

DFS Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location:	Clark County Department of Family Services, 121 S. Martin Luther King Las Vegas, NV 89106
Date:	May 16, 2019 8:30 am – 10:00 am

Membership:		Present	Absent
Public: Joseph Rajchel	Dr. Lisa Morris-Hibbler	Phone	
	Dr. Tammy Malich		X
	Shelia Parks	X	
	Crystal Bomar	Phone	
	Judge Frank Sullivan	Phone	
	Andre Bailey	Phone	
	Matthew Cox	Phone	
	Dashun Jackson	X	
	Donna Smith	X	
	Denise Tanata		X
	Carly Aldis	Phone	
County/Department Management:	Tim Burch	Administrator	X
	Paula Hammack	Assistant Director	X
	Jill Marano	Assistant Director	X
	Judy Tudor	Assistant Director	X
	Mari Parlade	DFS Strategic Initiatives Manager	X

Agenda Item 1:	Call to order and welcome	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am and roll was called by Chair Sheila Parks 	
Agenda Item 2:	Public Comments	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
Agenda Item 3:	Approval of March 21, 2019 Minutes (For Possible Action)	CAC Members
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved 	
Agenda Item 4:	Department of Family Services Report Out (Information only)	DFS Management
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tim provided an update on the success of the FOSTER film documentary screening and reception at the Eclipse Theater on Tuesday, May 14th. The event was well- attended and featured a robust panel discussion moderated by Judge Sullivan, including Dashun Jackson, Judy Tudor and Foster Parent Champion Marti Rayner. Tim thanked everyone for their support The National NACO lobbyist was invited to the FOSTER event – DFS is looking into showing a clips of the documentary at the NACO conference in July and having Bobby Cagle, Director of Los Angeles Child Welfare, and other local leaders discuss the state of child welfare systems and FFPSA As of July, DFS will have licensure to use the FOSTER DVD and playbook to assist with community engagement for recruiting events Tim provided an update on the last days of the legislative session, stating that there is approximately \$120 million deficit between what the Governor proposed and what has 	

been budgeted for – DFS is still working to ensure all bills are funded, and saved approximately \$25 million in fiscal impact by working to get bills transitioned into planning bills and eliminate fiscal penalties

- At a planning session with the County Commissioners, 4-key priorities were highlighted: 1. public safety; 2. improved and strengthened collaborations; 3. engaging family and children; and 4. Homelessness – DFS launched a community engagement recruitment campaign called, “County Me In” – There is a link, countmein.vegas, on DFS webpage on the county website that lists 9 other ways to get involved
- Charles Swabb & Co. is a corporate partner who is providing access to their marketing team 12-hours a week for the next 6-months to provide the IL Unit a financial literacy and coaching certification program
- DFS is conducting a monthly internal video series for staff called “Family Matters”, to keep staff informed of changes – One was sent to foster parents of policy changes in the RDS unit about quarterly visits and requests for feedback
- DFS is expanding the ombudsman process to have a feedback loop to DFS to improve business practices – CAC members offered their assistance as this process progresses
- DFS is building links on their webpage of various partners – please let us know if any other partners’ links need to be added

Prevention: Implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)

- Judy and Paula will be going to Reno, NV for a statewide planning session on the next steps and moving forward – will provide updates at the next meeting
- An update was provided on the status of the Safe@Home program in regards to funding – DFS will draw on the IV-E revenue account to continue services
- In regards to questions about repurposing Child Haven, the goal is for the campus to be used as a receiving center, placement center and treatment center (QRPT)
- An update was provided on the status of ICARE Homes program – DFS is still recruiting homes for the program and in the process of reviewing and revising the contract

Intervention & Accountability (internal & external communication)

- Jill provided an update on the “Next steps” for the internal focus groups around moral, communication, support, foster parent retention, etc. – There is a retention and support QPI workgroup in two different areas, 1) retention of staff and 2) retention of caregivers – They are in the development planning process on addressing various issues – Jill will find out who the external/internal persons on the retention and support QPI workgroup
- During Foster Care Appreciation Month, DFS has been contacting foster parents to thank them for their service and ask them to take a 3-question survey – DFS will use the information for the retention process
- Crystal provided information about a “High Five Program” for employees to help recognize employees going beyond the call of duty – They accrue points to spend on amazon or other different products – Crystal will send the link to Linda on the program
- Tim stated that DFS has an employee led program called the Fun-Task-Tics for employee recognition events and activities – This information can be taken back to them to see how we can incorporate the High Five Program elements into their program
- It was mentioned to have foster parents and CASA workers participate in this program to recognize workers – This can be used for internal and external and recruitment efforts
- In dealing with trauma within the department, DFS has a crisis response team that is available for staff, and in certain circumstances (i.e. death on worker’s caseload) reaches out to staff. The County also has an Employment Assistance Program (EAP) for all employees
- DFS will work on increasing the visibility of these available services to the employees and possibly bring in a grief counselor once a month
- Matthew has a support group for providers once a month – He will provide more information at the next meeting

Youth Supports: Independent Living and Transitional Aged Youth Supports

- Tim provided an update on the HUD 100 Day Challenge for homeless youths – The sponsors were St. Judes and Nevada Partners for Homeless Youth
- 95 homeless youth were housed in 100 days. DFS is looking for this to be an on-going process to establish an entry into the community for youths
- A homelessness workgroup has been established on how to codify a “no-wrong” door approach for homeless unaccompanied youth in the system
- 76 more beds are opening at the Shannon West Homeless youth shelter
- IL is transitioning to Judy Tudor – Lisa Martinez will be the manager and a new supervisor will be hired – Once the position is filled, the manager and new supervisor will attend a future meeting
- Judy will be attending a conference in June called, “Youth Villages” that may have services for the IL program – will have more information to share at the next meeting
- SCE Federal Credit Union has a youth finance program called, Mypath, to help youth become financially ready – They are working with IL program and StepUp to create an array of services around financial literacy, (i.e., understanding your credit report, how to fix discrepancies and accessing a non-custodial savings account at age 16) – This will be an on-going event

Ombudsman Report

- There were 14 resolved investigative reports – CAC members would like to know more about some of the complaints
- The Ombudsman attends the leadership meeting on a quarterly basis to provide more details and trends of the complaints (i.e., specific cases, zones, and employees)
- DFS is setting up an internal process for addressing complaints prior to going to the ombudsman office – The process will be used for all complaints (i.e., stakeholders, foster parents, family members, clients and community)
- There will be a follow up at the next meeting on this process along with the ombudsman’s report

Policies and Procedures

- Judy stated that they are developing a process to put the policies on the website – A lot of DFS major policies on initial investigations, and the back end of their services are being rolled out and will be posted publicly on the website
- Videos will be provided to caregivers about policies and procedures that affect them and how DFS staff interact with them
- Policy and Procedures about DFS FACEBOOK guidelines have been rolled out
- Over the next month DFS will be rolling out policies and procedures around Putative Fathers, how to find them and engage them – DFS will be partnering with the DA to assist with training for DFS leadership team and supervisors – A video will be developed for the managers to train their staff and the video will be shared with others
- DFS is working on completing a policy on conduct and ethics, which will be rolled out by the end of the summer
- Part of the Confirming Safe Environment policy includes 90-days visits where staff are using their Confirming Safe Environment tool to reevaluate the placement for kids to ensure a good fit and if there are any additional needs for the placement
- It was stated by Carly that we need to ensure that workers are aware of the high rate of English speaking kids placed in Spanish speaking homes, and this concern is a big deal for the children’s development regarding a long-term placement

Agenda Item 5:	CAC Discussion &/or Recommendations on the Top 3 Priorities (delineated in Section IV)	For Possible Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see information in Section IV 	
Agenda Item 6:	Informational items/Announcements	(Information Only)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CASA Foundation, Children’s Advocacy Alliance and DFS are holding the graduation party on May 29th for the youth in foster care –About 94 youth will be graduating • Children’s Advocacy Alliance is hosting a dinner on Friday May 17th from 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm for former and current foster youth to learn about the legislative process and how they can get involved
Agenda Item 7:	Comments by General Public
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donna stated that Uncle Eddie (the dad of her former foster daughter) will be graduating from college from CCSN with a degree in Construction Management
Agenda Item 8:	Adjournment – 9:56 am
	Next meeting will be Thursday, June 20, 2019 @ 8:30 am