

## DFS Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

<b>Meeting Location:</b>	VIA: Microsoft Teams - Clark County Department of Family Services <b>Join on your computer, mobile app, or room device</b> <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a> Meeting ID: 211 703 055 261 Passcode: wTDtGZ <a href="#">Download Teams</a>   <a href="#">Join on the web</a> <b>Or call in (audio only)</b> <a href="#">+1 725-696-5982,571411262#</a> United States, Las Vegas Phone Conference ID: 571 411 262#
<b>Date:</b>	March 23, 2023 8:30 am – 10:00 am

Membership		Present	Absent
<b>CAC Members:</b>	Dashun Jackson	X	
	Andre Bailey	X	
	Matthew Cox	X	
	Donna Smith	X	
	Shelia Parks	X	
	Judge Stephani Charter	X	
	Ali Caliendo		X
	Pamela Roberts	X	
<b>County/Department Management:</b>	Jill Marano, Director		X
	Wonswayla Mackey, Deputy Director	X	
	Margaret LeBlanc, Deputy Director		X
	Patrick Barkley, Deputy Director		X
	Lisa Martinez, Deputy Director	X	

<b>Agenda Item I:</b>	<b>Call to order and welcome</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The meeting was called to order at 8:39 am by Chair DaShun Jackson and roll was called.</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item II:</b>	<b>General Public Comments</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item III:</b>	<b>Approval of February 16, 2023, Minutes</b>	<b>(For Possible Action)</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CAC February 16, 2023, Minutes – Approved.</li> </ul>	
<b>Agenda Item IV:</b>	<b>Mental Health Crisis in Foster Care:</b>	<b>(For Possible Action)</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DCFS Dr. Cindy Pitlock and Elvira Saldana were invited; however, DCFS was not present to report out.</li> </ul> <p>Wonswayla Mackey from DFS standpoint shared with Legislation in session the current bills that deal with QRTP's were all heard. One of the bills did make it thru one chamber of Legislation, we should hopefully have QRTP statue.</p> <p>Donna Smith mention that in the past CAC members had requested for a Legislation Agenda Item during Legislative season but also to be informed of the Bills being presented. She is interested in Bills dealing with Mental Health and Increased of Age in Foster Care.</p>	

Sway Mackey mention that the Legislative session should be accessible to the public thru NELIS. We can ask the person who is tracking the Bills on behalf of the department to keep a note so we can notify CAC members which Bills numbers are so everyone can be able to track them.

<b>Agenda Item V:</b>	<b>Department of Family Services Report Out</b>	<b>(Information only)</b>
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**1. Prevention:**  
 Sway Mackey shared DFS is the process of aligning with the Family First Prevention Services (FFPSA) through the submission of well supported evidence-based programs. The department has been working with the University of Kentucky on the plan prevention services. We are also looking at additional programs to work with to maybe help guide them to an evidence-based program.

Shelia Parks inquired when is the FFPSA supposed to start.

Sway Mackey shared the FFPSA plan is getting re-submitted within 30-60 days. At the State level they are reviewing the policy, they have an Executive committee and the UNITY committee built out.

**2. Intervention & Accountability:**  
 Sway Mackey shared our DFS Internal Communication within the agency has continued to keep All Staff informed about our agency leadership movement. Releasing information thru the agency starting from leadership level to the staff level. DFS has completed surveys to assess the areas of culture, communication, and the status of the workforce. CoachNV training has been rolled out from our Leadership to our Supervisor so they can be able to engage well internally not only with the public. Unfortunately, Jill is not able to do the Foster Care Recruitment Presentation due to her being at State Budget Meeting. The department is in the process in getting the 360 Evaluation Process.

Matthew Cox would like to see the surveys and the outcomes of the surveys to ensure they are not guided or loaded.

**3. Transitional Aged Youth Supports & Independent Living:**  
 Lisa Martinez shared the department has been working with the State for the future of Extended Foster Care. Transitional Aged Youth and Independent Living the department has completed 2 years of the LifeSet program. The department just had an annual review, and the department did very well as part of our partnership with Youth Villages. The GuideTree model has expanded to an online platform which provides best practices for our staff. The department is also in the planning stages of Graduation with our community partners for the youth who will be graduating.

DaShun Jackson asks how many youths are currently in LifeSet program.

Lisa Martinez mention the LifeSet program can serve a total of 80 youth. We currently have a total of 60 youth in the program. Surveys are given to youth who have been served in the LifeSet program to provide the department with feedback.

Judge Stephanie Charter would like to see the outcome of the surveys. How many youths graduate from High School or even come back into the system as parents.

Lisa Martinez can share Joseph Taylor supervisor over the Step-Up program has a monthly dashboard with statistics about housing, employment, military, and other similar criteria.

	<p><b>4. Education:</b> Sway Mackey shared our Education Liaison Dr. Leslie Strasser Congrove working closely with our Child Haven youth. Ensuring the school has the Rights to the children in care, sensitivity of the children residing at the Child Haven campus. She is working with volunteers to ensure that each child have an Education Decision Maker until the permanent EDM's come on board. Will check to see if Dr. Leslie Strasser Congrove can come to next month meeting.</p> <p><b>5. Policies and Procedures:</b> No Updates.</p> <p><b>6. Ombudsman's Report:</b> Ombudsman Report was provided for March 2023.</p> <p><b>7. Legislation:</b> Sway Mackey shared DFS has reviewed Bills associated with QRTP, Bills associated with CSEC Homes before submitting to the Government Affairs department. DFS is only tracking the hearings, the department has streamlined the process.</p>
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<b>Agenda Item VI:</b>	<b>CAC Discussion and/or Recommendations on the Top 7 (For Possible Action) Priorities (delineated in Section V)</b>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sway Mackey mention that Beverly Brown from DCFS has been inquiring about the CRP Report to be sent to her asap. Beverly did mention that the CRP Report is due every January, Sway did advise Beverly that CAC members were going to be working on the report in this month's CAC meeting.</li> <li>• CAC members discussed what should be included in the Statewide CRP Report for 2023.</li> <li>• 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. The members agreed to incorporate the Recommendations that were submitted in the 2022 CRP Report as they are still priorities.</li> <li>• CAC members unanimously agreed that DCFS should attend quarterly CAC meetings instead of monthly. DFS will send the invites to DCFS Administrator Dr. Cindy Pitlock for them to attend quarterly CAC meetings. To report out on the status of mental health; specifically, what are they doing about the barriers?</li> <li>• The members agreed to incorporate the Recommendations that were submitted in the 2022 CRP Report with some additions listed below:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Mental Health:</b>  The CAC has identified the Children's Mental Health Crisis in Nevada as a priority that necessitates the active participation of both DFS (Monthly) and the Nevada Department of Children &amp; Family Services Administrator (Quarterly) to report out to the CAC on what the State and County are doing to address the lack of an effective trauma informed, evidence-based mental health service array for</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
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children across the State, especially our most vulnerable population of abused and neglected children.

Nevada has a large gap for mental health services between Residential Treatment Centers and specialized foster care; there needs to be a step down of services to fill this gap. Clark County needs more mental health care facilities in general and facilities that can treat young children (under the age of 12) specifically. Over the last year DFS has developed an Intermediate Care Facility for the developmentally and intellectually delayed population and has contracted to open the state's first Qualified Residential Treatment Program. Both programs are needed and first of their kind programs in Clark County.

There remain disruption concerns with children in care and post-care who are not receiving the treatment they need. Recognizing that these concerns are not limited to Clark County, and that the state of mental health lies in the hands of the Nevada Department of Children and Families Services (DCFS, aka the State), the CAC is requesting a quarterly update from DCFS regarding the status of:

- The number of residential treatment beds available and filled.
- The timeline for making more beds available.
- The implementation plan for step-down/step-up programs for post-residential care and preventative residential care.
- 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 out-patient facilities to include therapeutic day-schools.

**2. Prevention:**

Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) to reflect the prevention services that were submitted of well supported programs: 1. Parent and Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), 2. Parent as Teachers (PAT), 3. Motivational Interviewing (MI).

**3. Intervention and Accountability:**

The CAC maintains that Intervention and Accountability is an ongoing initiative for improved communication with the Department of Family Services. DFS has completed surveys to assess the areas of culture, communication, and the status of the workforce. The CAC recommends that the committee be provided with the outcome of any surveys submitted that offer transparency as it relates to the status of the workforce, and feedback from internal and external stakeholders. Additionally, DFS is working on a plan to develop feedback from foster parents, children, and caseworkers as it relates to direct services provided to the child and caregiver.

**4. Transitional and Aging Out Youth Supports:**

DFS is in year 3 of a grant with Youth Villages to implement the LifeSet program with youth 17 and older who will transition out of care. Recently, DFS implemented a GuideTree pilot with the DFS Independent Living program staff to provide a robust online platform for guidance and resources for IL youth. DFS has

	<p>been working with other Nevada jurisdictions for the future extension of foster care. Going forward, DFS will share CCSS Step-Up’s monthly dashboard with CAC members.</p> <p><b>5. Education:</b></p> <p>DFS has partnered with the CCSD Educational Liaison to ensure children in care continue to receive the support necessary for continued educational progress. DFS is in the process of ensuring all children have an Educational Decision Maker (EDM) identified in their records and in the Infinite Campus program.</p> <p>Additionally, ensuring that the EDM is being invited to meetings that impacts the child’s educational development. DFS is working to ensure there is consistency within the Clark County School District to ensure a Foster Care Director and Foster Care Coordinator is identified in the schools, who are familiar with the minors, and who can be a support in ensure educational progress is met and maintained. DFS is also reviewing legislation to ensure children continue to receive the educational support needed in the school system by means of restorative justice when disciplinary practices are required. DFS has reviewed three legislative bills associated with the educational development surrounding disciplinary practices of youth and will continue to monitor the outcomes of educational legislation as it relates to minors and the trauma impact associated with children in care. DFS will share the bills currently in legislation with the CAC so they can also monitor as well.</p> <p>DFS is currently working with the Educational Liaison by means of the Independent Living program to ensure youth who age out of care can receive their educational records to support their choice of college or career development.</p> <p><b>6. Ombudsman Report:</b></p> <p>The Department of Family Services continues to address concerns identified by the Ombudsman and informs families of their option to contact the Ombudsman for formal complaints. DFS continues to emphasize communication with families and all stakeholders associated with child welfare cases.</p> <p><b>7. Policy and Procedures:</b></p> <p>No Changes from CRP Report 2022.</p>
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<b>Agenda Item VIII:</b>	<b>Informational Items/Announcements</b>	<b>(Information Only)</b>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wonswayla Mackey welcomed new Deputy Director Lisa Martinez.</li> <li>• Sheila Parks sent out invitations for Pinwheel planting in front of the Family Court house on March 31<sup>st</sup> at 12pm.</li> <li>• Dashun Jackson shared Children’s Advocacy Alliance is hosting weekly Legislative updates on Tuesdays.</li> <li>• Dashun Jackson shared recruiting for FAYYT for ages ranging 12-24 years old.</li> <li>• Dashun Jackson shared Foster Youth Graduation is in the planning arrangements have started they will be reach out for donations and support.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reminder for a CAC Member to attend and able to report out to Policy and Fiscal Affairs next upcoming meeting May 18 from 12-2pm.</li></ul>
<b>Agenda Item IX:</b>	<b>Next Meeting Date</b>
	Next meeting will be Thursday, April 20, 2023 @ 8:30am via Microsoft Teams.
<b>Agenda Item X:</b>	<b>Comments by General Public</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>
<b>Agenda Item XI:</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>
	Meeting adjourned at 9:59am