

DFS Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location:	VIA: WebEx - Clark County Department of Family Services 500 South Grand Central Pkwy, 1 st floor ODC Pueblo Room Las Vegas, Nevada 89155
Date:	April 21, 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	
	Rhiannon Foreman		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:	Gwynneth Smith, Chief Deputy District Attorney	X	
	DeNeese Parker, Specialty Court Administrator, 8 th Judicial District Court	X	

Agenda Item I:	Call to order and welcome	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was called to order at 8:34am by Chair Dashun Jackson and roll was called by Mari Parlade. 	
Agenda Item II:	General Public Comments	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
Agenda Item III:	Approval of March 17, 2022, Minutes	(For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAC March 17, 2022, Minutes - Approved 	
Agenda Item IV:	Mental Health Crisis in Foster Care:	(For Possible Action)
	DCFS invitation was sent to Dr. Cindy Pitlock, Dr. Megan Freeman and Elvira Saldana. DCFS were not present to report out.	
Agenda Item V:	Department of Family Services Report Out	(Information only)
	1. Prevention: Judy shared the department is still working with the State to resubmit the plan for Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). The department has been reviewing the services originally that were selected in the plan from last summer, confirming that	

those were the services the department would like to continue. There are some additional services that were added to the Clearing House. In Clark County the department did not identify any additional services. Five different community service providers have sent FFPSA proposals that have expressed interest to partner with the department. The contracts are currently being reviewed by our purchasing department which can be a lengthy process. The department has been working to put a plan in place so once it's approved, we will be able to provide services on July 1, 2022.

Sheila Parks asked if the five different organizations that sent over proposals were part of the approved evidence-based services.

Judy confirmed that was one of the requirements for them to submit a proposal: that the agencies had to be part of the approved evidence-based services. The department is primarily focused on identifying well supported services by the Clearing House, due to the requirement of Family First, 50% of the services have to be well supported in order to be able to bill FFPSA. The department met with various agencies that showed interest in partnership, for example with Differential Response teams like East Valley Family Services, Boys & Girls Club, Shining Star Community Services, SAFY, Olive Crest, Red Rock Psychological, Fostering Seeds of Hope, Raise the Future, Bridge Counseling Associates, Apple Grove, Sierra Sage, and Mind Your Books.

Judy shared the other update on prevention is that the CARA grant was received from the state to specifically serve families where there have been substance exposed infants. The Thrive by Five program serves youth 0-3 years old that are screened out and sent to SNHD. SNHD would then offer those families services. We have added additional providers like Positively Kids to work primarily with families if the child is Marijuana exposed. Empowered was also added, which is a program from Roseman University to provide treatment specifically to work with families dealing with Opioid use. The CARA program is focused on substance exposed infants who the department receives reports for, but there is no other information to indicate the need for an abuse or neglect assessment.

2. Intervention & Accountability:

Judy shared the department continues to hold site visit meetings every other month with staff to review our culture change. We continue to recognize staff who are living out our Belief Statements.

The department has been working on implementing a ChildStat process. ChildStat originated out of New York many years ago, it's used by many jurisdictions. It's an internal process where they will review specific certain points of data to determine certain barriers in each geographic zone – the two main objectives are: 1. Decreasing entry into care; and 2. Increasing exit out of care, when it's safe to do so.

Another initiative the department just did was on Communication Culture. We sent out a survey to staff requesting feedback on various ways they would like to receive communication. How we can maximize the use of internal website DFS Intranet. We have added hubs about Culture Change tools, Racial Equity Group and Staff Well-Being.

Sheila Parks inquired about staffing issues.

Judy shared we are almost at pre-pandemic levels when it comes to staff. New staff just started this past Monday, and we will be starting the Academy on May 16. Before that day they will be shadowing so they can get some context. In May we also have stipend students who are graduating with a social work degree and will be part of a stipend program that will allow them to start in the field before the Academy. This will help fill any vacancies we might have. We are still being challenged to hire part time staff. The County just increased part time hourly rate.

DaShun Jackson inquired if there has been communication with the current staff, specifically those in Child Haven, for them to provide their personal thoughts and ideas for changes or what areas would they like to see improved.

Judy shared in the fall we received feedback from all program areas that were held thru workgroups on what staff would like to see changed. We got feedback and have implemented a lot of things that were received. We are currently waiting to hear back about additional positions we requested thru Recovery Act dollars to bring additional staff to Child Haven campus, as well as our request for supplemental positions and other budget issues. In the interim, we had a lot of staff assist at Child Haven doing overtime from different program areas based on population need.

3. Transitional Aged Youth Supports & Independent Living:

Judy shared the department has continued to meet with statewide groups to assess our Independent Living program overall as a state, as well to plan for extended foster care that is coming 2024. The state is working with The Center Building State Capacity now that we are past the Assessments stage. We are developing sub workgroups to specific areas that will deal with policies and practices, data and evaluation, budget, and service array. The department will be reaching out to community stakeholders to participate in these subgroups. The State has also contracted with Social Change Partners who are working specifically around developing a plan on what the Extended Foster Care would look like. We are also moving away from Assessment stage and are dealing with the direct planning for Extended Foster Care.

LifeSet program has been implemented here Clark County for young people who are 17 years old. We have also expanded this program implementing the Guide Tree with Step Up staff for young adults that have aged out but have additional needs like mental health, substance abuse and commercial sexual exploitation. We had conversations statewide about that program's need to expand throughout the state. The department is currently working on a contract with UNLV to do specific evaluation around LifeSet program to identify any outcome we want to achieve. Youth Villages, who we have the grant with, will continue to do fidelity reviews.

4. Education:

Mari Parlade shared the collaboration between the education stakeholders couldn't go any better than it has been. The last Wednesday of the month from 12:30-2pm, DFS hosts Education Collaboration Stakeholders meeting.

DFS has a great collaboration with CCSD sharing some behavior mechanisms that are working for children at Child Haven to mitigate against disciplinary issues principals are dealing with at the schools.

	<p>A letter is being created for all principals and all school liaisons sharing vulnerabilities and sensitivities of children placed at Child Haven. We have added some therapeutic intervention simple techniques.</p> <p>Mari shared Dr. Mike Barton, CCSD Administrator, has agreed to serve as CCSD representative with one caveat, that he is allowed to bring a proxy. His intent is to be in all the CAC meetings but in the event he cannot attend one of the meetings, he would like to send a proxy on his behalf. Mari checked the CAC Bylaws and advised that the Bylaws are silent on this matter. Mari asked the CAC members if they would like to add proxy language to the Bylaws; which all members were in agreement. Mari advised that this would have to be Agendize at the next CAC meeting with formal action taken by a vote of the members.</p> <p>Sheila shared information about (EDMs) Education Decision Makers: there is a huge need in the community for EDMs in the absence of parents. Legal Aid Center handles Education Surrogates and volunteer EDMs who are ordered by the court to make education decisions on behalf of the child who are in care. Mari offered to invite either LACSN or Dr. Leslie Murdock Cosgrove, the DFS Education Liaison, to present on EDMs at an upcoming meeting.</p> <p>Gwynneth Smith shared she agreed with CAC members with the concerns about mental health in the community both for foster care and for families that don't meet the needs.</p> <p>Gwynneth Smith shared that she oversees the Mental Health Court Calendar, specialized proceedings in front of Judge Frank Sullivan. Court Improvement Program and the second group she works with is Kelly, the DA from Carson City, that focuses on the aspects of FFPSA.</p> <p>5. Policies and Procedures: Judy shared three policies and procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicaid Reimbursement for Specialized Foster Care Services management directive changes. • Emergency Response Team (ERT) Policies and Procedures Amended. • Nevada Initial Assessment Policies and Procedures Amended. <p>6. Ombudsman's Report:</p> <p>Ombudsman report for March 2022 was provided.</p>
Agenda Item VI:	CAC Discussion and/or Recommendations on the Top 6 (For Possible Action) Priorities (delineated in Section V)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheila made a motion for an action item to be placed on the calendar for DCFS to continue to report out on state legislation action and to include any legislative education speaking points or education points for the CAC to participate in any legislative action moving forward. This motion was seconded by Chair DaShun Jackson. • Sheila made a motion for an action item for a Legal Aid Center representative, or Dr. Leslie Murdock Education Liaison, to do a brief presentation about EDM's. This motion was seconded by CAC member Donna Smith.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAC member Donna Smith made a motion for an action item CAC By Laws review and discuss whether or not CAC would like to add proxy language and to get the By Laws signed by the members. This motion was seconded by Co-Chair Andrew Bailey and Chair DaShun Jackson.
Agenda Item VII:	CAC Membership & Officer Elections for Chair, Vice Chair & Deputy Chair (For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Agenda Item VIII:	Informational Items/Announcements (Information Only)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheila shared CASA Pinwheels event had variety of representation from different partners. Around 30 people showed up to help plant the Pinwheels. DaShun shared the Combined Child Welfare Network Qrtly Meeting is next Wednesday, the time changed to 10am-11:30am Foster Youth graduation will take place in early part of June. For donations, please contact DaShun Jackson.
Agenda Item IX:	Next Meeting Date & Open Meeting Law Requirements
	Next meeting will be Thursday, May 19, 2022 @ 8:30 am via WebEx or in person 500 South Grand Central Pkwy, 1 st Floor Pueblo Room Las Vegas, Nevada 89155.
Agenda Item X:	Comments by General Public
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Agenda Item XI:	Adjournment
	Meeting adjourned at 9:59am