

Citizen's Advisory Committee

For Clark County Department of Family Services

Clark County Juvenile Justice and Family Services
Policy and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Board
May 3, 2012

Distinguished Board Members:

As an appointed body of concerned citizens and community partners, the Department of Family Services' Citizen's Advisory Committee has discussed many of the most pressing child welfare issues facing our community's children and families, and we have come to a consensus that some of our greatest needs are in the areas of

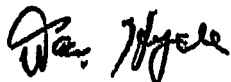
- Childhood Education
- Family Preservation
- Foster/Adoptive Systems, and
- Mental Health Services

I submit to you for review and approval the Citizen's Advisory Committee's 2012 Strategic Action Plans. As you will see, these plans were developed with a specific focus on each of the aforementioned areas. Each plan contains a series of tasks and desired outcomes, many of which involve advocating for the needs of children and families within our community at large and to targeted audiences such as industry leaders and elected officials.

In addition to seeking your approval of these plans, I am here to request permission to share this work with members of the Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice at its next meeting on Wednesday, May 9, 2012. We would like the opportunity to speak during public comment in order to introduce the Department of Family Services Citizen's Advisory Committee and its purpose to members of the Legislative Committee, as well as submit for their information and reference these plans and an informational sheet regarding our role and purpose.

The more we learn about the child welfare system, the more it becomes clear that the responsibility for the well-being of our children falls to our community as a whole. The best way forward is together if we are to meet the challenges facing families today.

Regards,



Dan Hyde, Chairman

Clark County Department of Family Services Citizen's Advisory Committee

Citizen's Advisory Committee

For Clark County Department of Family Services

To Whom It May Concern:

As an appointed body of concerned citizens and community partners, the Clark County Department of Family Services' Citizen's Advisory Committee has discussed many of the most pressing child welfare issues facing our community's children and families, and we have come to a consensus that some of our greatest needs are in the areas of

- Childhood Education
- Family Preservation
- Foster/Adoptive Systems, and
- Mental Health Services

In order to address these issues to the best of our abilities, the Clark County Department of Family Services' Citizen's Advisory Committee developed Strategic Action Plans with a specific focus on each of the aforementioned areas. These plans are attached for your reference, and as you will see, each contains a series of tasks and desired outcomes, many of which involve advocating for the needs of children and families within our community at large and to targeted audiences such as industry leaders and elected officials.

The more we learn about the child welfare system, the more it becomes clear that the responsibility for the well-being of our children falls to our community as a whole. The best way forward is together if we are to meet the challenges facing families today. We welcome any opportunity to participate in conversations around the needs of children and families, and are available to share the insights of the committee upon request.

Regards,



Dan Hyde, Chairman
(702) 269-1666



Yvette Williams, Vice-Chair
(702) 596-2559

About the Clark County Department of Family Services Citizen's Advisory Committee (DFS CAC)

The DFS CAC is an appointed body created under Clark County ordinance and comprised of eleven (11) members representing court appointed special advocates; foster and adoptive parents; Clark County School District; private providers of mental health services; parent advocates; local juvenile probation services; youth with foster care experience; child welfare advocates; and the general public. The committee meets monthly to examine and discuss issues related to Clark County's child welfare system, including facilities, services and resources provided by the Department of Family Services and its community partners.

DFS CAC ACTION PLAN 2012

Childhood Education

Initiative	Task	Outcome/Indicator	P & S CAC Member	Date to be Achieved
Advocate for and Collaborate with DFS as a Voice for DFS Children in the Educational System	Establish an Educational Liaison/Point of Contact between the Department of Family Services Citizen's Advisory Committee and the Clark County School District	Formal channel of communication opened between the school district and the Department of Family Services	Primary: Vicki Herman Secondary: Yvette Williams	December 2012
	Represent the Department of Family Services Citizen's Advisory Committee on the Statewide Commission for Foster Care Youth and the Children's Attorney Project	Assist the Department of Family Services in moving the initiative from the Statewide Commission forward	Primary: Yvette Williams Secondary: Judge Sullivan	Ongoing
	Advocate for access to quality educational opportunities for children within the Department of Family Services system	Provide legislative bill support Communicate with community stakeholders and the Department of Family Services for access to quality educational programs	Primary: Judge Sullivan Secondary: Yvette Williams	August 2012
	Advocate for legislative changes to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) to address and prioritize the educational needs of children in foster care	Partner with the Department of Family Services to make educational recommendations to the SCRS Legislative Committee	Primary: Yvette Williams Secondary: Judge Sullivan	March 2012 through June 2013

All advocacy positions/initiatives must have DFS CAC Committee approval before any position can be advocated for on behalf of the Committee; and, where required, certain advocacy positions/initiatives must have prior approval from the relevant Policy and Fiscal Affairs Board.

DFS CAC ACTION PLAN 2012

Family Preservation

Initiative	Task	Outcome/Indicator	P & S CAC Member	Date to be Achieved
Advocate for and Collaborate with DFS and other community stakeholders in Strengthening Family and Community Engagement	Develop a clear message for public outreach and education as to the importance of family preservation and family engagement	Preparation of a written message approved by the CAC to be shared with community stakeholders	Primary: Yvette Williams Secondary: Judge Sullivan	June 2012
	Improve community awareness as to the importance of family preservation and family engagement	Participate in regular speaking engagements, at least on a monthly basis, with various stakeholders Develop recommendations for a mentoring, and family support group Speak with community partners to identify resources available for a mentoring and family support group	Primary: Yvette Williams Secondary: Judge Sullivan	Speaking engagements to begin June 2012 and continue, at least monthly, through December 2013. September 2012
	Develop recommendations, based upon speaking engagements and input from community stakeholders, as to how to best achieve timely permanency for our children through family preservation efforts	Prepare a written report with recommendations, to be submitted to the Fiscal Affairs Committee, based upon input from community stakeholders as to how to best achieve timely permanency for our children through family preservation efforts	Primary: Yvette Williams Secondary: Judge Sullivan	January 2013

DFS CAC ACTION PLAN 2012

Family Preservation

Initiative	Task	Outcome/Indicator	P & S CAC Member	Date to be Achieved
Advocate for and Collaborate with DFS and other community stakeholders for the use and dissemination of a Parent's Guide to Dependency Court	Review any existing Parent's Guide to Dependency Court (see attached) and make recommendations for revisions and use and dissemination of the Parent's Guide based upon input from community stakeholders, to include parent's rights	Provide information to DFS on the proposed Draft of A Parent's Guide to Dependency Court and recommendations for its use and dissemination by DFS and other community stakeholders	Primary: Yvette Williams Secondary: Judge Sullivan	January 2013
Advocate for and Collaborate with DFS as a Voice for Family Preservation	Advocate for legislative changes to Nevada Revised Statues (NRS) to address and prioritize family preservation	Partner with DFS to make family preservation recommendation to the SCRS Legislative Committee	Primary: Yvette Williams Secondary: Judge Sullivan	December 2012 through June 2013
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DFS CAC ACTION PLAN 2012

Foster Care/Adoptive Systems

Initiative	Task	Outcome/Indicator	P & S CAC Member	Date to be Achieved
Advocate for and Collaborate with DFS in Strengthening Foster Care and Adoptive Systems	Engage DFS foster and adoptive parent recruiters to discuss recruitment needs, challenges, and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided DFS foster and adoptive parent staff with additional recruitment resources and/or new entryways to potential foster or adoptive parents 	Primary: Donna Smith	December 2012
	Collaborate and partner with community organizations* to create an active resource repository for foster and adoptive parents and for foster children aging out of the system <i>(* Clark County Foster and Adoptive Parents Association)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With collaborative partners created an active comprehensive community online resource guide for foster children aging out of the system in conjunction • With collaborative partners created an active comprehensive community online resource guide for foster and adoptive parents 	Primary: Donna Smith	December 2012
Advocate for enhanced community awareness of the foster care/adoptive systems and strengthened system partnerships		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided legislative bill support 	Primary: Donna Smith	December 2012 through June 2013

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DFS CAC ACTION PLAN 2012

Mental Health Services

Initiative	Task	Outcome/Indicator	P & S CAC Member	Date to be Achieved
Advocate for and Collaborate with the Department of Family Services (DFS) in Strengthening Mental Health Services for Families and Children	Advocate for and assist DFS with improving therapeutic foster care Advocate for legislative changes to Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) to allow for regional state-to-state mental health services reciprocity <i>(To increase the number of qualified mental health providers to work with children and Families)</i> <i>Partner with: Clark County Children's Mental Health Consortium (CCCMHC), Nevada Youth Care Providers (NYCP), Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition, Committee On Youth (SNRPC COY), and state licensing boards</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed Together Facing the Challenge (TFC) curriculum • Assisted DFS in evaluating and implementation of Therapeutic Foster Care • Obtained bill sponsorship • Provided potential NRS revisions • Provided legislative bill support 	Primary: Dan Hyde	June 2013
			Primary: Willie Stewart	December 2012

DFS CAC ACTION PLAN 2012

Mental Health Services

Initiative	Task	Outcome/Indicator	P & S CAC Member	Date to be Achieved
Advocate for and Collaborate with the Department of Family Services (DFS) in Strengthening Mental Health Services for Families and Children	Advocate for the development of additional approved American Psychological Association (APA), Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC), National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), and American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) sites throughout the community for interns <i>(To increase the number of approved mental health intern sites)</i> <i>Partner with: CCCMHC, UNLV, and state licensing boards</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided potential Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS)/Nevada Administrative Code(NAC) revisions • Provided legislative bill support 	Primary: Dr. Bree Mullin	December 2012 through June 2013
	Advocate for DFS and community mental health initiatives and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtained a seat on the Clark County Children's Mental Health Consortium (CCCMHC) • Provided legislative bill support • Provided DFS CAC Key Advocacy/Initiative updates to CCCMHC membership 	Primary: Dr. Bree Mullin	December 2012 through June 2013

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