

DFS Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location:	VIA: Microsoft Teams - Clark County Department of Family Services Join on your computer, mobile app, or room device. Click here to join the meeting Meeting ID: 211 703 055 261 Passcode: wTDtGZ Download Teams Join on the web Or call in (audio only) +1 725-696-5982,571411262# United States, Las Vegas Phone Conference ID: 571 411 262#
Date:	October 19, 2023 8:30 am – 10:00 am

Membership		Present	Absent
CAC Members:	Dashun Jackson	X	
	Donna Smith	X	
	Shelia Parks	X	
	Judge Stephani Charter	X	
	Ali Caliendo	X	
	Pamela Roberts	X	
County/Department Management:	Jill Marano, Director	X	
	Wonswayla Mackey, Deputy Director		X
	Patrick Barkley, Deputy Director	X	
	Lisa Martinez, Deputy Director	X	
General Public	Brandon Ford, Silver State FQAC		
	Gwynneth Smith, DA	X	
	Kim Abbot, Legal Aid	X	
	Dave Johnson, Foster Parent	X	

Agenda Item I:	Call to order and welcome	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was called to order at 8:37am by Chair DaShun Jackson and roll was called. 	
Agenda Item II:	General Public Comments	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
Agenda Item III:	Approval of July 20, 2023, Minutes	(For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DFS CAC July 20, 2023, Minutes – Approved. 	
Agenda Item IV:	Mental Health Crisis in Foster Care:	(For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCFS new Administrator Marla McDade Williams and Elvira Saldana were invited, however, DCFS was not present to report out. The members agreed to incorporate the Recommendations that were submitted in the 2023 CRP Report but keeping Mental Health Crisis in Foster Care as a priority item. 	
Agenda Item V:	Department of Family Services Report Out	(Information only)
	1. Prevention: Jill Marano shared DFS submitted the (FFPSA) Families First Prevention Services Act plan to the State, and it was approved. DFS Prevention services consist of Thrive by Five, Safe at Home and Opioid funds from Southern Nevada Health District. DFS is developing	

Housing support to assist families from coming in care due to housing being the resource issue.

2. Intervention & Accountability:

Patrick Barkley reported out the Placement team is collaborating with the Family for Me Program to find the best fit for a home for children under the age of 6 or higher level of care.

Patrick Barkley shared DFS Licensing unit is offering expedited classes to families to get licensed. 1. The Expedited classes are two weekends long; 2. 10-week classes have been consolidated into 7-week classes. St Jude's just opened another CSEC home that will be accepting placement. We also have two CSEC homes thru Eagle Quest.

3. Transitional Aged Youth Supports & Independent Living:

Lisa Martinez shared DFS has continued to work with DCFS on Extended Foster Care statewide policy, DCFS also has workgroups. Here in Clark County, will be having our own workgroup that will consist of internal and external stakeholders starting at the beginning of the year.

Jill Marano shared one of the concerns DFS, has is Extension of Adoption subsidy was not appropriately funded during the last Legislative session. For Extended Foster Care (18-21-year-olds) to claim 4E dollars for that time frame you will also have to Extend Adoption Subsidy until age 21-year-old, which the State did not fund. Our concern in the County level is how much more work we need to add to the court jurisdiction area. Even though we know the county cannot access 4E funds eligible service cause the State has not Extended Adoption Subsidy. Extended Adoption Subsidy are paid by the State budget not County budget.

4. Education:

DaShun Jackson inquired if any children in custody have been affected with CCSD new policy.

Patrick Barkley shared no significant influx due to suspension. DFS has been having problems more with Child Find assessments for services.

Kim Abbott shared in general she has seen significant issues with the CCSD not all are pertaining to suspension or expulsion for youth. The huge issue is there not recognizing the court appointed Education Decision Maker's or giving proper notice. CCSD has been restricting Foster Parents and EDM's from getting Infinite Campus access to monitor grades and attendance. Motions have been filed to join EDM's for example we had a case that got resolved right before the motion hearing.

5. Policies and Procedures:

Shelia Parks and Donna Smith both agreed to combine Policy and Procedures with Intervention and Accountability. Making the change from six categories into five categories for the department to report out.

6. Ombudsman's Report:

Ombudsman Reports were provided for September 2024. Twice a year the Ombudsman office to come join the CAC meeting.

Ali Caliendo shared she would like something added to the report if possible. If the person submitting the complaints felt that their issue was resolved. Looking at the Ombudsman report shows that it's always Resolved. Speaking to people they don't feel like it was resolved, could we see that data on the report.

Donna Smith would like the Ombudsman office to come to January CAC Meeting.

Agenda Item VI:

CAC Discussion and/or Recommendations on the Top 7 (For Possible Action) Priorities (delineated in Section V)

- CAC members discussed that Mental Health Crisis in Foster Care continues to be an important item for DFS and DCFS to report out to CAC members.
- Donna Smith shared the CAC provides the CRP report to DCFS on a yearly basis it contains a list of the CAC Membership with each member's position and detailed affiliation. A brief overview of CAC Purpose, Highlights the committee Priorities Areas of Focus and Recommendations currently are six priorities which DFS reports out on.
- Ali Caliendo shared she agreed with Donna about the CRP report being more concise and precise. 1. DCFS participation CAC meetings 2. Magellan to present on progress on the contract – Dashboard on their stated goals and contract 3. Elimination of PARS for children in care.
- CAC members discussed what should be included in the Statewide CRP Report for 2024 is due every January. In the November CAC meeting the members will be reviewing the current categories.
- Kim Abbott shared to ask to eliminate something like PARS, data should be provided.
- Pamela Roberts recommended we asks the Psychological Associates to assist in providing data since they are the ones who do the testing. Brandon Ford agreed with Pamela but keeping in mind they are already overwhelmed he mentioned to make it easy way to provide the data.
- Shelia Parks shared a recommendation surrounding the policy in Extended Foster Care and the impact. There has been lots of discussion about if youth stay in care after age 18 what about housing and foster homes.
- Pamela Roberts shared she would like data of Adoptive children coming back into foster care. This will provide data if after care services are sufficient or if it's increasing.
- Ali Caliendo shared Foster Kinship is working with DFS. Supporting families after permanency, adoption, or guardianship. Utilizing evidence-based navigator program. By assessing family's stability by four critical dimensions by providing connection to therapeutic services in house and external, TBRI classes, Behavioral

consults, Respite care and emotional support with peers. Providing as much support and gap

- The members agreed to incorporate the Recommendations that were submitted in the 2023 CRP Report with some additions listed below:

CRP Recommendations for 2024:

- Eliminate or reduce use of prior authorizations for psychological and neurological testing and behavioral health services for children impacted by Child Welfare Services.
- Eliminate administrative barriers to providers enrolling in Medicaid and CHIP.
- *Continued participation from DCFS in the DFS CAC Monthly Meeting*
 - *Monthly presentation of a dashboard including but not limited to: The number of residential treatment beds available and filled in the state, implementation of a step down/step up program to keep children out of residential treatment, and the status of trauma informed community-based mental health services, to include the expansion of Mobile Mental Health Response teams and local, short-term facility beds and outpatient facilities to include therapeutic day-schools.*
- *Participation from Magellan the DFS CAC Monthly Meeting*
 - Monthly presentation of a dashboard showing progress against stated 22-million-dollar contract goals and scope of work.
- Extended Foster Care Policy to be completed for the State.
- Prevention-Thrive by Five, Safe at Home Program and Southern Nevada Health District updates.
- Education
 - The CAC identified Education as in initiative, especially as it relates to children in care. Access to records, Infinite Campus, and appropriate notice from the schools for Education Decision Makers (EDMs) and efforts to improve communication between the school and a child’s DFS Team.
- *Support for DFS to survey their user community.*
 - This customer experience survey would target foster parents, kinship parents, aged-out youth and biological families and provide real life feedback and input on the successes and areas of improvement for both DCFS and DFS.

Agenda Item VIII:	Informational Items/Announcements	(Information Only)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelia Parks shared next meeting to focus on CAC Membership and Vacancies. 	
Agenda Item IX:	Next Meeting Date	
	Next meeting will be Thursday, November 16, 2023 @ 8:30am via Microsoft Teams.	
Agenda Item X:	Comments by General Public	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Johnson shared his gratitude with Patrick and the WRAPS team, verbalized some concerns about his second placement. He tried reaching out to CASA and for a family team meeting to keep the minor safe. A disruption was made after 24hrs, no transition plan. 	
Agenda Item XI:	Adjournment	
	Meeting adjourned at 10:06am.	