

DFS Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location:	VIA: WebEx - Clark County Department of Family Services https://clarkcountynv.webex.com/clarkcountynv/j.php?MTID=medfb9a0b779196d4ea251cfad1dd00fc Meeting number (access code): 2499 239 8177 Meeting password: Hvupym7jW85
Date:	September 15, 2022 8:30 am – 10:00 am

Membership		Present	Absent
CAC Members:	Shelia Parks	X	
	Judge Frank Sullivan		X
	Andre Bailey		
	Matthew Cox	X	
	Dashun Jackson	X	
	Donna Smith	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	
	Dr. Lisa Linning, DFS Manager Clinical Services, Advanced Foster Care Program, Medical Case Management Unit & Liaison Family Treatment Court	X	
	Jennifer Erbes, DFS Manager Resource Development & Support Services	X	
Public:	Kim Abbott, Team Chief Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada	X	
	Gwynneth Smith, Chief Deputy District Attorney	X	

Agenda Item I:	Call to order and welcome	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am 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 August 18, 2022, Minutes	(For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAC August 18th Minutes – Not approved due to No Quorum. 	
Agenda Item V:	Mental Health Crisis in Foster Care:	(For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCFS Dr. Megan Freeman, Dr. Cindy Pitlock and Elvira Saldana were invited however, DCFS was not present to report out. 	

- Jill Marano shared that the CAC initially invited the State before the new DCFS Administrator started. The new DCFS Administrator reached out to Jill to inquire about the CAC Meetings. Jill notified the new DCFS Administrator that it would be helpful for the State to have someone from the Children’s Mental Health side provide monthly updates.

Jill Marano shared the Intermediate Care Facility, Silver State Behavioral Health Services, ran by Silver State Pediatrics, received their license. They have started the transition with their first client, a longtime resident of Child Haven. The boy’s group home has a tentative November 7, 2022, opening date. This group home for boys will assist our children with higher behavioral needs. An RFP just closed, but a Group Home for girls at risk of human trafficking will open soon.

Kim Abbott shared that she really appreciates all the collaboration they have built between DFS, Legal Aid Center, the DA’s office, and other community partners. CORE workgroup meetings started with five people and now there is approximately twenty people in this meeting. Jill, Gwynneth, and Kim will be presenting at the Bench Bar for Dependency Court next week on Tuesday. Another big accomplishment was formalizing a process and getting agency partners at the state level to staff cases for children who require a higher level of care. A referral form has been created and a process is in place. On Monday afternoon, we have a standing meeting for case staffing to find solutions and identify ways to refer difficult or challenging youth.

Donna Smith inquired about children in the community who fall through the cracks and do not get services anywhere. She questioned how that information is available to the community, how the community gets connected to the department, and how a referral can be created. She also questioned how this information is being communicated to the average family. Donna shared that she knows of a family who is really struggling, and no hospital will take the child.

Jill Marano shared that DCFS coordinates, leads the meetings, and sets the process. There needs to be a discussion on how the Department can disseminate information out to the community about this resource. This information has not widely been shared outside of government systems. This would be a great agenda item for DCFS so they can answer questions like this.

Gwynneth Smith shared that, throughout the years, children’s mental health in foster care has been an ongoing issue. She is now aware that this is a community wide issue and not just a concern for children in foster care.

Kim Abbott shared that unfortunately this is now too common. Parents are now dropping off children at the door of Child Haven in hopes that the child welfare system can be more successful in obtaining services for them. Kim and Jill agreed to place this topic on the agenda for the workgroup in order to explore options for expanding the process. Kim would like to bring the youth that Donna mentioned to the attention of DCFS partners to see if DCFS might be able to assist and prevent this child from coming back into the child welfare system.

Pamela Roberts shared that there are a lot of kids in kinship care, and the families do not qualify for all kinship resources. Those kinship foster placements are at risk of disruption. This could be another agenda item in order to discuss how to expand resources while keeping children in Kinship care longer.

Jennifer Erbes shared that she works closely with Ali Caliendo and her team. There is a new program that started last November that assists kinship families right after placement.

Jill Marano shared that she wanted to mention another update after the IFC met and the ARPA request was approved. To help develop the State’s mental health service array, the County also requested for several new positions to assist in building mental health services to help coordinate at the county level. The funding was requested so that it would not be limited to child welfare or restricted to children being served in DFS.

DaShun Jackson inquired about how many beds are available through Silver State and the Group Home. Jill Marano responded that Silver State will have 5 beds and the Group Home will have 6 beds. Abigail Frierson added that the CSEC group homes will have 6 beds in one group home and anywhere from 12-18 beds in the other group home.

Jill Marano shared that in the last CAC meeting, there were some questions about the qualifications of staff working in group homes. Jill invited some of DFS staff to provide more information.

Jennifer Erbes explained the difference between the qualifications for Group Home Staff and Foster Parent and House Parents in Specialized Foster Care. The only difference between becoming a foster parent and a house parent is the home study. In addition, the group home staff have 20 hours of continuing education due annually.

Pamela Roberts shared that Texas Christian University has a 10-week TBRI program for professionals. It’s a Trust-Based Relational Intervention. In Nevada, we only have 11 providers who are TBRI practitioners.

Dr. Lisa Linning shared that our internal specialized foster care program is called Together Facing the Challenge. Our families and our staff have the same requirements as any other agency. Together Facing the Challenge is part of the advanced training and evidence-based program developed by Duke University.

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

Jill Marano shared that the plan to resubmit the FFPSA in September. DCFS is looking at an external system that will communicate with UNITY to manage FFPSA referrals and service provisions with community providers. We do not have any specifics yet on what system they will use.
- 2. Intervention & Accountability:**

Jill Marano shared that the DFSNet survey results will not be available until the October CAC meeting.
- 3. Transitional Aged Youth Supports & Independent Living**

Jill Marano shared Judy’s previous email which indicated that the national retention rates for LifeSet in 2020-2022 were as follows: 12.7% of young people received less than 60 days of service. The length of stay data is also listed below:

Clark County LifeSet – 229 days
Other National Partners – 275 days

	<p>Youth Villages LifeSet – 231 days Combined – 245 days</p> <p>Some of our DFS staff went to Intercept Conference to learn about this program. The program provides intensive in-home services to children and youth at risk of entry or re-entry into out-of-home placements. We need to follow up and see if this is another program we would like to incorporate.</p> <p>4. Education: No Updates.</p> <p>5. Policies and Procedures: Jill Marano shared that no new policies and procedures have been distributed since the last meeting.</p> <p>6. Ombudsman’s Report: Ombudsman Report was provided for August 2022.</p>
Agenda Item VII:	Discussion and/or recommendations on the top 6 priorities (For Possible Action) <i>(Delineated in Section V)</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Agenda Item VIII:	CAC Membership, Vacancies, Attendance & Bylaws (For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Updates
Agenda Item IX:	Informational Items/Announcements (Information Only)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Agenda Item X:	Next Meeting Date & Open Meeting Law Requirements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting will be Thursday, October 20, 2022 @ 8:30 am via WebEx or in person 500 South Grand Central Pkwy, 1st Floor ODC Room #1 Las Vegas, Nevada 89155.
Agenda Item XI:	Comments by General Public
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Agenda Item XII:	Adjournment
	Meeting adjourned at 9:38 am.