

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:	December 15, 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
	Margaret LeBlanc, Deputy Director		X
	Jill Marano, Deputy Director	X	
	Wonswayla Mackey, Deputy Director	X	
Public:	Dr. Leslie Strasser Congrove, Education Liaison DFS	X	
	Gwynneth Smith, Chief Deputy District Attorney	X	
	Judge Stephanie Charter	X	
	Kim Abbott, Team Chief Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada	X	

Agenda Item I:	Call to order and welcome	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was called to order at 8:40 am by Co-Chair Andre Bailey and roll was called. 	
Agenda Item II:	General Public Comments	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
Agenda Item III:	Approval of November 17, 2022, Minutes	(For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAC November 17, 2022, minutes – motion made by Donna Smith and second by Andre Bailey – Approved. 	
Agenda Item IV:	Mental Health Crisis in Foster Care:	(For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCFS Dr. Cindy Pitlock and Elvira Saldana were invited; however, DCFS was not present to report out. Jill Marano shared that Specialized Foster Care Agencies currently received \$115 a day for each child, room, and board. Medicaid is billed for Treatment Services. Due to the lack of funding from Medicaid and additional expenses, 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. The County has made a second request for the additional funding.

Kim Abbot with Legal Aid shared that she will be reaching out to the State for follow-up on funding.

Gwynneth Smith with Clark County shared that the ICF facility opened by Clark County are open and has made a positive impact for the community. She shared that the DA's is working on processes and getting kids referred and placed. In addition, they are working with DeeDee from the courts, to keep the courts updated and track which kids have been referred by DFS.

Kim Abbot shared that another placement crisis is lack of collaboration and communication about youth parole, in particular girls, with the State, DJJS and DFS.

Judge Charter shared the court funds are going to the agencies versus the foster parents or the person in charge with care.

Agenda Item V:	Department of Family Services Report Out	(Information only)
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1. Prevention:

Wonswayla Mackey shared the department continues to meet with DCFS concerning FFPSA prevention service plan and consistent throughout the State. In addition, they are working to ensure that the Unity documentation window can create and track services such as Motivational Interviewing and PCIT Services.

Pamela Roberts inquired about who is using the motivational interviewing? She shared her concerns about the model

Wonswayla Mackey shared that both the children and the families are using it. The County is working on extending this model to the community and court partners. She acknowledged Pamela's concern and stated that the PCIT is being implemented.

Sheila Park inquired the timeline for re-submission.

Wonswayla Mackey shared that the County is working with the University of Maryland on finalizing the re-submission. The plan for DFS is to request for individual meeting with Beverly Brown from the State and the individual that she is working with within the University and inquire if they have reached out to stakeholders for their feedback.

2. Intervention & Accountability:

Jill Marano shared that the County has restructured its Public Communication Office. Each departments information officer is now merged into one office.

3. Transitional Aged Youth Supports & Independent Living:

Jill Marano shared that DFS is working on implementing a program called Guide Tree. Guide Tree will help the worker determine what programs their youth need.

4. Education:

Dr. Leslie Strasser Congrove shared that the stakeholders meeting is going well. Public Charter School, top CCSD Administrators, Coordinators and Directors are all involved.

	<p>In January, CCSD will be disseminating to internal staff and externally stakeholders' information about Education Rights in Foster Care and sensitivity with working with children in care. Also included is a trauma-based documentation with recommendations on how to work with kids that have experienced trauma such as PTSD and abuse. Dr Cosgrove is primarily working with Child Haven staff and feeder schools, Lunt Elementary, JD Smith Middle School, and Desert Pines High School.</p> <p>Lunt elementary has asked for additional training for their staff and answering their questions. JD Smith has asked entry plans, more of a formalized plan. She is starting a pilot program with Desert Pines where kids are offered an elective to help them understand their high education options, social and emotional support, and additional help in school. Working with Doctor Cosgrove is Dr. Linning and her staff at DFS.</p> <p>Lastly, a new foster care coordinator at CCSD has been hired and supposed to start in January.</p> <p>5. Policies and Procedures:</p> <p>Wonswayla Mackey shared that DFS has decentralized adoptions. The adoption workers and PERM workers are cross trained and on the field. The policy & procedures are now working on writing new P&P for the new adoptions unit. DFS is working with the District Attorney office on creating a new P&P for Safe Haven Babies. As of December, DFS has received 6 surrenders.</p> <p>Sheila Parks asked if the surrender kids are sent directly to the adoption's unit? Wonswayla Mackey shared that yes, the new adoptions unit will handle the surrenders and manage their case.</p> <p>Sheila Parks inquired about if the department has any available funds to assist out-of-state families that want to adopt a child and pay for their home studies? Wonswayla Mackey shared that she would inquire with the department.</p> <p>Kim Abbot inquired about the referral process and if it has changed with the new DFS adoption unit. Wonswayla Mackey shared that with the new adoption unit, there is now additional support staff to assist with social summaries and move a case forward.</p> <p>6. Ombudsman's Report:</p> <p>Ombudsman Report was provided for November 2022.</p>
Agenda Item VI:	CAC Discussion and/or Recommendations on the Top 6 Priorities (For Possible Action) (delineated in Section V)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC member Sheila Parks would like to recommend more discussion 1. Motivational Interviewing. 2. Models plans to be used for FFPSA. • CAC member Pamela Roberts would like more discussion about the plans to move Adoption faster and the plan for family preservation.
Agenda Item VII:	CAC Membership & Officer Elections for Chair, Vice Chair & Deputy Chair (For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC members expiring in January Matthew Cox and Andre Bailey.

Agenda Item VIII:	Informational Items/Announcements	(Information Only)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheila Parks would like to thank DFS and staff members for the Holly Jolly Children in Care. 	
Agenda Item IX:	Next Meeting Date & Open Meeting Law Requirements	
	Next meeting will be Thursday, January 19, 2023 @ 8:30 am via Microsoft Teams or in person	
Agenda Item X:	Comments by General Public	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
Agenda Item XI:	Adjournment	
	Meeting adjourned at 9:57 am	