

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 Room #3 Las Vegas, NV 89155
Date:	March 17, 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	
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	
Guest:	Tisa Evans – Ombudsman office	X	

Agenda Item I:	Call to order and welcome	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was called to order at 8:34 am and roll was called by Chair Donna Smith. 	
Agenda Item II:	General Public Comments	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
Agenda Item III:	Approval of December 16, 2021 and January 20, 2022 Minutes	(For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAC December 16, 2021 Minutes - Approved CAC January 20, 2022 Minutes – Approved. 	
Agenda Item IV:	Mental Health Crisis in Foster Care:	(For Possible Action)
	<p>DCFS was not present to report out.</p> <p>Jill provided an update: the County leased two of the four buildings on the Oasis Campus to run residential programs. DFS's first building will be an Intermediate Care Facility for the Autism IDD (intellectual-developmental delay) Program. The State funded the County with 1.9 million ARPA dollars to fund the program to get it started while we figure how to transition into Medicaid service. Our provider will go before the BCC next month for approval to accept and utilize the funds per the Scope of Work. DFS is hopeful to open and have clients in the building by April. We will open the other building first as a Foster Care Group Home and transition it to meeting all the credentials of a qualified residential</p>	

treatment program. That transition will take longer due to finalizing the Scope of Work and working with our Purchasing Department to determine if a formal bid is required or if we have enough justification to select a provider.

The State will contract out the other two buildings with Never Give Up to run a PRTF (Psychiatric residential treatment facility) Program, it will be staffed sometime in April or May.

Donna Smith inquired if Never Give Up in Amargosa will stay open or if children there will be transitioned to the new Las Vegas location. Jill responded that Amargosa will be staying open; however, when State joins next month, they can formally answer

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

Judy shared the department is expanding the services for CARA population. The CARA program is substance exposed infants who the department receives reports but there is no other information to indicate the need for an abuse neglect assessment. There are two separate categories the department refers out to three different organizations: 1. If the child or parent is Opioid exposed, they are referred to Empowered; 2. If the child or parent is involved in Marijuana use, they are referred to Positively Kids; 3. Any other drug exposures get sent to SNHD partners. Empowered services are also available for those families that are being serviced by the department and they can also access the CARA program as part of a recommendation in permanency case plan.

All our efforts now leading up to our implementation of Family First Prevention Services Act after our meetings with community providers, we provided an April 4 deadline. So, they can submit proposals to partner with us and provide evidenced-based models. The State is currently working on a response to the Children’s Bureau to get our FFPSA plan approved. 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 1st.

2. Intervention & Accountability:

Judy shared the department has continued to implement our culture change process; we have gone thru all the tools that support our culture change. We shared the Belief Statements, we developed utilizing some tools to recognize people demonstrating our belief statements thru focus recognition. We have been asking and been giving focus feedback and focus storytelling. We have been having monthly site visit meetings, previously we were doing quarterly site visits. We have been receiving positive feedback from staff.

In reference to accountability and internal process, the department has been working on implementing this summer ChildStat process. It’s an internal process where they will review specific certain points of data – 1. Decreasing entry into care; and 2. Increasing exit out of care when it’s safe to do so.

3. Transitional Aged Youth Supports & Independent Living:

Judy shared the department has served over 100 young people thru the LifeSet program. We will be implementing the program thru Guide Tree for StepUp. StepUp workers will carry caseloads of about 25 for young adults that have aged out but have additional needs like mental health and commercially sexual exploited. In 6 months, we hope to have Guide Tree intervention for 14–16-year-olds in our care as we prepare to move towards extended foster care in 2024.

	<p>Ali Caliendo mention LifeSet program is fabulous, seeing some great results from the ground. She identified a potential issue and would like to work with the department and the division of welfare specifically on the unlicensed relatives who have more than one child. If one of the children are in LifeSet, their LifeSet subsidy is counting as income, which precludes the relative caregiver from securing TANF payments for the other siblings. Maybe we could get something in writing to clarify the purpose of the LifeSet payment for the department of welfare.</p> <p>4. Education: Mari shared CCSD has a candidate to fill CAC position. Dr. Mike Barton is an administrator.</p> <p>Mental health is a topic of concern in the Education stakeholders forum, where next week’s meeting will address: How can we as Community of Education stakeholders Wraparound and Support our Children at Child Haven. DFS has a great collaboration with CCSD to include assignment of a social worker for our Child Haven population. We are in the creation stages of compiling a behavior plan for our Child Haven population with the intent of sharing this with the school foster care liaisons and administrators.</p> <p>Donna Smith shared her experience with both principals from John Bonner Elementary School and Ernest Becker Middle School both were fantastic.</p> <p>5. Policies and Procedures: Judy shared only one management directive has been released: Medicaid Reimbursement for specialized foster care services management changes. Based on how we are reimbursing specialized foster care rate.</p> <p>6. Ombudsman’s Report: Tisa Evans shared information about the Ombudsman office calls and complaints have remained consistent. The Department continues to remain responsive to Tisa which is helpful for her to report back to the families.</p> <p>Ombudsman Reports were provided for January 2022 and February 2022.</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"> • None
Agenda Item VII:	CAC Membership & Officer Elections for Chair, Vice Chair & Deputy Chair (For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC Officer Elections for the position of Chair, was conducted. Donna Smith of CAC member moved to nominate DaShun Jackson as Chair. This motion was seconded by Matthew Cox and Andre Bailey. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions; therefore, DaShun Jackson was elected to serve a Chair. • CAC Officer Elections for the position of Vice Chair was conducted. Donna Smith of CAC member moved to nominate Andre Bailey as Vice Chair. This motion was seconded by Ali Caliendo. The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions; therefore, Andre Bailey was elected to serve a Vice Chair.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAC Officer Elections for the position of Deputy Chair was conducted. Donna Smith of CAC member moved to nominate Matthew Cox as Deputy Chair. This motion was seconded by Ali Caliendo. the motion passed unanimously with no abstentions; therefore, Matthew Cox was elected to serve a Deputy Chair.
Agenda Item VIII:	Informational Items/Announcements (Information Only)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheila shared CASA will be planting Pinwheels on April 8th at 12pm. Ali shared Foster Kinship will be hosting a conference on April 6 – four sessions.
Agenda Item IX:	Next Meeting Date & Open Meeting Law Requirements
	Next meeting will be Thursday, April 21, 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 9:20am