basis to answer their questions at a statewide level as we only have until the end of the year.

Thrive by Five program is still in effect for cases that are brought in through our hotline and do not meet the threshold or require abuse & neglect assessment with the families as they are voluntary. We are hoping to expand the program through our CARA program. The CARA program are substance exposed infants that cannot be screened in for abuse and neglect assessments.

Donna asked what kind of evidence-based providers the department is looking for.

Judy shared the primary focus of Family First is based on three different areas 1. Mental Health Services, 2. Substance Abuse Services and 3. In-Home Based Skilled Parenting Program.

The 20-minute FFPSA presentation will be rescheduled for the December 16, 2021 CAC Meeting.

- **Intervention & Accountability:**

Judy shared that the CAC Committee had received a copy of Department Beliefs Statements as part of our culture change. The department has had virtual site visits to reinforce our Beliefs Statements. As part of our site visits in September and October our employee committee DFS Fun-Task-Tics hosted an event encouraging employees to nominate fellow colleagues who were living out the belief statements. It was a huge success; 400 staff were nominated and asked to keep it until the end of October. Our November site visits were just held, we provided another tool to use Focused Perspective. Additional site visits will be held in January to introduce another tool Focused Storytelling on how we are living out our belief statements internally

CoachNV efforts have been completed as of October with our Supervisors:(1) Training them on how they can interact with their staff, and (2) Supporting them on having conversations about their emotional wellbeing and self-care.

As to the Racial Equity Workgroup, the department has had monthly listening sessions held for staff to have a space to talk about how race impacts the work. CASEY Family Program has been funding some facilitators to assist with these listening sessions, which will continue to next year.

Donna asked about the mandated reporting training.

Judy shared the state will be sending out an online training for Mandated Reporting sometime in January or February.

DaShun asked if the department has seen any internal communication in terms of retention of staff.

Judy shared the department turn around is 11% as of this summer. People have not just left the agency but have been promoting within the agency into different positions. The department now has some concerns now that OSHA guidelines has a goal of having staff vaccinated by January.

- **Transitional Aged Youth Supports & Independent Living**

Judy shared the department is celebrating its one-year anniversary of implementing the LifeSet program. The department has helped a total of 100 youth through the LifeSet program. DFS is working on a video with youth that participated in the program to share their perspective. DFS is expanding some of this program's intervention services with our Step Up and IL program. DaShun shared relaunch FAAYT group was last Tuesday, and The Statewide Nevada Advisory Board is this Tuesday. Due to COVID both groups were affected by the number of youth participating. They are looking into paying the youth that participate, they are currently looking into having an in person gathering by the end of the year. All youth are invited and there is no age limit everyone can participate.

- **Education**

Mari P. advised she has been working with DFS Education Liaison Dr. Leslie Murdock, with final documents on Educational Rights for Child in Foster Care. The Clark County School District/Charter Schools and DFS are working together to support children in foster care educationally. Many schools have assigned a Foster Care Advocate/Liaisons to help ensure these rights are being met, especially when it relates to academic discipline.

Kuldip Mangat, CCSD Education Services Coordinator, is our CCSD point of contact for academic discipline of foster children.

	<p>Leslie is updating the Roles and Responsibilities Matrix that delineates the role & responsibility of various child welfare professionals, as well as CCSD professionals. This started with DFS case workers, but has now expanded to PSR workers, CAP Attorneys, EDMs, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies and Procedures <p>Judy reported on the COVID-19 Vaccination for Children Management Directive (Expanded Children age five (5) through eleven (11)).</p> <p>Kim A. asked if the Vaccine Directive could be shared. Are there any stats on vaccine rate among children in care?</p> <p>Judy shared she will ensure the committee gets the updated COVID-19 Vaccination for Children Management Directive. There is no way to track the vaccine in our system.</p> <p>Gwynneth S. stated since Unity is a statewide database, maybe this could be a question to ask the state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ombudsman’s Report <p>Ombudsman Report was provided.</p>	
Agenda Item V:	CAC Discussion and / or Recommendations on the Top 7 Priorities (delineated in Section IV)	For Possible Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action could be taken; but discussion ensued. • CAC Membership is comprised of 11 members, but currently there’s only 8. Donna asked that this be added to December Agenda. CAC Vacancies for CCSD, General Public, and Parent Advocate. Inquiries and recommendations can be sent to DFSAdminteam@clarkcountynv.gov. • CAC Members Draft Bylaws 	
Agenda Item VII:	Informational Items/Announcements	(Information Only)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DaShun announced any youth can participate in FAAYT group. • Sheila announced that DFS has partnered with CASA Foundation along with other community partners to host the annual Angel Tree event, which will take place on December 11, 2021. 	
Agenda Item VIII:	Comments by General Public	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
Agenda Item IX:	Adjournment	

	<p>Next meeting will be Thursday, December 16, 2021 @ 8:30 am via WebEx or in person 500 South Grand Central Pkwy, 1st Floor Pueblo Room Las Vegas, Nevada 89155.</p>
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