

DFS Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location:	VIA: WebEx - Clark County Department of Family Services 500 South Grand Central Pkwy, 1 st floor Pueblo Room Las Vegas, Nevada 89155
Date:	December 16, 2021 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	
	Carly Aldis	X	
	Rhiannon Foreman		X
County/Department Management:	Tim Burch, Administrator		X
	Debbie Croshaw, Assistant Director	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:	None		
Guest:	Dr. Megan Freeman (DCFS)	X	

Agenda Item I:	Call to order and welcome	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was called at 8:37am and roll was called by Donna Smith. 	
Agenda Item II:	General Public Comments	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
Agenda Item III:	Approval of August 19, 2021, October 21, 2021 & November 18, 2021 Minutes	(For Possible Action)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CAC August 19, 2021 Minutes; CAC October 21, 2021 Minutes and CAC November 18, 2021 Minutes – Approved All Minutes 	

Agenda Item IV:	Department of Family Services Report Out	(Information only)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="459 268 922 300">• Mental Health Crisis in Foster Care <p data-bbox="505 331 1572 653">Dr. Megan Freeman provided updates on behalf of DCFS, the Mobile Crisis response team received \$660,000 funding from America Rescue funding. To expand services funding 14 new staff for the next 18 months. The total funding will be shared between southern and northern Nevada. The plan is to contract nurse practitioners to help with transition of care and crisis med management. The mobile crisis response team has been working over capacity. Everyone month they have been getting record number of calls that come into hotline and for face-to-face. They have been running out of teams approximately 20 days per month. Typically occurring in the afternoon and in the evenings.</p> <p data-bbox="505 688 1003 720">Jill asks if there are any vacancies at DCFS.</p> <p data-bbox="505 756 1523 829">Dr. Freeman shared they only have vacancies in northern Nevada and not in southern Nevada.</p> <p data-bbox="505 865 1572 938">DCFS is doing an analysis for Desert Willow to see what is needed to operate, what staff is needed, vacancies and identifying temp agencies.</p> <p data-bbox="505 974 1547 1173">DCFS is encouraging anyone to apply for open competitive notice of funding for a wide array of community-based services. Almost any type of service is eligible that is not an inpatient or residential service. It's a Block grant mechanism but it's a COVID relief supplemental funds. To fund community providers particularly for intensive community array that is lacking.</p> <p data-bbox="505 1209 1580 1283">Carly asked, what is Desert Willow being used for right now? Is it housing Oasis kids or is it vacant right now?</p> <p data-bbox="505 1318 1563 1556">Dr. Freeman said there are a small number of youths at Desert Willow. As per Thursday census, one youth is in an acute unit, four youth in the residential unit and three youth in the other residential unit. They have a low number of nurse's and mental health tech's . They are not able to safely take any additional youth. That being the max right now of youth due to the number of staff. They do have a total of 58 beds; the goal would be to get it fully staffed.</p> <p data-bbox="505 1591 1563 1665">Jill asked if one of the Oasis building becomes the assessment center, will it be no unlock PRTF or would there be an unlock PRTF in the other building?</p> <p data-bbox="505 1701 1563 1774">Dr. Freeman stated as far as she knows, DCFS is not making any plans to move any youth from the other two buildings. She would have to reach out to get the long-term plan.</p>	

Jill asked if there has been any discussion thru the state about repurposing or of them going back to Oasis old model. What you could do with the QRTP now and claim 4E funds because you don't have the same resources of the nursing requirement.

Dr. Freeman responded, we have it in our array like a gap of care for that kind of level of care. Our focus is Desert Willow beds and Intensive In-home care

- **Prevention:**

Judy shared on behalf of DFS, Family First Prevention Services Act PowerPoint. Candidacy, Evidence-Based Programs and Next Steps. Federal government once a child is removed from the home. The child welfare agencies have been advocating if our goal is to maintain families in the home we should be reimbursed for those services. FFPSA federal funding will reimburse when prevention services are approved and in place for the child to stay in the home. As of October 1st, congregative care like Child Haven will no longer be funded by the federal government after 14 days. That is why QRTP model has been created to replace congregated care.

The FFPSA would start as of October 1st of this year after the department submitted our plan, the Children's Bureau had some questions. Until they approve the plan, we cannot start any prevention services, the three primary categories: 1. In-Home Based Skilled Parenting Program, 2. Substance Abuse Services 3. Mental Health Services.

The FFPSA Prevention Plan - logic model Target population, Evidence Based Interventions, Proximal Outcomes and Distal Outcomes. Two paths for candidacy 1. Child who is at risk of entering into foster care and can remain safely at home or in a kinship placement. 2. Community Pathways - family who come into the attention of the department thru the hotline but does not meet the criteria to assess for abuse and neglect. (Has one or more negative family conditions, adoption, or guardianship or at risk of disruption or dissolution).

Part of the plan the department had to select in the evidence-based programs to start prevention services. The list and link from the Clearinghouse will be provided to the CAC members. The list shows who is well-supported, under review, promising and not yet reviewed.

- **Intervention & Accountability:**

Due to FFPSA presentation the Department did not report out.

Sheila asked about staffing issues if they have been resolved.

Judy shared staffing is improving. At the end of November, a new academy just finished a total of 20 new staff were just sent out to the field. The department just finished hiring for January Academy, the first day of academy is January 24th. On Monday December 13, DFS started something different we had 14 new hires start early. They will be assigned to

	<p>the field so they can help with some tasks, shadow and see what the work is like. On January 10th the department will bring on another 8 staff. The new 21 staff will fill all our current field vacancies.</p> <p>Donna asked during COVID was the department able to meet foster parent recruitment numbers but struggling with beds.</p> <p>Jill shared the department has had a big decrease in the number of foster homes. The main reason of the decrease is the department closed out anybody that has not taken any children in the past year. The department closed nearly 100 homes because of that. For 2021 the department did license 178 new foster homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitional Aged Youth Supports & Independent Living <i>Due to FFPSA presentation the Department did not report out.</i> • Education <i>Due to FFPSA presentation the Department did not report out.</i> • Policies and Procedures <i>Due to FFPSA presentation the Department did not report out.</i> • Ombudsman’s Report Ombudsman Report was provided. 	
Agenda Item V:	CAC Discussion and / or Recommendations on the Top 7 Priorities (delineated in Section IV)	For Possible Action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAC Recommendations for the Statewide CRP for January Agenda. • CAC Membership and Attendance were provided. The CAC is comprised of 11 members, but currently there’s only 8. CAC has 3 Vacancies for CCSD, General Public, and Parent Advocate please keep track if you would like to recommit. Inquiries and recommendations can be sent to DFSAdminteam@clarkcountynv.gov. 	
Agenda Item VII:	Informational Items/Announcements	(Information Only)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DaShun shared FAYYT will have first in person meeting on December 21st at 4pm. • DaShun shared CAA will be moving offices, will share the location with a flyer. • Sheila shared CASA is interviewing 43 new people for the next two training classes. • Debbie Croshaw’s last meeting, she is retiring. 	

Agenda Item VIII:	Comments by General Public
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None
Agenda Item IX:	Adjournment
	Next meeting will be Thursday, January 20, 2022 @ 8:30 am via WebEx or in person 500 South Grand Central Pkwy, 1st Floor Pueblo Room Las Vegas, Nevada 89155.