



STATE OF NEVADA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

2024 ANNUAL PROGRESS AND SERVICES REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

Child and Family Services Plan¹

To receive federal funding under Title IV-B, a state must submit a five-year Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) and report annually on that plan in its Annual Progress and Services Reports (APSR). The CFSP is a strategic plan that sets forth a state's vision and goals to strengthen its child welfare system. It outlines initiatives and activities that the state will carry out over the next five years to administer and integrate programs and services to promote the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families. Nevada initially submitted a five-year plan in June 2019, that covered the time period of 2020 through 2024. That plan was approved and initiated in November of 2020.

In 2000, the Children's Bureau established a process for monitoring state child welfare programs called the Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR). Through this process states are assessed for substantial conformity with federal requirements for child welfare services. CFSRs help states improve safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes for children and families who receive services through the child welfare system. The CFSR process enables the Children's Bureau to (1) ensure conformity with federal child welfare requirements; (2) determine what is happening to children and families receiving child welfare services; and (3) assist states in enhancing their capacity to help children and families achieve positive outcomes related to safety, permanency, and well-being. The CFSRs assess state performance on seven outcomes and seven systemic factors. The CFSR incorporates two key phases: the statewide assessment and an onsite review of child and family service outcomes and program systems. The CFSR is followed by the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) phase, in which states not in substantial conformity with federal standards respond to findings of the CFSR.

The third round of CFSRs began in FY 2015 and concluded in FY 2018. Nevada developed its Program Improvement Plan (PIP) in response to the findings of its Round 3 CFSR which occurred in 2018. Nevada's PIP became effective in November 2019. The 2020-2024 CFSP integrated the planning for and development of Nevada's five-year plan with the CFSR Process.

Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR)

The APSR provides an annual update on the progress made by the state toward its goals and objectives in the CFSP and outlines the planned activities for the upcoming fiscal year.² It also integrates the activities and progress on the CFSR PIP, while applicable.

¹ ACYF-CB-PI-23-01 APSR Program Instruction February 9, 2023

² The APSR 2024 is submitted in June 2023. The 2024 APSR covers the activities completed during the period since the submission of the 2020-2024 CFSP and addresses planned activities for FY 2024.

The APSR allows Nevada to assess the strengths of its child welfare system and the areas needing improvement on an annual basis.

Agency Administering the Plan

The Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), within Nevada's Department of Health and Human Services, is responsible for the development of the Child and Family Services Plan and administering the Title IV-B and Title IV-E programs under the plan. The DCFS provides a wide range of services for children, youth, and families in Nevada. In addition to child welfare services, the DCFS also manages juvenile justice programs, children's mental and behavioral health services, and victims' services.

DCFS' central administrative structure is organized into four major areas that report to the DCFS Administrator:

- **Administrative Services:** Responsible for the Division's fiscal services, information technology services, grants management, systems advocate, and victims' services.
- **Residential and Community Services:** Responsible for the leadership and strategic direction of Nevada's residential and community service programs including psychiatric residential treatment facilities, Desert Willow Treatment Center, mobile crisis response teams, outpatient medication clinic, intensive case management Wraparound in Nevada, early childhood, and children's mental health.
- **Juvenile Justice Services:** Responsible for the leadership, operations, and oversight of the statewide Juvenile Justice Programs Office, Youth Parole Bureau, and three state-operated residential juvenile justice facilities: Caliente Youth Center, Nevada Youth Training Center, and Summit View Youth Center.
- **Child Welfare Services:** Oversees Nevada's rural child welfare direct services and DCFS' teams focused on systems improvement and quality assurance to include the Systems of Care (SOC), Children's Mental Health Planning and Evaluation Unit (PEU), and the Family Programs Office (FPO). The FPO is responsible for 1) oversight of child welfare services in Nevada; 2) compliance with federal and state requirements; and 3) quality improvement of child welfare practice.

Child Welfare Services Administrative Structure

Nevada is one of two states with a hybrid child welfare administrative structure.³ In Nevada's two largest urban counties the child welfare services are state-administered and county operated. The remaining 14 rural counties and Nevada's capital city are state-administered and state operated. In SFY 2022, the state received 39,391 child protective services referrals and conducted 15,638 child protective services investigations. There

³ State Vs. County Child Welfare Administration, Child Welfare Information Gateway
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/services/>

was an average of 4,131 youth in foster care.⁴ The 17 counties are divided into three regions as outlined below.

The northern region encompasses Washoe County and includes the moderately sized cities of Reno and Sparks. It has a population of 496,745 residents⁵ making it the second most populous county in the state. Child welfare services are delivered by Washoe County Human Services Agency (WCHSA). In SFY 2022 the region conducted 1,488 child protective services investigations with an average of 713 children in foster care.

The southern region encompasses Clark County and includes the cities of Las Vegas, Henderson, North Las Vegas, Boulder City, and Mesquite. The county has a population of 2,322,985⁵ residents making it the most populous county in the state. Child welfare services are delivered by Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS). In SFY 2022 the region conducted 13,513 child protective services investigations with an average of 3,019 in foster care.

Nevada's rural region encompasses its independent capital city, Carson City, and the remaining 14 counties in the state. The capital and 14 rural counties combined have a population of 358,042⁵ residents. Child welfare services in Carson City, and the rural counties are delivered by offices operated by DCFS. In SFY 2022, the region conducted 637 child protective services investigations with an average of 399 children in foster care.

Reshaping Child Welfare in Nevada

In November 2018, the Administration for Children and Families Children's Bureau issued a call to action to the child welfare field to implement primary prevention strategies.⁶ This paradigm shift to focus on prevention is meant to strengthen families before maltreatment has occurred and prevent the unnecessary removal of children from their homes. Common problems such as limited or loss of income or lack of housing, when left unattended, can escalate to crisis and lead to formal child welfare involvement.

According to Kids Count 2023⁷, Nevada ranks 47th nationally in terms of child well-being based on 16 indicators representing four areas of well-being: Economic (48th), Education (46th), Health (38th), and Family and Community (44th). These rankings reflect the risk of families becoming involved with the child welfare system with the following factors contributing:

- 19% of children (129,000) lived in poverty in 2021.
- 33% of children (233,000) had parents who lacked secure employment in 2021.

⁴ DCFS Data Book, December 31, 2022. All Investigations and Foster Care End of Month data in Child Welfare Services Administrative Structure is from DCFS Data Book.

⁵ <https://www.census.gov/> All Nevada population data from United States Census Bureau "Quick Facts" dated July 1, 2022

⁶ Information Memorandum [ACYF-CB-IM-18-05](#). Retrieved from: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/resource/im1805>

⁷ Annie E. Casey Foundation 2023 Kids Count Data Book. Retrieved from: <https://assets.aecf.org/m/databook/2023-KCDB-profile-NV.pdf>

- 35% of children (243,000) lived in households with a high house cost burden in 2021.
- 8% of children (55,000) lived in high-poverty areas in 2021.

Nevada has spent the last year working in partnership with key internal and external stakeholders to develop plans and interventions that will allow for necessary changes to the current child welfare system. These changes include an emphasis on Anti-racist, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ADEI) and youth engagement to bring those with lived experience to the table. Nevada continues to support prevention-based interventions that minimize entry and/or reentry into care. These efforts are reflected in the APSR.

Impact of National Health Emergency

During the reporting period for this APSR, Nevada continued to see and to navigate impacts caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic. DCFS, through the Family Programs Office (FPO), has continuously provided guidance to the child welfare jurisdictions across the state, to include instruction and guidance relating to child welfare practice and safety.

The 2021 APSR described the initial impact of the pandemic. At the onset of the pandemic most face-to-face interactions were suspended for safety reasons pursuant to federal guidance from the Children's Bureau. The DCFS released guidance to the child welfare agencies describing flexibilities in child welfare practice. Jurisdictions were able to adapt to the challenges created by virtual contact with available technology, as well as utilize funding from the CARES Act to update needed supplies such as phones and computers. Nevada child welfare agencies were also able to use existing funding and CARES Act funding to support families and care providers who were lacking technology resources.

The 2022 APSR described the long-term effects the state began to see because of the pandemic and how the state continued to adapt and change in practice and policy. Progress was made in lowering COVID-19 transmission rates statewide and increasing the availability of vaccines. As a result, restrictions on face-to-face contacts were eased accordingly.

The 2023 APSR described the decreasing number of COVID-19 hospitalizations and the abundant supply of vaccines. The report outlined the continued use of sanitary guidelines, and the relaxing of mask mandates. On February 10, 2022, then-Governor, Steve Sisolak, ended the statewide mask mandate that had been in place since July 2021. On May 20, 2022, he signed a proclamation formally ending the Declaration of Emergency related to COVID-19 which had been in place since March 2020. The child welfare agencies across the state resumed all face-to-face operations with children and families and began to resume other operations back to pre-COVID standards.

This past year, Nevada did not see as many direct impacts from the pandemic itself; however, continued to feel its impact in various areas of practice. In person face to face contact with children and families returned almost fully prior to this reporting period;

however, the child welfare agencies saw benefits in incorporating virtual communication into practice to supplement face-to-face contact. On May 30, 2023, the DCFS issued an Informational Memorandum (IM) to the child welfare agencies terminating all COVID flexibilities effective June 30, 2023. This IM was modeled after guidance provided by the Children's Bureau on April 17, 2023⁸.

Nevada continues to follow recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding immunizations, which still includes the COVID-19 vaccine. This requirement is part of the process caregivers and relatives must follow to become a licensed provider. Although the state allows child welfare agencies to request a waiver for this requirement, Nevada has seen an impact on its ability to retain and recruit new foster parents for children under the age of 1, and for youth with special medical needs.

Impacts of the pandemic have still been observed during Nevada's quarterly statewide CQI case reviews. Examples of this include instances of the child welfare agencies having to navigate COVID-19 diagnoses with children or caregivers, as well as impacts to community services at the local level, such as childcare and medical services.

Court processes were significantly impacted throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Initially, all in-person court proceedings were halted and shifted to a virtual courtroom environment for the safety of all parties. Statewide technology was supplied to workers and families which assisted and enabled them to participate in all levels of these virtual court hearings. New remote court practices were implemented and continue to evolve in Nevada courts.

While pandemic restrictions continued to ease, the use of remote court proceedings remained almost entirely virtual in Washoe County, with an exception for trials. Hearings in the rural counties were mostly in-person and in minimal instances, virtual hearings were offered. In Clark County, hearings were mainly heard in a hybrid fashion.

The Court Improvement Council (CIC) (described in subsequent text) advised that the judicial districts prefer and promote in-person hearings; however, courts have retained the virtual option for specific situations such as a known COVID-19 diagnosis in designated court participants or possible COVID-19 infection rate surges in geographic areas. The CIC will provide updates as these decisions continue to be made.

COLLABORATION

The Statewide Assessment conducted in 2018 revealed that a major strength for Nevada was its ability to collaborate and engage internal and external stakeholders in monitoring the identified goals and objectives of its five-year plan. In fact, Nevada received an overall rating of "strength" during the 2018 CFSR Round 3 for the Systemic Factor Agency Responsiveness to the Community. This performance item (Item 31) assesses how well

⁸ Children's Bureau IM-23-05, dated April 17, 2023, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/policy-guidance/im-23-05>

the agency's responsiveness is to the community system functioning statewide to ensure that the state engages in ongoing consultation with tribes, consumers, service providers, foster care providers, juvenile court, and other agencies. Stakeholder major concerns are included in the goals, objectives, and annual updates of the APSR. DCFS has continued to organize its collaborative efforts this past year to ensure continued engagement of key stakeholders. The framework for this year's collaborations to support the CFSP goals and sustaining previously implemented Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) activities was organized around PIP Collaborative Implementation Teams, existing statewide meetings, feedback loops, coordination and collaboration with the Court Improvement Program, implementation planning for the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), implementation planning for extended foster care (EFC) and continued implementation efforts for Comprehensive Addictions and Recovery Act (CARA) Plans of Care and Juvenile Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA), as outlined in the CAPTA section.

Program Improvement Plan (PIP) Collaborative Implementation Teams

Program Improvement Plan (PIP) collaborative implementation teams were originally formed to oversee and implement the PIP activities. These teams were initially formed to identify practice themes within areas of concern identified during the 2018 CFSR. These teams were then responsible for overseeing the strategies to develop and implement the key activities of the PIP. Teams were comprised of representatives from the Court Improvement Program (CIP), state and county child welfare practice experts, Juvenile Justice, UNITY developers, Nevada Partnership for Training (NPT), and state legal advocates. Teams initially received guidance and technical assistance from the Capacity Building Center for States (CBCS) and Region IX of the Children's Bureau. As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, the CBCS expanded its role to include development and implementation activities to support the state in the timely completion of PIP activities. The PIP teams interfaced and provided feedback loops for other stakeholder groups listed below. Nevada's initial PIP was to run from November of 2019 through October of 2021. At that time, Nevada had met most of its PIP goals for the CFSR items; however, had four outstanding items for which it still needed to meet goals. Due to this, Nevada's PIP continued into the non-overlapping year and was confirmed completed on September 29, 2022. The work done by the four PIP teams shifted to focus on sustaining all activities accomplished and implemented since November of 2019.

PIP Teams

The four PIP teams were overseen by the Statewide Quality Improvement Committee (SQIC) which includes membership from the DCFS Family Programs Office (FPO), Court Improvement Project (CIP), Nevada Partnership for Training (NPT), and Nevada's three child welfare agencies. PIP Teams were assembled across four cross cutting performance themes and specific practice areas:

Team 1 Conducting Quality Safety and Risk Assessments

- Conducting comprehensive risk and safety assessments

- Focusing on in-home cases
- Developing appropriate, realistic, and specific safety plans
- Formalizing maltreatment reports on open cases
- Providing safety services

Team 2 Engaging Families

- Effective family engagement
- Conducting high quality caseworker visits and case planning
- Focusing on in-home cases
- Effective relative engagement
- Conducting accurate needs assessment and case planning

Team 3 Achieving Timely Permanency

- Effective use of concurrent planning
- Effective and timely planning for adoption and provision of adoption services
- Planning for, pursuing, and supporting timely reunification
- Strengthening court case review processes and communication/partnership with courts
- Filing timely TPR petitions per ASFA

Team 4 Continuous Quality Improvement

- Developing a comprehensive CQI system
- Building capacity
- Strengthening data collection, tracking, sharing, and analysis
- Strengthening the link between data analysis and decision-making
- Tracking interventions and outcomes

Decision Making Group

The Decision-Making Group (DMG) is comprised of top-level administrators of the three child welfare agencies, the DCFS Family Programs Office leadership, and the DCFS Administrator. The DMG meets quarterly and provides guidance and final approval to statewide policies, programming, and planning.

Assistant Director Group

The Assistant Director Group (ADG) was comprised of assistant directors of the three child welfare agencies, the DCFS Deputy Administrator for child welfare services, and the DCFS Family Programs Office Social Services Chiefs. The group met monthly and served as the first level of review and approval on statewide child welfare policy stemming from the CFSP, PIP, and continuous quality improvement (CQI) activities. This group made recommendations on statewide policies, programming, and planning activities to the

DMG. In the latter half of 2022, the ADG was dissolved, and its membership was absorbed by the DMG so that comprehensive and well-rounded discussions, and a streamlined decision-making process could occur in one meeting.

Statewide Quality Improvement Committee (SQIC)

The SQIC's purpose is to promote positive outcomes for Nevada's children through continuous oversight and analysis of state and federally identified performance measures and data relevant to continuous quality improvement. In November of 2020, the PIP Core Team was converted to the SQIC. All the previous functions of the PIP Core Team were maintained, with the enhancement of the SQIC mission and activities. The charters for the two groups were cross walked and combined. The updated SQIC Charter was approved on October 28, 2020, and the first official meeting of the SQIC was November 9, 2020. During the PIP, the group met twice a month, with one meeting specifically reserved for report-out to the Children's Bureau. Since completion of the PIP in September of 2022, the group continues to meet twice monthly, with a focus on CQI activities and data analysis.

Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI)

The Quality Parenting Initiative was developed statewide to ensure that every child removed from their home due to abandonment, abuse, or neglect is cared for by a foster family who provides skilled, and nurturing parenting while helping the child maintain connections with their family of origin. This QPI collaborative engages foster care providers through monthly meetings in each jurisdiction. Additionally, Nevada conducts surveys and focus groups with foster parents to consult with them on service array, training, strengths, and needs of the foster care system. This collaboration has been successful in creating and implementing statewide and agency policy changes. The team has also worked on education materials for foster parents including highlighting a new education feature each month on the QPI website and creating/updating training. Collaboration assists in presenting new ideas, identifying areas still in need of improvement and celebrating successes. Nevada additionally continues to use the support of the QPI collaboration to gain the voice and lived experiences of foster parents. This has been achieved using surveys, mentorship programs, and foster parent participation in the Agency's monthly QPI meetings.

Advisory Committee

An Advisory Committee of internal and external stakeholders including peer parent advocates, birth parents, CASA, aged out foster youth, providers, CJA Task Force, and foster parents was previously assembled to identify and make recommendations on areas identified as needing improvement from the 2018 CFSR. This committee also served as an advisor for the 2020-2024 Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP). The committee did not meet during this reporting period, largely due to key staffing shortages.

During the past year, the FPO reviewed practices and activities the child welfare agencies across the state have in place to obtain feedback from those with lived experience in an effort to identify strategies that could be implemented statewide. Nevada continued to have discussions around identifying new strategies to authentically engage with and elicit valuable insight from those with lived experience. The state recognizes the importance of infusing these experiences throughout all aspects of child welfare policy and practice. Over the next year, the state will reconvene the advisory committee in preparation of Round 4 of the CFSR, as well as for the development of the 2025-2029 CFSP. Nevada is committed to engaging and working collaboratively with youth, families, and caregivers. The state plans to leverage parent mentoring programs, the youth advisory boards (YAB), and the System of Care (SOC) activities that exist at the local and state level to reach these goals.

Indian Child Welfare Committee

The Indian Child Welfare (ICW) committee meets bi-monthly and is hosted by the DCFS Tribal Liaison. These meetings are held virtually and tribal child welfare workers from the 28 federally recognized tribes, bands, and colonies in Nevada are invited to participate. Meetings provide a venue to address training, policy, and practice issues in child welfare whether ICWA applies or not. The ICW meetings are also natural feedback loops as they allow for consistent feedback from the tribal communities. Additionally, the DCFS Tribal Liaison participates in quarterly Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) meetings to discuss service and policy issues between tribal leaders and the state.

Workforce Innovation Team (WIT)

The Workforce Innovation Team (WIT) is comprised of the DCFS FPO, the child welfare agencies, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), and the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), who work collaboratively to manage and improve the child welfare training delivery system. The meeting occurs once per month. The DCFS FPO Social Services Chief is responsible for overseeing the work of the WIT and is also the CFSP/PIP Coordinator who provides a feedback loop on matters related to the CFSR, PIP, CFSP, and ongoing CQI activities.

This collaborative team is charged with addressing the training needs of the child welfare workforce statewide, as well as guiding and implementing CoachNV, a coaching curriculum adopted from the Atlantic Coast Child Welfare Implementation model. Coordination between Nevada's child welfare agencies and the Nevada Partnership for Training (NPT) was supported by the Capacity Building Center for States (CBCS) Integrated Capacity Building work plan until early 2022. The purpose of this intensive project was to implement the coaching model across the state, and to build capacity for Nevada to sustain the work accomplished. The CBCS also helped Nevada build capacity to implement and sustain fidelity measures and evaluation pertaining to CoachNV.

Children's Justice Act Task Force

The Children's Justice Act Task Force (CJA) is a multi-disciplinary team that meets quarterly to make policy and training recommendations for systems improvements in the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect, and exploitation cases in a manner that limits trauma to the child victims. Multiple members of the CJA Task Force are also active members of other teams such as the SQIC and the Court Improvement Program (CIP).

Consultation and Coordination with the Court Improvement Program

The Court Improvement Program (CIP) Select Committee Meeting meets quarterly. Through this meeting, the Nevada court systems partner with DCFS on a variety of fronts and focus many of its efforts on implementing the CFSP, APSR, and CFSR. Two CIP members participate in the SQIC. This membership helps align child welfare agencies across the state with the courts in efforts to develop, implement, and monitor child welfare performance and improve outcomes. A special project of the CIP began this past year and is aimed at enhancing quality legal representation and quality hearing efforts through the Judicial, Court, and Attorney Measures of Performance (JCAMP) initiative. Additionally, this past year the CIP and DCFS developed a data agreement to better support and enhance CIP court practice evaluations. DCFS has also established a formal system to subgrant IV-E funds to entities providing legal representation. The DCFS FPO worked collaboratively with the CIP to ensure required statutory language related to Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) was developed and introduced during Nevada's 2023 legislative session. Over the next year, the FPO will work closely with the CIP on the education and training needs of the courts regarding FFPSA and CSEC, as well as with the programmatic changes needed to implement extended foster care (EFC).

Court Improvement Councils

The 11 Judicial Districts across the state have collaborative Court Improvement Councils (CIC) which develop annual action plans to improve the judicial handling of child welfare cases. The CICs meet regularly in their communities and collectively during an annual Summit. The CICs meet either monthly or quarterly, depending on the judicial district. The CIP Select Committee meets quarterly and CIC Leads, as well as multidisciplinary stakeholders from across the state, attend to report on their activities, goals, and barriers to achieving success.

During this reporting period, the CIC Summit was held in September of 2022, with a theme of *Dependency Community and Collaborative Systems Change*. Health Management Associates (HMA) developed a training in conjunction with the child welfare agencies to address the intersection of domestic violence and child maltreatment and inform best practices. HMA conducted two workshops at the CIC Summit to CIC members about the findings from their needs assessment and an overview of the training that child welfare staff will be receiving. The 2022 CIC summit also included curriculums on: extended foster care, cultural competency (LGBTQIA2S+, gender identity and expression), kinship placement, avoiding tokenism, and enhancing Family First Prevention Services. Many of the training/discussions were developed in conjunction with the child welfare agencies.

Additionally, during the Summit, CICs were tasked to reevaluate their TPR backlog, collaboratively identify barriers in their judicial district, and identify potential resources that could be attained by CIP Timely Permanency and Termination of Parental Rights Subgrants. The CICs have initiated initiatives and continue to support several of the outcomes and systemic factors affecting child welfare seen through their action planning for timeliness to permanency, child safety, and conducting quality court hearings.

Development of Nevada's Family First Prevention Services Act Prevention Plan

Nevada has contracted with the University of Maryland School of Social Work Institution for Innovation and Implementation to support the development of a Title IV-E Prevention Program Plan in Nevada in response to the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). The FFPSA plan activities supported PIP strategies and activities. DCFS held structured planning meetings with all five of the state divisions under the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) which include: DCFS, Aging and Disabilities Services (ADSD), Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP - Medicaid), Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), and Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS). Additional planning meetings were held with programs within those divisions including Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (DCFS), Children's Mental Health (DCFS), System of Care (DCFS), Mobile Response (DCFS), TANF (DWSS), home visiting, maternal health, and rural children's mental health (DPBH). The purpose of these collaborative meetings was to educate sister agencies on the FFPSA as well as to identify and leverage other DHHS divisions' programs and resources aimed at increasing child welfare prevention services.

Efforts to complete Nevada's Title IV-E Prevention Plan over the last year have included convening statewide teams to update the definition of a "candidate for foster care," the service array, data and evaluation needs, updates to UNITY, and training and workforce development. Nevada spent this past reporting period making revisions and providing additional information to the Title IV-E Prevention Plan and resubmitted the plan to the Children's Bureau for review on June 1, 2023.

In a letter dated March 7, 2022, Nevada was notified that it was out of compliance with sections 472 (c) and 475A(c) of the Social Security Act (the Act) as amended by Public Law 115-123—Family First Prevention Services Act, enacted on July 8, 2018, and needed to submit a PIP to address each of those sections and bring the state into compliance. Section 472 (c) of the Act provides a new definition of foster family home. Section 475A(c) of the Act provides the requirements related to assessment, documentation, and judicial determination for placement in the specified setting of a qualified residential treatment program (QRTP). To claim Title IV-E reimbursement for an eligible child placed in a QRTP setting, the setting must meet the requirements of a QRTP as outlined in Section 475A(c) of the FFPSA Act. Nevada had until April 6, 2022, to submit an approvable PIP.

The Nevada team worked closely with the CB Regional Office staff and submitted the state's final Program Improvement Plan (PIP) on April 8, 2022. DCFS has continued to

work closely with CB Regional Office staff to update the Title IV-E Pre-Print. While an Administrative Court Ruling was passed in September of 2022, to address the QRTP requirements, Nevada introduced legislation during the 2023 legislative session that added the QRTP requirements to Nevada law. The Title IV-E Pre-Print was resubmitted to the CB Regional Office as a result of this action and Nevada is awaiting feedback.

UPDATE TO ASSESSMENT ON CURRENT PERFORMANCE IN IMPROVING OUTCOMES

Nevada entered a CFSR Program Improvement Plan (PIP) on November 1, 2019.

On April 6, 2020, DCFS requested a delay of the Clark County case review scheduled for Quarter 3 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On April 13, 2020, DCFS requested a delay of certain quarter 2 PIP items and requested the removal of PIP items 4.5.4 and 4.5.6. DCFS also provided options to account for the requested delay of the quarter 3 case review in Clark County.

On April 29, 2020, DCFS submitted a revised measurement plan for approval.

On May 8, 2020, the Children's Bureau (CB) approved the revised measurement plan.

On July 29, 2020, the Children's Bureau (CB) held a virtual site visit that included focus group discussions with those who would have been subject to relevant actions in the PIP. During the virtual meeting, the CB met with individuals representing all elements of the PIP, including Nevada leadership, managers and supervisors, caseworkers, court personnel, the SQIC, and continuous quality improvement staff. The purpose of the virtual visit was to assess the extent to which the state is implementing key activities and the effectiveness of those key activities as outlined in the PIP.

On August 18, 2020, CB provided a letter to Nevada finding that the state completed all the key activities scheduled for quarters 1 and 2. In this memorandum, CB agreed to the state's request to eliminate PIP key activity 4.5.4 due to redundancy with PIP key activity 4.3.5. CB did not approve the state's request to eliminate key activity 4.5.6, instead moving the deadline from Q4 to Q6. CB approved the state's request to move the deadline for key activities 1.1.2 and 1.2.3 from Q3 to Q4.

On November 30, 2020, DCFS submitted Nevada's PIP Q4 Progress Report. On February 11, 2021, the CB notified DCFS that Nevada had satisfied Q3 and Q4 requirements of the PIP.

On January 20 and 21, 2021, CB held another virtual site visit that included focus group discussions with those who would have been subject to relevant actions in the PIP during the reporting period. During the virtual meeting, the CB met with individuals representing all elements of the PIP, including Nevada leadership, managers and supervisors, caseworkers, court personnel, the SQIC, and continuous quality improvement staff. The purpose of the virtual visit was to assess the extent to which the state is implementing key activities and the effectiveness of those key activities as outlined in the PIP.

In April of 2021, the CB agreed to remove the requirement to review one differential response case from the Rural Region, and instead review one differential response case from Washoe County during the Rural Region quarterly case review.

On May 25, 2021, DCFS submitted Nevada's PIP Q6 Progress Report. On June 20, 2021, the CB notified DCFS that Nevada had satisfied Q5 and Q6 requirements of the PIP.

In its PIP Q9 Progress Report submitted in February of 2022, Nevada asserted, and the CB confirmed, that the state had met its performance goal for item 4.

The end of Q9 marked the duration of Nevada's original PIP. In March of 2022, the state entered the non-overlapping year for its PIP and had the opportunity to continue its efforts to meet the remaining PIP progress goals on items 2, 13, and 15.

In its PIP Q10 Progress Report submitted in May of 2022, Nevada asserted, and the CB confirmed, that the state had met its performance goal for item 2.

In its PIP Q11 Progress Report submitted during the non-overlapping year on September 7, 2022, Nevada asserted the state had met its performance goals for items 13 and 15. On September 29, 2022, the CB confirmed Nevada was successful in meeting its final CFSR PIP measures.

From October of 2022, through March of 2023, Nevada paused its quarterly case reviews. The state took this opportunity to update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes in an effort to improve the case review experience through a CQI lens. In April of 2023, Nevada restarted its statewide quarterly case reviews, continuing to utilize the federal review tool, the OSRI. Results from the April review are included in this report below. Nevada's next statewide quarterly case review will occur in August of 2023. Over the next year, the state plans to look closer at its performance since the 2018 CFSR, while comparing any progress made through its completion of its PIP, to current statewide performance. This analysis will inform and drive CQI activities, and planning for both Nevada's 2025-2029 CFSP and Round 4 of the CFSR.

CB provided guidance that allowed the state to reference the PIP when reporting on current performance. For each safety, permanency, and well-being outcome and systemic factors, reference is made to the relevant PIP goal as outlined below. The information contained within this report describes the activities related to items that were once monitored by the PIP. For those items which were not included in PIP activities, a narrative is provided. Where applicable, information is provided that relays how Nevada is continuing to work on sustaining the progress made through successful completion of its CFSR PIP.

- Safety Outcome 1 and Safety Outcome 2 are addressed in PIP Goal 1: Strengthen safety for children in Nevada through improved practice regarding response times, persistent efforts, safety planning, and initial and ongoing safety assessment.

- Permanency Outcome 2, Well-Being Outcome 1, Well-Being 2, Well-Being 3, and Systemic Factor: Staff and Provider Training are addressed PIP Goal 2: Promote effective communication and contact with families.
- Permanency Outcome 1, and Systemic Factors: Case Review System, Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention are addressed in PIP Goal 3: Nevada children have legal permanency and stability in their home lives and their continuity of family relationships and connections are preserved.
- Systemic Factors: Statewide Information System, Quality Assurance Systems, and Service Array are addressed in PIP Goal 4: Improve statewide child welfare outcomes by developing and strengthening the Statewide Quality Assurance System to ensure the system can identify and respond to the strengths and needs of the child welfare system in an efficient and effective manner.

Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Q3 CFSR case review in Clark County was postponed to Q4. Thus, the first measurement period, if referenced in this document, includes Q1, Q2, Q4, and Q5.

Safety Outcome 1: Children are First and Foremost, Protected from Abuse and Neglect

Item 1: Timeliness of Initiating Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment

The Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) sets forth parameters for developing regulations establishing reasonable and uniform standards for child welfare services across the state, to include criteria mandating that certain situations be responded to immediately (NRS 432B.260) and those determinations of abuse and/or neglect be made in cases in which an investigation has occurred. Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) requires a process to be established when receiving a referral and determining if that referral constitutes a report of abuse or neglect.

The statewide Intake Policy 0506 outlines the expected response time for the type of child maltreatment allegation. The timeline initiates the date and time the intake report is received by the agency. The following are child welfare agency response times that are outlined in Intake Policy 0506 (note, each response type requires an attempted face-to-face contact with all alleged victim child(ren) identified in the report within the assigned priority response time):

- Priority 1: within 6 calendar hours when there is present danger identified.
- Priority 2: within 24 calendar hours when impending danger identified (note: a child fatality or near child fatality suspicious of or related to child maltreatment must be screened as a Priority 1 or Priority 2).
- Priority 3: within 72 calendar hours when maltreatment is indicated, but no safety factors are identified.
- Priority 3 Differential Response (DR): within 72 business hours when maltreatment is indicated, but no safety factors are identified.

The CFSR item 1 is measured utilizing a state's response time policy and/or regulation, and cases are applicable for an assessment of this item if an accepted child maltreatment report on any child in the family was received during the period under review. This includes reports assigned for an "Alternative Response" assessment. Reports that are screened out are not considered "accepted." Alternative Response in Nevada is referred to as Differential Response and screened in as a Priority 3 in Clark County and Washoe County. In the Rural Region, Differential Response is provided only to screened-out reports where families are then referred for community-based services.

Table 1: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	NV CFSR 2018			NV CQI			PIP Goal
Item 1: Timeliness of Initial Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment	58.3%			83.72%			68.9%
Performance Item Rating	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	<i>Intentionally left blank.</i>
	58.33%	41.67%		83.72%	16.28%		
	n=21	n=15	n=44	n=36	n=7	n=42	

S=Strength, ANI=Area Needing Improvement, NA=Not Applicable

Nevada CFSR 2018= State Rating Summary

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.

The federal performance expectation for Safety Outcome 1 is 95%. Item 1 Timeliness of Initiating Investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment is the only performance indicator for this outcome. Nevada received an area needing improvement rating as only 58.3% of the cases rated a strength in the 2018 CFSR. PIP Goal 1 addressed this item. The state achieved its goal for item 1 during the first measurement period that included Q1, Q2, Q4 and Q5, as reported in the PIP Q4 Progress Report. During that measurement period, the state achieved a strength rating in 80% of the cases reviewed. The results of case reviews conducted during the last four rolling quarters of the PIP measurement period, Q8 through Q11, reflect the state achieved a strength rating for item 1 in 83.72% of cases reviewed, successfully sustaining progress made on this item.

In September of 2022, the CB confirmed Nevada had met its progress goals on the remaining two items related to its CFSR PIP. With this confirmation, Nevada successfully completed its CFSR PIP. At that time, the state paused its statewide case reviews to celebrate its successes, to update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes. In April of 2023, Nevada resumed its quarterly case reviews, and reviewed 18 cases from WCHSA utilizing the Round 4 CFSR OSRI. Seven of the cases were applicable for this item and results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for item 1 in 100% of cases reviewed.

Nevada continues to monitor report data that specifies response time and persistent efforts to ensure child welfare agencies are continuing to prioritize timeliness of initiating investigations of reports of child maltreatment. This data is presented in Nevada's statewide SQIC meetings. The FPO reviews ongoing qualitative data within UNITY to determine why response times were not met and information is provided to the jurisdictional CQI units for further review.

Safety Outcome 2: Children are Safely Maintained in Their Homes Whenever Possible

Item 2: Services to Families to Protect Children in Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry into Foster Care

Pursuant to NRS 432B.340, when an agency which provides child welfare services determines that a child needs protection, but is not in imminent danger from abuse or neglect, the agency may offer the parents a plan for services and inform the parents that the agency has no legal authority to compel the family to accept the plan or file a petition pursuant to NRS 432B.490 and if the child is in need of protection, request that the child be removed from the custody of his or her parents. NRS 432B.393 requires that the agency that provides child welfare services make reasonable efforts to keep the child safely in the home before consideration is made to place the child outside of the home.

It is the responsibility of the agency that provides child welfare services per NAC 432B.240 to provide a range of services and commit its resources to preserve the family and prevent the placement of the child outside their home when possible and appropriate. All cases open for service must have a written collaborative case plan (Case Planning Policy 0204) that defines the overall goals of the case and the step-by-step proposed actions for all parties to take to reach the goals within a specified period.

Table 2: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	NV CFSR 2018			NV CQI			PIP Goal
Item 2: Services to Families to Protect Children in Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry into Foster Care	71.88%			84.09%			82.0%
Performance Item Rating	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	<i>Intentionally left blank.</i>
	71.88% n=23	28.13% n=9	n=48	84.09% n=37	15.91% n=7	n=41	

S=Strength, ANI=Area Needing Improvement, NA=Not Applicable

Nevada CFSR 2018= State Rating Summary

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 2 Services to Families to Protect Children in Home and Prevent Removal or Re-Entry into Foster Care is 90%. Nevada received an area needing improvement rating as only 71.88% of the cases rated a strength in the 2018 CFSR. PIP Goal 2 addressed this item. The state achieved its goal for Item 2 during the measurement period that included Q7, Q8, Q9 and Q10, by achieving a strength rating in 82.22% of the cases reviewed, as reported in the PIP Q10 Progress Report.

The results of case reviews conducted during the last four rolling quarters of the PIP measurement period, Q8 through Q11, reflect the state achieved a strength rating for Item 2 in 84.09% of cases reviewed.

In September of 2022, the Children's Bureau confirmed Nevada had met its progress goals on the remaining two items related to its CFSR PIP. With this confirmation, Nevada successfully completed its CFSR PIP. At that time, the state paused its statewide case reviews to celebrate its successes, to update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes. In April of 2023, Nevada resumed its quarterly case reviews, and reviewed 18 cases from WCHSA utilizing the Round 4 CFSR OSRI. Ten of the cases were applicable for this item and results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for item 2 in 90% of cases reviewed.

The state will continue activities to sustain this achievement. Nevada runs and examines periodic data summary reports from the OMS specific to Item 2 and shares these results in Nevada's statewide SQIC meetings. The FPO reviews ongoing qualitative data within UNITY to assess services provided to families to protect child(ren) in the home and prevent removal or re-entry into foster care. Results are shared with the jurisdictional CQI units for further review.

Related PIP key activities included 1.1.2, 1.2.1, and 1.2.2. PIP key activity 1.1.2 involved updating the Nevada Initial Assessment policy to better assess the ongoing needs of children and their families.

PIP key activities 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 initiated the development of an identified expert group of statewide individuals who have significant knowledge of the Nevada Initial Assessment tool and process who can be made available to give guidance to case specific issues that arise to promote better understanding of the guidelines and give suggestions that would more effectively benefit the needs of the families that are served throughout the statewide jurisdictions through a coaching approach. This was designed to be a continued resource for the field workers who are directly interacting with the families and responsible for accurately assessing their needs. Through this ongoing coaching approach, correctly identified services will continue to be put into place to prevent families from re-entry into the system. Over the next year, Nevada will receive technical assistance from the CBCS to further refine this program and to integrate CoachNV's coaching model into this specific practice.

Item 3: Risk Assessment and Safety Management

Per NAC 432B.150, when an agency which provides child welfare services receives a report made pursuant to NRS 432B.220, or from law enforcement, an initial evaluation must be conducted to determine if the situation or condition of the child makes child welfare services appropriate.

If an agency assigns the report for investigation, a safety assessment is required to be completed upon the initial face-to-face contact with the alleged child victim pursuant to NAC 432B.185. In addition, NAC 432B.160 requires the development of a safety plan to ensure the immediate protection of a child while safety threats are being addressed. A Safety Assessment is required to be completed at case milestones as outlined in NAC 432B.185. Policy 0508 Nevada Initial Assessment (NIA) addresses this information.

Performance Item 3 is addressed by all the activities in Goal 1: Strengthen Safety for children in Nevada through improved practice regarding response times, persistent efforts, safety planning, and initial and ongoing safety assessment.

Table 3: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	NV CFSR 2018			NV CQI			PIP Goal
Item 3: Risk Assessment and Safety Management	46.25%			70.59%			53.4%
Performance Item Rating	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	<i>Intentionally left blank.</i>
	46.25%	53.75%		70.59%	29.41%		
	n=37	n=43	n=0	n=60	n=25	n=0	

S=Strength, ANI=Area Needing Improvement, NA=Not Applicable

Nevada CFSR 2018= State Rating Summary

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 3 Risk and Safety Assessment and Management is 90%. Nevada received an area needing improvement rating as only 46.25% of the cases rated a strength in the 2018 CFSR. The state achieved its goal for item 3 during the first measurement period that included Q1, Q2, Q4 and Q5 by achieving a strength rating in 52.94% of the cases reviewed, as reported in the PIP Q4 Progress Report. The results of case reviews conducted during the last four rolling quarters of the PIP measurement period, Q8 through Q11, reflect the state achieved a strength rating for Item 3 in 70.59% of cases reviewed.

In September of 2022, the Children's Bureau confirmed Nevada had met its progress goals on the remaining two items related to its CFSR PIP. With this confirmation, Nevada successfully completed its CFSR PIP. At that time, the state paused its statewide case reviews to celebrate its successes, to update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes. In April of 2023, Nevada resumed its quarterly case reviews, and reviewed 18 cases from WCHSA utilizing the Round 4 CFSR OSRI. 17 of the cases were applicable for this item and results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for item 3 in 76.47% of cases reviewed.

As seen in Table 3a, 30% of the applicable cases met the criteria of the OSRI for the initial assessment, and 65% of the applicable cases met the criteria of the OSRI for the ongoing assessment. A review of the OMS data taken from the reviews showed that in the cases rated as ANI, most initial assessments failed to accurately identify various safety concerns that should have been noted by the caseworkers. Of those same identified cases, 75% also failed to effectively continue to conduct quality ongoing assessments to further assess for the proper safety and welfare of the children. Data

shows that as a state we need to continue efforts to accurately assess both initial and ongoing assessments of the children being assessed.

Table 3a: Item 3 Initial Versus Ongoing Assessment

If the case was opened during the period under review, did the agency conduct an initial assessment that accurately assessed all risk and safety concerns for the target child in foster care and/or any child(ren) in the family remaining in the home?			During the period under review, did the agency conduct ongoing assessments that accurately assessed all the risk and safety concerns for the target child in foster care and/or any child(ren) in the family remaining in the home?		
Yes	No	NA	Yes	No	NA
35.30%	9.41%	55.29%	74.12%	24.71%	1.17%
N=30	N=8	N=47	N=63	N=21	N=1

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 11.

Table 3b: Recurrence of Maltreatment

National Performance	Data Sources	Direction of Strength	Observed Performance	Risk Standardized Performance (RSP)		
				Lower CI*	RSP	Upper CI*
9.7%	NCANDS FY 18-19	↑	7.4%	8.8%	9.7%	10.7%
	NCANDS FY 19-20	↑	6.4%	7.6%	8.4%	9.3%
	NCANDS	↑	6.9%	8.2%	9.1%	10%

	FY 20-21					
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Nevada Child and Family Services Review (CFSR 3) Data Profile January 2023.
For this performance indicator, a lower RSP value is desirable. *CI = Confidence Interval

Nevada has been consistently lower than the national performance over the last two reporting periods and continues to improve.

Table 3c: Maltreatment in Care

National Performance	Data Sources	Direction of Strength	Observed Performance	Risk Standardized Performance (RSP)		
				Lower CI*	RSP	Upper CI*
9.07	AFCARS 18AB, FY18-19	↑	5.09	5.66	7.01	8.67
	AFCARS 19AB, FY19-20	↓	5.41	6.03	7.41	9.1
	AFCARS 20AB, FY20-21	↓	5.97	6.68	8.13	9.89

Nevada Child and Family Services Review (CFSR 3) Data Profile January 2022.
For this performance indicator, a lower RSP value is desirable. *CI = Confidence Interval

The observed performance reflected in Table 3c is determined by taking the number of children in care during a 12-month period and the total number of days the children were

in care at the end of the 12-month period divided by the number of children in care for the 12-month period that had substantiated or indicated reports of maltreatment.

In 17AB, FY17 the observed performance was 4.31 which was reflective of 67 victimizations in a total of 1,554,944 days of care. 79% of reported cases of maltreatment were in Clark County, 12% were reported in Washoe County, and 9% were reported in the rural counties.

During the 18AB, FY18 period, the observed performance was 5.09 victimizations in a total of 1,610,026 days of care. 86% of the reported maltreatments in care were reported in Clark County, 12.5% were reported in Washoe County, and 1.5% were reported in the rural counties.

During the 19AB, FY19 period, the observed performance was 5.41 victimizations in a total of 1,626,975 days of care.

During the 20AB, FY20 period, the observed performance was 5.97 victimizations in a total of 1,625,904 days of care.

Nevada continues to review statewide policies for updates that will assist the workforce with safety decision making. The state is in process of updating the Nevada Safety Assessment Policy which discusses formal and informal assessments of safety conducted by caseworkers. Over the next year, once these policy updates are completed and finalized, messaging will be developed and sent out statewide.

Permanency Outcome 1: Children have Permanence and Stability in Their Living Situation

Item 4: Stability of Foster Care Placement

Nevada Statutes and Administrative Code supports the placement stability of children in foster care by requiring child welfare agencies to assess the individual needs of the child, and to place that child in the least restrictive environment that is consistent with the identified needs. Relatives are the first placement option considered for all children placed in out-of-home care. Child welfare agencies are also required to place siblings together when possible. The policy requires that the agency provide the foster care provider with appropriate information about the child's family, medical, and behavioral history, as well as discuss the child's plan for permanency, and any needs prior to placement. The purpose of sharing such information is to identify and provide for the most appropriate matched foster home (NRS 424.038(1), NAC 424.465).

NAC further requires that information about the child's situation and needs be continually shared by the child welfare agency and the foster care providers in a timely manner, thereby ensuring that the child's needs are continually addressed with appropriate services (NAC 424.810). NAC supports placement stability by requiring that a foster care

provider provide the child welfare agency with 10 working days' notice of any request for the removal of the child from that home unless they have a contrary agreement, or if there are immediate and unanticipated safety issues, thus giving the agency time to respond to issues that may have caused the instability (NAC 424.478). Further, there is a requirement to provide respite for foster care providers (NAC 424.805).

Table 4: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	NV CFSR 2018			NV CQI			PIP Goal
Item 4 Stability of Foster Care Placement	72.73%			77.19%			80.4%
Performance Item Rating	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	<i>Intentionally left blank.</i>
	72.73%	27.27%		77.19%	22.81%		
	n=40	n=15	n=0	n=44	n=13	n=0	

S=Strength, ANI=Area Needing Improvement, NA=Not Applicable

Nevada CFSR 2018= State Rating Summary

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 4 Stability of Foster Care Placement is 90%. Nevada received an area needing improvement rating as only 72.73% of the cases rated a strength in the 2018 CFSR. The state achieved its goal for item 4 during the measurement period that included Q6, Q7, Q8 and Q9 by achieving a strength rating in 80.7% of the cases reviewed, as reported in the PIP Q9 Progress Report. The results of case reviews conducted during the last four rolling quarters of the PIP measurement period, Q8 through Q11, reflect the state achieved a strength rating for item 4 in 77.19% of cases reviewed. During the PIP, Nevada developed and completed training for designated staff on both Motivational Interviewing (PIP 2.1.2, 2.1.5) and Trauma Informed Communication (PIP 2.1.3, 2.1.4). These strategies were developed to effectively engage families and assess key participant needs so that case plans address the identified needs of the family, child, and placement to improve well-being and permanency outcomes. PIP 2.2.4 and 2.2.5 were developed to monitor caseworker contacts with children and parents. Nevada also developed a rubric to evaluate quality of these caseworker contacts as it is believed that increased frequency and quality of visits will improve engagement leading to timely permanency and well-being outcomes. In addition to statewide quarterly case reviews, Nevada plans to continue monitoring the frequency and quality of the contacts, quarterly, through the SQIC.

In September of 2022, the Children's Bureau confirmed Nevada had met its progress goals on the remaining two items related to its CFSR PIP. With this confirmation, Nevada

successfully completed its CFSR PIP. At that time, the state paused its statewide case reviews to celebrate its successes, to update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes. In April of 2023, Nevada resumed its quarterly case reviews, and reviewed 18 cases from WCHSA utilizing the Round 4 CFSR OSRI. 11 of the cases were applicable for this item and results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for item 4 in 63.64% of cases reviewed. Furthermore, item 4 was supported by PIP Team 3 activities 3.2.2, 3.2.2(A) and 3.3.1. Placement stability is supported as placements with relatives have proven to be more stable long term, and better for the youth's well-being. Key activities 3.2.2 and 3.2.2(A) required updates to the KinGAP policy to soften the language and provide more flexibility. The policy underwent minor revision to include fictive kin as relatives pursuant to NRS 422A.500 to 422A.600. From July 2022 to April 2023, the child welfare agencies had completed 109 KinGAPs.

Each agency developed an individual plan to ensure follow up and adherence to policy to assist staff in utilizing guardianship and KinGAP as appropriate. The CBCS along with the AOC/CIP presented a refresher segment for the KinGAP Practice Guide created for item 3.2.2 and provided a learning circle to educate dependency stakeholders at the CIC Summit in September 2021. Additionally, the AOC/CIP and CBCS presented the information from the CIC Summit and learning circle to Clark County to provide further outreach to the court stakeholders. Both child welfare staff and dependency stakeholders were trained on the same concepts as it relates to KinGAP so that they may work collaboratively on the process and utilize KinGAP when it is in the child's best interest. The child welfare supervisors attended learning circles, in May and June of 2021, which discussed the proper use of KinGAP, the how and why behind KinGAP, who makes KinGAP decisions, who can receive KinGAP, and provided an open forum for discussions related to improvements in practice. Out of these learning circles a job aid was created for child welfare supervisors and staff to utilize when working with a KinGAP family. The job aide was provided to the child welfare agencies in October of 2021. During this past year, all three Nevada child welfare agencies have continued to access the trainings and job aid as needed when working with a KinGAP family.

Table 4a: Placement Stability

National Performance	Data Sources	Direction of Strength	Observed Performance	Risk Standardized Performance (RSP)		
				Lower CI*	RSP	Upper CI
4.48 moves per 1,000 days in care	AFCARS 21A - 21B	↓	5.36	5.48	5.73	5.99

National Performance	Data Sources	Direction of Strength	Observed Performance	Risk Standardized Performance (RSP)		
				Lower CI*	RSP	Upper CI
	AFCARS 21A - 22B	↑	5.19	5.15	5.39	5.63
	AFCARS 22A – 22B	↑	4.91	4.96	5.2	5.44

Nevada Child and Family Services Review (CFSR 3) Data Profile January 2022.

For this performance indicator, a lower RSP value is desirable. *CI = Confidence Interval

Nevada's performance is lower than the national average. Placement stability was addressed through PIP Goals 2 and 3, and over the next year, CQI activities will focus on this item.

Item 4 was not met within the PIP's original timeframe and Nevada entered the non-overlapping year in 2022. To identify barriers to placement stability, Nevada conducted an additional review of quarterly case review data, diving deeper into case specifics and qualitative responses. Team 3 identified barriers that included identifying appropriate placements for mental health and/or behavioral health needs of children, providing support to caregivers such as how to manage behaviors based on a child's age and developmental needs, and the lack of placement options qualified to address mental/behavioral health needs within Nevada. The state developed goals and reviewed current statewide policy, with consideration of regional differences, to help address placement stability for youth with mental/behavioral health needs within family foster homes and facilities. The state provided access to caregivers for trainings on different developmental ages and the challenges that youth may face during these stages. There has been continued use of technology to gather more data on placement options to support making better matches initially and ongoing to decrease placement disruptions. In the northern part of the state, an agency plans to implement the placement matching module within the Binti software system during the next reporting period. The intention of this program is to make more suitable matches with our foster families and foster children, while being more cognizant of the cultural competencies that come with placing

a child of a specific ethnic background with foster parents that share the same ethnic background. While the goal for item 4 was achieved during the overlapping PIP year, a shortage of foster parents throughout the state has continued to affect placement stability.

Item 5: Permanency Goal for Child

NRS 432B.393, .540, .553, .580 and .590 require agencies that provide child welfare services to adopt a plan for permanency in accordance with the requirements and timeframes in the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA); including periodic case review by the courts. NAC 423B.013, .1364, .1366, .160, .180, .185, .190, .200, .210, .240, .261, .2625 and .263 provide the authority and requirements for assessing the child's safety needs, child and family strengths, needs and risk factors to determine the most appropriate permanency goal(s).

The statewide 0204 Permanency and Case Planning Policy, the 0508/0509 Nevada Initial Assessment (NIA) Policies, and Concurrent Planning Guide were updated because of PIP key activities 3.2.1 and 3.3.3. These policies provide the foundation for the development of permanency planning.

Table 5: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	NV CFSR 2018			NV CQI			PIP item
Item 5 Permanency Goal for Child	41.82%			63.16%			50.3%
Performance Item Rating	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	<i>Intentionally left blank.</i>
	41.82%	58.18%		63.16%	36.84%		
	n=23	n=32	n=0	n=36	n=21	n=0	

S=Strength, ANI=Area Needing Improvement, NA=Not Applicable

Nevada CFSR 2018= State Rating Summary

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 5 Permanency Goal of Child is 90%. Nevada received an area needing improvement for this item with a 41.82% statewide rating during the CFSR review in 2018. The state achieved its goal for item 5 during the first measurement period that included Q1, Q2, Q4 and Q5 by achieving a strength rating in 70.69% of the cases reviewed, as reported in the PIP Q4 Progress Report. The results of case reviews conducted during the last four rolling quarters of the PIP measurement

period, Q8 through Q11, reflect the state achieved a strength rating for Item 5 in 63.16% of cases reviewed.

In September of 2022, the Children's Bureau confirmed Nevada had met its progress goals on the remaining two items related to its CFSR PIP. With this confirmation, Nevada successfully completed its CFSR PIP. At that time, the state paused its statewide case reviews to celebrate its successes, to update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes. In April of 2023, Nevada resumed its quarterly case reviews, and reviewed 18 cases from WCHSA utilizing the Round 4 CFSR OSRI. 11 of the cases were applicable for this item and results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for item 4 in 81.82% of cases reviewed.

Item 6: Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption or Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement

Reunification: NRS 432B.393 requires agencies to make reasonable efforts to prevent a child's removal from the parents' home, or, if removal is necessary, reasonable efforts to make their safe return possible. NRS 432B.540 requires that if the agency believes it necessary to remove the child from the physical custody of their parents, the agency must submit a plan designed to achieve placement of the child in a safe setting as near to the residence of their parent as is possible and consistent with the best interests and special needs of the child. NAC 432B.190, .200, .210 and .220 outline case planning requirements with an emphasis on the ways in which the agency is to engage the family and their natural, informal supports to strengthen parental capacities.

Guardianship: Nevada Revised Statutes 432B.466 through .468 allows for guardianship. The statewide 1010 Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP) Policy has been revised and the policy now allows fictive kin to be considered for guardianship.

Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (OPPLA): Nevada statutes and policy require that a written case plan be developed for children with this permanency goal and that the plan includes programs and services designed to assist older youth in transitioning out of care. NAC 432B.410 requires child welfare services to ensure that each child in foster care who is eligible for services related to independent living has a written plan for transitional independent living based on the assessment of the youth's skills. Statewide policy 0801 Youth Independent Living Program was developed to address the needs of youth who were likely to remain in care until their 18th birthday and to prepare them for the transition into adulthood. This policy requires agencies that provide child welfare services to establish self-sufficiency goals for youth beginning at age 14. The planning process must be youth focused and driven with an emphasis on the youth's expressed interests, needs, and priorities.

Adoption: NRS 432B.390 specifically mandates that relatives of the child within the fifth degree of consanguinity, or fictive kin, be given preference for placement, when removal from the parents' home is necessary for the child's safety.

NRS 432B.553 requires agencies which provide child welfare services to adopt a plan for the permanent placement of the child for review by the court. NRS 432B.580 requires a semi-annual court review for the child's placement. NRS 432B.590 mandates a court review of the progress toward achievement of the permanency goal at a minimum of six-month intervals. NRS 432B.590 requires that if a child has been placed outside of the home and has resided outside of the home pursuant to that placement for 14 months of any 20 consecutive months, the best interests of the child must be presumed to be served by the termination of parental rights. This is more stringent than the federal requirement of 15 out of 22 months. NAC 432B.2625 requires the agency to identify and document the obstacles to placement of the child, and to specify the steps needed to find an appropriate home for the child in a report to the court if a child has not been placed into an adoptive home within 90 days after the termination of parental rights.

Statewide policies, 0204 Case Planning and 0103 Adoption of Children aged 12 and over, indicate that adoption is the preferred permanency goal when it is determined that a child cannot be reunited with their birth family. The 1001 Diligent Search Process and Notice policy directs agencies to begin search activities and identification of family members during the initial contact with the family and requires that they are initiated no later than at the time the Safety Plan is completed. Statewide policy 0514.0 Termination of Parental Rights (TPR), in compliance with ASFA, requires that adoption proceedings be completed within 24 months of the child's entry into foster care.

The Adoption Call to Action Team (ACTA Team) consists of membership from the three child welfare agencies, Raise the Future (formally the Adoption Exchange), and the Family Programs Office. The Family Programs Office Adoption Specialist leads the ACTA meetings and is a participant on the CIP. The team meets monthly to review adoption programming, address statewide needs, policies, procedures, and progress with the goal of reducing the number of Nevada children and youth waiting to be adopted by identifying and eliminating barriers to achieving permanency.

Since the ACTA Team began meeting in the Fall of 2019, three strategies have been identified by the group surrounding data, permanency, and targeted recruitment. Successes include:

- Monthly updates from Raise the Future on Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK) Recruiters. All NV jurisdictions are using the WWK recruiters to help increase statewide adoptions and several success stories have come from finding family members. This ongoing contact strengthens the partnership between the State and Raise the Future.
- (FPO) participated on both PIP Team 3 and the ACTA Team as well as other ACTA Team members from other jurisdictions. Consistency between the statewide PIP and specialized teams such as ACTA allow for unity in successful strategies and program outcomes and ensure communication throughout the state.
- Jurisdictions are coming together to discuss overall adoption topics such as subsidy, child welfare worker safety in the field, resources, contacts,

documentation, trainings, funding sources, community events, policies, and procedures, etc. This was not done formally in the past.

- New statewide adoption policies have been drafted and written from workgroups that have been established from the ACTA Team.
- FPO Adoption Specialist, representatives from Raise the Future, and adoption child welfare workers representing different jurisdictions participated in review of statewide data through the DR/ACTA workgroup to better understand challenges and barriers in the foster-adoption process.

Performance Item 6 is being addressed by the following PIP key activities:

- 3.1.3 increases the use of mediation to achieve timely permanency through training to the child welfare workforce
- 3.2.1 and 3.2.1A address concurrent planning
- 3.2.2 and 3.2.2A develops protocols and practice guide to improve the understanding of KinGAP as an alternate permanency plan
- 3.3.3 improves diligent search of relative caregivers
- 3.4.1 initiates practice changes to streamline and expedite the termination of parental rights (TPR) process; thereby reducing the time to permanency in adoption cases

Table 6: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	NV CFSR 2018			NV CQI			PIP Goal
Performance Item Rating	18.18%			49.12%			24.8%
Item 6: Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, or Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	<i>Intentionally left blank.</i>
	18.18% n=10	81.82% n=45	n=0	49.12% n=28	50.88% n=29	n=0	

S=Strength, ANI=Area Needing Improvement, NA=Not Applicable

Nevada CFSR 2018= State Rating Summary

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 6 Achieving Reunification, Guardianship, Adoption, and OPPLA is 90%. Nevada received an area needing improvement as only 18.18% of the cases reviewed rated a strength in the 2018 CFSR.

The state achieved its goal for item 6 during the first measurement period that included Q1, Q2, Q4 and Q5 by achieving a strength rating in 53.45% of the cases reviewed, as reported in the PIP Q4 Progress Report. The results of case reviews conducted during the last four rolling quarters of the PIP measurement period, Q8 through Q11, reflect the state achieved a strength rating for Item 6 in 49.12% of cases reviewed.

In September of 2022, the Children's Bureau confirmed Nevada had met its progress goals on the remaining two items related to its CFSR PIP. With this confirmation, Nevada successfully completed its CFSR PIP. At that time, the state paused its statewide case reviews to celebrate its successes, to update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes. In April of 2023, Nevada resumed its quarterly case reviews, and reviewed 18 cases from WCHSA utilizing the Round 4 CFSR OSRI. 11 of the cases were applicable for this item and results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for item 4 in 54.55% of cases reviewed.

Table 6a depicts item 6 ratings broken down by permanency goal(s) for the reporting period. The permanency goals that were rated a strength in at least 50% of applicable cases were guardianship (75%), OPPLA (100%), reunification (69.23%), and reunification and adoption (54.55%). The goal of guardianship and adoption was excluded as no cases were reviewed that identified this as a goal. Adoption was rated as a strength in 29.63% of the cases reviewed.

Table 6a: Item 6 Data by Permanency Goal(s)

Permanency Goal(s)	NV CQI S	NV CQI ANI
Adoption n=27	29.63% n=8	70.37% n=19
Guardianship n=4	75.00% n=3	25.00% n=1
Guardianship, Adoption n=0	0.00% n=0	0.00% n=0
Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	100.00% n=2	0.33% n=0

n=2		
Reunification n=13	69.23% n=9	30.77% n=4
Reunification, Adoption n=11	54.55% n=6	45.45% n=5

S=Strength, ANI=Area Needing Improvement, NA=Not Applicable

Nevada CFSR 2018= State Rating Summary

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.

Table 6b: Permanency for Children in Foster Care

National Performance		Data Sources	Direction of Strength	Observed Performance	Risk Standardized Performance (RSP)		
					Lower CI*	RSP	Upper CI
12 months for children entering foster care	35.2%	AFCARS 18A-18B	↑	44.2%	41.7%	43.4%	45.3%
		AFCARS 19A-19B	↑	41.5%	39.2%	41%	42.8%
		AFCARS 20A-20B	↑	40.7%	39%	41%	42.9%
12 months	43.8%	AFCARS	↑	46.1%	42.1%	44.7%	47.4%

National Performance		Data Sources	Direction of Strength	Observed Performance	Risk Standardized Performance (RSP)		
					Lower CI*	RSP	Upper CI
for children in care 12-23 months		20A - 20B					
		AFCARS 21A-21B	↑	46.6%	42.5	45%	47.6%
		AFCARS 22A-22B	↑	50.6%	46%	48.8%	51.6%
12 months for children in care 24 months or more	37.3%	AFCARS 20A-20B	↑	48.3%	40.5%	42.9%	45.3%
		AFCARS 21A-21B	↑	45.4%	38.7%	41.2%	43.7%
		AFCARS 22A-22B	↑	48.3%	40.7%	43.1%	45.5%
Re-entry to foster care	5.6%	AFCARS 19A-19B	↓	4.5%	4.1%	5%	6%
		AFCARS	↓	4.5%	4.1%	5%	6.1%

National Performance	Data Sources	Direction of Strength	Observed Performance	Risk Standardized Performance (RSP)		
				Lower CI*	RSP	Upper CI
	20A-20B					
	AFCARS 21A-21B	↑	3.5%	3.2%	4%	4.9%

Nevada Child and Family Services Review (CFSR 3) Data Profile January 2023. *CI = Confidence Interval

The State Data Profile indicates that permanency in Nevada was achieved in:

- 12 months for children who enter foster care is no different than the national performance
- 12 months for children in care 12-23 months is improving but is slightly worse than the national performance
- 12 months for children in care 24 months or more continues to be better than the national performance.

The State Data Profile indicates that Nevada's re-entry to foster care continues to be better than the national performance.

When looking at data statistics in table 6b information regarding the performance for 12 months for children in care 12-23 months the following trends were noted:

Regional Statistics: A regional snapshot puts Clark at 45.7% for FY2018 and 46.6% for FY2019. Washoe came in at 48.5% in FY2018 and 42.1% for FY2019. The Rural Region showed 47.2% in FY2018 then saw an increase to 48.2% in FY2019.

Age Statistics: For children in the 1-to-5-year age range the state was at 54.9% in FY2018 and 51.6% for FY2019. For children in the 6-to-10-year age range the state was at 41.2% in FY2018 and 42.6% for FY2019. For children in the 11-to-16-year age range the state was at 33.2% in FY2018 and 38.5% for FY2019. For children at the age of 17 the state was at 11.4% in FY2018 and 6.7% for FY2019.

Nevada believes multiple issues contribute to the low performance on this item, including the social summary process is time consuming and not standardized, poor use of concurrent planning and delays in the court process. All these items were addressed by PIP Team 3 and Nevada is hopeful to see an improvement in the performance of this item in the foreseeable future. Nevada continues to brainstorm solutions to identified barriers and assigns actions steps for team members to complete. All caseworker staff have access to education and training regarding the recently updated Termination of Parental Rights policy.

Over the next year, Nevada will present disaggregated data at SQIC meetings for discussion around identifying areas in need of improvement geographically and by age. Over the past 2 years, the state has worked to develop a report to capture children who have adoption as a goal, along with TPR information to track timeliness efforts made by the agency and the courts to TPR. Nevada is currently in the vetting stage of building the report, which will be put in production in the Fall of 2023.

Permanency Outcome 2: Continuity of Family Relationships is Preserved for Children

PIP Progress Report: Permanency Outcome 2 was not included in Nevada's 2018 CFSR PIP, however, Goals 2 and 3 supported improvements in this area. Analysis of data will be discussed as part of the PIP Core team's SQIC (See COLLABORATION) role following case reviews.

Item 7: Placement with Siblings

NRS 432B.580, NR432B.390 as well as the statewide 1001 Diligent Search Process and Placement Decisions policy, requires that children be placed together unless there is justification for not doing so based on the best interest of the child. NRS 432B.3905 specifies that a child under the age of 6 may not be placed in a childcare institution unless appropriate foster care is not available in the child's home county and reasonable efforts are made to place the child's siblings in the same location, or if placement in a childcare institution is required for the child to access medical services or to avoid separating siblings. NRS 432B.550 creates a presumption that it is in the best interest of the child for siblings to be placed together and 432B.580 (2) (b) requires that, if siblings are not placed together, there must be a report made to the court detailing the agency's efforts in this area, including a visitation plan for approval by the court. NRS 432.525 – NRS 432.530 established a Sibling Bill of Rights. The state continues to be committed to ensuring siblings are placed together.

Nevada was not on a PIP for this item but continued to work to improve sibling placements through PIP key activities 3.2.2 and 3.3.1.

Table 7: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	NV CFSR 2018			NV CQI			PIP Goal
Item 7: Placement with Siblings	87.5%			88.64%			N/A
Performance Item Rating	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	<i>Intentionally left blank.</i>
	87.5%	12.5%	0%	88.64%	11.36%		
	n=35	n=5	n=15	n=39	n=5	n=13	

S=Strength, ANI=Area Needing Improvement, NA=Not Applicable

Nevada CFSR 2018= State Rating Summary

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QTR 11.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 7 Placement with Siblings is 90%. Nevada received an area needing improvement rating as only 87.5% of the cases rated a strength in the 2018 CFSR. The results of case reviews conducted during the last four rolling quarters of the PIP measurement period, Q8 through Q11, reflect the state achieved a strength rating for item 7 in 88.64% of cases reviewed.

In September of 2022, the Children's Bureau confirmed Nevada had met its progress goals on the remaining two items related to its CFSR PIP. With this confirmation, Nevada successfully completed its CFSR PIP. At that time, the state paused its statewide case reviews to celebrate its successes, to update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes. In April of 2023, Nevada resumed its quarterly case reviews, and reviewed 18 cases from WCHSA utilizing the Round 4 CFSR OSRI. Seven of the cases were applicable for this item and results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for item 7 in 71.43% of cases reviewed.

Item 8: Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care

NRS 423B.550(3)(a) provides that a parent of a child that has been removed from the home retains the right to reasonable visitation with the child unless this right has been restricted by the court. The NAC 432B.400(2)(o) requires that the case plan specifically provides for family visitation, including, without limitation, visiting siblings if the siblings are not residing together. NAC 432B.220 requires an arrangement of regular and frequent visits with parents and siblings for a child who is placed outside of his home.

Statewide policy on case planning (0204) requires that a plan for frequent and purposeful visitation with parents and siblings, for the purpose of family preservation, be included in the case planning documentation. Visitation between children and parents, and children

and separately placed siblings, must be regular, frequent, and purposeful to facilitate family preservation. The caseworker shall not limit visitation as a sanction for the parent's lack of compliance with court orders or as a method to encourage a child to improve their behaviors. Visitation is determined by the best interest, health, safety, and well-being of the child. Visitation shall only be limited or terminated when the child's best interest, safety, health, or well-being is compromised. In addition, recommendations to limit or terminate visitation must be presented to the court.

Nevada was not on a PIP for this item; however, there were several PIP activities that supported continuous improvement in this area such as trauma training, motivational interviewing, increasing the quality and frequency of visits with children, and involving the family in case planning.

Table 8: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	NV CFSR 2018			NV CQI			PIP Goal
Item 8: Visiting with Parents and Sibling in Foster Care	67.5%			65.22%			N/A
Performance Item Rating	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	<i>Intentionally left blank.</i>
	67.5%	32.5%		65.22%	34.78%		
	n=27	n=13	n=15	n=30	n=16	n=11	

S=Strength, ANI=Area Needing Improvement, NA=Not Applicable

Nevada CFSR 2018= State Rating Summary

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 8 Visiting with Parents and Siblings in Foster Care is 90%. Nevada received an area needing improvement rating as only 67.5% of the cases rated a strength in the 2018 CFSR. The results of case reviews conducted during the last four rolling quarters of the PIP measurement period, Q8 through Q11, reflect the state achieved a strength rating for item 8 in 65.22% of cases reviewed.

In September of 2022, the Children's Bureau confirmed Nevada had met its progress goals on the remaining two items related to its CFSR PIP. With this confirmation, Nevada successfully completed its CFSR PIP. At that time, the state paused its statewide case reviews to celebrate its successes, to update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes. In April of 2023, Nevada resumed its quarterly case

reviews, and reviewed 18 cases from WCHSA utilizing the Round 4 CFSR OSRI. Eight of the cases were applicable for this item and results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for item 8 in 75% of cases reviewed.

Item 9: Preserving Connections

NRS 432B.390 requires that priority be given to family members for placement of children who are removed from their birth families unless doing so would not be in the best interest of the child. DCFS policy 1001 Diligent Search and 1003 Kinship Care requires workers to complete a diligent search for any possible adult family members. Once located, those identified family members are assessed for appropriateness in much the same manner as regular family foster care providers. NRS 432B.560 grants a reasonable right of visitation to grandparents. NRS 432.525-535 establishes a bill of rights for foster children that includes reasonable participation in extracurricular, cultural, and personal enrichment activities that are consistent with the age and developmental level of the child and to attend religious services of their choice. Statewide policy 0213 Visitation Policy supports efforts to maintain the continuity of family relationships and preserve connections for children. This policy has been reviewed under PIP activity 2.1.6 and helps to strengthen this item even though it is not a PIP requirement.

NAC 424.495 requires foster homes to give children the opportunity to invite friends to the foster home and to visit in the homes of friends, if appropriate. State policy 0504 Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) prioritizes the recognition of a child being an Indian child and assures that the child's tribe be contacted immediately when an Indian child is taken into custody. The tribe then becomes an active participant in any further court proceedings regarding the child.

Nevada's Just in Time web-based training offered through the Quality Parenting Initiative program in Nevada includes training on fostering and nurturing cultural and family connections.

Table 9: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	NV CFSR 2018			NV CQI			PIP Goal
Item 9: Preserving Connections	74.55%			80.7%			N/A
Performance Item Rating	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	<i>Intentionally left blank.</i>
	74.55%	25.45%		80.7%	19.3%		
	n=41	n=14	n=0	n=46	n=11	n=0	

S=Strength, ANI=Area Needing Improvement, NA=Not Applicable

Nevada CFSR 2018= State Rating Summary

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.

Nevada was not on a PIP for item 9; however, the overall federal performance expectation for Item 9 Preserving Connections is 90%. Nevada received an area needing improvement rating as 74.55% of the cases rated a strength in the 2018 CFSR. The results of case reviews conducted during the last four rolling quarters of the PIP measurement period, Q8 through Q11, reflect the state achieved a strength rating for item 9 in 80.7% of cases reviewed.

In September of 2022, the Children's Bureau confirmed Nevada had met its progress goals on the remaining two items related to its CFSR PIP. With this confirmation, Nevada successfully completed its CFSR PIP. At that time, the state paused its statewide case reviews to celebrate its successes, to update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes. In April of 2023, Nevada resumed its quarterly case reviews, and reviewed 18 cases from WCHSA utilizing the Round 4 CFSR OSRI. 11 of the cases were applicable for this item and results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for item 4 in 100% of cases reviewed.

Item 10: Relative Placement

NRS 432B.390 and NRS 432B.480 require that priority be given to family members for placement of children who are removed from their birth families unless doing so would not be in the best interest of the children. NRS 432B.550 requires placement preference with a relative within the fifth degree of consanguinity or fictive kin who is suitable and able to provide proper care and guidance. NRS 432B.510 requires relative notification when parents are unable to be found.

Nevada was not on a PIP for this item; however, several key activities in Goal 3 of the CFSP focused on improvement to the diligent search process and the extended use of KinGAP.

Table 10: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	NV CFSR 2018			NV CQI			PIP Goal
Item 10: Relative Placement	52.73%			80.7%			N/A
	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	<i>Intentionally left blank.</i>
	52.73% n=29	47.27% n=26	n=0	80.7% n=6	19.3% n=1	n=0	

S=Strength, ANI=Area Needing Improvement, NA=Not Applicable

Nevada CFSR 2018= State Rating Summary

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 10 Relative Placement is 90%. Nevada received an area needing improvement rating as only 52.73% of the cases rated a strength in the 2018 CFSR. The results of case reviews conducted during the last four rolling quarters of the PIP measurement period, Q8 through Q11, reflect the state achieved a strength rating for item 10 in 80.7% of cases reviewed. Child welfare agencies throughout the state continue to place children with relatives as their first placement option, when it is safe to do so.

In September of 2022, the Children's Bureau confirmed Nevada had met its progress goals on the remaining two items related to its CFSR PIP. With this confirmation, Nevada successfully completed its CFSR PIP. At that time, the state paused its statewide case reviews to celebrate its successes, to update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes. In April of 2023, Nevada resumed its quarterly case reviews, and reviewed 18 cases from WCHSA utilizing the Round 4 CFSR OSRI. 11 of the cases were applicable for this item and results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for item 10 in 90.31% of cases reviewed.

Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents

NRS 432.525-535 established a bill of rights for foster children that includes maintaining contact with parents and family; and the right to reasonable participation in extracurricular, cultural, religious, and personal enrichment activities that are consistent with the age and developmental level of the child. The Foster Child Bill of Rights and the Foster Youth Bill of Rights are maintained on the DCFS website. Statewide policy 1011 Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard / Normalcy provides guidance to support normalcy for children through the Reasonable and Prudent Parent Standard in foster care by ensuring the

status of being in foster care does not limit their ability to experience and participate in community, school, family, or social activities.

Nevada's Just in Time web-based training which is part of the Quality Parenting Initiative program in Nevada for foster parents includes training on fostering and nurturing cultural and family connections. Additionally, PIP key activities 2.1.3, 2.1.4, and 3.1.1, provided trauma informed training with the goal of increasing workers' understanding of the impact of parent-child separation.

Table 11: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	NV CFSR 2018			NV CQI			PIP Goal
Item 11: Relationship of child in care with parents	62.07%			69.23%			N/A
	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	<i>Intentionally left blank.</i>
	62.07% n=18	37.93% n=11	n=26	69.23% n=27	30.77% n=12	n=18	

S=Strength, ANI=Area Needing Improvement, NA=Not Applicable

Nevada CFSR 2018= State Rating Summary

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.

Nevada was not on a PIP for this item. The overall federal performance expectation for Item 11 Relationship of Child in Care with Parents is 90%. Nevada received an area needing improvement rating as only 62.07% of the cases rated a strength in the 2018 CFSR. The results of case reviews conducted during the last four rolling quarters of the PIP measurement period, Q8 through Q11, reflect the state achieved a strength rating for Item 11 in 69.23% of cases reviewed.

In September of 2022, the Children's Bureau confirmed Nevada had met its progress goals on the remaining two items related to its CFSR PIP. With this confirmation, Nevada successfully completed its CFSR PIP. At that time, the state paused its statewide case reviews to celebrate its successes, to update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes. In April of 2023, Nevada resumed its quarterly case reviews, and reviewed 18 cases from WCHSA utilizing the Round 4 CFSR OSRI. Eight of the cases were applicable for this item and results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for item 11 in 75% of cases reviewed.

Over the next year, the state will continue to assess the impact of initiatives and training put into place through PIP activities starting in 2019. The state plans to look at the impacts that motivational interviewing training, trauma informed communication training, and CoachNV have had on the permanency and well-being outcomes for children and families. Throughout the state, efforts to promote and increase the utilization of the QPI model have continued to increase.

Well-Being Outcome 1: Families Have Enhanced Capacity to Provide for Their Children's Needs

Item 12: Needs and services of child, parents, and foster parents

Policies 0508 and 0509 Nevada Initial Assessment and 0211 Protective Capacity Family Assessment guide initial assessments of parents and children. NRS 432B.300 and 432B.393 require child welfare agencies to provide services to preserve families, prevent the placement of children if possible, and, if not possible, provide a plan describing those services that would facilitate the safe return of the child. NAC 432B.190, .200, .210, and .240 requires agencies to provide case planning and agreements with parents using strengths and resources in planning and requires the agency to provide a range of services to preserve the family. NAC 432B.400, .405, and .410 require the agency to provide case planning and services to children in foster care and their parents. Statewide policy 0502 Developmental Assessments and Services policy requires a referral for the developmental screening of children under age three. Policy 0801 Youth Independent Living Program policy was developed to ensure that youth aged 14 and older in foster care receive adequate case planning and services for transition to adulthood. Finally, policy 1301 Training, Assessment and Licensing of Foster, Relative, and Adoptive Homes covers the assessment of the appropriateness of potential foster families, licensed relatives, and adoptive families.

Table 12: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	NV CFSR 2018			NV CQI			PIP Goal
Item 12: Identifying Needs and Services to Child, Parent and Foster Parent	37.5			52.94%			44.4%
	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	44.4%
	37.5% n=30	62.5. n=59	n=0	52.94% n=45	47.06% n=40	n=0	
Item 12A: Needs Assessment and Services to Children	58.75% n=47	41.25% n=33	n=0	77.65% n=66	22.35% n=19	n=0	<i>Intentionally left blank.</i>
Item 12B: Needs Assessment and Services to Parents	41.07% n=23	58.93% n=33	n=24	61.43% n=43	38.57% n=27	n=15	
Item 12C: Needs Assessment and Services to Foster Parents	73.08% n=38	26.92% n=14	n=28	80% n=44	20% n=11	n=30	

S=Strength, ANI=Area Needing Improvement, NA=Not Applicable

Nevada CFSR 2018= State Rating Summary

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.

Nevada was on a PIP for item 12; the overall federal performance expectation for Item 12 and subparts A, B, C Needs and Services of Child, Parents, and Foster Parents is 90%. Nevada received an area needing improvement rating as only 37.5% of the cases rated a strength for item 12 overall in the 2018 CFSR. Nevada surpassed its PIP goal of 44.4% in the first measurement period including Q1, Q2, Q4, and Q5 with 45.88% of cases reviewed rated a strength. The results of case reviews conducted during the last four rolling quarters of the PIP measurement period, Q8 through Q11, reflect the state achieved a strength rating for item 12 overall in 52.94% of cases reviewed.

In September of 2022, the Children's Bureau confirmed Nevada had met its progress goals on the remaining two items related to its CFSR PIP. With this confirmation, Nevada successfully completed its CFSR PIP. At that time, the state paused its statewide case reviews to celebrate its successes, to update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes. In April of 2023, Nevada resumed its quarterly case reviews, and reviewed 18 cases from WCHSA utilizing the Round 4 CFSR OSRI. 17 of the cases were applicable for this item and results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for item 12 overall in 58.82% of cases reviewed.

Item 12 has three subitems, 12A Needs Assessment and Services to Children, 12B Needs and Assessment to Parents, and 12C Needs Assessment and Services to Foster Parents. Of the 18 cases reviewed, 17 cases were applicable to item 12a, and the results reflected the state achieved a strength rating in 88.24% of those cases reviewed. 14 cases were applicable to item 12b, and the results reflected the state achieved a strength rating in 57.14% of those cases reviewed. 11 cases were applicable to item 12c, and the results reflected the state achieved a strength rating in 90.91% of those cases reviewed.

There continues to be an increase in performance when comparing the state's strength rating over time. For the rolling quarters Q3-Q6, the state saw a strength rating in 42.35% of the cases reviewed, while in the last four rolling quarters of the PIP measurement period, Q8-Q11, the state saw that number increase to 52.94%. Results from case reviews, as well as discussions with statewide partners revealed that virtual visits had created some barriers for line staff while Nevada was still on its PIP. Through mini focus groups with each agency, it was also found that item 12 has been impacted by the agency's failure to conduct quality assessments of the mother's and the father's needs. Further, there continues to be a need for caseworkers to connect appropriate services to identified needs, and to capture these services or concerted efforts in case notes. Over the next year, the state plans to take a closer look at how the implementation of CoachNV has impacted a variety of items in the tool, as well as if there are significant observations around the move from virtual visits and a return to a 100% in person caseworker contact. Collaborative conversations will continue to occur at the SQIC and in ad hoc groups as needed to discuss progress, identify barriers, and propose interventions.

Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning

NAC 432B.190-220 encourages the participation of parents in the case planning process and requires engagement of the child's family in using its own strengths and resources throughout the process for planning services. NAC 432B.400, .405, and .410 requires the agency to provide case planning and services to children in foster care and their parents.

The 0204 Permanency and Case Planning policy provides the connection that ties the findings of the child and family assessments to the identification of the permanency goal(s) and the selection of services including both formal and informal services. It is a collaborative, strength based and solution-focused process that empowers and motivates families to identify solutions that will remove barriers, increase functioning, and build

protective capacity. The policy requires a working partnership between the case manager and the family. The family is to be assisted in identifying its strengths, needs, culture, supports, and current resources that will affect its ability to achieve and maintain child safety, child permanency, and child and family well-being through an individualized case plan. In the event a parent is not available or refuses to participate in case planning, the case plan team (foster parents, extended relatives, other providers, and child, if appropriate) must still be formed, and a plan developed. In all cases, every effort must be made and continue to be made to involve parents and children (if age appropriate) in the case planning process.

Performance item 13 was addressed by all key activities in PIP Goal 2: Promote effective communication and contact with families.

Table 13: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	NV CFSR 2018			NV CQI			PIP Goal
Item 13: Child and family involvement in case planning	48%			56.79			55.4%
	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	<i>Intentionally left blank.</i>
	48%	52%		56.79%	43.21%		
	n=36	n=39	n=5	n=46	n=35	n=4	

S=Strength, ANI=Area Needing Improvement, NA=Not Applicable

Nevada CFSR 2018= State Rating Summary

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.

Nevada was on a PIP for item 13. The overall federal performance expectation for Item 13 Child and Family Involvement in Case Planning is 90%. Nevada received an area needing improvement rating as only 48% of the cases rated a strength in the 2018 CFSR. The results of case reviews conducted during the last four rolling quarters of the PIP measurement period, Q8 through Q11, reflect the state achieved a strength rating for Item 13 in 56.79% of cases reviewed, and met the performance goal set in 2019.

In September of 2022, the Children's Bureau confirmed Nevada had met its progress goals on the remaining two items related to its CFSR PIP. With this confirmation, Nevada successfully completed its CFSR PIP. At that time, the state paused its statewide case reviews to celebrate its successes, to update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes. In April of 2023, Nevada resumed its quarterly case reviews, and reviewed 18 cases from WCHSA utilizing the Round 4 CFSR OSRI. 15 of

the cases were applicable for this item and results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for item 4 in 66.67% of cases reviewed.

Over the next year, the state will continue to monitor its performance on this item through quarterly case reviews, and the monitoring of reports tracking caseworker contacts with parents and children. The state plans on conducting qualitative analysis of caseworker's contact narratives as well. The state will continue to explore different types of messaging aimed to improve family engagement. Strategies such as more targeted email and visually driven messaging for the workforce are being implemented and ideas on how to sustain the delivery of that messaging are being explored. Feedback loops and eliciting feedback from families, youth and other stakeholders are action items in the CQI Action Plan developed by PIP Team 4 and will inform messaging and strategies to improve practice.

Item 14: Caseworker visits with child

In accordance with 45 CFR 1355.20, and NAC 432B.405 requiring that children in foster care or children under the placement and care responsibility of a Child Welfare Agency who are placed away from their parents must be visited by their caseworker at least once every calendar month. When a child is placed in foster care, this visit must occur where the child resides in at least 50% of those months. During caseworker visits with children, the caseworker (or other responsible party) must spend a portion of the visit with the child outside the presence of the care providers and a portion of the time alone with the care providers/foster parents if requested. The NAC 432B.405 and state policy 0205 Case Worker Contact with Children, Parents, and Caregivers requires that each child in foster care will be visited by their case worker (or other responsible party) at least once every calendar month. A "visit" is defined as a face-to-face in-person contact between the child and the child's case worker (or other responsible party). Due to COVID-19 and the national health emergency, virtual visits were allowed in lieu of face-to-face in-person visits when appropriate.

PIP Key Activities 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, and 2.2.5 evaluated and enhanced reports to monitor the frequency and quality of child contacts.

Refer to Update to Service Description Section: Monthly Caseworker Visit Formula Grants and Standards for Caseworker Visits.

Table 14: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	NV CFSR 2018			NV CQI			PIP Goal
Item 14: Caseworker visits with child	55%			72.94%			62.1%
	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	<i>Intentionally left blank.</i>
	5% n=44	45% n=36	n=0	72.94% n=62	27.06% n=23	n=0	

S=Strength, ANI=Area Needing Improvement, NA=Not Applicable

Nevada CFSR 2018= State Rating Summary

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.

The overall federal performance expectation for item 14 is 90%. Nevada received an area needing improvement rating as only 55% of the cases rated a strength in the 2018 CFSR. The state achieved its goal for Item 14 during the first measurement period that included Q1, Q2, Q4 and Q5 by achieving a strength rating in 74.12% of the cases reviewed, as reported in the PIP Q4 Progress Report. The results of case reviews conducted during the last four rolling quarters of the PIP measurement period, Q8 through Q11, reflect the state achieved a strength rating for Item 14 in 72.94% of cases reviewed.

In September of 2022, the Children's Bureau confirmed Nevada had met its progress goals on the remaining two items related to its CFSR PIP. With this confirmation, Nevada successfully completed its CFSR PIP. At that time, the state paused its statewide case reviews to celebrate its successes, to update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes. In April of 2023, Nevada resumed its quarterly case reviews, and reviewed 18 cases from WCHSA utilizing the Round 4 CFSR OSRI. 11 of the cases were applicable for this item and results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for item 14 in 63.64% of cases reviewed.

Item 15: Caseworker visits with parents

DCFS policy 0205 Caseworker Contact with Children, Parents and Caregivers requires that caseworker contacts focus clearly on case planning, service delivery, safety, strengths and needs of the child and family, family progress and identification of resources and services the family needs to achieve case plan goals.

Performance Item 15 is being addressed by PIP Activities:

- 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4 and 2.2.5 focus on quality assurance of case worker contacts through report development and use of data to strengthen quality and frequency.
- 2.1.7 through partnership with FPO, the child welfare agencies developed a statewide newsletter to inform staff of CFSR findings and best practices.

Table 15: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	NV CFSR 2018			NV CQI			PIP Goal
Item 15: Caseworkers Visits with Parents	46.3%			56.52			55%
	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	<i>Intentionally left blank.</i>
	46.3%	53.7%		56.52%	43.48%		
	n=25	n=29	n=26	n=39	n=30	n=16	

S=Strength, ANI=Area Needing Improvement, NA=Not Applicable

Nevada CFSR 2018= State Rating Summary

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.

The overall federal performance expectation for Item 15 Caseworker Visits with Parents is 90%. Nevada received an area needing improvement rating for this item as only 46.3% of the cases reviewed rated a strength in the 2018 CFSR. The results of case reviews conducted during the last four rolling quarters of the PIP measurement period, Q8 through Q11, reflect the state achieved a strength rating for Item 15 in 56.52% of cases reviewed, and met the performance goal set in 2019.

In September of 2022, the Children's Bureau confirmed Nevada had met its progress goals on the remaining two items related to its CFSR PIP. With this confirmation, Nevada successfully completed its CFSR PIP. At that time, the state paused its statewide case reviews to celebrate its successes, to update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes. In April of 2023, Nevada resumed its quarterly case reviews, and reviewed 18 cases from WCHSA utilizing the Round 4 CFSR OSRI. 14 of the cases were applicable for this item and results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for item 15 in 64.29% of cases reviewed.

Over the next year, the state will continue to monitor its performance on this item through quarterly case reviews, and the monitoring of reports tracking caseworker contacts with parents and children. The state plans on conducting qualitative analysis of caseworker's contact narratives as well. The state will continue to explore different types of messaging aimed to improve family engagement. Strategies such as more targeted email and

visually driven messaging for the workforce are being implemented and ideas on how to sustain the delivery of that messaging are being explored. Feedback loops and eliciting feedback from families, youth and other stakeholders are action items in the CQI Action Plan developed by PIP Team 4 and will inform messaging and strategies to improve practice.

Well-Being Outcome 2: Children Receive Appropriate Services to Meet Their Educational Needs

PIP Progress Report: This outcome was indirectly tied to Nevada's PIP Goal 2 as it addresses contact with families and engagement. Nevada was not on a PIP for Well-being Outcome 2, Item 16.

Item 16: Educational Needs

NRS 388E Education of Children in Foster Care and NAC 388E Program of School Choice for Children in Foster Care authorizes the legal guardians or custodians of certain children who are in foster care to apply to the Department of Education to participate in the program which allows such children to choose the school of their choice or remain at the school they were attending prior to being removed from their caretaker. NRS 432B.540 requires educational reports be provided to the court. NRS 432B.580 requires a copy of an academic plan or any other education records for the child per NRS 388E be included in a report to the court prior to any hearing for review of placement. NRS 432B.462 establishes an educational decision maker for all children in foster care. The decision maker shall meet with the child, address disciplinary issues, ensures the child receives a free and appropriate education has access to special programs; and if the child is over 14 participates in transition planning. The decision maker can serve as a surrogate parent for children on an IEP. NRS 432.535 establishes a bill of rights related to education and vocational training for foster children.

Policy 0204 Permanency and Case Planning requires that the child's educational needs be addressed in the case plan including guidelines to support educational stability and to ensure foster parents receive needed child educational records.

Table 16: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	NV CFSR 2018			NV CQI			PIP Goal
Item 16: Educational Needs of the Child	72.31%			74.51			N/A
	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	<i>Intentionally left blank.</i>
	72.31% n=47	27.69% n=18	n=15	74.51% n=38	25.49% n=13	n=34	

S=Strength, ANI=Area Needing Improvement, NA=Not Applicable

Nevada CFSR 2018= State Rating Summary

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.

Nevada was not on a PIP for item 16. The overall federal performance expectation for Item 16 Educational Needs of the Child is 90%. Nevada received an area needing improvement rating as only 72.31% of the cases reviewed rated a strength in the 2018 CFSR. The results of case reviews conducted during the last four rolling quarters of the PIP measurement period, Q8 through Q11, reflect the state achieved a strength rating for Item 16 in 74.51% of cases reviewed. Over the next year, the child welfare agency will be creating educational data reports which will inform messaging and strategies to improve practice

In September of 2022, the Children's Bureau confirmed Nevada had met its progress goals on the remaining two items related to its CFSR PIP. With this confirmation, Nevada successfully completed its CFSR PIP. At that time, the state paused its statewide case reviews to celebrate its successes, to update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes. In April of 2023, Nevada resumed its quarterly case reviews, and reviewed 18 cases from WCHSA utilizing the Round 4 CFSR OSRI. Ten of the cases were applicable for this item and results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for item 16 in 90% of cases reviewed.

Well-Being Outcome 3: Children Receive Adequate Services to Meet Their Physical and Mental Health Needs

PIP Progress Report: This outcome was indirectly tied to Nevada's PIP Goal 2 as it addressed contact with families and engagement. Nevada is not on a PIP for Well-being Outcome 2.

Item 17: Physical Health of the Child

Statewide Policy 0207 Health Services supports these mandates by outlining processes to ensure that physical, developmental, and mental health needs of custodial children are identified and diagnosed through Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic Treatment (EPSDT) standardized, periodic screenings. Children not requiring immediate medical attention and/or mental health treatment receive a Nevada Medicaid Healthy Kids screening exam (EPSDT) within thirty (30) days of entering custody. EPSDT screening exams are preventative and diagnostic services designed to evaluate the general physical and mental health, growth, development, and nutritional status. The Medicaid Healthy Kids program encourages providers to follow the recommended periodicity schedule set forth by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Additionally, statewide policy 0502 Developmental Services and Assessments requires, as part of the CAPTA Part-C Requirement for Custodial and Non-Custodial Children, that all children under the age of three, for a developmental assessment where there is a diagnosed physical or mental condition that has a high probability of resulting in a delay. Lastly, section 422(b) (15) (a) of the Social Security Act requires states to develop a plan for the ongoing oversight and coordination of health care services for children in foster care.

Table 17: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	NV CFSR 2018			NV CQI			PIP Goal
Item 17: Physical Health of the Child	51.52%			66.67%			N/A
	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	<i>Intentionally left blank.</i>
	51.52%	48.48%		66.67%	33.33%		
	n=34	n=32	n=14	n=42	n=21	n=22	

S=Strength, ANI=Area Needing Improvement, NA=Not Applicable

Nevada CFSR 2018= State Rating Summary

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.

Nevada was not on a PIP for item 17. The overall federal performance expectation for Item 17 Physical Health of the Child is 90%. Nevada received an area needing improvement rating as only 51.52% of the cases reviewed rated a strength in the 2018 CFSR. The results of case reviews conducted during the last four rolling quarters of the PIP measurement period, Q8 through Q11, reflect the state achieved a strength rating for item 17 in 66.67% of cases reviewed. Over the past year, the child welfare agency

created EPSDT data reports which will continue to inform messaging and strategies to improve practice.

In September of 2022, the Children's Bureau confirmed Nevada had met its progress goals on the remaining two items related to its CFSR PIP. With this confirmation, Nevada successfully completed its CFSR PIP. At that time, the state paused its statewide case reviews to celebrate its successes, to update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes. In April of 2023, Nevada resumed its quarterly case reviews, and reviewed 18 cases from WCHSA utilizing the Round 4 CFSR OSRI. 16 of the cases were applicable for this item and results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for item 17 in 87.5% of cases reviewed.

Item 18: Mental Health of the Child

Policies 0508 and 0509 Nevada Initial Assessment and 0211 Protective Capacity Family Assessment guide initial assessments of parents and children. Policy 0207 Health Services supports these mandates by outlining processes to ensure that physical, developmental, and mental health needs of custodial children are identified and diagnosed through Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic Treatment (EPSDT) standardized, periodic screenings. Children not requiring immediate medical attention and/or mental health treatment receive a Nevada Medicaid Healthy Kids screening exam (EPSDT) within thirty (30) days of entering custody. EPSDT screening exams are preventative and diagnostic services designed to evaluate the general physical and mental health, growth, development, and nutritional status. The Medicaid Healthy Kids program encourages providers to follow the recommended periodicity schedule set forth by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Additionally, 0214 Commercially Sexually Exploited Children requires that all children involved with the Agency, aged ten (10) years and older, will be screened using the Nevada Rapid Indicator Tool (NRIT) to assess if a child is 1) A confirmed victim of commercial sexual exploitation, 2) At high risk of commercial exploitation, or 3) No indicators apply to this youth at this time.

NRS 432B.197 states that each agency that provides child welfare services shall establish appropriate policies to ensure that children in the custody of the agency have timely access to and safe administration of clinically appropriate psychotropic medication. The policies must include, without limitation, policies concerning:

- The use of psychotropic medication in a manner that has not been tested or approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration, including, without limitation, the use of such medication for a child who is of an age that has not been tested or approved or who has a condition for which the use of the medication has not been tested or approved;
- Prescribing any psychotropic medication for use by a child who is less than 4 years of age;
- The concurrent use by a child of three or more classes of psychotropic medication;

- The concurrent use by a child of two psychotropic medications of the same class; and
- The criteria for nominating persons who are legally responsible for the psychiatric care of children in the custody of agencies which provide child welfare services pursuant to NRS 432B.4681 to 432B.469, inclusive, and the policies adopted pursuant to this section.

Statewide policy 0209 Psychiatric Care and Treatment states that the child welfare agency will nominate a “*person legally responsible for the psychiatric care of a child,*” for appointment by the Court, for any child entering custody or currently in custody with a prescription for psychotropic medication or who the child welfare agency determines may need.

Table 18: CFSR/Statewide Quality Improvement Review Data

Performance Item	NV CFSR 2018			NV CQI			PIP Goal
Item 18: Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child	66.66%			71.11			N/A
	S	ANI	NA	S	ANI	NA	<i>Intentionally left blank.</i>
	N=37	39.34% n=24	n=19	71.11% n=32	28.89% n=13	n=40	

S=Strength, ANI=Area Needing Improvement, NA=Not Applicable

Nevada CFSR 2018= State Rating Summary

Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Washoe County CFSR PIP Monitored 2021 QTR 8, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 9, DCFS Rural Region PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 10, and Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored 2022 QRT 11.

Nevada was not on a PIP for item 18. The overall federal performance expectation for Item 18 Mental/Behavioral Health of the Child is 90%. Nevada received an area needing improvement rating as only 66.6% of the cases reviewed rated a strength in the 2018 CFSR. The results of case reviews conducted during the last four rolling quarters of the PIP measurement period, Q8 through Q11, reflect the state achieved a strength rating for item 18 in 71.11% of cases reviewed.

In September of 2022, the Children's Bureau confirmed Nevada had met its progress goals on the remaining two items related to its CFSR PIP. With this confirmation, Nevada successfully completed its CFSR PIP. At that time, the state paused its statewide case reviews to celebrate its successes, to update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes. In April of 2023, Nevada resumed its quarterly case reviews, and reviewed 18 cases from WCHSA utilizing the Round 4 CFSR OSRI. Eight of the cases were applicable for this item and results reflected the state achieved a strength rating for item 18 in 87.5% of cases reviewed.

Systemic Factor A: Statewide Information System

PIP Progress Report: This Systemic Factor is tied to Nevada's PIP key activities in Goal 4 (Key Activities 4.3.1, 4.3.4, and 4.3.5) **Strategy 3:** *Ensure the accuracy of Permanency Case Plan Goal Data in UNITY for children in out-of-home placement by developing policy and conducting reviews (spot checks) to ensure accuracy of the permanency goals.* This strategy focuses on the practice theme of strengthening data collection, tracking, sharing and analysis.

Item 19: Statewide Information System

UNITY (Unified Nevada Information Technology for Youth) is Nevada's acronym for the federally mandated Statewide Automated Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System/Case Management tool that holds the official case record for all children and families served by child welfare agencies in the state which is a requirement of PL 103-66. UNITY (UNITY 1.0 and UNITY 2.0) has historically been federally designated as a Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS). Federal child welfare information system regulations changed in 2016, making SACWIS guidelines obsolete. The new regulations are known as Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS) regulations, and details may be found in 45 CFR § 1355.51 – 1355.58. Nevada declared its intent to follow CCWIS regulations and transition its legacy SACWIS to CCWIS. As of June 2018, UNITY 3.0 (web application) is considered a transitional CCWIS by the Children's Bureau.

As a transitional CCWIS, Nevada's UNITY development activities must work toward meeting CCWIS project requirements outlined in 45 CFR § 1355.52. Unlike SACWIS requirements which mandated that information systems contain certain functionality, CCWIS regulations emphasize activities that will support efficient, effective, and economical design, including the ability to collect federally required data (such as data for AFCARS, NCANDS, and NYTD). CCWIS systems must also include automated functions to support data quality and must implement certain bi-directional data exchanges. States must develop, implement, and maintain a CCWIS Data Quality plan, including it as a part of Advanced Planning Documents (APD) submitted annually to the Children's Bureau. Additionally, states must conduct biennial data quality reviews.

Information in the statewide assessment showed that Nevada's information system can identify the status, demographics, location, and goals of every child who is or within the last preceding 12 months was in foster care. AFCARS error reports are disseminated to each child welfare agency that flags issues with placement locations and permanency goals. Item 19 was rated as an ANI due to user error or oversight and no validation of data accuracy. These issues were addressed through Nevada's PIP Goal 4: Improve Statewide Child Welfare Outcomes by developing and strengthening the Statewide Quality Assurance System, specifically through Key Activities 4.3.1, 4.3.4, and 4.3.5. To support data quality improvement, IS and data staff are embedded in PIP Teams for Goal 4 to support communication and feedback loops.

Item 19 was addressed by work completed in Q1 for key activity 4.3.1. The findings from key activities 4.3.1 were utilized by the SQIC team to develop statewide policy requirements for establishing permanency goals and UNITY documentation. As part of the work for PIP Activity 3.2.1 completed on July 31, 2020, these requirements were included in the revision of the 0204 Permanency and Case Planning policy. The revisions included clarifying the timeframes for when a case plan goal must be entered in UNITY. PIP activity 4.3.4 further supports the CQI process and this item by conducting statewide semi-annual spot checks to determine if permanency goals in UNITY match court orders in case files.

In January of 2020, spot check results indicated 88% of goals in UNITY matched goals in the most recent court order. In January of 2021, the results had increased to 93%. Due to staff transitions and staff vacancies, these spot checks were put on hold since 2021. The FPO is currently working towards reimplementing these spot checks and plans to, over the next year, monitor performance and determine if further review of policy, training or job aids will be needed. Improving data entry and developing processes for the validation of data are action items in the CQI Action Plan developed by PIP Team 4 and will further support efforts to improve practice in this area.

Systemic Factor B: Case Review System

PIP Progress report: This Systemic Factor is tied to Nevada's PIP Goal 3.

Item 20: Written Case Plan

Nevada has adopted the following state law: NRS 432B.540, 553 and 580 which obligate child welfare agencies to create a plan for permanency when a child is placed in foster care. This plan must include a description of the type of placement, safety and appropriateness of the home or institution including without limitation that the home or institution will comply with the provisions of NRS 432B.3905, and plan for ensuring the child's proper care, a description of the child's needs and a description of the services to be provided to meet those identified needs. The plan must also provide a description of the services to be provided to the parents to facilitate the child's return to the parents' custody or to ensure the child's permanent placement. NRS 432B.580 provides for a

semiannual review of the child and family's status, progress on the written case plan and the recommendations for the future treatment or rehabilitation of the family.

NAC 432B.190 requires that all children in foster care in Nevada have a written case plan. All case plans must be reviewed and approved by the supervisor and caseworker at least once every six months. Each case plan must clearly state the plan's goals, objectives, and actions, including who is responsible for each action item. Case plans must be case specific and related to the family's situation, resources, and capacities, and must safeguard the child. Parents must be encouraged to be active participants in the creation of their case plan and engage in processes for receiving services and assistive resources.

Item 20 was rated as an ANI during the 2018 CFSR. The statewide assessment showed that the state does not develop timely initial case plans because of conflicting timelines within the state's safety model. Additionally, case plans are not routinely developed jointly with parents and diligent search for parents is not consistently conducted.

Performance item 20 was addressed by PIP Activity 3.2.1 and completed on July 31, 2020, by revising 0204 Permanency and Case Planning policy. In addition to the updated policy a corresponding Concurrent Planning Practice Guide was completed for training and educational purposes and distributed to the child welfare staff and dependency stakeholders during Q4 (8/1/2020 – 10/31/2020).

This implementation of the concurrent planning process consisted of supervisor training on the updated statewide policy and additional staff training to discuss appropriateness of concurrent planning and identified when its use is most effective. Each agency has continued to utilize their individual plan to ensure follow up and adherence to policy, such as using permanency round tables and supervisory "PIP Talk Tips" to assist staff in developing concurrent plans as appropriate. The concurrent planning practice was presented to dependency stakeholders during the annual CIC Summit in September 2021. The CICs were also encouraged to include the practice guide as a tool for continued use. To further support training efforts, an online training was created discussing concurrent planning and the benefits of utilizing it to achieve timely permanency. The child welfare agency staff and dependency stakeholders were trained on the same ideas as it relates to case planning and concurrent planning so that they may work collaboratively on this process. Progress for compliance and improvement has been monitored through the quarterly case reviews beginning in May of 2021.

Furthermore, through PIP Item 3.3.1, the state has been utilizing the diligent search contact tracking sheet, which is completed by parents, to help identify family resources, and the statewide standards and training to improve the quality and consistency of the diligent search data. The parent's involvement in identifying relatives have improved relative engagement and help identify important connections for children. Diligent search efforts are now being attached to court reports, and courts are asking the parents for relative information during hearings. Data will continue to be gathered to ensure efforts are enhancing practice.

Continued efforts include new caseworker training for case planning in the first-year training plan. DCFS provides new caseworkers with case plan writing workshops at the request of the worker or the supervisor. Workers are also provided the tools that are used during the workshop to support quality case plans being developed in the field.

Item 21: Periodic Reviews

Although Nevada law allows for administrative reviews, Nevada currently only uses judicial reviews. NRS 432B.580 mandates the court to conduct a hearing at least semiannually and within 90 days after a request by a party to any of the prior hearings. The court may also enter an order directing that the placement be reviewed by a panel of at least three persons appointed by the judge (NRS 432B.585). The contents of the hearing must include evaluations and assessments of progress in carrying out the case plan goals for the child in care (NAC 432B.420) and address ASFA requirements on reasonable efforts. DCFS Policy 0206, Court Hearing Notification, further ensures that foster parents and other care providers are afforded the right to be heard in review hearings with respect to children in their care and to offer information about the services received by the child and family.

This item was rated as a strength during the 2018 CFSR. Information in the statewide assessment showed that Nevada ensures that periodic review hearings are held no less frequently than every 6 months. Jurisdictions closely track the timeliness of periodic review hearings. Stakeholders said that strong scheduling protocols contribute to the jurisdictions' adherence to the 6-month deadlines. Nevada is continuing to ensure this item is a strength through strong partnership with the Court Improvement Program on PIP activities and various initiatives.

Performance item 21 was addressed by PIP activities 3.1.1, 3.2.3, and 3.1.2 which address caregiver court templates, trauma informed training for judiciary and stakeholders, and development of a guide to help parents, families and fictive understand the dependency court process.

Trauma-Focused Communication training was developed and delivered via the CIC Summit in September of 2019, and the training and ideas were expanded upon during the follow up education and training at the CIC Summit in September of 2020. The child welfare agencies continue to support this training with staff and continue to have internal conversations about changing to a trauma focused child welfare culture.

A statewide judicial workgroup developed the Nevada Court Family Guide and the Nevada Courts Road Map. This guide was designed to provide parents, relatives, and caregivers with an overview of the child welfare process, educate the family on their rights, provide an overview of the court process and timeframes, and clarify expectations for parents and families. The courts have received positive feedback regarding the information provided by the Nevada Courts Road Map. These guides are available on various websites including the Nevada QPI website, Foster Kinship website and

jurisdictional websites. Additionally, agencies provide a printed copy of these guides in the local offices.

Item 22: Permanency Hearings

NRS 432B.590 mandates a permanency hearing be held no later than 12 months from a child's initial removal. When reasonable efforts are not required, pursuant to NRS 432.393, a permanency hearing must occur within 30 days of the judicial finding. Statewide policy 0206 Court Hearing Notification outlines agency requirements for providing and ensuring notification of court hearings to parents and relevant parties. This is being reviewed as part of PIP activities. Statewide policy 0204 Permanency and Case Planning requires agencies to make and finalize permanency plans by no later than 12 months after the child's removal. Statewide policy 514 Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) provides notice to all the parties to any of the prior proceedings and parents and "any persons planning to adopt the child, relatives of the child or providers of foster care who are currently providing care to the child."

Item 22 was rated as a strength during the 2018 CFSR. Information in the statewide assessment showed that permanency hearings are occurring in a timely manner in almost all cases. Stakeholders confirmed that initial permanency hearings occur no less frequently than 12 months from the date children enter foster care and no less frequently than every 12 months thereafter.

Nevada is continuing to ensure this item is a strength through strong partnership with the Court Improvement Program on various initiatives. Although not on a PIP for this item, PIP Goal 3 supported and strengthened permanency hearings by encouraging caregiver engagement.

Item 23: Termination of Parental Rights

NRS 432B.590 mandates if the child has been placed outside of their home for 14 of any 20 consecutive months, the best interests of the child must be presumed to be served by the termination of parental rights and documentation of the plan to TPR is included in the permanency plan. The court is required to use its best efforts to ensure that the procedures required in TPR are completed within six months from that date. The NRS also identifies those circumstances in which the agency is not required to make reasonable efforts for reunification and addresses the issue of compelling reasons when it would not be in the child's best interest to file for TPR. If the court determines it is in the best interest of the child to terminate parental rights the court will use its best efforts to ensure that the procedures required by NRS Chapter 128 Termination of Parental Rights are completed within 6 months after the petition is filed.

NRS Chapter 128 details the process of TPR, specifically who files the petitions, procedures for TPR on ICWA cases, notice of hearings (publication), testimony, appointment of attorneys, specific considerations to various circumstances and

restoration of parental rights in certain situations. Pursuant to NRS 128.170, a child (or the legal guardian of the child) who has not been adopted, and whose parental rights have been terminated or relinquished, may petition the Court for restoration of parental rights. The natural parent or parents for whom restoration of parental rights is sought must be fully informed of the legal rights, obligations and consequences of restoration and must consent, in writing, to the petition.

Statewide Policy 0514 Termination of Parental Rights requires timely permanency planning for children in the care and custody of the child welfare agency, and that planning must therefore begin the day the child enters care. The child welfare agency is required to make and finalize alternate permanency plans no later than 12 months after the child's removal. Policy states that absent compelling reasons not to file a TPR, the petition must be filed within 60 days of the court's determination that reasonable efforts are not required.

Item 23 was rated an ANI during the 2018 CFSR. The statewide assessment identified that Nevada failed to demonstrate the state files TPR petitions in accordance with the provisions of the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA). Delays in filing were attributed to a lack of resources at the prosecutors' offices; court decisions to provide parents with additional time to comply with service plans; agency difficulties in locating parents; lack of provision of services to parents; backlogs in the courts; and an insufficient number of adoptive parents.

PIP Activities that supported termination of parental rights include PIP 3.2.1, 3.2.3, 3.1.2, 3.4.1, and 3.1.3. A workgroup developed a written guide that explains the dependency court process, parental rights, timeframes, and clarifies expectations for parents and families involved with child welfare. The child welfare agency convened a workgroup to analyze the barriers to timely permanency in the current TPR process. This workgroup identified data to conduct a timeline and predictive analysis to examine the TPR and adoption process. The workgroup analyzed the predictive analysis data and used the data to develop recommendations to improve the TPR process. The workgroup made recommendations to form a CIP statewide workgroup to discuss and revised Nevada's legal timeframes including setting timeframes for: TPR trial dates, limitation and continuances and extensions, and rules related to completion of a TPR appeal. Furthermore, the team recommended a statewide workgroup to update the statewide social summary template and policy. Further discussion from the workgroup identified a need to have consistent data collection methods across the state for further monitoring and report development.

The child welfare agency worked with community partners and completed the TPR practice guideline to align practice with the courts, provide clarification for federal timelines for TPR, and provide explanations of compelling reasons, concurrent planning, and reasonable efforts. Progress to increase timely TPR's will be monitored utilizing the statewide quarterly case reviews starting in May 2021. Workgroups focused on TPR have continued to meet even after completion of the targeted PIP goals. Nevada continues to identify ways to decrease the barriers to timely TPR's utilizing focus groups and continues

to improve the quality of data being entered into UNITY for data collection and tracking purposes. This has been completed by creating additional training around data entry of TPR's, UNITY change requests to improve the system and report building for monitoring data.

Over the past 2 years, DCFS has been working to develop a report in which children who have an adoption goal are captured, along with TPR information to track timeliness to TPR, both by the agency and the courts. DCFS is currently in the vetting stage of building the report, which will be put in production in the next couple of months.

Item 24: Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers

Statewide 0206 Court Notification policy mandates that proper notification of court hearings and court reviews regarding the status of a child in the custody of a child welfare agency must be provided and is necessary to ensure active involvement and participation of caregivers (pre-adoptive, foster parents, relative, fictive kin, etc.) in the child's safety, permanency, and well-being.

Notice of annual and semi-annual court hearings to caregivers must be supplied, pursuant to NRS 432B.580(6)(a)(b), to all parties to any of the prior proceedings, and parents and any persons planning to adopt the child, relatives of the child or providers of foster care who are currently providing care to the child. If a child in protective custody is determined to be of Indigenous descent, the child welfare agency must notify the tribe in writing at the beginning of the proceedings. If the Indigenous child is eligible for membership in more than one tribe, each tribe must be notified.

This item was rated as an ANI in the 2018 CFSR. The statewide assessment indicated that the state did not consistently provide notice of hearings to caregivers, failure of notices arriving timely, limited time for court hearings, high caseloads for caseworkers, and the practices of some caseworkers discouraging caregiver attendance were identified as challenges.

PIP Team 3 addressed this through PIP activity 3.2.3 which developed a template for caregivers to share child information with the court.

A statewide workgroup reviewed the current statewide policy 0206 Court Notification and revised it to include federal standards identifying caregivers are afforded the right to attend and be heard during the Semi-Annual and Permanency hearings. A new attachment, FPO 0206E – Caregiver Notice of Hearing, was added to the policy to provide notification to caregivers. The attachment explains the caregivers' right to be noticed of and attend the Semi-Annual and Permanency court hearings and to speak on behalf of themselves, their family, or the child being cared for, or the ability to submit in writing the update for the child prior to court. This template also provides the caregiver with prompts to identify what child information would be useful in court.

Systemic Factor C: Quality Assurance System

Item 25: Quality Assurance System

Nevada Revised Statutes 432B.180 and 432.2155 requires DCFS to monitor the performance of child welfare agencies through data collection, evaluation of services and the review and approval of agency improvement plans pursuant to NRS 432B.2155. Nevada Administrative Code 432B.030 details the activities required concerning evaluation of services provided by the child welfare agencies and actions upon determination of noncompliance with certain provisions.

Although the state utilizes a quarterly case review data and process that mirrors the federal CFSR case review process including the use of the federal on-site review instrument, the 2018 CFSR identified this item as an area needing improvement.

Item 25 was previously addressed by PIP Activities 1.1.3, 1.2.3, 1.2.4, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 3.4.1, 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.2.1, 4.3.4, and 4.4.1 and ongoing through activities in Goal 4 of the CFSP. From 2020 through 2021, the state conducted a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Self-Assessment with technical assistance from the Capacity Building Center for States (CBCS). It was previously determined that program improvement measures were not linked to the case review results and that relevant reports of the case review results are not utilized to implement improvement measures. The state asserts it has continued to make progress in improving its quality assurance system. This was accomplished with the support of the CBCS and through completing the CQI Self-Assessment which identified areas of opportunity across several domains. This past year, the state continued to embrace a CQI culture in its statewide teams and workgroups, sub workgroups and within the SQIC. Over the next year, through the activities identified through the self-assessment on the CQI Action Plan, significant progress will continue to be made in this area.

Nevada received confirmation of successfully completing its CFSR PIP on September 29, 2022. From October of 2022, through March of 2023, Nevada paused its quarterly case reviews. The state took this opportunity to celebrate its success, update its training for new case reviewers, and to assess its case review processes in an effort to improve the case review experience through a CQI lens. In April of 2023, Nevada restarted its statewide quarterly case reviews, continuing to utilize the federal review tool, the OSRI for Round 4. Results from the April review are included in this report. Nevada's next statewide quarterly case review will occur in August of 2023. Over the next year, the state plans to look closer at its performance since the 2018 CFSR, while comparing any progress made through its completion of its PIP, to current statewide performance. Nevada also plans to build its pool of case reviewers and QA staff and elicit feedback from case review participants. This analysis will inform and drive statewide CQI activities and planning for both Nevada's 2025-2029 CFSP and Round 4 of the CFSR.

The requirements for this systemic factor and the state's QA/CQI system, as well as any updates to progress in this area are described further in the sections: Quality Assurance System and under Goal 4: Improve Statewide Child Welfare Outcomes by Developing and Strengthening the Statewide Quality Assurance System to Ensure the System Can Identify and Respond to The Strengths and Needs of the Child Welfare System in an Efficient and Effective Manner. Additionally, please refer to Attachment I: CQI Self-Assessment and Attachment J: Nevada's CQI Action Plan.

Systemic Factor D: Staff and Provider Training

Item 26: Initial Staff Training

NRS 432B.195, 432B.397, and NAC 432B.090 requires the state to provide a full staff development and training program which includes a minimum of 40 hours of training related to the principles and practices of child welfare services. This includes specific training related to the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and cultural competence in working with LGBTQ youth. Statewide training policy 1402 Child Welfare Training Requirements specifies the pre-service training requirements for all case-carrying child welfare staff and direct supervisors in the first year of employment.

Preservice training is accomplished through the Title IV-E funded Nevada Partnership for Training (NPT). Pre-service training is provided statewide by University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) which also partner with the child welfare jurisdictions to deliver specific content along with coordinating on-the-job-training. This partnered approach to facilitate the training of new case managers allows for the integration of theory, jurisdictional agency policy, practical information, skill demonstration, and simulated skill practice. Content is delivered in a modular format along the trajectory of the life of a family through the system, and trainees complete pre- and post-tests at each module, along with satisfaction surveys. In addition, efforts have been made to provide a standardized assessment and feedback structure for written assignments and simulation experiences.

Item 26 was rated as an ANI during the 2018 CFSR. Statewide assessment showed that the state does not have the ability to track initial training over time for newly hired agency staff and differential response staff. Training overall was described as too broad for the various program areas and lacking practical training aimed at completion of basic job tasks.

This is not a specific PIP activity but was addressed through CFSP Goal 3 to support a Healthy Workforce. To monitor and support the workforce, the state purchased and implemented a new Child Welfare Learning Management System (LMS) in March 2018. The Learning Management System (LMS) is a software application for the administration, documentation, tracking, reporting, automation, and delivery of the child welfare educational and training courses. The universities have been standardizing their systems in partnership with the child welfare agencies to maintain timely workforce data and host

in-house training registration and maintain records. A past review determined that the LMS was not being used to its full capacity. The statewide Workforce Innovation Team has monitored the improved utilization of the system including report development, monitoring of staff training and licensure status and increased access to training modules. This monitoring will continue into the upcoming year.

The state asserts it has made progress for this systemic factor. NPTLearn, the state's LMS, has been in use for almost four years now, and the state is starting to use the peer/social networking and analytic capabilities of the system to bolster professional development beyond single training events and support transfer of learning outside of the classroom (more information on this is provided in Attachment D Nevada Training Plan). Additionally, compliance reports have been created for all required PIP training in which the system automatically emails the jurisdictions on a regular basis to aid in monitoring training attendance. A dashboard has been created in NPTLearn so that executive leadership and managers can monitor the completion of these post training activities and supports of their staff.

NPT continues to evaluate the pre-service training through pre- and post-tests, along with satisfaction surveys. These are distributed to participants at the end of each module so that they can self-report their abilities across the training learning objectives, increase in understanding, instructor effectiveness, curriculum effectiveness, and overall perception of the training.

Although rubrics are used for simulation and mock case components, these currently are only shared with the individual learner. NPT is exploring incorporating pre-service rubrics into NPTLearn so that aggregate data can be used for training evaluation.

Local jurisdiction training teams and the universities meet regularly, and test scores along with focus group and survey data are made available to maintain a QA/QI feedback loop and revisions are made on a regular basis.

Item 27: On- Going Staff Training

Statewide policy 1402 Child Welfare Training Requirements requires that all staff engaged in child welfare services and their supervisors/managers must meet the minimum requirements for ongoing training set forth in NAC 641B.187 which requires consistency with the continuing education requirements set forth by the Nevada Board of Examiners for Social Work for LSW licensees which includes completion of at least thirty (30) hours of continuing education in the field of child welfare practice every two (2) years from date of hire, including the following:

- Completion of four (4) hours of continuing education related to ethics in the practice of social worker every two (2) years from date of hire. The content areas that will count towards the ethics requirement include professional boundaries, confidentiality, dual relationships, documentation, billing, fraud, telehealth,

supervision, social media, sexual harassment, exploitation of clients, managing job stress, social work laws and regulations, cultural competency and racial biases, risk management, mandated reporting, scope of practice, professional conduct, standards of care, impaired professionals, and/or certifications for an emergency admission, release from an emergency admission or involuntary court-order.

- Completion of at least two (2) hours of instruction on evidence-based suicide prevention and awareness every two (2) years from date of hire.
- In-service trainings in the field of child welfare practice earned within two (2) years prior to hire by an agency which provides child welfare services are eligible for credit review by the University Training Coordinators.

Ongoing training is accomplished through the Title IV-E funded Nevada Partnership for Training (NPT) and is provided statewide by University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) and the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) in partnership with the child welfare jurisdictions.

Item 27 was rated as an ANI during the 2018 CFSR. The statewide assessment identified that the state has limited capacity to track ongoing staff trainings and licensure. There were only a few mandatory ongoing trainings related to child welfare and most mandatory trainings pertained to personnel concerns. Supervisor training is generic and there is no ongoing supervisor training requirement. CFSP Goal 3, addressing healthy workforce, has driven the statewide implementation of CoachNV to enhance supervisory skills to support workforce development and to reduce staff turnover.

This was not a specific PIP activity associated with this item, but the goals here were identified in CFSP Goal 3 to support a healthy workforce. To monitor and support the workforce, the state purchased and implemented a new Child Welfare Learning Management System (LMS) in March 2018. The LMS is a software application for the administration, documentation, tracking, reporting, automation, and delivery of the child welfare educational and training courses. The universities have been standardizing their systems in partnership with the child welfare agencies to maintain timely workforce data and host in-house training registration and maintain records. A past review determined that the LMS was not being used to its full capacity. The current LMS is a complex and comprehensive site with different functions and capabilities. It took a couple of years to explore its uses and applicability to the statewide workforce. That, in combination with the COVID-19 pandemic and staffing challenges, delayed the utilization of the LMS to its full potential. The universities continue to work on developing efficient ways to track new employee first and second year training requirements, as well as ongoing training requirements for the workforce. The statewide Workforce Innovation Team (WIT) has and will continue to monitor a plan to improve the utilization of the system including report development, monitoring of staff training, licensure status and increased access to training modules.

NPTLearn and the state have started using the peer/social networking and analytic capabilities of the system to bolster professional development beyond single training events and support transfer of learning outside of the classroom (more information on this

is provided in Attachment D Nevada Training Plan). Additionally, compliance reports have been created for all required PIP training in which the system automatically emails the jurisdictions on a regular basis to aid in monitoring training attendance. A dashboard has been created in NPTLearn so that executive leadership and managers can monitor the completion of these post training activities and supports of their staff.

Ongoing, in-service trainings are delivered live, asynchronous on-line, and synchronous to the statewide child welfare workforce. The statewide policy 1402 Training Policy, effective April 29, 2019, includes both first year and second year training requirements which dictate specific courses to be taken in these first important years on the job for child welfare staff.

The Nevada Partnership for Training (NPT) developed an entire asynchronous, online mental health series that meets first- and second-year training requirements. Following completion of a foundational course, staff will be able to take an additional course exploring more in-depth information about mental health disorders, as well as an array of shorter courses (17 total) designed to provide more specified detail about mental health diagnostic categories.

Meeting the second-year requirement, the NPT developed a worker well-being training, "Self-Care in Stressful Times." This instructor-led course provides ways to manage stress in different situations, how to identify and work through burn-out, how to develop a good self-care plan, and the ethical responsibilities of having self-care in the field. Additionally, asynchronous online courses were developed for LGBTQ and CSEC as part of the annual requirement.

Additional in-service training topics developed by NPT include topics related to trauma, child sexual abuse, engaging youth and building resilience, ethics, mandated reporting, motivational interviewing, suicide prevention, and others under development. Two asynchronous online courses were developed because of the PIP. The first, "Nevada Juvenile Dependency Mediation Training," educates child welfare staff so that you can effectively participate during court-ordered dependency mediation. The second, "Trauma, Court, and Engagement – Using Communication Strategies to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families," informs caseworkers about the court process and the transition toward trauma-informed care in the courtroom. It was developed as a companion piece to the judge's trauma-informed care training they received and is meant to support the overall court process by helping caseworkers identify how to model and encourage trauma-informed care.

The state asserts it has made progress on this systemic factor. Conversations around reviewing, modifying, and improving the state's existing supervisor training have continued to be held over the past year during WIT meetings and remains a standing agenda item. The statewide policy 1402 Training Policy requires that all case-carrying child welfare staff and the direct supervisors of 1 first- and second-year employees annually complete training in LGBTQ and Cultural Competency and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. In addition to required trainings, in-service trainings targeting

supervisors specifically is also provided in partnership with UNR and UNLV. Over the next year, more attention and focus will be placed on this series of training and ways in which CoachNV can be integrated into it. CoachNV focuses on instilling a coaching framework into practice. CoachNV has been delivered to executive leadership, managers, and supervisors statewide. The state received intensive technical assistance from the Capacity Building Center for States to support the implementation and evaluation of the coaching model. Currently, the state is refining a fidelity tool to utilize moving forward.

PIP Key Activities 2.1.2, 2.1.4, 2.1.5, 3.1.1, 3.2.1 A, 3.2.3 (A).

Item 28: Foster Parent and Adoptive Training

NAC 424 outlines the minimum standards for foster homes, specialized foster homes, group foster and independent living foster homes. NAC Chapter 432A includes the minimum standards for childcare facilities and childcare institutions. Childcare facilities refer to temporary care provided for 5 or more children and institutions are facilities serving 16 or more children who do not routinely return to the home of their parents or guardians. NAC 127.485 outlines training requirements for the adoption of children with special needs.

NAC 424.270 states an applicant for a license for a foster home must have at least eight hours of training in foster parenting provided or approved by the agency that provides child welfare services in the subjects described in NRS 424.0365, laws and regulations applicable to foster parenting, the structure of agencies which provide child welfare services, childhood trauma, the importance of family relationships and other meaningful relationships and basic first aid, including, without limitation, training in the administration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation. If the home has a pool, hot tub or Jacuzzi or other free-standing body of water or sauna, the applicants must also obtain information on water safety, pool safety and the risk of drowning. Annually each foster parent must complete a minimum of four hours of advanced training in foster parenting provided or approved by the agency that provides child welfare services.

NAC 424.712 requires specialized foster homes or a foster care agency to have a minimum of 40 hours pre-service training and NAC 424.714 requires an additional 20 hours of continuing education training annually. NRS 424.0365 also requires that anyone who “operates a family foster home, a specialized foster home, an independent living foster home or a group foster home shall ensure that each employee who comes into direct contact with children in the home receive training within 90 days after employment and annual thereafter. Such training must include, without limitation, instruction concerning: (a) controlling the behavior children; (b) policies and procedures concerning the use of force and restraint on children; (c) the rights of children in the home; (d) suicide awareness and prevention; (e) the administration of medication to children; (f) applicable state and federal constitution and statutory rights of children in the home; (g) policies and procedures concerning other matters affecting the health, welfare, safety and civil and

other rights of children in the home; and (h) working with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning children such other matters as are required by the licensing authority or pursuant to regulations of the Division. NRS 432A.177 requires childcare facilities staff to receive the same training, within 90 days of employment.

The statewide Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) program strives at making sure every child living in foster care is cared for by a caregiver (foster, relative, fictive, and/or adoptive) who provides skilled nurturing parenting while helping the child maintain connections to his or her family www.qpinevada.org/. As part of the QPI program, each region has a collaborative QPI committee with foster caregivers and child welfare staff that addresses the training needs of foster parents as well as recruitment and retention of foster homes.

Initial Foster and Adoptive Parent Training

Nevada child welfare agencies use different approaches to licensing foster and adoptive homes. Despite the different approaches, all meet the minimum requirements of Nevada regulations: completion of pre-service and ongoing training, background checks, home study and home inspection requirements. Each region utilizes pre-service training curriculums that exceeds the minimum 8-hour state regulation requirement in NAC 424.270, providing 24 to 30 hours of training. For the basic competencies required by all foster caregivers, the northern and southern regions offer specialized training sessions for pre-adoptive parents and relative/fictive kin caregivers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions and protocols led agencies to transition to virtual information sessions and virtual pre-service trainings. Agencies now have a hybrid model offering both in person and online trainings for foster and adoptive parents, offered in both English and Spanish. Agencies have decided to continue these trainings and future trainings as virtual based on the needs articulated by our foster parents. In addition to scheduled trainings, agencies have prerecorded on-demand trainings in both English and Spanish for foster parents to view at their convenience. Increased telephone follow-up has been used to sustain a personal touch with trainees. When transitioning to a hybrid model, agencies updated training information and materials. Furthermore, agencies are implementing licensing applications, such as Benti, to help track and monitor the initial training process for perspective foster and adoptive parents. One agency's staff has participated in Trust Based Relational Interventions (TBRI) and trained in the Circle of Security Parenting (COSP) training program to increase knowledge and intervention strategies when teaching caregivers about the importance of connection and relationships. This agency has enhanced pre-service training content and material to a more focused approach regarding fostering and made multiple updates to existing material with this focus. Agencies statewide have partnered with the Foster Kinship Program to provide additional education and support, including technology, to kinship and relative caregivers. Relative training differs from non-relative training in the number of hours that the caregiver needs to become licensed. While these are different in each jurisdiction, the average is about a 10 hour decrease in training hours for relative caregivers. While the training is still a trauma informed care training, the material is geared more towards the needs of relatives and fictive kin.

Some updates and improvements made to the training include providing specific information for carrying out the duties of being a foster parent, communication with the agency, the foster parent's role with the agency and court, and the responsibilities to the child. Additionally, training includes co-parenting/QPI, and trauma informed caregiving. The training is the initial introduction in working with children who are in foster care and in some areas this information is supported and reinforced by a team of placement support liaisons. Some identified responsibilities for foster parents include ensuring children's medical/dental screenings/needs are addressed, helping a child learn to control emotions and behavior, providing needed transportation for the child, and providing opportunities for normalcy in the home. Additionally, the pre-service training includes trauma and conflict management, appropriate consequences for non-compliant behavior, and foster parent ethics, especially around child privacy, confidentiality, and mandated reporting. Pre-service trainings also discuss race and ethnicity with foster and adoptive parents. Agencies are using and implementing the placement matching module within the Benti software system. The intention of this program is to make more suitable matches with our foster families and foster children, while being more cognizant of the cultural competencies that come with placing a child of a specific ethnic background with foster parents that share the same ethnic background. To encourage relatives to become licensed foster parents, training requirements have been modified to include reduced training hours; however, all the NAC trainings are required for both non-relative and relative/kinship caregivers statewide. Additionally, the offered trainings include relative specific trainings. These trainings include topics such as navigating the relationships with the family/family dynamics, and other topics specific to relative foster care. From July 1, 2022, through May 1, 2023, the agencies had 250 households (non-relative) complete the pre-service training statewide, and 6,224 relative and fictive kin households complete training.

Specialized Foster Care (SFC)

The specialized foster care program and advanced foster care are implemented in all child welfare agencies to serve children with significant emotional and behavioral problems. NAC 424.712 requires 40 hours of training before providing direct care. Foster parents are required to receive advanced training in an evidenced base foster care treatment model, Together Facing the Challenge. They also receive trauma informed care and medication and administration training. Foster parents receive in-home weekly coaching, direct support, and coaching in utilizing the tools learned in the advanced trainings, ongoing phone support and crisis response when needed. In Specialized Foster Care the support services are provided by a contracted foster care agency and in Advanced Foster Care services are provided by staff employed by a child welfare agency. The DCFS is legislatively mandated to measure outcomes of these programs to determine the success and wellbeing of the higher-need children placed in these homes.

Foster Care Agencies: Contracted Foster Homes

Foster care agencies have the same minimum training requirements as specialized foster care; however, the foster care agencies are responsible for providing and ensuring their

contracted foster homes have met the training requirements outlined in NAC 424.712 and NRS 424.0365. They are required to submit the curriculum to the licensing authority for approval (NAC 424.212 (5)). Each member of the direct care staff foster care agency must complete training before providing supervision or direct care of a child or beginning any other responsibilities related to the supervision or direct care of children.

Ongoing Foster Parent Training

Nevada uses a web-based training and service program, called Just-In-Time training to connect foster parents, kinship or other caregivers with training, peer experts and other resources. Just-In-Time is part of the statewide Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) program which strives at making sure every child living in foster care is cared for by a caregiver (foster, relative, fictive, and/or adoptive) who provides skilled nurturing parenting while helping the child maintain connections to his or her family www.qpinevada.org/. The state holds a contract, using adoption incentive funding, with the University of South Florida to maintain the QPI/Just-In-Time website which includes data extraction and technical support.

As part of the QPI program, a statewide monthly meeting is held to address statewide activities and each region has a collaborative QPI committee to address on-going training needs of foster parents. Each region also has a QPI newsletter informing foster parents of new trainings available through Just-In-Time. In addition to web-based training, in-person advanced trainings are also offered throughout the year. As of 2023, in person ongoing training for foster and adoptive parents has not resumed in person and continues to be available in an online platform. Nevada will continue to support the online platform based on the needs articulated by foster parents. The statewide workgroup has provided accessible trainings, offering them in both English and Spanish, as well as ensuring all the provided trainings have closed captioning. In some areas, Spanish training sessions continue to be offered on a bi-monthly basis and are now also available on-demand. Attendance and participation have been steady throughout the year. Support groups are held monthly in Spanish to offer support and information sharing to meet the unique needs of Spanish speaking families.

Additional efforts have been made to ensure that the QPI/Just-In-Time website has updated culture and diversity trainings available to all caregivers. Just-In-Time provides a post-test, upon passing the post-test the foster caregiver is emailed a certificate of training. The QPI/Just-in-Time website reports issuing an average of 1,200 completed training certificates per month in FY23. Child welfare agency licensing workers annually collect all documentation from the foster/adoptive licensees for the ongoing/advanced trainings they have attended during the past year. This information is maintained in the licensee's hard case file.

Child Care Institutions

Requirements for training are identified within NRS 432A.177, and NAC 432A.323, .326. Completion of training requirements are monitored through the Division of Public and

Behavioral Health (DPBH) / Child Care Licensing (CCL), DHHS. The DPBH CCL inspects these facilities in-person, twice a year at which time CCL monitors trainings for all direct caregivers employed by the childcare institution who provide care to children. During the most recent bi-annual inspection in December of 2021, Nevada childcare institutions received citations made for training deficiencies. A plan of correction was issued to these institutions to provide proof of staff compliance with training. As of May of 2022, these institutions are in compliance.

Item 28 was rated as an ANI during the 2018 CFSR. The statewide assessment identified that the training provided for foster and adoptive parents differs by jurisdiction and may lack content specific to carrying out duties of being a foster parent. Additionally, the state did not have a coordinated system in place to monitor and track completion of foster parent training. Following the completion of the PIP, the state is now pursuing the formation of a foster care licensing workgroup to address the tracking of training.

While no activity directly impacts pre- and post-service foster parent training, there are a few key activities that will impact foster parents: PIP key activities 2.1.6, 3.2.1, 3.2.1A, 3.2.2 and 3.2.2B. With PIP key activity 2.1.6, Nevada utilized the QPI Nevada website to post policies that directly impact foster parents to better engage foster parents in understanding what the child welfare agencies do regarding caseworker contact and visitation. Nevada believes this will improve family engagement by involving caregivers in collaborative relationships to ensure the well-being of children in care and by educating foster caregivers about practice. PIP key activities 3.2.1 and 3.2.2, which updated the KinGAP and case planning policies, and PIP key activities 3.2.1A and 3.2.2B, will enhance foster parent understanding of these practices as they have received updated and clarified information about case planning and guardianship options from case workers and stakeholders.

Performance Item 28 was further addressed by making policies and educational court guides available to foster parents through the Nevada QPI website. DCFS worked with the University of South Florida and made enhancements to the Nevada QPI website, which includes reorganization of information, addition of resources for better accessibility, updating the website with new trainings, offered in both English and Spanish, and enhancing each agency's dedicated website areas with updated forms and information. The child welfare agencies have continued to educate staff on the revised policies and practices to enhance foster parent understanding and provide clarification about case planning, concurrent planning, and kinship guardianship.

As part of the effort to ensure that caregivers are receiving beneficial training that enhances the caregiver's knowledge and skills, the child welfare agency conducted a survey to identify how effective the provided training have been. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and protocols all trainings after March 2020, were conducted online through learn at your own pace and through virtual instructor led classes. The survey collected the responses of 275 caregivers and the data collected as of January 31, 2021, shows:

- About 72% of caregivers identified that recent trainings have provided them with the knowledge necessary to carry out caregiver duties;
- About 57% of caregivers identified that recent trainings have provided them with the skills necessary to carry out caregiver duties; and
- About 76% of caregivers feel adequately trained to carry out duties regarding foster and/or adopted children.

Given these results, agencies are continuing to provide trainings to ensure caregivers are provided with useful knowledge and practicable skills to promote the permanency and well-being of youth in foster care.

Systemic Factor E: Service Array and Resource Development

Item 29: Array of Services

NRS 432.011(a) states that the purposes of the Division of Child and Family Services include ensuring that a sufficient range of services is available to provide care and treatment to children and families in the least restrictive setting appropriate to their needs.

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) promotes the health and well-being of its residents through the delivery or facilitation of a multitude of essential services to ensure families are strengthened, public health is protected, and individuals achieve their highest level of self-sufficiency. The Department is the largest in state government, comprised of five Divisions along with additional programs and offices overseen by the DHHS' Director's Office. The five Divisions include Aging and Disability Services (ADSD), Child and Family Services (DCFS), Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP; Medicaid), Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) and Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS). DHHS is the lead agency for the community-based child abuse prevention programs in Nevada and leads the child maltreatment prevention activities in Nevada.

The DCFS oversees the administration and management of all child welfare federal grants. In addition, the DCFS is responsible for administering Victims of Crime Assistance (VOCA) funding to identified child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assault victims, as well as to underserved populations such as commercially sexually exploited children. The DCFS is also responsible for administering Family Violence and Prevention Services, Victims of Domestic Violence and VOCA Training as well as Technical Assistance grants focused on meeting national certification standards.

Item 29 was rated an ANI during the 2018 CFSR. The statewide assessment identified service gaps and lengthy waiting lists, especially with substance abuse services and monitoring and behavioral and mental health service delivery. There are also gaps in housing and transportation. The State does not have the capacity to report service delivery numbers of clients served, track waiting lists, or identify unmet service needs. As part of the Nevada FFPSA Prevention Plan development, Nevada completed a multi-

pronged needs collaborative service array assessment with DHHS sister agencies. The purpose of the assessment was to identify new services and expansion opportunities.

This item was addressed by PIP activities 4.5.1, 4.5.2, 4.5.3, 4.5.5, and 4.5.6, which addressed the service array continuum. Funding streams were identified for service expansion opportunities through PIP activity 4.5.3. The financial crisis experienced because of COVID-19 and the ensuing national health emergency caused the timeframe for expanding comprehensive community health services through PIP activity 4.5.6 to be extended from Quarter 4 to Quarter 6 (CB Memo dated August 18, 2020). Although funding for new services was not secured, the State was able to leverage existing funding available through the State's System of Care Grant to expand existing community services to improve its service array. Some of the expansion of existing community services included expanding coverage areas by incorporating telehealth platforms, certifying new clinicians in telehealth, expanding access to psychiatric services/assessments, as well as expanding access to early childhood clinical interventions. The State asserts it has made progress in this area for this performance item.

Item 30: Individualizing Services

NRS 432.011(a) states that the purposes of the Division of Child and Family Services include ensuring that a sufficient range of services is available to provide care and treatment to children and families in the least restrictive setting appropriate to their needs.

Item 30 was rated as an ANI during the 2018 CFSR. The statewide assessment revealed that although some services can be individualized the state struggles with services for children with special needs. Specifically, providing interpreters and Spanish speaking counseling, as well as the capacity to individualize services to address developmental, disability and cultural needs are areas of opportunity.

The state asserts it has made progress in this area for this performance item. Improvements to this item are supported by the activities outlined in the [Collaboration](#), [Goal 1A](#) and [Item 29](#) sections. Progress includes continued collaboration with community partners to ensure knowledge and responsiveness to community needs, and expansion of the service array through FFPSA planning and the System of Care grant.

Systemic Factor F: Agency Responsiveness to the Community

Item 31: State Engagement in Consultation with Stakeholders

NRS 432.0305 and NRS 432B require the DCFS to observe and study the changing nature and extent of the need for child welfare services and to cooperate with the federal government in adopting and completing state plans that will assist the DCFS in providing services for children and families. This is accomplished through coordination and

collaboration with other public and private agencies and entities in developing the five-year Child and Family Services Plan and ongoing annual updates required by Title IV-B. The DCFS collaborates with a variety of entities in this process. Some key examples include:

- The Systems Advocate assists constituents regarding complaints and concerns regarding the programs the Division oversees. This advocate also serves as the Public Information Office, public record request officer and hearing officer.
- The Quality Parenting Initiative was developed statewide to ensure that every child removed from their home due to abandonment, abuse, or neglect is cared for by a foster family who provides skilled, nurturing parenting while helping the child maintain connections with their family. This collaborative holds monthly meetings in each local jurisdiction and includes foster parents from each area. The team continues to address resources parents need by providing updated trainings and creating policy and guidelines that promote the well-being of the child and interactions between parents and resource parents.
- The Nevada Office for Victims of Crime (VOC) manages the funding and service delivery for victim services throughout Nevada. VOC strives to continuously improve access for all victims and survivors through strategic planning, communication, and resource sharing among the state agencies that support and fund victim services.
- System of Care is a family driven and youth guided program to serve children who have serious emotional disturbance while also providing support and services to their families. Currently the focus is on expansion of services to the rural counties.
- Additional partners are outlined in the Collaboration section starting on page 14.

Item 31 was rated as a strength during the 2018 CFSR. DCFS collaborates, engages, and responds to internal and external stakeholders such as tribal representatives, children and families, service providers, foster care providers, the juvenile court, court improvement, and other family-serving agencies in the development of the CFSP, APSR, and CFSR.

The state asserts that it continues to make progress toward this item. This item continues to be supported by activities outlined in the Collaboration, Goal1A, Item 29 and PIP Item 3.2.3. The child welfare agency is encouraging participation from stakeholders by providing the opportunity to have a representative at meetings and workgroups. In addition to stakeholder representation, the stakeholders have been able to support agency program improvements by implementing changes within their system which correspond with the agency. This engagement and collaboration will continue to advance the child welfare system.

Item 32: Coordination of CFSP Services with other Federal Programs

The state follows the requirements to submit the CFSP, as well as the activities, accomplishments and future initiatives which are submitted annually in the APSR in

accordance with the Title IV-B, subparts 1 and 2 and Section 477 of Title IV- E of the Social Security Act, CAPTA, and Federal regulations at 45 CFR Part 1357. Nevada has remained in compliance each year with these requirements and has received approval on all plans and reports since the requirement was established in 2005.

The State of Nevada has a system in place to coordinate services under the CFSP with services or benefits by other federal or federally assisted programs serving the same population group. The DCFS relies on close relationships with a wide range of partners and interdependencies to coordinate services and benefits to the same population group. The following Divisions under the umbrella of the DHHS receive federal funding in which active coordination efforts are on-going:

- The Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) works in partnership with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to provide Medical Services to Nevada families.
- The Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) who work in partnership to protect, promote, and improve the physical and behavioral health of the people of Nevada. This includes overseeing and administering clinical and community services.
- The Division of Welfare and Supportive Services who work to provide quality, timely and temporary services enabling Nevada families to achieve their highest levels of self-sufficiency.
- The Aging and Disability Services Division deliver comprehensive support to elders, adults and children with disabilities or special health care needs.

This item was determined to be a strength in the 2018 CFSR. The statewide assessment showed the state collaborates with numerous regional, county, and tribal agencies. Nevada DCFS continues to recognize the importance of coordination with other federal programs, including the federally funded initiatives in the planning of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), to prevent duplication of efforts and to leverage funding and collaborative efforts. This item is supported by activities outlined in [Collaboration, Goal1A, Item 29](#) and PIP Items 4.5.1, 4.5.2, 4.5.3, 4.5.5 and 4.5.6.

Systemic Factor G: Foster and Adoptive Home Licensing, Approval, and Recruitment

Item 33: Standards Applied Equally

NAC 424-Foster Homes for Children regulations serve as the overarching standards for foster homes. NAC 424.250 specifies staffing ratios in specialized foster homes, family and group foster homes. Statewide policy 1305 Use of Waivers – Foster Care and Adoption outlines procedures for requesting a waiver for certain foster care licensure and/or adoption standards as well as identifies the fiscal ramifications of using a waiver, which can affect IV-E eligibility or non-eligibility for reimbursement of funding through the federal government.

The 2018 Family First Prevention and Services Act (FFPSA) requires Child Care Institutions, which includes group homes, residential treatment centers, shelters, and other congregate care settings in Nevada that provide placement to children in foster care, must meet the same Federal Title IV-E Criminal History and Child Abuse and Neglect Screening (CANS) background checks as foster homes. Statewide Policy 1606 Child Care Institution – Criminal Background Checks/Out-of-State Central Registry Checks was finalized in November 2019 to meet this requirement.

The State of Nevada previously reported work on NAC 424 to bring Nevada into compliance with the National Model Licensing Standards by October of 2019; however, it was realized through work with the Children's Bureau, Nevada could submit with their Title IV-E Plan, Family First Prevention Services Act: Deviation from Model Licensing Standards and Waivers for Foster Family Homes outlining where Nevada's standards deviate from the National Model Licensing Standards. Nevada submitted the standards to the Children's Bureau on September 4, 2019 and was provided approval of this submission on September 25, 2019. The changes to NAC 424 are approved and in the process of being updated through the Legislative Commission.

This item was rated an ANI during the 2018 CFSR as the state was not systematically tracking the specific reasons for using waivers of licensing standards for foster homes, especially for non-relative foster homes licensed using a waiver. Issuing a waiver to license a foster home in Nevada is now a broader process that requires multiple levels of oversight, through the local child welfare's management and administration as well as through DCFS Administration.

The CFSP outlines a goal of using a statewide quarterly workgroup to review and ensure the statewide policy is being properly implemented and determine if there are consistent criteria for use of non-safety related waivers. This workgroup met in April of 2021, and discussed the current practice for waivers. It was agreed the waiver process is running smoothly. Occasionally, there are cases that require back and forth to determine whether the waiver qualifies. The workgroup has continued to convene quarterly to discuss and train on these types of cases that require more research and discussion to determine whether a waiver is needed and so that statewide practice will be consistent. DCFS FPO established a statewide tracking system to easily identify the number and types of waivers approved, reporting of circumstance resolving the need for a waiver and updating regulations as required by law and/or practice changes. The waivers are currently being tracked by DCFS FPO and the tracking information includes approval/denial, agency, name, relative vs. non-relative, NAC requesting to be waived and the reason for request, safety vs. non-safety, and IV-Eligibility.

All waiver requests are submitted for review through the child welfare agencies internal process and then submitted to DCFS FPO. Waivers are required to filter through the DCFS FPO office for review and ensure the statewide policy 1305 Use of Waivers – Foster Care and Adoption is being properly implemented, and adequate information is provided for approval by the DCFS administrator. Furthermore, DCFS FPO provides technical assistance for applicability or waiver related questions to the child welfare

agencies. From July 1, 2022, through May 1, 2023, there have been 20 waivers statewide: 7 non-relative, 13 relative, 7 safety-related and 13 non-safety related. The process for tracking waivers is currently working to ensure that waivers are being completed consistently and in accordance with the statewide policy as evidenced by the requested waivers and feedback by the workgroup.

Item 34: Requirements for Criminal Background Checks

NRS 424 outlines the requirements for criminal background checks for anyone employed as staff or a director of a group treatment home or anyone applying to be a foster parent. Statewide policy 0515 Child Abuse and Neglect (CANS) and NCID Requirements for Prospective Foster and Adoptive Parents in response to the Adam Walsh Act of 2006 sets forth procedures for conducting and responding to CANS checks; conducting and establishing statewide standards for authorizing placement of children with caregivers who have undergone an NCID and CANS check. No foster home or adoption applicant is issued a foster home license until all criminal background checks have been completed.

Item 34 was rated as a strength during the 2018 CFSR. Information in the statewide assessment showed that criminal background checks were completed as required for all licensed and unlicensed foster caregivers. This item continued to be strengthened in November of 2019, with the issuance of statewide policy 1606 Child Care Institution – Criminal Background Checks/Out-of-State Central Registry Checks to address the requirement of the Family First Prevention and Services Act that Child Care Institutions must meet the same Federal Title IV-E Criminal History and Child Abuse and Neglect Screening (CANS) background checks as foster homes which requires that no adult, paid or unpaid, is allowed to work in a Child Care Institution until all criminal and CANS checks have been completed and verify the applicant is cleared.

The CFSP outlines a goal of using a statewide quarterly workgroup to review and discuss issues that arise during the criminal background clearance and solutions to ensure licensure does not occur until receiving clearance. Currently, Nevada utilizes their quarterly statewide licensing meetings as a space to discuss this.

Item 35: Diligent Recruitment of Foster and Adoptive Homes

As of 2019, the state has the authority through NRS 424.087 to require regional plans for the development of the recruitment and retention of foster homes. A determination of the number of the children in the geographic area addressing the needs of children in foster care to receive care provided in a racially and culturally competent manner. The plan also addresses serving children who have intellectual or developmental disabilities and who have other special needs; and maintaining siblings together. The purpose of the plan is to develop the resources that reflect the diversity of the children in care.

Additionally, NAC 127.480 requires the development of a plan to recruit prospective adoptive parents for children with special needs in the custody of the agency awaiting adoption.

Nevada formed an Adoption Call to Action (ACTA) team after attending two federal summits held in Washington, D.C. in August of 2019, and January of 2020. The team consists of membership from the regions, Raise the Future (formerly known as the Adoption Exchange), and the Family Programs Office. The team meets monthly for 90 minutes. The ACTA Team reviews adoption programming and addresses statewide needs with the goal of reducing the number of Nevada children and youth waiting to be adopted by identifying and eliminating barriers to achieving permanency.

Item 35 was rated an ANI during the 2018 CFSR as information in the statewide assessment showed a lack of consistency in the process for ensuring the diligent recruitment of potential foster and adoptive families who reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of children in the state who need homes across the state. The state continues to improve the collection of demographic data on the state's resource families and continues to train staff on using the data. Additionally, the state has provided staff opportunities to participate in cultural workgroups and cultural competencies trainings through the Nevada Partnership for Training (NPT) which provides groundwork for addressing diversity, cultural, racial, and socioeconomic issues. Refer to Attachment A Nevada Foster and Adoptive Parent Diligent Recruitment Plan. Progress of these efforts will be identified through the increase data usage and CQI activities.

The CFSP outlines a goal of using a statewide quarterly workgroup to discuss the various efforts being made in each jurisdiction, identified outcomes and any newly discovered trends or patterns. Recruitment and retention will be standard topics of discussion along with changing and/or differing demographics and how to work more collaboratively statewide in our recruitment efforts.

A workgroup was created including members from the licensing team and the Adoption Call to Action Team, to work with the CBCS to evaluate and analyze data that will be used to develop a comprehensive Foster and Adoptive Parent Diligent Recruitment Plan to include more effective strategies to target recruitment of permanent families for youth who have longer stays in foster care. This statewide workgroup began in January of 2021 and met monthly to review the statewide Diligent Recruitment plan and to make efforts to identify areas of concern and produce a statewide standard for foster care licensing and recruitment. The group concluded in April of 2021 and has used the learned information to update the identified strategies to assist with recruitment and retaining of foster parents. The workgroup had focused on improving statewide data quality within the CCWIS, Benti, and Prime, and targeted recruitment to address relative placements, diversity, cultural, and racial needs in Nevada.

The Adoption Call to Action Team continues to meet monthly to target the following goal: "Reduce the number of Nevada children and youth waiting to be adopted by identifying and eliminating barriers to achieving permanency." The work of the Adoption Call to

Action Team is supported through technical assistance support provided by the Capacity Building Center for States. The following strategies are being targeted through the Adoption Call to Action Plan and the Center for States Integrated Capacity Building Plan:

1. Review initial and ongoing data to inform interventions.
2. Participate in PIP Item 3.4.1 Timely Permanency Workgroup to inform the ACTA team in intervention planning.
3. Participate in targeted recruitment strategies.

Additionally, the Adoption Call to Action Team collaborates to problem solve, share ideas, and develop policies and procedures. The state asserts that it has made progress towards this item through the above activities. Over the next year, Nevada plans to research and collaborate with other states to research and identify possible strategies to increase the number, and diversity of, foster homes across the state, especially in the rural region. Nevada will seek out technical assistance as needed to develop a plan for coming years.

Item 36: State use of cross-jurisdictional resources for permanent placements

The state follows the federal requirements in accordance with P.L. 109-239, P.L. 109-248, 42 U.S.C. 670-679(b), the statutory requirements captured in NRS 127.330, NAC 432B.430, NAC 432B.435, NAC 432B.440, NRS 424.033 and the regulatory requirements in NAC 127.235. In addition to federal and state laws, the state's Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) Central Office also has a Safety Assessment and Family Evaluation (SAFE) policy, which serves as the primary means of evaluating and assessing the appropriateness of potential family foster care and licensed relative and adoptive families.

This item was determined to be an area needing improvement during the 2018 CFSP. In the statewide assessment, Nevada reported a low percentage of home studies from other states completed within the required 60 days. The state identified a lack of cooperation/compliance by the prospective caregivers and delays in processing criminal background checks as barriers to completing home studies timely. Nevada does not maintain data regarding ICPC requests for placement in other jurisdictions within the state. Stakeholders said that ICPC requests are kept open longer than 60 days, with delays commonly attributed to the resistance or ambivalence of the prospective placement home. It was found that staffing shortages of licensing workers across the state has impacted the time frame outcomes.

Table 36a Incoming and Outgoing Referrals SFY 2023YTD

Total Statewide Annual Incoming Referrals	Total Statewide Annual Outgoing Referrals	Total Statewide Approved Incoming Home Studies	Total Statewide Approved Outgoing Home Studies
SFY 23 YTD	SFY 23YTD	SFY 23 YTD	SFY 23 YTD
405	886	102	406

Table 36a provides placement numbers, both incoming and outgoing, which have remained consistent over the years. The numbers reflect incoming and outgoing referrals as well as home studies for the year to date and are taken from the NEICE system SFY 2023 YTD which includes July 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023. More than one study may be conducted for the same case.

Table 36b Incoming Referrals Approved SFY 2023 YTD

Total Statewide Incoming Home Study Referrals	Total Number of Incoming Home Studies Completed in 60 Days	Statewide Completion percentage in 60 Days
SFY 22 YTD		
405	206	51%

Table 36b illustrates that during SFY 2023, from July 1, 2022, until April 30, 2023, there were a total of 405 home study requests from other states, and 206 of these home studies were completed within 60 days. The percentage is based on 206 studies completed within 60 days out of 405 total incoming home study referrals for the period of July 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023. Data is taken from the NEICE system.

Table 36c Total Children Processed SFY 2023 YTD

Total Statewide Incoming Children Processed SFY 19 YTD	Total Statewide Outgoing Children Processed SFY 19 YTD	Total Children Processed SFY 19 YTD
405	886	1291

Table 36c illustrates that during SFY 2023 YTD the total number of children processed. Data is taken from NEICE system for SFY 2023 YTD, July 1, 2022, through April 30, 2023.

Over the past year the following activities have occurred to support CFSP goals and improve outcomes:

- Nevada ICPC has provided ongoing training and consultation to jurisdictional staff through the last year and is available via telephone, email, and TEAMS to answer

questions regarding new and ongoing requests and general questions regarding ICPC from in-state and out-of-state providers, ICPC offices, and jurisdictional staff. Discussions involved the ICPC process and specifically addressed time frames for home study completion. ICPC conducted TEAMS training on February 22, 2023, and March 22, 2023, with Clark County field workers and March 28, 2023, in person with Clark County ICPC staff.

- Nevada ICPC has implemented a Preliminary Home Study Report template that is sent to each staff completing home studies. The template is sent in conjunction with the Safe and Timely Act reminder. This form is fillable and easy to complete. It was created to allow workers to complete the Preliminary Report at the 50-day mark of the 60-day timeframe. The report identifies missing or incomplete items and requests anticipated date of completion thus meeting the definition of a Preliminary Report per Regulation Number 2 7(a).
- Nevada ICPC continues to track requested home studies both in state and out-of-state to achieve a higher rate of completion within the 60-day time frame. By using the NEICE tracking system and contact with jurisdictions, Nevada ICPC continues to monitor the Safe and Timely Notifications and remains vigilant in requesting updates, preliminary and final reports to meet the federal time frame for home studies. Based on the statistics above, Nevada has increased the amount of home studies meeting the federal time frame of 60 days indicative of the implementation of the preliminary report. Nevada continues to recover from the COVID19 pandemic and has significant staff shortages in all three regions. Other than Clark County, none of the other jurisdictions have designated staff for completion of home studies. Both Rural and Washoe County rely on contractors to complete the home studies and there is also a shortage of contractors.
- In efforts to ensure safe and permanent placements are achieved, Nevada ICPC has implemented an internal tracking system to request quarterly reports to ensure the safety and well-being of the children placed out of state. These reports are requested at 3-month (quarterly) intervals. The assigned ICPC worker requests the document from jurisdictional staff as well as out-of-state ICPC offices. ICPC asks for additional updates to cases whenever they are requested and makes every effort to get the requested information as well as providing workers with contact information for other assigned staff so they may collaborate with each other.
- The state has collaborated with the regions to assess cross-jurisdictional needs within the state. They all indicated they have a good working relationship with each other and were not in need of a third party to facilitate the intrastate movement of children. Additionally, no concerns have been identified in the current process, therefore, the state ICPC office will not be assuming specific oversight responsibilities. NV ICPC has created an internal list of contacts for this purpose and shares the contacts when requests come thorough the ICPC office. Jurisdictional workers collaborate to resolve conflicts around case management or services. Intra-state supervision is discussed in policy 0201 and does not include the state ICPC office as the gatekeeper of the policy or the program. Nevada ICPC assists state partners in connecting with the appropriate parties when the need arises. Each jurisdiction completes the necessary documents and works

collaboratively with one another to ensure proper supervision of the placed child(ren) in receiving jurisdiction. All jurisdictions use the UNITY (CCWIS) system of record and can read case notes and access legal documents to insure coordination of services. Regions use child contact reports to monitor the supervision of children in their custody.

UPDATE TO THE PLAN FOR ENACTING THE STATE'S VISION AND PROGRESS MADE TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES

Revisions to Goals, Objectives, and Interventions

Nevada entered a CFSR Program Improvement Plan (PIP) on November 1, 2019.

On September 29, 2022, the Children's Bureau confirmed Nevada had met all PIP progress goals and completed its 2018 CFSR PIP.

Nevada's PIP progress reports supported the achievement of benchmarks for the goals listed below. Additionally, narratives under "Summary of Progress towards Benchmarks" and "Feedback Loop" describe the state's progress on objectives. Activities identified in state planning meetings have been incorporated into this APSR report. Also included below are narratives around implementation and program support, as well as discussions around technical assistance provided to the regions by the state.

The state did not have any AFCARS or NYTD program improvement plans during this reporting period.

In a letter dated March 7, 2022, Nevada was notified that it was out of compliance with Sections 472 (c) and 475A(c) of the Social Security Act (the Act) as amended by Public Law 115-123—Family First Prevention Services Act that was enacted on July 8, 2018, and needed to submit a PIP to address each of those sections and bring the State into compliance. In summary, Section 472 (c) of the Act provides a new definition of foster family home. Section 475A(c) of the Act provides the requirements related to assessment, documentation, and judicial determination for placement in the specified setting of Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) to claim title IV-E reimbursement for an otherwise eligible child placed at such settings. Nevada had until April 6, 2022, to submit an approvable PIP.

The Nevada team worked closely with the CB Regional Office staff and submitted the State's final Program Improvement Plan (PIP) on April 8, 2022. DCFS has continued to work closely with CB Regional Office Staff to update the Title IV-E Pre-Print. While an Administrative Court Ruling was passed in September of 2022, to address the QRTP requirements, Nevada introduced legislation during the 2023 legislative session that, when passed, would add QRTP requirements to Nevada law. The Title IV-E Pre-Print will be submitted to the CB Regional Office once legislation is passed.

Update on Progress Made to Improve Outcomes

Goal 1: Improve Child Safety Through Increased Proficient Practice of the SAFE/SIPS Practice Model

Measures of Progress

This goal is measured by Items 1, 2 and 3 in the Update to Assessment on Current Performance in Improving Outcomes.

Interim benchmarks:

- SAFE/SIPS Supervisor Proficiency Plan developed by child welfare agencies to identify mechanisms the agencies will utilize to increase the number of Coordinators/Managers/Supervisors who are proficient in the SAFE/SIPS Practice Model, with eventual goal of 70% proficiency statewide.
- SAFE/SIPS Supervisor Proficiency Plan standards created.

Nevada recently partnered with the Capacity Building Center for States to develop a tool to assess supervisors and their proficiency in our SAFE/SIPS practice model. This work began in April of 2023. Once completed, this tool will give our state a benchmark of where our supervisors knowledge is based on their score on the proficiency tool. Once a benchmark is established, our state will be able to develop a plan to increase our supervisor proficiency to 70%, statewide.

Objective 1: Conduct safety related activities

- A statewide committee with representation from all three child welfare agencies in collaboration with FPO identified strategies during the PIP development process to improve the capacity of supervisors to effectively coach staff in their practice of the SAFE/SIPS Practice Model and improve Safety Outcomes. Key activity areas will address the following:
 - Policies will be reviewed (PIP 1.1.2).
 - Training will be provided (PIP 1.1.1, 1.1.2).
 - Data reports will be developed and utilized by supervisors (PIP 1.1.3, 1.2.3, 1.2.4).
 - CQI activities will ensure supervisors receive increased support to enhance their abilities (PIP 1.1.3, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3.,1.2.4. 1.2.5).
- A statewide committee with representation from all three child welfare agencies in collaboration with FPO will work with statewide Information Services (IS) to determine CCWIS changes that will permit accurate reporting of response timeliness. A CCWIS work request and business requirements will be completed. The outcome of this CCWIS system change will result in a streamlined approach to recording response time. FPO will monitor the work request and business requirements progress.

Year 2 Objective 1: Conduct safety related activities

Continue working with IS on data collection and CCWIS enhancements for recording and CQI activities around timeliness of initiating of investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment.

- Continue implementation of safety related activities launched during year 1 of the CFSP.
- Utilize Quality Improvement Case Review results to monitor and evaluate practice change resulting from safety related activities.
- To continue improving safety outcomes, Child welfare agencies will evaluate NIA and Ongoing managers/coordinators and supervisors for proficiency using a statewide proficiency tool developed during the PIP, which will outline the standard for measuring SAFE/SIPS Practice Model proficiency. The standard will include proficiency in utilizing the SAFE/SIPS Practice Model to conduct comprehensive risk and safety assessments; developing appropriate, realistic, and specific safety plans; and monitoring safety services. This evaluation will establish a baseline percentage of supervisors/coordinators/managers proficient in the SAFE/SIPS Practice Model.

Year 3 Objective 1: Continue safety related activities

- Continue working with IS on data collection and CCWIS enhancements for recording and CQI activities around timeliness of initiating of investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment.
- Continue implementation of safety related activities launched during year 1 of the CFSP.
- Utilize Quality Improvement Case Review results to monitor and evaluate practice change resulting from safety related activities.
- Gather qualitative data through focus groups to determine whether changes to policies made during PIP have had intended impact. Use qualitative data to inform whether additional training or policy changes are needed.
- FPO will work collaboratively with the child welfare agencies to establish minimum requirements for the SAFE/SIPS Proficiency Plan. This plan should include how the child welfare agencies will determine how they will ensure continued coaching and mentoring of NIA and Ongoing managers/coordinators and supervisors who have not met proficiency, how the agencies will increase the number of NIA and Ongoing managers/coordinators and supervisors who are proficient in the SAFE/SIPS Practice Model, and how the agencies will utilize the statewide team of experts formed during the PIP to improve capacity. The child welfare agencies will provide the SAFE/SIPS Proficiency Plan to FPO

Year 4 Objective 1: Continue safety related activities

- Continue working with IS on data collection and CCWIS enhancements for recording and CQI activities around timeliness of initiating of investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment.
- Continue implementation of safety related activities launched during year 1 of the CFSP.
- Utilize Quality Improvement Case Review results to monitor and evaluate practice change resulting from safety related activities.
- The child welfare agencies will submit progress made on increasing SAFE/SIPS Practice Model Proficiency in their SAFE/SIPS Proficiency Plan.
- Evaluate effectiveness of key activities utilized to increase supervisory capacity in the practice of the SAFE/SIPS Practice Model and develop strategies to sustain increased supervisory proficiency in the practice of the SAFE/SIPS Practice Model leading to enhanced safety outcomes.
- Continue working with IS on data collection and CCWIS enhancements for recording and CQI activities around timeliness of initiating of investigations of Reports of Child Maltreatment.
- Continue implementation of safety related activities launched during year 1 of the CFSP.
- Utilize Quality Improvement Case Review results to monitor and evaluate practice change resulting from safety related activities.
- Implement strategies identified to sustain and improve increased supervisory proficiency.
- Child Welfare agencies will submit final progress utilizing the SAFE/SIPS Proficiency Plan to the state regarding supervisor proficiency in their area with a statewide goal outcome of 70% proficiency.

Progress Measures

This goal is measured by Items 1, 2 and 3 in the Update to Assessment on Current Performance in Improving Outcomes.

Table 37: Maltreatment in Care and Recurrence of Maltreatment

National Performance		Data Sources	Direction of Strength	Observed Performance	Risk Standardized Performance (RSP)		
					Lower CI	RSP	Upper CI
Maltreatment in care (victimizations)	9.67%	AFCARS	↑	5.41	6	7.36	9.02

National Performance		Data Sources	Direction of Strength	Observed Performance	Risk Standardized Performance (RSP)		
					Lower CI	RSP	Upper CI
per 100,000 days in care)		19AB, FY19					
Recurrence of Maltreatment	9.5%	AFCARS FY19-20	↓	6.4%	7.4%	8.3%	9.2%

Nevada Child and Family Services Review (CFSR 3) Data Profile February 2021.

Summary of Progress towards Benchmarks

The State asserts that deliverables regarding implementation of safety related activities and CQI activities around timeliness of initiating investigations of child maltreatment have been met. The state continues to conduct CQI activities related to timeliness of initiating investigations and utilizes Quality Improvement Case Review results to monitor and evaluate practice change resulting from safety related activities. Nevada developed and utilized a proficiency tool as part of the PIP. An ongoing plan to further develop supervisor proficiency in Nevada's SAFE/SIPS model has not been developed. Nevada has partnered with the Capacity Building Center for States (CBCS) for a brief project to address how Nevada can best support, guide, and build proficiency among supervisory staff. Nevada recognizes the proficiency tool, which is a multiple-choice test, may not be the best method to test for supervisory proficiency in the SAFE/SIPS model. Nevada's child welfare agencies and the CBCS are currently discussing opportunity to use other field strategies to test for proficiency of supervisors.

Feedback Loops

Data reports that measure safety practices continue to be used by supervisor and managers to improve safety outcomes. The SQIC occurs bi-weekly with statewide representatives where discussion occurs about CFSR outcomes and the project with the CBCS.

Implementation and Program Supports

A statewide team meets as needed to discuss report enhancements for timeliness of initiating investigations of child maltreatment and for conducting persistent efforts when the caseworker was unsuccessful with making contact with all alleged child victims identified in the report. The Statewide Expert Team focused on discussion of statewide policies, practices within jurisdictions, and CCWIS needs and has recently taken a hiatus as of February 2023 to allow the project with the CBCS to occur. The Core Team will collaborate with FPO and then lead the Statewide Expert Team meetings. FPO is continuing quarterly review of reports developed as part of the PIP and CFSR Safety Outcome 1 data.

Goal 1A: Create an Integrated System of Services to Strengthen and Support Families and Prevent Maltreatment (Families First Prevention Services Act Planning)

Measures of Progress

There is no quantitative measurement data for this goal.

Interim benchmarks

- Obtain Technical Assistance from the University of Maryland to develop a Title IV-E Prevention **Benchmark** Program Plan
- Completion and submission of a Title IV-E Prevention Program Plan to HHS
- Development of Prevention Services Action Plan

Implementation of Prevention Services Action Plan Year 1 Objective 1: Begin efforts for prevention planning

- Utilize TA assistance and collaboration from statewide child welfare agencies to develop a Title IV-E Prevention Program Plan to create a prevention system in Nevada.
 - Define “child who is a candidate for foster care” and “imminent risk” (PIP 4.5.2).
 - Take inventory of services and select services for inclusion in plan (PIP 4.5.2).
 - Design rigorous evaluation strategies to ensure fidelity to evidence-based models.
 - Determine congregate care approach.
 - Provide analysis of cross-agency funding for FFPSA services in Nevada and efficient ways of financing them, incorporating federal funding maximization, including Medicaid.
 - Conduct policy and regulatory analysis to determine any needed changes to align with service and funding approach.
 - Conduct policy and regulatory analysis to support implementation congregate care approach

- Submit final Title IV-E Prevention Program Plan to HHS in 2020.

Year 2 Objective 1: Continue efforts for prevention planning

- Utilize Title IV-E Prevention Program Plan developed with TA Assistance to write Action Plan that will move Nevada towards a prevention system.

Year 3 Objective 1: Continue efforts for prevention planning

- Begin implementation of Prevention Action Plan

Year 4 Objective 1: Continue efforts for prevention planning

- Continue implementation of Prevention Action Plan.

Implementation and Program Supports

Nevada is extending the contract with the University of Connecticut through June 30, 2024, to provide ongoing support in the development of an implementation plan for the state, and to assist with implementation and establishment of data collection and evaluation systems.

Summary of Progress towards Benchmarks

DCFS contracted with the University of Maryland in June 2019 to provide consultation and technical assistance to support the development of the Nevada FFPSA Prevention Plan. The contractor has supported project management, work plan development, fiscal analysis and policy and regulatory analysis.

FFPSA planning continued throughout the reporting period. The fiscal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic prompted a review of previous planning due to reduced capacity to allocate funds to FFPSA planning and implementation.

The Nevada team updated the definition of “candidate for foster care” and made significant updates to the service array. The team assessed current capacity to measure fidelity and outcomes of models currently being implemented in the state to determine feasibility of their inclusion in the IV-E Prevention Plan.

Meetings continued between DCFS and sister agencies to leverage funds and expand upon services that already exist in the state. QRTP policies were developed and reviewed by the Children’s Bureau which became effective 2/18/2022.

DCFS received feedback from the Children’s Bureau regarding the Prevention Services plan and is currently in the process of addressing the feedback and providing more details where needed. The implementation of the Prevention Action Plan has been placed on a

temporary hold until the plan is approved, and Nevada is prepared to begin the implementation.

Feedback Loops

Recurring workgroup meetings and ad hoc meetings have been used to obtain input and feedback from parent advocacy organizations, DCFS children's mental health staff, sister agencies representing home visiting and substance use treatment services, and foster care agencies are stakeholders in the development of the prevention plan. There are no research, evaluation, or management information systems in support of this objective.

Recurring FFPSA focused meetings included:

- **Project Management/Technical Assistance Team meetings held biweekly:** The purpose of this team was for the University of Maryland team to provide expert consultation and technical support, project management, work plan development, fiscal analysis, policy and regulatory analysis and Nevada FFPSA Prevention Plan review for the DCFS FPO staff leading the FFPSA planning.
- **Prevention Workgroup:** The primary purpose of the Prevention Workgroup is to make recommendations to the FFPSA Leadership Team on the services and related components that should be included in the state's FFPSA Prevention Plan. Specifically, it made recommendations related to a) the priority populations to receive Title IV-E prevention services; b) operational definitions for "candidate for foster care" and "imminent risk"; c) prevention services that meet the needs of the priority populations; d) budget requirements related to provision of prevention services; and e) prevention services that could be provided by other, non-IV-E funding, including Medicaid. In making its recommendations, the workgroup will consider feasibility and capacity needs for implementation. This group met as needed.
- **Fiscal/IT Workgroup:** The Fiscal/IT Workgroup met 1-2 times per month to discuss data and reporting requirements of FFPSA and the UNITY updates needed to capture that data. A subgroup has met weekly to develop CCWIS enhancements and IT is in process of developing the needed enhancements.
- **Evaluation Oversight Committee (EOC):** The EOC met monthly to discuss planning for prevention services implementation. This group will monitor the collection of CQI data related to FFPSA, as well as evaluate plans for new evidence-based practices (EBP). The EOC will also review the annual submission of fidelity data directly related to individual EBPs. The EOC is comprised of the FPO, the University of Connecticut, regional data persons, EBP evaluators, regional CQI teams, leadership from each of the child welfare agencies, and the NPT.
- **Communications Workgroup:** The communications workgroup met on an ad hoc basis to develop a messaging and communications plan for the

workforce, the courts, and the community. The group worked alongside the NPT and created a preliminary plan. Over the next year, Nevada will refine and implement their communication plan.

Goal 2: Improve Permanency and Well-Being Outcomes for Children and Youth

Table 38: Measures of Progress: Performance Ratings and Goals

CFSR indicator Baseline Percentages ⁹		2020 Target CFSR Performance Item Ratings ¹⁰	2021 CQI CFSR Performance Item Ratings ¹¹	2022 PIP Goal ¹²	2024 CFSP Goal
Item 4	72.7%	76%	77.19%	80.4%	86%
Item 5	41.8%	46%	56.14%	50.3%	56%
Item 6	18.2%	21.5%	47.37%	24.8%	27%
Item 7	87.5%	89%	94.74%	n/a	90%
Item 8	67.5%	69%	62.22%	n/a	77%
Item 9	74.6%	76%	77.19%	n/a	84%
Item 10	52.7%	54%	75.00%	n/a	62%
Item 11	62.1%	64%	63.16%	n/a	72%

⁹ Nevada Child and Family Services Review Round 3 – Program Improvement Plan, Part Two: CFSR PIP Measurement Plan.

¹⁰ The Nevada DCFS Child and Family Services Plan 2020-2024.

¹¹ Nevada CQI = State Rating Summary which includes Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored QTR 4, Washoe County PIP Monitored QTR 5, Clark County CFSR PIP Monitored QTR 6, DCFS RR CFSR PIP Monitored QTR 7

¹² See footnote State Rating Summary.

CFSR indicator Baseline Percentages ⁹		2020 Target CFSR Performance Item Ratings ¹⁰	2021 CQI CFSR Performance Item Ratings ¹¹	2022 PIP Goal ¹²	2024 CFSP Goal
Item 12	37.5%	42%	45.88%	44.4%	51%
Item 13	48.0%	51.7%	53.16%	55.4%	57%
Item 14	55.0%	58.55%	69.41%	62.1%	63.5%
Item 15	46.3%	50.65%	48.57%	55.0%	57%*
Item 16	72.3%	75%	70.59%	n/a	83%
Item 17	51.5%	54%	66.67%	n/a	62%
Item 18	60.7%	63%	61.22%	n/a	71%

*The CFSP 2020-2024 erroneously indicated 27%.

Table 39: Measures of Progress: CFSR Data Profile

Risk Standardized Performance	Nevada's Baseline Performance (RSP)	Nevada's Performance (RSP)	National Performance
Permanency in 12 months (entries)	44.7% 16B17A	41.2% 19A19B	42.7%

Risk Standardized Performance	Nevada's Baseline Performance (RSP)	Nevada's Performance (RSP)	National Performance
Permanency in 12 months (12-23 months)	42.8% 18B19A	43.6% 21A21B	45.9%
Permanency in 12 months (24 + months)	39.2% 18B19A	35.5% 21A21B	31.8%
Re-entry to foster care	7.4% 16B17A	4.9% 19A19B	8.1%
Placement stability (moves/1,000 days in care)	5.64% 18B19A	5.95% 21A21B	4.44%

Children's Bureau Nevada CFSR 3 Data Profile January 14, 2022.

EFC Interim benchmarks

- Completion of an Impact Analysis (2020)
- Completed Report submitted to the Legislative Committee (2020)
- Submission of a BDR if applicable for extending foster care (2020, 2022, & any special session in the interim)
- Complete Data Collection (2021) and Analyze Data (2022)
- Explore funding streams, see GMU section

Trauma informed/focused child welfare system interim benchmarks

- Completed pre-test & post- test from Trauma Focused Communication at CIC (2020)
- Completed surveys from case participants to assess impact of trauma informed communication (2021 & 2023)
- Completed Readiness/Implementation Plan to initiate and complete the development of a trauma informed child welfare system and identify training benefits for judicial stakeholders (2022)

- Completed Trauma Informed Child Welfare System Implementation Plan (2022)
- Evaluation of Stakeholder Trauma Informed Training (2024)
- Concerted efforts completed by each child welfare agency to support a trauma informed child welfare system (2024)

Court process/policies interim benchmarks

- Subcommittee has completed a court order template with caregiver notice information (2020)
- DCFS FPO Foster Care Specialist developed and received the caregiver surveys regarding the notification of review hearings (2021 & 2023)
- Each child welfare agency and DCFS leadership will have a representative at the annual CIC Summit (2020 -2024)
- DCFS FPO Foster Care specialist has updated statewide 204 Case Planning Policy for concurrent planning, 1010 KinGap Policy, 208 Social Summary Process Policy, and 1001 Diligent Search Policy & attachments (2020).
- Each child welfare agency has updated its agency policy to align with the statewide updated policies and an established a policy for JDMP (2020)
- Enhanced concerted efforts by each child welfare agency in expanding JDMP (2020)
- Each child welfare agency leadership issued an Instructional Memorandum to child welfare staff regarding:
 - Updated agency policy for JDMP, case planning for concurrent planning, KinGap, social summary process, and diligent search (2020).
 - Support the Trauma Informed Child Welfare System, see trauma informed benchmarks (2022)
 - Resource app for Androids installed on CCI server at AOC and stakeholders aware of availability by CIP and each child welfare agency (2023)
 - Resource app for Apple installed on AOC CCI server and users informed of availability. (2024)
- Established Achieving Timely Permanency Workgroup and a completed assessment of the TPR process and timelines (2020)
- Completed script(s) through each child welfare agency collaboration with the courts and other dependency stakeholders for concurrent planning initiative (2020)
- Completed form to enhance diligent search efforts for relatives and extended families (2020)
- Developed and approved legal representation pilot project that's designed and supported by the court, LACSN, CC-DFS, and Boyd School of Law (2020)
- Completed Resource Database by CIP (2020)
- Family Advocacy Center is accepting clients (2023)
- A study is completed of the Family Advocacy Center (2024).
- The Implementation of hearing quality focused action plan by each child welfare agency through the Annual CIC (2020-2024)

Year 1 Objective 1: Conduct a Review of Organizational Needs and Develop

Planning (Foster Care Extension)

- The state will review the organizational needs for targeted grant funding streams. State DCFS Grant Management Unit (GMU) to explore and/or maintain electronic notifications for funding opportunity announcements annually.
- The state will create an implementation and budget plan for extending foster care until the age of 21 years old.
- The state to determine the following:
 - Programmatic priorities to guide decision making in increasing efforts in exploring additional funding streams, including discretionary grant programs to expand on normalcy for youth/children (NRS 432B.174), service array for families, extend foster care to the age of 21 years old, and relationships by improving community events and functions to improve Well-Being and Permanency outcomes. The best interest of the child will remain at the center of grant planning while working with complex factors in enhancing funding streams.
 - The resources and support the organization currently has in place.
 - The additional support needed to apply and support grant writing to access additional funding sources.
 - Effective planning and preparation on how the funding will be disseminated, the gaps in coverage that the grant will not cover in services and needs, and the expertise and stakeholders needed to strengthen collaborative efforts in obtaining the grant.
 - Timeline and process for carrying out the extended foster care program and an analysis of the fiscal impact (Fiscal Plan).
- The state to:
 - Complete an analysis of the implementation and impact of the extended foster care program that allows a child who is over 18 years of age to voluntarily remain under the jurisdiction of a court.
 - Submit a report to the Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice that includes a report concerning the status of the plan and recommendations for legislation necessary to improve the implementation of the program to extend foster care.
 - Submit Child Welfare and Budget BDR Request based off implementation plan for the 2021 legislation session.
 - Amend the state plan, when federal criteria are met for foster care and adoption assistance, to extend foster care until a child reaches the age of 21 years old.

Summary of Progress towards Benchmarks

The 2019 Nevada Legislature session approved Assembly Bill 150 which required DCFS to establish a working group to study ways to improve the outcomes of youth who leave the custody of an agency who provides child welfare services when they reach 18 years of age (extension of foster care). The group was charged with analyzing data and the fiscal impact related to implementation and providing recommendations. DCFS

contracted with Social Change Partners LLC to assist statewide evaluation and planning. The project was formally referred to as Extended Foster Care Planning in Nevada. The planning included three subcommittees that focused on support and services, placement, and fiscal. AB 150 required the subcommittees to include representation from child welfare, social services organizations, dependency attorneys, and youth. Work on the plan began in April 2020 and recommendations were submitted to the Legislative Interim Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice on October 1, 2020.

In the 2021 Legislative Session, based on the outcomes of the AB 150 study, the Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice sponsored Senate Bill 397, a bill providing the legal framework for the Division of Child and Family Services to opt into the federal title IV-E extended foster care program. Senate Bill 397 passed the Nevada Legislature, and implementation is expected following the 2023 Legislative Session. DCFS will continue to contract with Social Change Partners, LLC to complete an impact analysis relating to implementation of Title IV-E extended foster care, and an estimate of the fiscal impact, which will be presented for consideration at the 2023 Legislative Session.

Feedback Loop

Participants on the workgroup represented former foster youth, CIP, child welfare, children's mental health, independent living providers, legal advocates, fiscal experts, parent advocates, child advocates with current and former involvement in the child welfare system, and public health.

Implementation and Program Supports

Nevada initiated a new contract with Social Change Partners LLC starting August 1, 2021, to implement the provisions of SB 397 and prepare for implementation in 2024. Social Change Partners LLC has extensive experience in convening and facilitating public and nonprofit agencies serving transition-age foster and probation youth, community stakeholders and youth themselves, and facilitating collaboration in planning and policy implementation.

Year 1 Objective 2 Improve Families' Involvement in the Court Hearing Process and Develop a Trauma- Focused Communication Process

- Selected Leadership with each child welfare agencies and DCFS will attend the Annual Community Improvement Council (CIC) Summit with the courts and other dependency stakeholders to learn trauma-focused communication and engagement techniques (PIP 3.1.1).
- CIP/NCJFCJ to administer pre and post-test to determine knowledge gained from the training of court/dependency stakeholders and child welfare staff who are members of the CIC. This training is supported by Goal 3 of the PIP and the Healthy Workforce of the CFSP (PIP 3.1.1, 2.1.3).

- Convene a new statewide Achieving Timely Permanency Workgroup, to include Clark, Washoe and Rural Region representatives from DA/DAG, judges, child welfare designated staff, data team members, and any other needed stakeholders to collaboratively support the Nevada child welfare system through the efforts required to improve timely permanency outcomes for children through reunification, guardianship, and adoption (PIP 3.1.2).
- Each child welfare agency leadership will work in collaboration with the Court Improvement Program Director (CIP) to assist in expanding the Juvenile Dependency Mediation Program (JDMP) across the life of the case, pre- and post-petition (PIP 3.1.3).
- DCFS to convene a statewide policy workgroup to update the statewide policy 0208 Social Summary Process and condense the adoption template to improve efficiency toward achieving adoption.
- The workgroup develops a protocol or policy to establish a specific timeline for when a child transfers from a permanency worker to an adoption worker to achieve permanency through adoption (PIP 3.4.1).
- DCFS-FPO leadership and each child welfare agency will partner with CIP, Vivek Sankaran (U of MI), 8th JD, CCDFS, LACSN, and Boyd School of Law to assist in designing a multidisciplinary legal assistance project to provide preventive legal and social work advocacy to families who are at risk or have had children placed in foster care. Implementation to be initially staged in Clark County (Possible name: Clark County Family Advocacy Center).
- DCFS-FPO leadership and each child welfare agency will partner with CIP and Children's Commission to assist in developing a database of resources by location throughout the state.
- Child welfare agencies and DCFS will continue to participate in the Community Improvement Councils to implement their hearing quality-focused action plans.
- Each child welfare agency CQI Unit will develop a formal feedback process and disseminate a CFSR Newsletter for caseworkers, supervisors, and managers regarding the most recent CFSR findings for Items 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 (PIP 2.1.7).
- Each child welfare agency's leadership will issue an instructional memorandum to highlight the importance of using CFSR data and feedback to improve practice and identify staff who are resources for discussing and understanding CFSR feedback discussing the importance of understanding and valuing CFSR feedback (PIP 2.1.7).
 - Leadership (managers and supervisors) will support the transfer of learning process by conducting a 1:1 supervision meeting at the rate of bi-monthly at a minimum (PIP 2.1.7).

Quarterly meetings will be held starting in Q3 (after the dissemination of CFSR Newsletter) among supervisors and managers, who will assess barriers to improved performance and strengths. CQI staff with each jurisdiction and FPO CQI staff will provide technical assistance as needed (PIP 2.1.7)

Summary of Progress towards Benchmarks

Child welfare continues to partner with and attend the local CICs which meet regularly in their communities and hold an annual Summit to develop annual action plans. During the 2019 CIC Summit, the CICs members received PIP required trauma-informed training (PIP 3.1.1 deliverable). The Nevada Partnership for Training developed trauma-informed communication training as required by PIP 2.1.3. Pre and post-test and surveys were included in the training package.

State efforts have focused on the completion of PIP deliverables through Q6 including updating KinGap and Concurrent Planning policies. The social summary statewide template was updated in the Spring of 2022 by the Adoption Call to Action (ACTA) Team and the statewide Adoption Specialist. The social summary process – policy is currently being updated by the ACTA Team as it needs to meet the technical needs of the newer UNITY statewide system on the process of how to download the social summary document. An explanation of the ACTA Team can be found in this report under Item 6, Adoption.

The statewide PIP Team 3 Achieving Timely Permanency Workgroup provided recommendations and subsequent follow up workgroups have met to review and process the recommendations. As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, the Capacity Building Center for States (CBCS) developed a plan to provide intensive project support to support the state's effort to complete PIP deliverables timely and continue to provide support for the completion of the recommendations.

While the CFSP outlined that this workgroup would develop a protocol or policy to establish a specific timeline for when a child transfers from a permanency worker to an adoption worker to achieve permanency through adoption it is not realistic due to various business practices between jurisdictions.

PIP deliverable 3.1.3 addresses improved engagement of families and train workers on the use of mediation to achieve timely permanency. The trainings have improved understanding of mediation throughout all 11 jurisdictions and increased use as a tool to improve timely permanency. The training completed outlines mediation and its benefits while teaching stakeholders and child welfare staff how to use it effectively.

The DCFS FPO leadership and each child welfare agency will partner with CIP, Vivek Sankaran (U of MI), 8th JD, CCDFS, LACSN, and Boyd School of Law to assist in designing a multidisciplinary legal assistance project to provide preventive legal and social work advocacy to families who are at risk or have had children placed in foster care. Implementation to be initially staged in Clark County.

The Children's Commission determined there was no longer a need to develop a separate database as Nevada utilizes 2-1-1 as a web-based data resource site maintained by the Nevada DHHS.

Through partnership with FPO, the child welfare agencies developed a statewide newsletter to inform staff of CFSR findings and best practices. This was a deliverable over the past year.

During Q3-Q6 of the PIP, Team 3, with statewide representation from child welfare and the CIP met every other week to facilitate the completion of PIP items due during these quarters, which included all of PIP Team 3's items as described in the PIP Q6 Progress Report. All items were completed successfully during this time and Team 3 continues to monitor implementation and participate in the statewide SQIC meeting to ensure the items change practice. Team 3 has learning circles scheduled for the months of May through July and an ongoing work plan with the Capacity Building Center for States to keep momentum going. Progress of key activities will continue to be monitored through the statewide case reviews beginning in May 2021.

Feedback Loop

There is ongoing communication with CIP, the Children's Commission, and the PIP teams to achieve the objectives of this goal.

Implementation and Program Supports

The Capacity Building Center for States has developed a plan to provide intensive project support to the work of PIP Goal 3 which achieving timely permanency through the end of PIP Q8 or until all the project tasks are completed. There are no research, evaluation, or management information systems in support of this objective.

Year 1 Objective 3 Improve Consistent Practices and Policies for Caseworker Contact, Visitation Policy, Concurrent Planning, KinGAP, and Hearing Notification for Foster Caregivers

- Each child welfare agency will participate in a statewide policy workgroup lead by the DCFS FPO Foster Care Specialist to update the statewide 1001 Diligent Search Policy, 1010 KinGAP Policy, the 0204 Permanency and Case Planning Policy, and the statewide 0208 Social Summary Process Policy. The social summary template will be condensed to improve efficiency toward achieving adoption. Participants in the workgroup must include a representative from AOC/CIP to enhance the concurrent planning with adoption and KinGAP statewide to reflect the most current best practices. The diligent search procedures will reflect concerted efforts necessary to ensure that immediate and extended family members, and fictive kin are identified, located, informed, and evaluated in a timely manner (PIP 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.3.1, 3.3.2).
- Each child welfare agency to assist AOC/CIP develop a form to be distributed by both the court and the child welfare agencies staff to gather information about potential relatives or fictive kin (PIP 3.3.1).
- The Achieving Timely Permanency Workgroup with technical assistance as needed to conduct a timeline analysis for the TPR and adoption process by

collecting and requisite new, as well as existing data from the past Focus Groups, APSR, Statewide Assessment, and manual judicial tracking information to assess the barriers to TPR and adoption, explore opportunities for improvement, and determine recommendations for practice changes. DCFS leadership to work in collaboration with the workgroup to determine the impact of practice changes to their agency and ability to implement practice modifications (PIP 3.4.1).

- Each child welfare agency in collaboration with the courts and other dependency stakeholders will develop concurrent planning “Scripts” to also be used by the judiciary and attorneys to help families better understand the importance of concurrent planning for their child(ren)’s well-being and how the parent can provide beneficial input when concurrent planning occurs for the child(ren) to achieve permanency within required timelines (PIP 3.3.2).
- DCFS FPO will begin analyzing the Caseworker Contact and Visitation Policy to ensure the statewide policy is updated and work in collaboration with each jurisdiction if the policies need updating (PIP 2.1.6).
- Each child welfare agency will begin analyzing their Caseworker Contact and Visitation Policy to ensure they both align with the statewide policy and determine if both policies are accessible to all child welfare staff, foster parents, courts, parents, and families involved in the case to enhance stakeholder knowledge (PIP 2.1.6).
- Each jurisdiction will provide their agency’s Caseworker Contact and Visitation Policy to the state DCFS Foster Care Manager/Specialist. DCFS FPO will create a link (by jurisdiction/statewide) to the QPI Website specific to the foster care providers jurisdiction (PIP 2.1.6).

Summary of Progress towards Benchmarks

State efforts have focused on the completion of PIP deliverables through Q6 to include updating KinGAP and Concurrent Planning policies, training the workforce on these updated policies and creating and training the judicial stakeholders on Practice Guides about these topics. The social summary will be assessed for revision by the Adoption Call to Action Team. Diligent search activities were addressed during Q4 of the PIP. CIP is a participant in the PIP teams working on PIP 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.3.1, 3.3.2 deliverables as well as members of the PIP Core team.

The statewide Achieving Timely Permanency Workgroup has been convening since November 2019. As a result of the COVID-19 crisis, the Capacity Building Center for States has developed a plan to provide intensive project support PIP deliverables. The Achieving Timely Permanency workgroup completed their activities as outlined in Item 3.4.1 and out of that work came several recommendations now being worked on.

The “scripts” (bench cards) were completed and distributed to courts and stakeholders in SFY2021 (PIP 3.3.2).

The statewide policy is current, ADA accessible, and available on the DCFS website. Clark and Washoe child welfare agencies both reviewed their internal policies and

provided a written submission of their analysis. The agencies have updated their internal Caseworker Contact and Visitation Policies and submitted them to the state DCFS Foster Care Manager/Specialist. The updated policies have been posted to each agency website and the QPINevada.org website.

Feedback Loop

There is ongoing communication with CIP, the Children's Commission, and the PIP teams to achieve the objectives of this goal. The PIP Core team communicates quarterly to update the Decision Making and Assistant Director groups (*see Collaboration Section*) on the status of PIP implementation (PIP 4.4.1).

Implementation and Program Supports

The Capacity Building Center for States has developed a plan to provide intensive project support to the work of PIP Goal 3 which includes achieving timely permanency through the end of PIP Q8 or until all tasks are completed. The Capacity Building Center for Courts is providing technical assistance to CIP. There are no research, evaluation, or management information systems in support of this objective.

Year 2 Objective 1 Improve Families' Involvement in the Court Hearing Process /Strengthen the Court Case Review

- Child welfare agencies and DCFS to participate in AOC/CIP Workgroup to identify an existing brochure or to develop an informational guide/brochure to share with parents, foster parents and children regarding the dependency process and its legal requirements and timelines (Q5).
- Child welfare agencies in collaboration with AOC/CIP, at regularly scheduled statewide judicial roundtables, discuss and train the judiciary concerning making and documenting compelling reasons for why it is in a child's best interests to NOT go forward with either reunification or termination of parental rights when a child has been in out-of-home care for 12 months, or 14 out of the last 20 months.
- Child welfare agencies in collaboration with the existing CIP Subcommittee on Statewide Court Order Templates reviews to ensure that the Permanency Hearing Court Order Template outlines the need for a specific finding for a child remaining in out-of-home placement at month 12 or at month 14 of 20 months. Court findings document what the child's best interest is and the compelling reasons if the primary Case Plan Goal is not changed to adoption.
- DCFS-FPO leadership and child welfare agencies partner with CIP, 8th JD, CCDFS, LACSN, and Boyd School of Law to assist in securing funding, establishing location, and determining staffing for development family advocacy center.
- Child welfare agencies and designated staff through designated leadership to partner with CIP and Children's Commission to assist in developing a database of resources by location throughout the state.

- Child welfare agencies to support CIP hiring a contractor to develop Resource App first for Android, then for Apple devices.
- Child welfare agencies and DCFS leadership will continue to participate in the Community Improvement Councils to implement their hearing quality focused action plans.

Summary of Progress Towards Benchmarks

The child welfare agencies and AOC/CIP workgroup completed the Nevada Road Map which is a guide that identifies the dependency process and its legal requirements and timelines. This road map has been posted in all 11 judicial districts and can be provided to foster parents and parents whose children are involved in the child welfare system.

The AOC/CIP has used the CIC Summit and CIC meetings to educate and train the judiciary team on documenting why compelling reasons are not in the child's best interest to move forward with TPR. The workgroup additionally provided tools consisting of court order templates/outlines and bench cards.

Feedback Loop

There is ongoing communication with CIP, the child welfare agencies, and the PIP teams to achieve the objectives of this goal. The PIP Core team communicates monthly to update the SQIC on the status of PIP implementation.

Implementation and Program Supports

PIP Team 3 continues to work with the Capacity Building Center, judicial districts, AOC/CIP, and the child welfare agencies through the end of PIP Q8 or until all tasks are completed for the implementation of the strategies identified during the workgroups. The workgroup worked with agencies to identify a staggered implementation plan as to not overwhelm staff and stakeholders.

Year 2 Objective 2 Improve Consistent Practices and Policies for Concurrent Planning, KinGAP, and Hearing Notification for Foster Caregivers

- Child welfare agencies to work in collaboration with CICs to assist in analyzing permanency timeliness data to identify barriers and solutions to meet federal and state timelines. Child welfare agency CIC representatives will work with local CICs to create action plans to maintain progress in removing barriers to achieving permanency timeliness
- Foster caregivers are regularly and consistently notified of their foster child's court hearings through collaboration with the existing CIP Subcommittee on Court Order Templates and the Child welfare agency staff. DCFS FPO CQI Specialist will develop and received caregiver surveys regarding the notification to caregivers for review hearings (Q6).

Summary of Progress Towards Benchmarks

Through PIP key activity 3.4.1 the team three workgroup, consisting of the child welfare agencies, AOC/CIP, stakeholders, and the Capacity Building Center analyzing data to assess for root cause of TPR barriers and provide recommendations to improve timeliness to permanency. There were additional workgroups created to address the recommendation which included reviewing Nevada law, and policies both internal and statewide, and review the currently data collection process and tracking methods and if needed make recommendations to improve these systems. While the PIP activity has been completed during Q5. The recommendations that came out of this work are still being processed.

Through PIP key activity 3.2.3 the workgroup updated policy 205 Court Hearing Notification and created a template for caregivers to understand their rights and provide updates to the court for the child and youth in their care. Implementation was initiated by a statewide memo sent out to agency staff instructing caregivers will be provided notification of upcoming annual and semi-annual court hearings and can provide updates on the foster child/youth. Baseline data was gathered and sent to each child welfare agency using a caregiver survey which was sent out in January of 2021. In September 2021, the survey was redistributed to caregivers to monitor progress.

Feedback Loop

There is ongoing communication with CIP, the child welfare agencies, and the PIP teams to achieve the objectives of this goal. The PIP Core team communicates monthly to update the SQIC on the status of PIP implementation.

Implementation and Program Supports

PIP Team 3 continues to work with the Capacity Building Center, judicial districts, AOC/CIP, and the child welfare agencies through the end of PIP Q8 for the implementation of the strategies identified during the workgroups, or until all tasks have been implemented. The workgroup worked with agencies to identify a staggered implementation plan as to not overwhelm staff and stakeholders.

Year 2 Objective 3 Track and Monitor Progress of Extended Foster Care

DCFS designated through executive leadership to collect data based off the extended foster care plan and monitor the program for modifications for the next legislative session in 2023.

Summary of Progress Towards Benchmarks

The bill was introduced in the 2021 Legislative Session. Through amendments, the final bill provides the legislative framework to build the framework to implement Title IV-E Extended Foster Care following a fiscal appropriation in the 2023 Legislative Session.

Feedback Loop

Extended Foster Care continues to be a topic of discussion at Assistant Directors' Meetings and the Decision-Making Group. Based on the passage of Senate Bill 397, the DCFS FPO will reconvene a statewide group to work towards implementation of Senate Bill 397 and to prepare for further work on Extended Foster Care in the 2023 Legislative Session.

Implementation and Program Supports

The DCFS FPO initiated a new contract with Social Change Partners beginning August 1, 2021, to support further work on Extended Foster Care to begin following the 2023 Legislative Session. Social Change Partners were previously contracted by DCFS to support implementation of Assembly Bill 150 from the 2019 Legislative Session which set the foundation for work on Extended Foster Care in Nevada.

Year 2 Objective 4 Assessing and Improving Trauma Focused Communication

DCFS FPO CQI Specialist will extract and analyze the latest CFSR Review data for Items 6, 13, 14, and 15 to measure the outcomes for Permanency 1 and Well-Being 1 to support improved family engagement overall.

DCFS FPO CQI Specialist to determine the impact of trauma focused communications and if judicial stakeholders are using effective techniques to communicate with families through surveys to case participants.

- Data collected by DCFS FPO Foster Care Specialist and CQI specialist will work in collaboration with Training Manager and training partners to Improve training of trauma focused communication skills and assess if the established curriculum and learning objectives need modifying and/or updated. Modification and updates to be supported through the Healthy Workforce of the CFSP.
- Supervisors and caseworkers complete training on the updated social summary policies.

Summary of Progress Towards Benchmarks

The state extracts data driven reports from the OMS after every case review has been completed. These reports are reviewed during SQIC meetings.

Discussions during SQIC meetings revolve around the data obtained from the reports that promote evidence of practice change and any impacts of the trauma focused training.

The trauma informed training was modified through PIP activities 2.1.3 and 2.1.4. The training officially went live in Q5. The training was first presented in the CIC Summit in October of 2019. The AOC/CIP continue to talk about the trauma information presented in the training at the 11 local CIC's and had completed another presentation at the 2020

CIC Summit. The AOC/CIP focuses on techniques of trauma-focused communication to engage the parents and relatives and the 11 judicial districts. The AOC/CIC will conduct a survey to continue to monitor the progress of trauma focused engagements throughout the judicial districts.

For the child welfare workforce, the state identified agency staff consisting of investigators and permanency staff to participate in the training. The expectation was to have at least 90% of the identified staff trained by the end of Q8. The state met this expectation as 100% of the initially identified staff have completed the training requirement. Training will continue as needed for identified new staff members and supervisors as they are hired.

Feedback Loop

There is ongoing communication with CIP, the child welfare agencies, and the PIP teams to achieve the objectives of this goal. The PIP teams 2 and 3 communicate monthly to update the SQIC on the status of PIP implementation and progress.

Implementation and Program Supports

There is ongoing communication with CIP, the child welfare agencies, and the PIP teams to achieve the objectives of this goal. The PIP teams 2 and 3 communicate monthly to update the SQIC on the status of PIP implementation and progress.

Year 2 Objective 5 Improve Hearing Notification for Foster Caregivers

Foster caregivers are regularly and consistently notified of their foster child's court hearings through collaboration with the existing CIP Subcommittee on Court Order Templates and the child welfare agency staff. DCFS FPO CQI Specialist will develop and receive caregiver surveys regarding the notification to caregivers for review hearings.

Summary of Progress Towards Benchmarks

Through PIP key activity 3.2.3 the workgroup updated policy 205 Court Hearing Notification and created a template for caregivers to understand their rights and provide updates to the court for the child and youth in their care. Implementation was initiated by a statewide memo sent out to agency staff instructing caregivers will be provided notification of upcoming annual and semi-annual court hearings and can provide updates on the foster child/youth. Baseline data was gathered and sent to each child welfare agency using a caregiver survey which was sent out in January of 2021. In September 2021, the survey was redistributed to caregivers to monitor progress. Survey responses indicated that there was an increase of 14.28% in caregivers being notified of their right to attend the Semi-Annual Review and Permanency Hearings, and there was an increase of 17.73% in caregivers being notified of their right to be heard at the Semi-Annual Review and the Permanency Hearings. Furthermore, responses indicated that there was an increase of 22.54% in caregivers' ability to provide information about the child in their care to the court.

Feedback Loop

There is ongoing communication with CIP, the child welfare agencies, and the PIP teams to achieve the objectives of this goal. The PIP Core team communicates monthly to update the SQIC on the status of PIP implementation.

Implementation and Program Supports

PIP Team 3 continues to work with the Capacity Building Center, judicial districts, AOC/CIP, and the child welfare agencies through the end of PIP Q8 for the implementation of the strategies identified during the workgroups. The workgroup worked with agencies to identify a staggered implementation plan as to not overwhelm staff and stakeholders.

Year 3 Objective 1 Analyze the Impact of the Extension of Foster Care

The State to analyze the impact of the extension of foster care to date and explore appropriate BDRs to be drafted and submitted to legislation for the 2023 session or any special session, including budget BDRs.

Summary of Progress Towards Benchmarks

In the 2021 Legislative Session, based on the outcomes of the AB 150 study, the Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice sponsored Senate Bill 397, a bill providing the legal framework for the Division of Child and Family Services to opt into the federal Title IV-E extended foster care program. Senate Bill 397 passed the Nevada Legislature, and implementation is expected following the 2023 Legislative Session. DCFS will continue to contract with Social Change Partners, LLC and continues working collaboratively on an impact analysis relating to implementation of Title IV-E extended foster care, as well as an estimate of the fiscal impact, which will be presented for consideration at the 2023 Legislative Session.

Feedback Loop

Participants on the workgroups related to the implementation of Extended Foster Care (EFC) over the past year have included representatives from the three child welfare jurisdictions, the Family Programs Office, fiscal experts, and independent living providers. The state is currently restructuring the independent living and EFC work groups to create several sub workgroups that will work on more focused program areas. Within these more focused sub workgroups, the state plans to over the next year include representatives from CIP, direct child welfare staff and supervisors, Children's Mental Health, Department of Public Health, Welfare and Supportive Services, as well as youth and young adults with lived experience and expertise.

Implementation and Program Supports

DCFS has initiated a new contract with Social Change Partners LLC starting August 1, 2021, to implement the provisions of SB 397 and prepare for implementation in 2024. Social Change Partners LLC has extensive experience in convening and facilitating public and nonprofit agencies serving transition-age foster and probation youth, community stakeholders and youth themselves, and facilitating collaboration in planning and policy implementation. The state continues to receive technical assistance from the Capacity Building Center for States to work concurrently on identifying programmatic and practice needs in the independent living program as the state moves toward EFC implementation.

Year 3 Objective 2 Improve Families' Involvement in the Court Hearing Process/ Strengthen the Court Case Review:

- DCFS leadership and each child welfare agency in collaboration with CIP will develop and conduct necessary training for Judicial/legal Stakeholders regarding how to refer to and utilize the family advocacy center.
- DCFS leadership in collaboration with CIP will ensure that the first resource application will be installed on CCI server at AOC where it can be maintained by Children's Commission staff (update contact information, add new resources, remove old, track access) and ensure the community stakeholders are aware of the availability for free internet Resource App, including notification to child welfare staff through an instructional memorandum.
- Child welfare agencies and DCFS leadership will continue to participate in the Community Improvement Councils to implement their hearing quality focused action plans.

Continued working towards:

- Child welfare agencies in collaboration with the existing CIP Subcommittee on Statewide Court Order Templates completed and began implementation of the templates to ensure that the Permanency Hearing Court Orders address the need for a specific finding for a child remaining in out-of-home placement at month 12 or month 14 of 20 months.
- Child welfare agencies and designated staff through designated leadership to partner with CIP and Children's Commission to assist in developing a database of resources by location throughout the state.
- AOC/CIP contracted with Data Savvy Consultants to do evaluations and analyses on virtual hearing practices, Juvenile Dependency Mediation Program (JDMP) evaluations, Timeliness Report, and short-stayer population to provide feedback and recommendations to CICs and judicial leadership.
- CIP/AOC continues to participate in the Children's Justice Act Task Force (CJA), Statewide Quality Improvement Committee (SQIC), Statewide Independent Living Committee, foster care recruitment initiatives, and the PIP Team 3 Workgroup.

Summary of Progress Towards Benchmarks

The child welfare agencies and AOC/CIP workgroup completed the Nevada Road Map and Child Welfare Court Process Guide Handbook which are guides that identify the dependency process and its legal requirements and timelines. Implementation of the guides has continued such as the AOC/CIP collaborating with child welfare agencies to print and disseminate physical copies and the guides have been posted on all 11 judicial districts' websites, including the Nevada Supreme Court website, and has been provided to foster parents and parents, whose children are involved in the child welfare system. These guides have also been provided to court stakeholders that are new to the Nevada dependency system.

Child welfare representatives along with AOC/CIP and legal stakeholders completed a permanency training for dependency stakeholders which includes modules on Nevada's Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP), guardianship as a permanency option, concurrent planning, and reasonable efforts. Additionally, the AOC/CIP used the CIC Summit and CIC meetings to educate and train the judiciary team on racial equity, the utilization of guardianship, concurrent planning, KinGAP and reasonable efforts.

The Statewide Court Ordered Templates were completed and implementation across the State has begun. The forms are designed to increase compliance with federal law and regulations and make practice in abuse and neglect cases consistent across Nevada. These forms are also intended to provide consistency and understanding to all parties to improve compliance with those orders. The forms will promote the practice of providing parties with comprehensive orders following each hearing, to improve the quality of proceedings and help families navigate the dependency court process.

CIP contracted with Data Savvy to do evaluations/analyses on virtual hearing practices, short-stayer population, TPR Timeliness Report and JDMP to provide feedback and recommendations to CICs and judicial leadership. Recommendations are made to CICs based on the conducted evaluations/analyses to improve family engagement and best court practices. In addition, CIP/AOC partnered with Data Savvy Consultants to conduct TPR Focus Groups to identify TPR barriers within each jurisdiction and the State which was a result of the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) Goal 3, Item 3.4.1.

The DCFS leadership and the CIP have not been able to ensure that the first resource application will be installed on CCI server at AOC where it can be maintained by Children's Commission staff (update contact information, add new resources, remove old, track access) and ensure the community stakeholders are aware of the availability for free internet Resource App, including notification to child welfare staff through an instructional memorandum. We will re-evaluate the need of this goal moving forward to determine if this is useful and achievable.

Feedback Loop

There is ongoing communication with CIP, the child welfare agencies, and the PIP teams to achieve the objectives of this goal. The ongoing collaboration promotes best practices that advance meaningful and ongoing collaboration among courts, child welfare agencies,

and other stakeholders to achieve safety, permanency, and well-being for children and families in the child welfare system in a fair, efficient, just, and timely manner.

The Court Improvement Program (CIP) Select Committee Meeting meets quarterly. Through this meeting, the Nevada court systems partner with the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) on a variety of fronts that focus many of its efforts on implementing the CFSP, APSR, and CFSR. Two CIP members participate in the SQIC. This membership helps align child welfare agencies with the courts in efforts to develop, implement, and monitor child welfare performance and improve outcomes. A special ongoing project of the CIP is the development of a legal representation study which includes performance measures and a survey created to be completed by the local judicial districts using the Court Improvement Councils (CIC). Additionally, DCFS has established a formal system to subgrant IV-E funds to entities providing legal representation.

Implementation and Program Supports

Nevada did not receive any implementation or program support for this objective.

Court Improvement Councils

All 11 Judicial Districts have collaborative Court Improvement Councils (CICs) which develop annual action plans to improve the handling of the judicial handling of child welfare cases. The CICs meet regularly in their communities and at an annual Summit. CICs meet monthly or quarterly depending on the judicial district. The CIP Select Committee meets quarterly, and CIC leads, or stakeholders attend to report on their activities, goals, and barriers. The CICs from all 11 JDs meet annually for the CIC Summit. During the CIC Summits, participants are educated on the various PIP tasks relating to court processes.

The Nevada court system has partnered with DCFS on a variety of fronts over the last year focusing many of its efforts on implementing the goals of the CFSP and PIP. CICs have initiated supporting several of the outcomes and systemic factors because of action planning regarding the timeliness, child safety, and hearing quality. CIC members are participants in PIP Team 3 Achieving Timely Permanency.

Court Improvement Program (CIP) Data:

CIP receives a statewide report at least quarterly to review TPR data with the judiciary and CIC stakeholders. Since 2011, the baseline year CIP began timeliness data collection, per the CFS 775 Timeliness reports from UNITY the median days to permanency decreased from CY 2011 (848 median days) to CY 2022 (688 median days). The CFS 775 Timeliness Report is provided to CIP by DCFS, Office of Analytics. Data are pulled from youth under age 18 who are still in agency custody as of the end date of the reporting period who have a removal record and at least one protective custody hearing entered in UNITY for the current foster care episode.

Nevada does not have a unified court system that impacts CIP's data collection method, for that reason CIP contracts with Data Savvy Consultants to analyze and compile court timeliness data that may not be collected by UNITY. Additionally, CIP and DCFS entered into a 4-year data agreement in order to enhance data collection and child welfare court study findings. Drawing from Foster Court Improvement Nevada website and Chapin Hall data, the Data Savvy Consulting identifies new potential measures as well as updates existing data to demonstrate trends in child welfare outcomes overtime for the State. Per these timeliness measures, 81% of the first permanency hearings took place within 365 days of removal in the first half of 2021, compared to 84% in 2020. Additionally, The CIP, contracted with Data Savvy Consulting to design and implement a study that would provide information about TPR timeliness and sources of delay to the NVCIP, the 2nd and 8th judicial district (JD) dependency courts, and the CICs. This report summarizes findings from a case file review of TPR cases in both the 2nd and 8th JDs to provide a picture of TPR practice relating to timeliness. A random sample of cases with a TPR petition filed in 2019 in the 2nd and 8th JDs were reviewed, for a total of 171 cases (n=70 for the 2nd JD and n=101 for the 8th JD). Analyses were performed on cases in April of 2021 to give cases time to reach permanency.

Table 40: Median Days Between Key Court Events

Court Events	Median Days (Total)	Median Days 2 nd Judicial (Washoe County)	Median Days 8 th Judicial (Clark County)
Removal to 72 Hour Hearing	4	2.5	4
72 Hour to Petition Filing	10	0	13
Petition Filing to Adjudication	32	44	20
Removal to Disposition	59	55	62
Petition Filing to 1 st Review	162	171	158
Petition Filing to 1 st Perm Hearing	345	357	340

Year 3 Objective 3: Develop a Trauma Informed Child Welfare System

- DCFS-FPO Foster Care Specialist will convene a workgroup with each child welfare agency and CIP representative to develop a Readiness/Implementation Plan to initiate and complete the development of a trauma informed child welfare system. This process is supported through the Healthy Workforce of the CFSP and PIP Key Activity 2.1.1.
- Workgroup to:
 - Identify and make decisions for a trauma informed child welfare system as the actions plan are implemented; and
 - Assist leadership in the development of instructional memoranda to support the Trauma Informed Child Welfare System in connection with the Healthy Workforce of the CFSP.

Summary of Progress Towards Benchmarks

Over the past year, the state continued to focus on its healthy workforce goal and its objectives that had been delayed due to the COVID-19 national health emergency. As a result, work towards this objective has continued to be delayed. Over this past year, the workgroup formed to develop the satisfaction survey as part of goal three worked towards the analysis of its results and a plan for the dissemination of those results. The plan for this upcoming year is to utilize this workgroup to start the discussions around creating a plan to develop a trauma informed child welfare system as it pertains to goal two's objectives.

Feedback Loop

Over the course of the next year, discussions around this objective will occur primarily in the healthy workforce workgroup. This workgroup will relay their planned activities, ideas, and decisions to both the WIT and the SQIC for further discussion and decision making, if needed. These groups have representation from the three child welfare agencies, the FPO, NPT and CIP.

Implementation and Program Supports

Over the next year, the state will receive technical assistance from the Capacity Building Center for States and will ensure all objectives around supporting a healthy workforce and a trauma informed child welfare system are included.

Year 4 Objective: Improve Families' Involvement in the Court Hearing Process/ Strengthen the Court Case Review

- Child welfare agencies and DCFS leadership will continue to participate in the Community Improvement Councils to implement their hearing quality focused action plans.
- Family Advocacy Center is opened.
- Child welfare agencies and DCFS leadership to support CIP in the development of the Apple resource application, upload to the Administrative Office of the Court

(AOC) and Centralized Case Index (CCI) server, and maintenance and updates to the resource app.

- Child welfare agencies designated staff through leadership to provide education regarding the resource app.

Summary of progress towards benchmarks

As a result of the PIP TPR goals and the 2021 TPR Timeliness Report in Nevada's 2nd and 8th Judicial Districts, CIP contracted with Data Savvy Consultants to further explore TPR barriers through focus groups from diverse stakeholders and geographical locations. The 2021 Timeliness Report found it took a median of 145 days from the TPR petition filing to the TPR order which is in conjunction with the 2022 focus group findings. There was study participation from all but two JDs (the 5th and the 7th), for a total of 22 survey and 22 focus group participants. Participants were very experienced, with most reporting they had more than 10 years of experience in the system (73%; n=16). According to survey respondents, the time from the TPR motion/TPR petition filing to the TPR order (64%; n=14) creates the longest delay. These studies-initiated collaboration within each CIC/judicial district and Timely Permanency and TPR Subgrants provided by CIP.

The CIP, contracted with Data Savvy Consulting to design and implement a study that would provide information about how parents perceive the child welfare court process. Seventy-five participants completed the survey. This included 51 mothers (68%), 17 fathers (23%), 3 grandparents (4%), and one each of the following individuals: legal guardian, foster parent, relative, and older sibling. The largest percentage of participants were from Clark County (53%), followed by Washoe (27%). The parent survey was an attempt to better understand the parent perspective in Nevada related to child welfare court hearings. All judicial districts were contacted to participate in the survey in hopes of getting a statewide understanding of parent perception. Most of the responses were from Clark or Washoe County although four of the rurals also participated.

Child welfare agencies and DCFS leadership were not able to support CIP in the development of the Apple resource application, upload to the Administrative Office of the Court (AOC) and Centralized Case Index (CCI) server, and maintenance and updates to the resource app during the reporting period. We will re-evaluate the need of this goal moving forward to determine if this is useful and achievable.

Feedback loops

There is ongoing communication with CIP and the child welfare agencies. The ongoing collaboration promotes best practices that advance meaningful and ongoing collaboration among courts, child welfare agencies, and other stakeholders to achieve safety, permanency, and well-being for children and families in the child welfare system in a fair, efficient, just, and timely manner.

The Court Improvement Program (CIP) Select Committee Meeting meets quarterly. Through this meeting, the Nevada court systems partner with the Division of Child and

Family Services (DCFS) on a variety of fronts that focus many of its efforts on implementing the CFSP, APSR, and CFSR. The CIP Coordinator participates in the SQIC. This membership helps align child welfare agencies with the courts in efforts to develop, implement, and monitor child welfare performance and improve outcomes. A special ongoing project of the CIP is the development of a legal representation study which includes performance measures and a survey created to be completed by the local judicial districts using the Court Improvement Councils (CIC). Additionally, child welfare representatives participate in JCAMP efforts.

Implementation and program support

The implementation of the statewide Nevada Juvenile Dependency Mediation Program (JDMP) began in 2016. Mediation has been used to enhance the quality of the dependency process by providing the parties an opportunity to enter into a discussion in which the parties voluntarily resolve the issues that brought the family into the dependency system and produce a written agreement in lieu of a contested hearing. Contested hearings tend to be especially painful for children, as they may be required to testify against their parents. Mediation allows children to avoid this trauma, as mediations tend to focus on the family's strengths. In addition, when mediation is ordered earlier in the case process, parents engage earlier in their case plan and all the parties involved are able to agree and identify the appropriate services and next steps for reunification. The benefits of mediation in child dependency cases include improved outcomes for children from decreased time to permanency to improved well-being, enhanced parental engagement to safely reunify with the child, collaboration amongst multidisciplinary stakeholders, time and cost savings, and system efficiency.

As part of the CIP CQI efforts to ensure fidelity of implementation, CIP provided quarterly data and trend updates to the Statewide Quality Improvement Committee (SQIC). CIP maintains its yearly JDMP evaluation contract with Data Savvy Consulting (Sophia Gatowski, Ph.D. & Alicia Summers, Ph.D.) to monitor progress.

JDMP is growing and successful (August 2011 – March 2023):

- Since the inception of the pilot program, JDMP has facilitated 2,066 mediations resulting in 1,424 agreements (including the new formula of the conceptualization of "other").
- The overall agreement rate is 76%

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

- Facilitated 230 mediations
- 169 Agreements
- Eliminated 100 hearings
- 387 children were helped

Year 4 Objective: Improve Consistent Practices and Policies for Concurrent Planning, KinGAP and Hearing Notification for Foster Caregivers.

- Child welfare agencies help courts determine if the case plan is current or requires updating, at each hearing in the 2nd and 8th JDs, the court discusses the permanency plan goal, as well as, if there is a need for a concurrent plan goal, and asks such questions as:
 - I. What efforts has the child welfare agency taken to achieve the case plan goal?
 - II. What are the barriers to achieving the current case plan goals?
 - III. Is the current case plan successfully moving the parent toward reunification?

Summary of progress towards benchmarks

Nevada did not work on this objective this past year. Over the next year, the FPO will work closely with CIP on various initiatives. This objective will be explored to determine if existing CQI activities address this.

Feedback loops

There is ongoing communication with CIP and the child welfare agencies. The ongoing collaboration promotes best practices that advance meaningful and ongoing collaboration among courts, child welfare agencies, and other stakeholders to achieve safety, permanency, and well-being for children and families in the child welfare system in a fair, efficient, just, and timely manner.

The Court Improvement Program (CIP) Select Committee Meeting meets quarterly. Through this meeting, the Nevada court systems partner with the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) on a variety of fronts that focus many of its efforts on implementing the CFSP, APSR, and CFSR. The CIP Coordinator participates in the SQIC. This membership helps align child welfare agencies with the courts in efforts to develop, implement, and monitor child welfare performance and improve outcomes. A special ongoing project of the CIP is the development of a legal representation study which includes performance measures and a survey created to be completed by the local judicial districts using the Court Improvement Councils (CIC). Additionally, child welfare representatives participate in JCAMP efforts.

Implementation and program support

The CIP/AOC continues to provide free training Permanency & Concurrent Planning training on the Nevada Supreme Court website.

Year 4 Objective: Evaluating the Trauma Informed Child Welfare System

- DCFS FPO QA Specialist will extract and analyze the latest CFSR Review data for Items 6, 13, 14, and 15 to measure the outcomes for Permanency 1 and Well-Being 1 to support improved family engagement overall.
- DCFS FPO Foster Care Specialist to determine the impact of trauma focused communications and if stakeholders are using effective techniques to communicate with families through surveys to case participants.
- Data collected by DCFS FPO Foster Care Specialist and QA specialist will work in collaboration with training partners to Improve training of trauma focused communication skills and assess if the established curriculum and learning objectives need modifying and/or updated. Modification and updates to be supported through the Healthy Workforce of the CFSP.

Summary of progress towards benchmarks

Nevada did not work on this objective this past year. Over the next year, the FPO will work closely with NPT on various initiatives. This objective will be explored to determine if existing CQI activities address this.

Feedback loops

Once work is completed for this objective, data and results will be shared via existing feedback loops.

Implementation and program supports

Over the next year, Nevada will partner with NPT to evaluate and analyze the impact of the trauma informed training.

Goal 3: The State of Nevada Will Cultivate a Healthy Workforce That Engages, Trains, and Supports Both Agency Staff and Community Stakeholders to Achieve Better Outcomes for Children and Families.

Measures of Progress

There is no quantitative measurement data for this goal.

Evaluative report

Implement a Coaching Model in Nevada with a focus on supervisors and upper management initially using a top-down approach. Nevada has been involved in this TA with the Capacity S in Building Center for States (CBCS) for several years.

Interim benchmarks

- Formation of the Workforce Innovation Team (WIT) to identify workforce strengths and needs

- Gather baseline culture/climate data to identify workforce strengths and needs
- Generate a WIT Action Plan to address identified challenges
- WIT Team to develop job functions/competencies utilizing job satisfaction and exit surveys
- Conduct a workforce study

Outcome Measure: 1% Performance measure HR turnover rates establish baseline

- 1% annual reduction in baseline statewide turnover rate as determined by Workforce Innovation Team

Outcome Measure: 100% Performance measure NPT LMS System as Measurement-report. Across all child welfare jurisdictions staff will satisfactorily complete training on compassion fatigue (includes burnout and vicarious trauma)

Training requirements interim benchmarks:

- Each child welfare agency leadership issued an Instructional Memorandum
 - Designated staff completed Motivational Training or Advance Motivation Training, Working with Traumatized Adults, and Father Engagement Training (2020)
 - Designated staff completed new training from the CIC Summit for child welfare staff directly involved in the court process and training for mediation by JDMP (2020)
 - All child welfare staff completed Motivational Interviewing Training or Advanced Motivational Interviewing Training, Working with Traumatized Adults, and Father Engagement Training (2023)
 - All child welfare staff completed new training from the CIC Summit for child welfare staff directly involved in the court process and training for mediation by JDMP (2023)
- Selective DCFS and each child welfare agency leadership has completed trauma focused communication training at the CIC Summit (2020)
- A development of a Standardized Family Engagement Training that is consistent with Key Activity 2.1.1 and Goal 3 of the PIP (2020)
- A development of an online curriculum that is consistent with concerted efforts and federal expectations and aligned with Initial Training (2022).

Year 1 Objective 1 Utilize Technical Assistance from CBCS to Implement Coaching Model

The state continues to work collaboratively with CBCS to implement, evaluate and measure the impact of this model on the workforce. The pandemic impacted the delivery and method of training and ongoing mentor support to management that received the training.

- Identify the Nevada team for Atlantic Coast Child Welfare Implementation Center (ACCWIC) coaching project and coaching curriculum modifications.
- Define/clarify Nevada team, Center for States team roles and responsibilities for coaching project.
- Identify Nevada Practice components to integrate in ACCWIC coaching curriculum.
- Schedule planning calls for review of the modified coaching curriculum.
- Establish a coaching training schedule and identify coaching champions participants for pilot coaching training and subsequent coaching training.
- Identify trainers for pilot coaching training and subsequent trainings.
- Review and finalize the integrated ACCWIC coaching curriculum.
- Identify coaching tools to include evaluation tool/survey for coaching training and coaching documentation tools for use by coaches.
- Develop fidelity tool (Identify coaching behaviors for data on quality of coaching, adherence to coaching practice, and context in which coaching occurs).
- Collect and review data from the training evaluation tool to improve subsequent coaching training, as needed.
- Identify who will coach coaching champions.
- Create a community of practice for coaching champions (observations, on-site individual coaching sessions, group coaching sessions, monthly coaching calls, quarterly learning collaborative, etc.).
- Implement a coaching community of practice for coaching champions to support coaching champions and build sustainability.
- Create communication that allows for the sharing of challenges and barriers related to coaching to continually address/resolve barriers.
- Conduct subsequent coaching trainings.
- Evaluation of the Coaching Model will continue into the years 2022-2024.

Summary of Progress towards Benchmarks

Nevada continues making major strides toward the implementation and sustainability of the ACCWIC coaching model utilizing technical assistance provided by the Capacity Building Center for States.¹³ The Nevada Core Steering Team's ("CoachNV Core Team") mission was to "develop and retain a transformed workforce through implementation of a coaching model that creates, promotes and maintains statewide consistency of a strength-based practice and improves outcomes for children and families." The state and regional partners met regularly to develop a joint implementation plan that included the development of training, evaluation measures, messaging, regional readiness as well as stakeholder buy-in and development of regional implementation champions. This past year the Nevada CoachNV Core Team and its charter were integrated into the WIT, during which CoachNV remains a standing agenda item. Additionally, one WIT meeting a quarter

¹³ CBCS' Semi-annual Report January 2020 State of Nevada Coaching Implementation Project.

will focus entirely on CoachNV to allow state partners to have focused discussions around sustainability, fidelity, and communication.

The CoachNV Core Team developed training curriculum using the Atlantic Coast Child Welfare Implementation Center (ACCWIC) coaching model to meet Nevada's specific needs. The intent of the coaching model is to create a supportive learning environment by:

- Consistent modeling and development of a trusting environment.
- Increased retention of a more qualified, skilled, and healthy workforce.
- Reinforced training and transfer of learning.
- Increased supervisory capacity.
- Enhanced critical thinking skills, soft skills, practice, and knowledge.
- Improved organizational culture and climate (safe, trusting and collaborative).

The state originally piloted the new curriculum with leadership in the southern region. Since that time, training has commenced for supervisors, managers, and leadership statewide. The entire statewide management workforce was not trained as planned due to COVID-19 and orders to shelter in place. This training was designed to be in-person which includes role-playing in a group setting, however, the training was subsequently provided virtually. The state received technical assistance from the CBCS for the delivery of the training and provided individual and group coaching for recipients. CBCS also worked with the state's university partners in the evaluation of the virtual training and utilized this information to further refine and improve the curriculum and its delivery. Discussions around the need to modify the existing curriculum were had during quarterly CoachNV meetings, sub workgroup meetings, as well as with the WIT team. This resulted in the core curriculum remaining intact; however, allowed for some flexibility in the delivery of the training. Training for all statewide leadership and managers was completed this past year and training for supervisors statewide commenced. Training will continue through the upcoming year to ensure any supervisors, or newly promoted managers not yet trained, receive the training. The state also increased its capacity to facilitate the curriculum by identifying regional trainers statewide.

Over the next year, as part of their work plan, the CBCS will work with the state to create advanced coaching tools to assist supervisors in further integrating coaching skills into supervision. The CBCS will also provide support and consultation on how to modify and integrate CoachNV into the state's supervisor core training.

As the ACCWIC model does not have a standard fidelity instrument, members of the CoachNV Core Team developed a fidelity monitoring tool for the coaching model and methodology around the use of the tool. In addition, a logic model exercise was used to develop a set of outcomes. This resulted in a survey assessment that was delivered agency-wide to measure the impact of the coaching model. Feedback received from the initial use of the fidelity tool was utilized to further refine it. Over the next year, the tool will be utilized to evaluate and assess the utilization of coaching by the workforce. The tool assesses whether the different components of coaching are being utilized during a

session. The information collected will be evaluated within a sub workgroup to determine the quality of coaching and adherence to coaching practice. The CBCS will provide consultation on the evaluation process to collect and analyze fidelity data to assess whether staff behaviors are showing that the implementation of CoachNV is occurring as intended. The CBCS will also provide consultation on how to utilize the fidelity data and information to address implementation challenges throughout the state including providing consultation on the development of the CQI process so that fidelity assessment data can be utilized to improve the coaching practice of individuals. This data will then be shared with the larger WIT team.

Each region identified coaching champions and is working with its university partner to provide ongoing coaching support to cohorts that have completed CoachNV training. In Spring 2020, a CoachNV community of practice was initiated which includes group coaching sessions, individual coaching sessions, and monthly coaching calls to support sustainability. These efforts to maintain a community of practice will continue through the next year. A communication sub workgroup meets monthly to discuss strategies around messaging to the workforce and ways to engage and support coaches even more. The state's university partners have been discussing the potential of creating an online community through the LMS that would create a landing page with resources, tools, and the ability to connect with other coaches throughout the state with a "coaching buddies" program. Personnel vacancies and budget constraints impacted the advancement of this online community this past year; however, efforts will be renewed over the next year.

Feedback Loop

A communication subcommittee was formed to support consistent statewide communication and messaging. The communication subcommittee will provide monthly updates at WIT Subcommittee, and minutes will be shared with the WIT and DMG.

The fidelity tool will be used to assess how CoachNV has been implemented. The results will provide ongoing data on how coaching is being implemented and impacting the workforce. The data will be used to inform changes to the curriculum and feedback to the trainers throughout the implementation and evaluation process. The CQI process includes ensuring fidelity, performance improvement evaluations, measurement through surveys and focus groups and communication back to coaches and coaches. Additionally, over the next year, the CBCS will provide consultation on the development of a learning circle process.

Implementation and Program Supports

Nevada continues to receive support and technical assistance from the CBCS and received an approved Work Plan from the CBCS in April 2021 to run through December 2021. Specific services are outlined in the Center for States Integrated Capacity Building Plan. Due to the financial impact of COVID-19 and the reduction in trainers, CBCS extended services beyond consultation and technical assistance this past year through the provision of training and mentoring. Technical assistance over the next year will

include further facilitation of training and coaching, as well as continued review of the measure of progress for this goal.

Year 1 Objective 2 Form Workforce Innovation Team (WIT) to identify challenges

- Identify members from each jurisdiction (Chair/Co-Chair (2), management (1), HR manager/analyst (3), data/statistician (1), caseworkers/supervisors (3-4), training (1) for Workforce Innovation Team (WIT).
- Discuss overall workforce goals to create a healthier workforce.
- Identify data that will help prioritize and assess needs.
- Identify major workforce challenges in creating a healthier workforce.
- Develop a communications plan to disseminate information.
- Identify key themes for a meaningful satisfaction survey.
- Administer the first employee satisfaction survey.
- Determine the need for workforce analysis.
- Training curriculum addresses compassion fatigue, burnout, and vicarious trauma.

Summary of Progress towards Benchmarks

The Training Management Team transitioned to become the Workforce Innovation Team (WIT) and expanded their role to include supporting the implementation of CoachNV as well as the activities supporting Healthy Workforce goal. A satisfaction survey of the workforce was administered through CoachNV in January through February 2020. The WIT reviewed the results and utilized them in collaboration with the CoachNV Implementation Team which has many cross over members with the WIT. The survey results informed the implementation team's development of training standards, a trainer feedback loop, as well as improvements to the training delivery and curriculum.

Feedback Loop

The CQI process includes ensuring fidelity, performance improvement evaluations, measurement through surveys and focus groups, and communication back to coaches. Additionally, a communication committee has been formed to design a feedback loop to staff on survey results.

Implementation and Program Supports

Nevada continued to receive support and technical assistance from the CBCS for the coaching model and received an approved Work Plan from the CBCS that ran through March of 2022. There are no research, evaluation, or management information systems in support of this objective.

Year 1 Objective 3 Increase Participation in Family Engagement Training

- Each child welfare agency leadership, in alignment with PIP Activity 2.1.1, will issue an Instructional Memorandum requiring designated child welfare staff to take

existing Motivational Interviewing or Advanced Motivational Interview Training, (2020) Working with Traumatized Adults (2023), and Father Engagement (2023) Training through Nevada Partnership for Training (NPT). Staff who have already participated in this training during the past 12 months prior to the acceptance of the PIP are excluded. The remaining staff will be required to have participated in the same training in year 4 of the CFSP.

Summary of Progress towards Benchmarks

The Instructional Memorandum for PIP Activity 2.1.1 has been issued to all jurisdictions. PIP Activity 2.1.3 requires the development of trauma-informed Communication training specific to family engagement using AOC/CIP dependency stakeholder training and trauma-informed communication techniques. This deliverable was met in Q5, and staff began to participate in the training during Q6.

In April of 2021, the state reached 100% of staff participation in the Motivational Interviewing training.

As of September 2021, 100% of the identified staff statewide had already completed the new trauma informed communication training. Moving forward, all new staff will continue to be trained on this topic as they are hired.

Feedback Loop

A PIP Team 2 workgroup, with statewide representation, was responsible for overseeing this objective and serves as a feedback loop to the PIP Core Team.

Implementation and Program Supports

The use of technical assistance and training experts accessed by CIP was used to support this objective. There are no research, evaluation, or management information systems in support of this objective.

Year 2 Objective 1 Improve Trauma Communication Training

- The State Training Manager and/or designee to develop and lead a workgroup to meet regularly and consistently to aggressively plan, problem solve, create, and devise an implementation plan with representative(s) from the courts to develop a Standardized Family Engagement Training that aligns with the Curriculum Guide detailed in Key Activity 2.1.3 of the PIP.
 - Workgroup to be led in a timely fashion to address the forward moving plan of what is needed for goals, competencies, and curriculum.
- Assessment to be completed by the training partners as indicated in Key Activity 2.1.3 of the PIP to determine if current trainings, curricula, and resources that currently exist can be modified and used as a foundation. Assessment to also determine if the training can be disseminated either online, in-person, or both.

- This training will include information from the CIC Summit training and supported by PIP Goal 3. Goals are designed to ensure child welfare staff learn communication techniques to engage parents, relatives, and children exposed to trauma as well as when engaging with all professionals involved in court processes. This Key Activity will improve the quality and frequency of contact with families, promote achievement of case goals, increase, and maintain family engagement, and ensure the well-being of children and youth.
- As indicated in Key Activity 2.1.3 of the PIP, DCFS FPO Training Manager will assist training partners in prioritizing trainings for the purposes of the PIP and CFSP to ensure timelines are met for each quarter.
- Each child welfare agency will use the evaluation provided by the CIP on JDMP created through the permanency and well-being of the CFSP and supported through Goal 3 to make necessary improvements to staff training and/or the expansion of JDMP.
- Selective leadership will receive family engagement training through the CIC as indicated in the permanency and well-being of the CFSP and Goal 3.

Summary of Progress Towards Benchmarks

The training was first presented in the CIC Summit in October of 2019, and again the following year at the 2020 CIC Summit. The AOC/CIP continue to incorporate what they have learned about Trauma at the 11 local CICs. The AOC/CIP focuses on techniques of trauma-focused communication to engage the parents and relatives and the 11 judicial districts. The AOC/CIC will conduct ongoing surveys to continue to monitor the progress of trauma focused engagements throughout the judicial districts.

The training has also been initiated with the statewide child welfare agencies. The state had set internal goals for the completion of the Trauma Informed training with expectations that at least 90% of all identified staff will be completed by the end of Q8. The state met its desired goal and is currently at 100% completion.

Team 2 coordinates with the Nevada Partnership for Training to track the statistics of completion and this information provided to the agencies on a routine basis and is being discussed in the SQIC. Moving forward, newly hired staff will continue to receive the trauma informed trainings.

Feedback Loop

Discussions around this objective will occur in the WIT, SQIC, and PIP Team 2 workgroup. All the listed groups have statewide representatives from all jurisdictional agencies and stakeholders with the direct options of input, and delivery of feedback.

Implementation and Program Supports

Moving forward the state and NPT will continue to assess and determine what technical assistance and training are needed to support, assess, and identify all new staff who will be required to complete the training. NPT maintains tracking information of all staff members who complete the training and will ensure that all agencies receive an update status monthly to maintain compliance expectations. This will be an ongoing project as all trainings are continually evaluated and updated to ensure a well-trained workforce.

Year 2 Objective 2 Partner with HR to streamline processes

- Develop and implement recruitment process
- Develop process for anticipatory hiring
- Develop characteristics/competencies for job functions and execute a plan to communicate to staff about the benefits of the competency model/culture
- Develop competency-based behavioral interviewing questions, develop hiring forms and processes, train hiring managers, implement system
- Develop realistic job preview (address community perception as well)
- Develop and implement onboarding policies
- Develop and implement recruitment process for new employees
- Develop and implement exit survey
- Administer second employee satisfaction survey
- Conduct a Workforce Study

Summary of Progress Towards Benchmarks

Over the past year the state formed a workgroup consisting of representation from the three child welfare jurisdictions, the Family Programs Office and partnered with human resources from across the jurisdictions to address this objective. The workgroup administered an employee satisfaction survey in June 2022. In Nevada, each jurisdiction has their own process in place to address recruitment and competency based behavioral interviewing questions. Some areas of the state are more advanced in their hiring practices and have the following in place, anticipatory hiring practices, exit survey or interview and established onboarding processes. This past year the rural region conducted an agency assessment and workforce focus was a component of that assessment.

Feedback Loop

Discussions around this objective continue to occur in the WIT, SQIC and any identified sub workgroups. Those groups have statewide representation, facilitating the opportunity to collect feedback, and deliver it.

Implementation and Program Supports

The state applied to the Quality Improvement Center for Workforce Development (QIC-WD) to participate in the Child Welfare Workforce Analytics Institute program that focused on child welfare and human resources to work together using data analytics to address

workforce challenges. Unfortunately, our state was not chosen to participate in the program.

Year 3 Objective 1 Improving Curriculum

- The State Training Manager and/or designee, in collaboration with each child welfare agency and the Training Program, to develop and lead a workgroup to meet regularly and consistently to aggressively plan, problem solve, create, and devise an implementation plan to develop an online refresher training to support Goal 2 “Promoting effective communication and Contact with Families” by building awareness to concerted efforts and federal expectations
 - Workgroup to be led in a timely fashion to address the forward moving plan of what is needed for goals, competencies, and curriculum.
 - Assessment to be completed to determine if current trainings, curricula, and resources that currently exist can be modified and used as a foundation and if micro trainings would be appropriate.
- Workgroup will include a representative from the courts such as a participant(s) from the Court Improvement Program, attorney, DA, and any other stakeholder identified as appropriate by the workgroup.
- Training will address the following but not be limited to;
 - The federal requirement that a child’s relationship with their parent(s) will be ongoingly assessed following the TPR process to determine if the relationship remains in the best interest of the child. If the relationship is determined to be in the best interest the agency will demonstrate concerted efforts to maintain the relationship;
 - TPR timeframes;
 - Explanation of compelling reasons and reasonable efforts, including which hearings shall include this information;
 - Timelines for identifying and achieving permanency goals;
 - Steps to ensure caseworkers are interacting with parents while they are incarcerated. The expectation of caseworkers to identify and remove barriers to communication;
 - Concerted efforts on assessing the needs and services of children, parents, and foster parents. Specifically;
 - Working to engage families in needed safety-related services and facilitating a family’s access to those services;
 - Encouraging a parent’s participation in school-related activities, doctor’s appointments for the child, or engagement in after-school activities; and
 - Engaging families to be active participants in their family’s case planning such as;
 - Having age-appropriate discussions with children and explaining case plans in language they understand.
 - Having age-appropriate discussion with youth about their Independent Living Plan and appropriate goals.
 - Ensuring children understand permanency goals and changes made to goals.

- Discussing family strengths and needs with children and parents.
- Evaluating other case plan goals and progress in services with both children and parents.
- Identifying and removing barriers to achieve case plan goals and/or providing strategies to achieve goals.
- Ensuring that case planning meetings are arranged based on the family's availability and are utilized to engage the family in case planning discussions.
- The workgroup to further explore learning objectives with the Youth Advisory Board in a manner that is conducive to their schedules
- The training partners are to ensure the LMS easily identifies and provides the online training required for this Key Activity in a way that is easily accessible to staff in all jurisdictions and training is offered on an ongoing basis and not a rotating basis.
- DCFS-FPO Training Manager will work in collaboration with the Training Program to ensure the Initial Training Academy courses/material are updated and include current concerted efforts identified in the CFSR review and federal expectations.

Summary of Progress Towards Benchmarks

Over the past year, due in part to limited resources, staff transition and staff vacancies, work towards this objective has not been completed. The state, in partnership with the state's universities developed a trauma informed asynchronous training through 2020 and delivered it in 2021. 100% of the workforce at that time was trained in this training. Due to competing priorities and reasons, work towards a refresher training has not been initiated. The state asserts that various aspects of this objective are being addressed through independent projects occurring statewide, for example, within the independent living program, work is being done to assess if we are having age-appropriate discussions with youth and young adults (YYA) about their Independent Living Plan and appropriate goals. Workgroups formed around improving our existing IL program statewide, as well as implementing EFC, are ensuring YYA are included in those discussions and subsequent planning. Additionally, work around improving the state's performance on item 13, involving mothers, fathers and children in the case planning process continues to be done in PIP Team 2. Over the next year, this workgroup will incorporate the specifics of this objective into its work.

Feedback Loop

PIP Team 2 and the workgroups for independent living are comprised of representatives from the three child welfare jurisdictions and the Family Programs Office. Representatives from NPT and CIP are invited on an as needed basis to these workgroups. The independent living program is currently recruiting young leaders (YL) to participate in workgroups with the intention of them taking information back to regional youth advisory boards (YAB) as well as to the statewide YAB. These workgroups present information, planned activities and results at the SQIC. Information is shared at the WIT and the AD's meeting as appropriate.

Implementation and Program Supports

The state will continue to receive technical assistance from the CBCS and SCP over the next year. They are providing support in both improving the state's independent living program as well as with the implementation of EFC. No other technical supports are needed at this time.

Year 3 Objective 2 Retention- WIT Team

- Develop and implement performance feedback on the competencies essential to achieving the desired results in each job function
- Develop training opportunities for all staff in the competencies essential for successful performance
- Develop and administer competency surveys, analyze findings, develop strategies
 - Using monthly or quarterly for data driven decisions for individuals and agencies
- Administer third employee satisfaction survey, analyze finding, develop strategies
- Utilize coaching as a mechanism to develop staff around the identified competencies
- Develop succession plan (ex. promotional readiness team)
 - Partner with current supervisors to show how to interview and tools to promote up
- All child welfare agencies will train workers on compassion fatigue, burnout, and vicarious trauma

Summary of Progress Towards Benchmarks

Over the past year, due in part to limited resources, staff transition and staff vacancies, work towards this objective has not been completed and is delayed. This past year the state focused on year two objectives that had been delayed due to the COVID-19 national health emergency. In efforts to address those objectives, a workgroup was formed to develop the satisfaction survey and plan its administration. The plan for this upcoming year is to utilize this newly formed workgroup as a place to have deeper discussions around retention, as well as creating a plan to develop a trauma informed child welfare system as it pertains to goal two's objectives. The state asserts that various aspects of this objective are being addressed through independent projects occurring statewide, for example, the Nevada Partnership in Training is currently working towards developing supervisor competencies, and as of September of 2021, all leadership and supervisors across the state had been trained in CoachNV. A coaching culture is actively promoted across the state.

Feedback Loop

Discussions around this objective continue to occur in the WIT, SQIC and any identified sub workgroups. Those groups have statewide representation, facilitating the opportunity to collect feedback, and deliver it.

Implementation and Program Supports

The state has partnered with the Capacity Building Center for States (CBCS) to focus on retention over the next 6 to 9 months. CBCS will provide technical and program support to the workgroup formed to address this goal. As of the writing of this report, the state has met with CBCS once to discuss initial planning of a work plan, priorities for the workforce and how to leverage resources.

Year 3 Objective 2 Retention- WIT Team

- Develop and implement performance feedback on the competencies essential to achieving the desired results in each job function
- Develop training opportunities for all staff in the competencies essential for successful performance
- Develop and administer competency surveys, analyze findings, develop strategies
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Summary of Progress Towards Benchmarks

Over the past year, due in part to limited resources, staff transition and staff vacancies, work towards this objective has not been completed and is delayed. This past year the state focused on year two objectives that had been delayed due to the COVID-19 national health emergency. In efforts to address those objectives, a workgroup was formed to develop the satisfaction survey and plan its administration. The plan for this upcoming year is to utilize this newly formed workgroup as a place to have deeper discussions around retention, as well as creating a plan to develop a trauma informed child welfare system as it pertains to goal two's objectives. The state asserts that various aspects of this objective are being addressed through independent projects occurring statewide, for example, the Nevada Partnership in Training is currently working towards developing supervisor competencies, and as of September of 2021, all leadership and supervisors

across the state had been trained in CoachNV. A coaching culture is actively promoted across the state.

Feedback Loop

Discussions around this objective continue to occur in the WIT, SQIC and any identified sub workgroups. Those groups have statewide representation, facilitating the opportunity to collect feedback, and deliver it.

Implementation and Program Supports

The state has partnered with the Capacity Building Center for States (CBCS) to focus on retention over the next 6 to 9 months. CBCS will provide technical and program support to the workgroup formed to address this goal. The state meets at least monthly with the CBCS once to discuss its work plan, priorities for the workforce, and how to leverage existing resources. This will continue over the next year.

2023 Year 4 Objective: Build Awareness to Concerted Efforts and Federal Expectations

- Each child welfare agency leadership will issue an instructional memorandum requiring child welfare staff to participate in the new Refresher Online Training(s) to build awareness to concerted efforts and federal expectations.”
- Managers will provide 1:1 coaching with supervisors and supervisors to provide 1:1 coaching with caseworkers prior to the training as part of the training process and following the completion of training as part of the transfer of learning process. Managers and supervisors will be expected to role model performance and behaviors while providing technical assistance and coaching feedback to ensure skillful engagement with families is occurring.
- The training partners are to ensure the Learning Management System (LMS) easily identifies and provides the online training(s) required for this Key Activity in a way that is easily accessible to child welfare staff in all jurisdictions and training is offered on an ongoing basis and not a rotating basis.
- Each child welfare agency and DCFS-FPO Training Manager will work in collaboration with the Training Program to monitor the completion of training using the LMS tracking abilities and ensure the initial material for the Training Academy is up to date. (This key activity will also improve the caseworker's ability to identify concerted efforts and adequately assess families, which will improve Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being outcomes. Courses will target the federal expectations on assessing the needs and services of children, parents, and foster parents related to PIP Goal 3.
- To support Permanency and Well Being objectives/strategies in the CFSP, DCFS FPO Specialists to work in collaboration with training partners to Improve training of trauma focused communication skills and assess if the established curriculum and learning objectives need modifying and/or updated through data collection.

Summary of progress towards benchmarks:

Nevada continues to uplift and promote a coaching culture in its child welfare workforce. As CoachNV was implemented over the past two years, all child welfare leadership, managers, and supervisors across the state were trained. This past year, the NPT, in partnership with local child welfare agencies, continued to develop and refine a fidelity tool to evaluate the utilization of coaching skills and techniques. Over the next year, implementation of this tool will occur. This analysis will help Nevada determine any impacts coaching is having in the state. NPT continues to be a collaborative partner in the discussions around improving family engagement. Over the next year, the state will continue to look at impacts of coaching through a CQI lens. This will be accomplished by reviewing the results from the fidelity reviews, utilizing existing data reports, utilizing case review quantitative data, and by conducting qualitative reviews of case worker contacts. This analysis of the impacts CoachNV may have had on Nevada's child welfare system will help guide the state in identifying CQI activities, gaps in training, need for communication/messaging for the workforce, strategies to utilize coaching in the implementation of prevention services and extended foster care, as well as inform the state's planning for the 2025-2029 CFSP and Round 4 of the CFSR.

Feedback loops:

The state Family Programs Office meets bi-weekly with NPT. There are multiple monthly meetings that provide space to discuss training, and training needs to include the WIT, SQIC, FFPSA implementation meetings, and EFC implementation meetings. The NPT, CIP, and representatives from the child welfare agencies across the state attend these meetings.

Implementation and program support:

Nevada receives technical assistance from the state's universities, as well as related technical assistance from the Capacity Building Center for States. This technical assistance will extend into the coming year.

2020 (Year 4) Increase Participation in Family Engagement Training

- Each child welfare agency leadership, in align with PIP Key Activity 2.1.1, will issue an Instructional Memorandum requiring all child welfare staff to take existing Motivational Interviewing or Advanced Motivational Interview Training, Working with Traumatized Adults, and Father Engagement Training through Nevada Partnership for Training (NPT). Staff who have already participated in this training during the PIP is excluded from the training, unless directed otherwise by leadership.
- Each child welfare agency leadership, in align with PIP Key Activity 2.1.1, will issue an Instructional Memorandum requiring all child welfare staff who are directly involved in the court process to participate in the new standardized Family Engagement Training developed by the training partners in collaboration with the DCFS FPO Training Manager. This training will include information from the CIC Summit training and supported by Key Activity 3.1.1. Staff who have already

participated in this training during the PIP is excluded from the training, unless directed otherwise by leadership.

Summary of progress towards benchmarks:

Progress towards this objective was stalled this past year. This was due in part to staffing transitions and shortages in both the state FPO office, as well as with the universities. Additionally, priorities shifted somewhat with the implementation of FFPSA ramping up, and resources were diverted to prepare the state for its plan submission. Over the next year, Nevada will work to leverage existing resources and projects to explore the needs around family engagement. Authentic engagement with children, families, caregivers, and those with lived experience is a priority for Nevada.

Feedback loops:

Multiple monthly meetings provide space for discussion, sharing results, problem exploration, generating solutions, analyzing data, and identifying opportunities to improve. These meetings include the WIT, SQIC, FFPSA implementation meetings, EFC implementation meetings, and various statewide workgroups. The state FPO, NPT, CIP, and representatives from the child welfare agencies across the state attend these meetings.

Implementation and program support:

Nevada receives technical assistance from the state's universities, as well as related technical assistance from the Capacity Building Center for States. This technical assistance will extend into the coming year.

2023 (Year 4) Evaluate Organizational Effectiveness-WIT TEAM

- Develop workforce dashboard and review quarterly
- Assessment and repository for data in collaboration with HR
- Administer second competency survey, analyze findings, develop strategies
- Administer fourth employee satisfaction survey, analyze findings, develop strategies
- Evaluate trends from data
- Provide opportunities for professional development through analyzing data (training opportunities, updates to policy and procedures)

Summary of progress towards benchmarks:

Nevada did not make significant progress on this objective. The state has been focused on its previous goals which were delayed in past years. The satisfaction survey was administered to the child welfare workforce in August of 2022. The existing workgroup tasked with the survey's development, also spent a large part of this past year analyzing its results, and planning to authentically share those results with leadership, HR, and the workforce. The state wanted to be intentional in its efforts to utilize the responses from

the survey to drive change within the child welfare agencies. This past year, the child welfare agencies and the FPO saw much change in leadership and has struggled with staffing vacancies. Nevada would like to be thoughtful in its approach in closing feedback loops with staff who participated in the survey and any initiatives to improve agency culture. Over the next year, Nevada's goal is to disseminate the survey results to the workforce in a meaningful way, and to provide messaging to promote the administration of Nevada's second employee satisfaction survey. Work will continue towards identifying where best to house the data, and how to create a workforce dashboard.

Feedback loops:

Multiple monthly meetings provide space for discussion, sharing results, problem exploration, generating solutions, analyzing data, and identifying opportunities to improve. These meetings include the WIT, SQIC, FFPSA implementation meetings, EFC implementation meetings, and various statewide workgroups. The state FPO, NPT, CIP, and representatives from the child welfare agencies across the state attend these meetings.

Implementation and program supports:

Nevada receives technical assistance from the state's universities, as well as related technical assistance from the Capacity Building Center for States. This technical assistance will extend into the coming year.

Goal 4: Improve Statewide Child Welfare Outcomes by Developing and Strengthening the Statewide Quality Assurance System to Ensure the System Can Identify and Respond to the Strengths and Needs of the Child Welfare System in an Efficient and Effective Manner

Measures of Progress

This will be measured by the progress of the completion of the CQI process.

Outcome measure: 90% performance measure-sample data.

- Permanency goals in UNITY will be accurate 90% of all cases pulled for spot check/review Baseline is 80% in 2019 (FY 2020 82%) (FY 2021 84%) (FY 2022 86%) (FY 2023 88%) (FY 2024 90%)

Interim benchmarks:

- Completed CQI Self-Assessment (FY 2021)
- CQI self-assessment analysis report that highlights the strengths and weakness of Nevada's CQI Benchmark system and processes. (FY 2021)
- Generate a CQI Action Plan to address deficiencies identified in the CQI self-assessment analysis report. (FY 2021)

- All child welfare CQI teams will establish written processes to ensure that all CQI new hires will complete the CQI training as part of their employee on-boarding. (FY 2021)
- A completed feasibility study with recommendations to expand FPO's oversight of child welfare programs in Nevada as it relates to the statewide case review process.
- A submitted budget request to procure additional funding to support the expansion and benchmark enhancements as identified in the feasibility study as it relates to statewide case review process.
- A uniformly shared data dictionary that sets the standards for when and how users update information in UNITY as it relates to permanency goal documentation standards.

Year 1 Objective 1: Conduct TA activities related to CQI Self-Assessment using the tool as developed by CBCS

- Request membership from executive leadership, for Assessment and Implementation teams.
- Convene Assessment team, to conduct the assessment.
- Develop the CQI Assessment/Implementation team Charter and Communication Plan
- Continue to conduct case reviews as outlined in the measurement plan and with collaboration from all child welfare agencies as described in MOU (Q1)

Summary of Progress towards Benchmarks

PIP Team 4 is responsible for the CQI Self-Assessment and completed the CQI Self-Assessment in January of 2021. The team moved into evaluating the assessment's results to identify the strengths and weakness of Nevada's CQI system and processes and developed a CQI Action Plan to address deficiencies identified in the CQI self-assessment. The implementation of the CQI Action Plan commenced in April of 2021 and will continue into the upcoming year. The Charter and Communication Plan for PIP Team 4 has been completed. DCFS submitted a budget enhancement request to the Nevada Legislature to expand the capacity of the Family Programs Office to enhance oversight of child welfare programs in Nevada; however, the request was rejected.

Signed memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the DCFS Administrator and the Directors of county child welfare agencies are in place to formalize the commitment to the case review process as a method to support continuous quality improvement. As a result of the COVID-19 national health emergency, a statewide collaborative effort was successful in devising a system to provide and conduct standardized virtual training, communication, and remote case reviews. This included incorporating guidance from the State and Federal governments that impacted individual performance items or systemic factors.

The state conducted four case reviews since the submission of the last APSR. Over the next year, the state will work towards modifying their case reviewer training to incorporate feedback received from participants and align the curriculum with current practice. Training will return to a live and in person training; however, it will still be offered virtually at least once a year.

Feedback Loop

The SQIC and WIT Charter and Communication plans outline feedback loop communication with leadership and staff in each jurisdiction, all PIP teams, Children's Bureau Region 9, child welfare families and youth, as well as other relevant stakeholders such as CIP and Children's Justice Act Task Force.

Agency leads that participate in CFSR and CQI case reviews are members of the SQIC. The SQIC communicates to the Assistant Director group and their respective agency leadership.

Implementation and Program Supports

PIP Team 4 is receiving technical assistance from the CBCS. There are no research, evaluation, or management information systems in support of this objective.

Year 1 Objective 2: Identify data entry standards re: permanency goals in UNITY

- Develop a uniformly agreed-upon data dictionary to include standards of performance regarding the definitions of permanency goals, how to update them in UNITY and which case events would prompt such an update.
- Write or revise the existing policy to inform practice(Q4)
- All child welfare agencies will ensure staff receive these expectations(Q4)
- Develop/Conduct CQI activities to ensure permanency goals in UNITY are accurate and timely (Q2-Q8)

Summary of Progress towards Benchmarks

Data input standards related to timely entry and accuracy of permanency goals in UNITY were addressed by work completed in Q1 for PIP key activity 4.3.1. These findings were utilized by the SQIC team to develop statewide policy requirements for establishing permanency goals and UNITY documentation. As part of the work for PIP Activity 3.2.1 completed on 7/31/2020, these requirements were included in the revision of the 0204 "Permanency and Case Planning" policy. The revisions included clarifying the timeframes for when a case plan goal must be entered in UNITY. PIP key activity 4.3.4 further supports the CQI process and this objective by conducting statewide semi-annual spot checks to determine if permanency goals in UNITY match court orders in case files. In the next year, the state will continue to monitor performance during these spot checks to determine if further review of policy, training or job aids will be needed.

In 2020, the state first collected data on entered permanency goals to determine if permanency goals in UNITY matched the permanency goals in court orders. This process was replicated in January of 2021 and was repeated in July of 2021. In January of 2020, spot check results indicated 88% of goals in UNITY matched goals in the most recent court order. In January of 2021, the results had increased to 93%. In the next year, the state will monitor performance during these spot checks to determine if further review of policy, training or job aids will be needed. Improving data entry and developing processes for the validation of data are action items in the CQI Action Plan developed by PIP Team 4 and will further support efforts to improve practice in this area.

Feedback Loop

The Charter and Communication plan outlines feedback loop communication with leadership and staff in each jurisdiction, all PIP teams, Children's Bureau Region 9, child welfare families and youth, as well as other relevant stakeholders such as CIP and Children's Justice Act Task Force.

Implementation and Program Supports

At this time no technical assistance needs have been identified at this time. There are no research, evaluation, or management information systems in support of this objective.

Year 1 Objective 3: Improve and sustain the case review process.

- Complete budget feasibility study and budget request regarding expansion of Family Programs Office oversight as it relates to the statewide case review process
- Provide results of the feasibility study to executive leadership
- Submit a budget request for additional positions, resources, etc. for inclusion in SFY22-23 biennium

Summary of Progress towards Benchmarks

A budget request has been submitted for review and approval by the Governor's office.

Feedback Loop

The DCFS Administrator will communicate through the child welfare leadership Decision Making Group and to the Children's Bureau.

Implementation and Program Supports

At this time no technical assistance needs have been identified at this time. There are no research, evaluation, or management information systems in support of this objective.

Year 2 Objective 1 Complete the assessment and analyze results

- Complete CQI Self-Assessment (Q6)

- Analyze results and develop Action Plan and begin implementation(Q6)

Summary of Progress towards Benchmarks

PIP Team 4 completed the CQI self-assessment in Q5. The team moved into evaluating the assessment's results, with the technical assistance from the CBCS, and worked towards developing a statewide action plan during Q6. The implementation of the action plan commenced during Q6 and will continue into the upcoming year.

An evaluation of the CQI self-assessment identified areas of opportunity in all seven of the assessment domains. In the following four domains, the state has the most opportunity to improve: leadership support and modeling, staff and stakeholder engagement, foundational administrative structure to oversee and implement CQI and quality data collection, infrastructure, extraction, analysis, and dissemination. The CQI Action Plan was developed over 12 weeks and was a collaborative effort by PIP Team 4, which has representation from FPO, regional CQI teams, data analytics and IT. The plan includes actionable items which were assigned a priority. The team identified existing groups and new subgroups that could complete the activities. For more detailed information regarding planned activities, please refer to the Attachment K, the CQI Action Plan.

Feedback Loop

The team's charter and communication plans outline feedback loop communication with leadership and staff in each jurisdiction, all PIP teams, Children's Bureau Region 9, child welfare families and youth, as well as other relevant stakeholders such as CIP and Children's Justice Act Task Force.

Implementation and Program Supports

PIP Team 4 receives technical assistance from the CBCS. This project is included in the current CBCS Work Plan which runs through December 2021. There are no research, evaluation, or management information systems in support of this objective.

Year 3 Objective 1 Implement CQI Improvement Action Plan (AP)

- Convene implementation team to complete activities as outlined in CQI improvement plan
- Develop and initiate a system to monitor progress of implementation team
- Develop systems of feedback to ensure all levels of child welfare staff have a clear understanding of how their work influences performance outcomes
- Implement changes to close gaps as identified by CQI-AP in the following domains:
 - Leadership Support and Modeling
 - Staff and Stakeholder Engagement
 - Communication
 - Foundational Administrative Structure

Summary of Progress Towards Benchmarks

Team 4 with the help of the CBCS established a written set of goals and tasks in the form of Attachment K – The CQI Action Plan. 25 Tasks were identified on the plan. The team assigned those tasks based on priority and feasibility and created sub-work groups to complete the work. As of the writing of this report, three tasks have been completed and another three tasks are currently in progress.

All tasks are tracked by the team and its sub-groups on a scrum board where all identified members can track and update their progress to ensure all stakeholders remain informed.

Feedback Loop

The team's charter and communication plans outline feedback loop communication with leadership and staff in each jurisdiction, all PIP teams, Children's Bureau Region 9, child welfare families and youth, as well as other relevant stakeholders such as CIP and Children's Justice Act Task Force.

Implementation and Program Supports

PIP Team 4 receives technical assistance from the CBCS. This project is included in the current CBCS Work Plan which runs through December 2021. There are no research, evaluation, or management information systems in support of this objective.

2023 (Year 4): Track and Monitor Progress of CQI Action Plan (CQI-AP)

- The progress of the CQI-AP will be reviewed in a statewide committee meeting at least quarterly
- Adjustments, redirections, and amendments to this plan will be reviewed and voted on during the same meeting as needed
- Implement changes to close gaps as identified by CQI-AP in the following domains:
 - Case Record Review
 - Quality Data collection
 - Infrastructure
 - Data extraction, analysis, and dissemination
 - May include but is not limited to developing data reports for CQI purposes of the following program areas:
 - Assessment/Investigation, Out of Home Care, In-home Care, Independent Living, and Adoption

Summary of progress towards benchmarks:

This past year, Nevada continued to complete activities in its CQI Action Plan (AP). This activity is monitored in its PIP Team 4/Statewide CQI Team. The team meets monthly, and there are four sub workgroups that complete the tasks from the action plan. These sub workgroups report out to the larger group, and decisions that are needed are made

during those larger team meetings. This past year, the group updated its charter after the completion of Nevada's CFSR PIP, and periodically reviewed and discussed the state's action plan. The team is utilizing a scrum board through Microsoft Planner to track progress towards the activities in the AP. All members of the team have access to the scrum board and the ability to update it independently. The scrum board is reviewed and updated as needed during the team's monthly meetings. Over the next year, Nevada will continue to work at completing the activities in the AP and utilizing this group in the planning for the 2025-2029 CFSP and Round 4 of the CFSR.

Feedback loops:

The team's charter and communication plans outline feedback loop communication with leadership and staff in each jurisdiction, all PIP teams, Children's Bureau Region 9, child welfare families and youth, as well as other relevant stakeholders such as CIP and Children's Justice Act Task Force.

Implementation and program supports:

PIP Team 4/Nevada's Statewide CQI Team continues to receive technical assistance from the CBCS. This project is included in the current CBCS Work Plan which runs through December 2023. There are no research, evaluation, or management information systems in support of this objective.

QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

Nevada Revised Statutes 432B.180(3) requires DCFS to monitor the performance of child welfare agencies through data collection, evaluation of services, and the review and approval of agency improvement plans pursuant to NRS 432B.2155. Nevada Administrative Code details the activities required concerning the evaluation of services provided by the child welfare agencies and actions upon determination of noncompliance with certain provisions.

The state is working towards strengthening its CQI system by following the principles outlined in the [ACYF-CB-IM-12-07](#) on establishing and maintaining Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) systems.

Foundational Administrative Structure

State and region level CQI staff have utilized the Capacity Building Center for States on-line CQI Academy to improve the capacity of CQI staff to understand the CQI process, how to evaluate outcomes, and the importance of feedback to inform policy, training, and program adjustments. Throughout this past year, and as Nevada completed the CQI Self-Assessment, additional training needs that could enhance CQI capacity statewide were identified. Over the next year, the state will explore having its CQI staff participate in more specific data-related trainings around data visualization and data competency.

Additionally, the state's CQI staff work closely with the state's data team to identify areas of opportunity around data. The state's data team also works collaboratively with the state's CQI staff to identify CCWIS enhancements that could further support state CQI staff. The state CQI Team utilizes reviewers from the regions designated CQI units to form a pool of reviewers for the quarterly state CQI reviews.

As part of CFSP Goal 4 and PIP Goal 4, the state conducted a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Self-Assessment developed with the Capacity Building Center for States (CBCS) to identify how Nevada can strengthen its CQI/QA System. For more detailed information regarding planned activities, please refer to the Attachment K, Nevada's CQI Action Plan.

Quality Data Collection

The state can collect and share various data and produce data reports. Various data is shared regularly with child welfare jurisdictions, DCFS agency leaders, and public stakeholders. Internal data shared with child welfare jurisdictions includes monthly AFCARS, NCANDS, and NYTD data error reports, monthly caseworker visit compliance data, and various scheduled UNITY reports which get saved to a shared folder for access or directly emailed to certain staff for review. Jurisdictional staff can run over 150 UNITY data reports on demand in two report interfaces (legacy UNITY 1.0 report menu or the online UNITY 3.0 report menu, embedded in the UNITY 3.0 system and accessed via a special page). Another 80+ 'online' reports with data related to specific cases or children can be accessed, printed, or emailed from within various pages within the UNITY application. The latest version of UNITY, UNITY 3.0, uses IBM Cognos Analytics as its reporting subsystem, and legacy reports are being rewritten in the new platform. All users of the UNITY system have access to Cognos reports through the UNITY 3.0 user interface.

Regular data is shared with DCFS agency leaders include various child welfare caseload and budget data, data related to youth placed out of state, and data related to reports, allegations, and victims, among other items. Data shared publicly on the DCFS website includes the DCFS Data Book which has various tables, charts, and other data, the annual Specialized Foster Care Report, the APSR reports, and other child welfare historical reports. Data for these reports often comes from UNITY. Ad hoc data can be extracted from UNITY based on request and user needs. Sometimes ad hoc data requests become recurring tasks or get turned into new reports. The process for requesting and receiving ad hoc data from the UNITY system has been in place for years and seems to be working although it can be slowed down by resource constraints.

Case record review data and process

The state utilizes quarterly case review data and a process that mirrors the Federal CFSR Case Review process. Approximately 80 cases were reviewed annually throughout the CFSR PIP. As Nevada prepares and plans for Round 4 of the CFSR, the state is updating

its case reviewer trainings and evaluating its internal processes to determine ways to improve. During the interim, the state will reduce the number of cases reviewed annually only slightly and will review approximately 71 cases. The state uses the federal OSRI as well as the Online Monitoring System (OMS) as part of its ongoing CQI/QA process. In addition to state CQI case reviews, the regions and the FPO conduct ad hoc reviews on intake, visitation, child fatality as well as fidelity reviews of various components of the SAFE/SIPS Safety Model.

The state has been strengthening its ability to sustain a state case review process for CFSR purposes through partnership with the county child welfare agencies to develop a pool of reviewers, training, and desk manuals. The state utilizes the following desk manuals to conduct statewide case reviews: Nevada State Conducted Case Review Procedures, CFSR Sample Guide and the Nevada On-Site Review (OSR) Procedure Manual. The state continuously updates its OSR manual and solicits feedback from regional CQI teams. This next year, the FPO will incorporate CFSR Round 4 elements into the manual. Additionally, a training module continues to be developed to assist in institutionalizing the role of CQI and to ensure new state CQI staff understand the importance and role of federal and state monitoring, the CQI case review process and relation to assessing safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes.

As a result of the COVID-19 national health emergency, a statewide collaborative effort devised a system to provide and conduct standardized virtual training, communication, and remote case reviews. This included incorporating guidance from the state and federal government that impacted individual performance items or systemic factors. Once the restrictions around COVID-19 relaxed, the state contemplated returning some case review activities and training to an in-person modality. The child welfare agencies and the FPO, however, agreed that all case review components would remain virtual. Processes have been put in place to make the process as efficient as possible, to ensure confidentiality, and to elicit feedback from case review participants. The state envisions all case review activities to remain virtual for the unforeseen future.

The state asserts that sufficient capacity exists in the state to ensure sustainability of the case review process in Nevada using the OSRI for subsequent rounds of the CFSR. This past year, the state completed an initial update to the CFSR Case Reviewer training to ensure robust training of new reviewers and ongoing booster trainings for seasoned reviewers. This training includes the information and updates for Round 4 of the CFSR and has been piloted. The state will use the next year to improve the training based on feedback.

Analysis and Dissemination of Quality Data

Reports are used by CQI staff and management to monitor trends. Regions use various data reports to assist supervisors and managers in monitoring their staff's performance toward specific measures. State and regional Data Books are provided to the public and external agencies. Annual CQI Review reports are available on the DCFS website.

The state enhanced existing data reports as well as developing new reports as part of PIP Activities in Goals 1,2, and 3. The CBCS continues to provide guidance on how to use the reports to improve practice. From within the OMS, the state can run reports based on case review results and analyze current performance. At the conclusion of each quarterly case review, a state rating summary report is produced and the data from that report is shared statewide. As we have reviewed and assessed our performance, the state has been able to identify areas of practice to target and dive deeper into. Item rating summary reports are pulled to look at specific items where we see performance dip or plateau. PIP teams utilized these reports to dive deeper into specific items and evaluate our rationales and ratings relating to areas in which we have underperformed.

The state routinely shares data from case reviews, as well as from reports developed through the PIP with regional partners during SQIC meetings as well as with the workforce through an internal distribution process for each agency. Conversations around the dissemination of data and targeted messaging continue to be held in statewide workgroups.

Feedback to stakeholders and decision makers and adjustment of programs and process.

PIP collaborative implementation teams provided oversight and implemented the PIP key activities. Agency leadership and CIP were regularly advised on the progress of PIP activities and guided collaborative efforts. The creation and distribution of a newsletter to improve practice in the field was issued and included CFSR findings and with jurisdiction-specific results. Managers and supervisors utilized the newsletter to generate discussion around CFSR items, performance, strengths, and barriers towards improved performance. The following formal feedback loops were created in previous years:

- Agency managers will conduct one-on-one meetings with supervisors at least bi-monthly, as defined as every two months.
- Leadership (managers and supervisors) will meet quarterly to assess strengths and any barriers to improved performance.
- Supervisors, during one-on-one supervision with line staff, will discuss CFSR information, discuss individual performance, and provide coaching for improvement.

State and regional CQI team members serve as subject matter experts on the CFSR to the field.

The Workforce Innovation Team identified in CFSP Goal Three Healthy Work Force serves as an important part of the CQI process. Results of CQI case reviews are shared with the WIT to help inform needed adjustments to training and policy.

Additional Quality Assurance Responses

Nevada was on a CFSR PIP from 2019 until September of 2022. The state's CFSR review process was used to conduct the statewide assessment which was used to inform the PIP, and which continues to be used for the CQI quarterly case reviews.

Nevada's PIP and CFSP Goal 4 have been focused on improving the state's CQI/QA system through a QA self-assessment with CBCS. Refer to the section "Update to the Plan for Enacting the State's Vision and Progress Made to Improve Outcomes" Goal 1 and 2 to describe how the current CQI/QA system was used to measure progress on achieving goals, objectives, and interventions. For more detailed information regarding planned activities, please refer to the Attachment K, the CQI Action Plan.

Refer to the section "Update to the Plan for Enacting the State's Vision and Progress Made to Improve Outcomes" for information on how the state's CQI/QA system was used to revise goals, objectives, and interventions.

See the section "Progress Made to Improve Outcomes" for information around how information generated or acquired as part of the CQI/QA system or for specific projects was used to measure progress on achieving goals, objectives, and interventions.

Refer to the Collaboration section for a description of how feedback loops are being utilized as a part of the CQI/QA process to provide useful information that parents, families, youth, and other partners and stakeholders will find useful to assist the state in system improvement efforts.

Nevada uses the federal OSRI as well as the Online Monitoring System (OMS) as part of its ongoing CQI/QA process. Reports are generated from the OMS at the conclusion of each quarterly case review and the data is reviewed in the state CQI team as well as the SQIC. Additionally, over the past year, the state has continued to utilize item specific reports in the OMS to look more closely at specific items, their rationales and held discussions on inter-rater reliability at both the reviewer level as well as the QA staff level.

See subsection above titled Case Record Review Data and Process for an update on the state's case review process for CFSR purposes.

UPDATE ON SERVICE DESCRIPTION

Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program (Title IV-B, Subpart 1)

Services for Children Adopted from Other Countries (section 422(b)(11) of the Act).

Children who are adopted from other countries have access to the same support services as other adopted children. These support services are funded using the Adoption Promotion/Support funds and the Adoption Incentive funds which are distributed to sub-grantees. Depending on community needs, services may include but are not limited to:

- Information and referral to post adoptive services including community resources is offered statewide.
- Educational programs (parent training) are offered statewide for prospective adoptive parents.
- Support groups for post adoptive families is offered through Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS).
- Family Preservations for adoptions completed in Nevada can be made through the Nevada Adoption Reunion Registry (ARR).
- Case management from public child welfare agencies is offered to pre-adoptive families statewide until the adoption is finalized
- Therapeutic interventions/counseling information is offered to post adoptive families.
- Search registries from AdoptUsKids and Raise the Future work with DCFS to promote children available for adoption statewide.

Services for Children Under the Age of Five (section 422(b)(18) of the Act)

The State of Nevada has several efforts underway to address child abuse prevention. Nevada's data shows that infants who come to the attention of child welfare prior to the age of two often end up in protective care within two to four years if families do not receive support and treatment services early on. As such, many of our initiatives, services, and interventions have an early intervention/prevention focus and work to reduce the length of time children under the age of five are in foster care.

Activities to reduce the length of time children under the age of five are in foster care:

- Safe Babies Court-- a collaborative initiative of the Northern Region (Washoe), in collaboration with the Family Treatment Court of the Second Judicial District Court in Washoe County, as well as a contracted technical assistance provider, Zero to Three, aims to provide intensive case management and service provisions with increased court oversight to families with children under the age of three. In this initiative families are randomly selected to participate in this program and are provided intensive services to increase parental capacities while reducing long-term trauma for children and families. Examples of services provided are Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) by Northern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services (NNCAS) clinicians, increasing contractor capacity, respite care for participating families, communication enhancements, and transportation services for participating families. The success of the program is reported to the Safe Babies Court Team national database to monitor outcomes. This program has been incredibly successful and ways to expand these services, including allowing more families to fit criteria to participate, are being explored. The Rural Region has started to implement Safe Babies Court.
- The Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) statewide program continues to work to expand QPI knowledge and skill development for staff and resource families to promote family reunification, permanency, and reduce the length of time that

children under five are in foster care. QPI concepts and language is applied to policy and concepts are supported in everyday child welfare practice. QPI has expanded in the Northern Region through a Resource Family Advisory Board as well as a Birth Parent Advisory Board to weigh in on policy and procedure affecting transitions for children in foster care.

- Nevada continues to work with Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) for children aged birth to age three, with the school district's Child Find program for children aged three to five, and Northern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services (NNCAS) to ensure that children with known or suspected developmental disabilities are assessed and provided appropriate services. At the time of a substantiated removal for a child aged 36 months and under, an Early, Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) exam is provided via NEIS. If additional services are recommended, children are referred for further assessments and/or services are provided by NEIS, Child Find, NNCAS, or other community providers. Children over the age of 36 months who have been assessed to show developmental delays, or have suspected developmental delays, are referred to the school district's Child Find Program or NNCAS for additional assessment and implementation of services. Coordination between the child welfare agency, resource families, birth families, and service providers is important to ensure recommended services are being provided and the child's progress is being monitored. In addition to EPSDT screens, each child coming into care will receive a trauma screening.
- Nevada has partnered with Nevada Early Head Start, specifically with the Parents as Teachers FFPSA Well-Supported Model to assist families with children under the age of three with parenting skills. Referrals are made to Nevada Early Head Start for families currently involved with child welfare as well as families who come in from "information only" reports where resources may benefit the family. Nevada is exploring the expansion of Parents as Teachers in rural areas.
- Other programs such as Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) and Sobriety Treatment and Recover Teams (START) are being implemented in regions in Nevada that will support with families with children under age 5.
- The Family Engagement Center (FEC) (Washoe) operates on a modified version of the Fostering Relationships Through Visitation (FRTV) model, focusing on co-parenting relationship and increasing the engagement between children and families. The FEC also provides various supplies (E.g., school supplies, clothing, basic care needs, etc.) to children and families that they are able to access while working with the child welfare agency.
- Multidisciplinary staffing and/or team meetings are used to regularly review children under the age of five in foster care. These meetings are future focused with the intent of identifying barriers to reunification with family, permanency, placement stability, and services to address solutions to support timely permanency. In addition, weekly meetings are held in the northern region to discuss children living in congregate/emergency care and how to move children from congregate care into more permanent placement settings.
- Data relating to children under age five is reviewed regularly for trends in entries into care, the number of children placed outside the home, length of time in care,

length of time a case remains open, and/or data around reunification and permanency. Trends drive practice change.

Activities to address the developmental needs of children under five years of age who are in foster care or are receiving in-home services:

- As part of FFPSA, zero to five is a priority population and there is a concerted and collaborative effort to expand early intervention services throughout the state.
- Evidenced-based early childhood programs such as Parent-Child Interaction Therapy and Child Parent Psychotherapy are offered through DCFS Mental Health Services and promising practices such as Positively Kids Wrap Program are offered through contract providers.
- All child welfare agencies participate in the statewide collaborative Perinatal Health Network which continues to develop strategic approaches to provide outreach, identification and treatment for postpartum women using evidenced based interventions (See the CAPTA State Plan and Update for more details). This collaborative supports families with substance misuse disorders and substance affected infants.
- Children under the age of 5 are referred to specialized providers such as Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS), Child Find, and/or Northern Nevada Adolescent and Child Services for screening and/or assessment of developmental status when:
 - The child is a substantiated victim of child abuse or neglect and is under three-years-old (per CAPTA requirements);
 - The infant was affected by substances in utero; or
 - There is concern about the child's developmental status.
- Development of enhanced and enriched visitation and attachment of parents with children aged five and under.

Efforts to Track and Prevent Child Maltreatment Deaths

Child fatalities, because of child maltreatment, are captured in and reported to NCANDS through the State of Nevada Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System (CCWIS). Child welfare agency staff use a variety of sources to capture and record this data which includes information from child death review teams, law enforcement reports and medical examiners or coroner's reports. Fatalities identified in the information system as maltreatment deaths are reported in the Child File. Deaths not included in the Child File, for which substantiated maltreatment was a contributing factor, are included in the Agency file as an unduplicated count. Reported fatalities can include deaths that occurred in prior periods, for which the determination was completed in the next reporting period. The total number of NCANDS reported fatalities has decreased almost by 50% since the last reporting period (28 in FFY 2021 to 15 in FFY 2022). Reported fatality data in both the Child File and the Agency File are cross-checked with internal state oversight reports and always confirmed with program staff representatives from Clark County Department of Family Services, Washoe County Human Services Agency, and State of Nevada DCFS

Rural Region/Family Programs Office staff depending on the jurisdiction of the child's case. These staff review the child death records and confirm that all records included in NCANDS are fatalities due to substantiated maltreatment. To ensure data accuracy, Nevada has been working with each child welfare jurisdiction over the past year to confirm this information is correctly being entered into the SACWIS system, and it is believed that the increase in the number of maltreatment deaths is a result of more accurate data entry. Although the COVID-19 pandemic may have affected the number of child deaths, it is too early to determine the extent, as the case review data is still in the process of being vetted.

Nevada continues to maintain the step-by-step procedures as listed in the CFSP 2020-2024 which describes how the data is reported.

- Data is gathered using a canned report (CFS742 Child Fatality Report)
- A manual review is then completed by data and field staff.
- The CFS742 is run for a Federal Fiscal Year and displays all child fatalities that occurred in the year, results are filtered to see only fatalities due to substantiated maltreatment.
- Then the results are compared to the NCANDS Child File for the submission year and all those already included in the Child File are removed from the list.
- The remainder are researched in the child welfare information system (UNITY) by data staff and field staff to check various criteria so that they can get the final list of fatalities that will be included in the Agency file for this element.
- The final number reported for this field is the sum of the decreased youth determined to be eligible who are not already included in the child file.
- More data is gathered manually based on research using internal reports and by coordinating with program staff for review.
- Then when that list is compiled, staff research each child's record in the child welfare information system (UNITY) to find out if the circumstance of this element pertains to that youth. The final number reported for this field is the sum of the decreased youth with this condition.

Nevada continues to make efforts to reduce the number of preventable child fatalities and near fatalities through prevention campaigns, training, and other initiatives. Nevada statute allocates one dollar from every certified death certificate to the Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children (Executive Committee), who then funds yearly prevention campaigns to grantees. Each year, the Executive Committee prioritizes areas of focus for the prevention campaigns based on the trends seen throughout the year at the Regional Child Death review teams and awards the maximum amount possible to ensure our partners in prevention maintain programs necessary to prevent child maltreatment. For FY2023, campaigns that focused on promoting safe sleep environments, suicide prevention and injury prevention were prioritized for funding. For FY2024, a total of \$125,000.00 will be awarded amongst those who applied for funding in the areas of mental health/suicide prevention, injury prevention, promotion of safe sleep environments, and reduction of the access to lethal means.

Each year, data from the National Center for the Review and Prevention of Child Death's database is used by the Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children to complete an annual report which is disseminated statewide to stakeholders and posted on the DCFS website. Data for the report is entered by the regional CDR teams, and the amount data entered varies by teams and the ability to collect the necessary information from the community stakeholders. Nevada's contractor through Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy (NICRP) ensures the data that is entered is accurate. This report is updated annually, and the most recent version can be found [here](#). Please note that due to the delay in receiving sufficient information to compile the report, the report is usually 2- 3 years behind, and therefore the 2020 report will be/was published in 2023. Over the past year, Nevada, with the assistance of NICRP, made the annual report more robust and functional and will continue to improve the report each year. The 2021 report will add a section that will show the difference in the disparities from this year into the next, as the Executive Committee would like to begin to include the population distribution and disparity ratios in the annual report.

Over the course of the past year, Nevada has enhanced the CQI process for the child fatality program and has implemented feedback loops to the local child welfare jurisdictions regarding the strengths and needs seen while performing administrative case reviews of fatality and near fatality cases. Through bi-annual meetings, Nevada has made improvements to the child fatality policies that will provide more clarity and more consistency for, and across the state, in our practice. Our goal for FY 2024 is to develop and implement a comprehensive statewide plan to prevent child maltreatment fatalities. Technical assistance through the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention (CFRP) will assist Nevada in reaching this goal. Conversations about how child death review teams can collaborate with Fetal, Infant and Mortality Review (FIMR) teams, partner with Vital Statistics, and improve data collection have begun, and will aid in the enhancement of Nevada's child death review practices. Nevada will use the data collected and the existing steps taken to track child maltreatment deaths and use the information to determine the best methods of prevention to aid in the development of this statewide plan.

Through this technical assistance with CFRP, Nevada will also receive assistance with the revision of the operating manual for the Regional Child Death Review Teams, as this will begin the process to enhance the prevention recommendations the regional teams provide to the Executive Committee, ensuring consistent data entry into the National Database by the Regional Teams, and assisting the Regional Teams on strengthening their relationships with the community stakeholders who are an integral component to effective child death review teams.

DCFS revised, 0402- Child fatality and Near Fatality Child Welfare Case Review policy resulting a new procedure to track near fatalities and child maltreatment death. A report of child fatality is assigned as investigation and a copy of the Public Disclosure (PD) form is submitted to the Quality Assurance (QA) unit and Family Programs Officer (FPO) within 5 days of the child death. The QA unit documents and tracks each child maltreatment death on the child fatality spreadsheet within 3 business days of receiving the PD notice.

Within 90 days of the child maltreatment death investigation closure, an electronic file containing all pertinent case investigation information is sent to FPO and the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) auditors for an Administrative Case Review. The FPO details the strengths, recommendations, and potential training opportunities observed during the review process.

WCHSA hosts a community child death review quarterly. All child fatalities occurred in Washoe County are reviewed, regardless of allegations of maltreatment or not. Attendance includes, vital statistics representatives, law enforcement, medical examiners, hospital staff, amongst others, who give relevant information for each case review. All first responders in the community are now participating in the community child death review team. These meetings will continue throughout the next reporting period. WCHSA had no substantiated cases which concluded that abuse or neglect caused the death of the child in 2022. All child deaths that happen in Washoe County are entered in the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention database by WCHSA. Once per quarter, WCHSA and the community death review team, provide recommendations to the Statewide Executive Committee based on the previous quarter's data.

DFS continue to participate in multidisciplinary Child Fatality reviews to keep current on the trends in the county regarding child fatality.

Additionally, DFS began the first steps of implementing a new internal child fatality review process that uses Safety Science to better understand how the system may be contributing to critical events. This program also includes collaborating with academic partners with University of Kentucky to share de-identified data about child fatality and near fatalities with other National Partnership for Child Safety (NPCS) member jurisdictions. This will allow DFS to examine aggregate data to better understand trends and system faculties regarding critical events. To date DFS CQI team has been training in methods to collect and record relevant information using the Safe Systems Improvement Tool (SSIT), conduct relevant case participant debriefs and make decisions about opportunities for improvement. DFS anticipates that data collection process will begin in Summer 2023.

DFS partnered with American Academy of Pediatrics Nevada Chapter and OneSeven and UMC to develop a Safe Sleep awareness campaign, that launched in April as part of child abuse prevention month. The campaign includes:

- Clark County Safe Sleep webpage, <https://www.clarkcountynv.gov/safesleep>
- [Safe Sleep social media graphics](#)
- Instagram Influencer Safe Sleep posts
- 10,000 baby onesies with "This Side Up" printed on the tummy

Marylee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Title IV-B Subpart 2

DCFS has continued to operate the MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families program throughout all seventeen counties in Nevada. All these services have contributed to the safety, permanency and well-being of children and their families. The DCFS Grants Management Unit (GMU) ensured that services funded through the MaryLee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families program are evidence-based programs. DCFS's Grants Management Unit (GMU) has spent the past year updating and enhancing the data collected from the IVB-2 funded subrecipients to better align the services array. In addition, IVB-2 funded subrecipients from non-profit agencies were required to utilize the Protective Factors Survey with all of the families they serve. The Protective Factors Survey (PFS) is designed for use with parents and caregivers participating in family support and child maltreatment prevention services. By implementing that all subrecipients use and report the data captured by the PFS will provide us with information that will help us improve our services and our prevention efforts. The goal is to capture the following data: provide agencies with a snapshot of the families they serve, measure changes in family protective factors, and help identify areas where staff can focus on increasing protective factors for each family.

The following chart provides a list of agencies statewide being funded to support family preservation, family support, family reunification and adoption promotion/support for SFY 2023. The target population for the family preservation and family reunification programs are children and families within the child welfare system. The target population for the family support program are vulnerable families with children that are at risk of abuse or neglect and/or families that have already demonstrated the need for intervention and have an open child welfare case. The target population for the adoption promotion/support program are adoptive and prospective adoption families.

IVB2: Adoption Promotion & Support (12033)- 7/1/22-6/30/23 - \$127,890

\$10,890 of this award has been spent on home studies and social summaries to increase the number of foster and adoptive parents in Washoe County. \$3,500 of these dollars were spent to certify and train additional home study/social summary providers to perform these services for WCHSA. \$110,000 was spent to increase advertising for recruitment efforts throughout the local university's sports programs and local professional sports programs. \$2,500 has been spent on post-adoption placement support. \$500 has been spent on website maintenance for Have a Heart Washoe where people can be connected to WCHSA to become a foster or adoptive parent. \$500 was allocated for translation services. WCHSA aims to serve as many families as possible and continues to serve the families on an as needed basis.

IVB2: Family Preservation (12035) - 7/1/22-6/30/23 - \$58,800

\$40,000 has been allocated for parental supports through contracted providers supporting our Safe Babies Court Program. \$18,800 has been spent providing pre-placement prevention services - resources to assist with crisis management and help children remain safely with families, including housing/utility assistance, nutrition, transportation, respite care/childcare and safety-related items, and mental health

services. WCHSA aims to serve as many families as possible and continues to serve the families on an as needed basis.

IVB2: Family Reunification (12036) - 7/1/22-6/30/23 - \$58,800

\$5,000 was allocated to promote the Safe Babies Court Program. \$38,800 has been spent toward support services to promote successful reunification, including housing/utility assistance, nutrition, transportation, safety-related items, short-term respite care for children currently in foster care, and mental health services. WCHSA aims to serve as many families as possible and continues to serve the families on an as needed basis.

IVB2: Family Support (12034) - 7/1/22-6/30/23 - \$58,800

\$22,000 was allocated for the QPI/Youth Law Project Contract and has been expended. This contract helps to promote QPI initiatives within the WCHSA population and services connecting foster and biological families. \$26,800 has been allocated to offer support services for family strength and stability - resources to address common issues in an effort to increase family strength and stability, including assistance with housing and utilities, food/nutrition, transportation (including to school and extracurricular activities) and items to enhance safety. \$10,000 is currently allocated to supportive services for caregiver mental health services. WCHSA aims to serve as many families as possible and continues to serve the families on an as needed basis.

CCDFS received the following DIV X Supplemental Funding:

Reunification: \$175,000 was received and 100% expended for unfunded staff to perform approximately 2,600 hours of childcare/supervision for youth in crisis at the Child Haven Campus and to supplement shortfall in personnel funding on the IVB2 Reunification grant.

Preservation: \$46,660 was received and 100% expended to provide approximately 300 CCDFS youth with school supplies and to translate Foster Parent Manuals from English to Spanish. DFS serves approximately 210 LEP families annually.

Adoption: \$40,000 was received and 100% expended to supplement the existing marketing campaign to encourage the public interest in becoming a Foster Parent in Clark County. CCDFS licenses an average of 16 new Regular Foster and/or Adopt Only homes per month. Approximately 75% of all adopted CCDFS youth are placed through a foster home.

Table 41: Promoting Safe and Stable Families Subrecipients SFY 2023

Subrecipient	Description of Services	PSSF Program Category	FFPSA Criteria	Geographic Region
Baby's Bounty	Educate parents about the dangers of bed sharing, basic baby care, shaken baby syndrome and child abuse prevention.	Family Support	No Rating	Clark County
Bridge Counseling	Family reunification services help families who are seeking to address the conditions that led to the removal of a child and/or are at-risk. Provides multiple services to meet case plan needs, child safety and family reunification goals.	Family Reunification	Motivational Interviewing	Clark County
Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows	Implementing a multi-layered approach that will provide support services to families that have demonstrated a need for intervention. The holistic model intends to help families rather than focusing solely on the children or the parents.	Family Support	Strengthening Families	Washoe County
Cappalappa Family	Provides case management, resource referrals, child assessments for early	Family Support	No Rating	Clark County

Subrecipient	Description of Services	PSSF Program Category	FFPSA Criteria	Geographic Region
Resource Center	intervention, car seat safety classes, Safe Sitters, shaken baby syndrome, child development, and household budgeting.			
Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada	Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada's Thriving Families Support Center will use a trauma informed approach to conduct courses in English and Spanish in-person and virtually throughout Washoe County followed by client-led, peer-to-peer networks.	Family Support	Nurturing Parenting	Washoe County
Clark County Department of Family Services	Partners with nationally backed local agencies to provide a comprehensive community collaborative approach of targeted services designed to provide safe and stable families for all youth in Clark County care.	Family Preservation Family Support Family Reunification Adoption Promotion and Support	Trust Based Relational Intervention	Clark County
Community Chest, Inc	Community Chest, Inc. will provide accessible services to 30 at-risk rural families with	Family Preservation		Rural Region

Subrecipient	Description of Services	PSSF Program Category	FFPSA Criteria	Geographic Region
	children ages 0 to 5 throughout the year.		Parents as Teachers	
Consolidated Agencies of Human Services	Offers family case management, parenting classes, and counseling.	Family Preservation Family Support Family Reunification	No Rating	Rural Region
East Valley Family Services	Provides mentorship experiencing family court involvement. Families will receive community resources, education, and access to social service benefits.	Family Reunification	Motivational Interviewing	Clark County
Family Counseling Service of Northern Nevada	Provides intake assessments, individual and group counseling (weekly trauma and substance abuse recovery groups) to assist families to reunite within 15 months of removal of a minor child.	Family Reunification	Trauma Informed CBT and EMDR	Washoe County

Subrecipient	Description of Services	PSSF Program Category	FFPSA Criteria	Geographic Region
Foster Kinship	Kinship families will be provided Foster Kinship Navigator Model Services to ensure the family is safer, stable, and more nurturing through the following objectives: Community Connection, Legal Capacity, Financial Stability, and Emotional Support.	Family Preservation Adoption Promotion and Support	Kinship Navigator	Statewide
Lyon County Human Services	Provides intensive case management focused on building strengths, reducing risk factors, increasing protective factors, achieving educational engagements, and accomplishing goals set by the family. Case managers provide families regular home-visits, parenting information, and a connection to resources.	Family Support	Family Check Up	Rural Region
Nevada Outreach Organization	Provide in-home assessment, crisis intervention, referrals to education and programs.	Family Preservation Family Support	Nurturing Parenting	Rural Region

Subrecipient	Description of Services	PSSF Program Category	FFPSA Criteria	Geographic Region
		Family Reunification		
Olive Crest	Expedite adoption process through the completion of the adoption home study assessment and social summaries which are required to be updated before children can be adopted.	Family Preservation Family Support	Motivational Interviewing	Clark County
Paths Forward	Provide individualized therapeutic mental health and supportive services to families to promote the safety and stability of these families	Family Preservation	PCIT, Motivational Interviewing	Clark County
Raise the Future	Intensive recruitment services utilizing an evidence based, child focused recruitment model to achieve permanence for adoption and other permanent living arrangements.	Adoption Promotion and Support	TBRI Caregiver Training	Washoe County Rural Region
Ron Wood	Provides evidence-based parenting classes, family assessments for risk	Family Preservation	Motivational Interviewing	Rural Region

Subrecipient	Description of Services	PSSF Program Category	FFPSA Criteria	Geographic Region
	<p>factors, needs assessments, coordination of services, and case management.</p> <p>Individualized resources,</p> <p>intensive therapeutic case management,</p> <p>in-home support services,</p> <p>home safety, cleanliness, nutrition, budgeting, and parenting education as well as outpatient and mental health screening.</p>	Family Support		
Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth of Nevada, Inc.	<p>To ensure permanency, safety, and well-being for youth through reunification services. To improve the quality of care and the transition process for youth and their families through improving caregiver relationships</p>	Family Reunification	No Rating	Clark County

Subrecipient	Description of Services	PSSF Program Category	FFPSA Criteria	Geographic Region
Tru Vista Foundation	TRU VISTA will provide services to at least 24 designed Child Protective Services participants, upon acceptance into Family Treatment Court by an authorized Judicial Officer of the Family Court.	Family Reunification	No Rating	Washoe County
Washoe County Human Services Agency	Provides pre-placement preventative services, respite and temporary childcare, support and retention activities for foster and adoptive families, peer to peer support coaching, transportation for parents and post placement support.	Family Preservation Family Support Family Reunification Adoption Promotion and Support	No Rating	Washoe County
Washoe County School District Family Resource Center	Provides comprehensive support services to families to alleviate crises, promote stabilization, and mitigate factors contributing to child abuse and neglect.	Family Support Family Preservation	Motivational Interviewing Parents as Teachers	Washoe County

Subrecipient	Description of Services	PSSF Program Category	FFPSA Criteria	Geographic Region
Wells FRC	Provide family preservation of case management to referred families to support family stabilization and family support services of evidence-based parenting classes to reduce and control potential risk factors that can result in child abuse and neglect.	Family Support	No Rating	Rural Region

The following chart provides the breakdown of funding allocations from the Promoting Safe and Stable Families FFY22 award with the performance period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023

Table 42: Promoting Safe and Stable Families (Performance Period: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)

PSSF Program Category	Awards Statewide	Program Percentage	Service Numbers from July 1- March 31 # Of Children
Family Preservation	\$677,459	22%	1,463
Family Support	\$655,273	20%	3,388
Family Reunification	\$677,294	21%	1,632

PSSF Program Category	Awards Statewide	Program Percentage	Service Numbers from July 1- March 31 # Of Children
Adoption Promotion and Support	\$672,449	21%	1,506
Planning/Service Coordination	\$164,300	6%	0
Total	\$2,846,775	90%	7,989

Table 43: Approximate funding allocations for Promoting Safe and Stable Families (Performance Period: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023) by jurisdiction.

Approximate Awards	
Clark County	\$1,436,106
Washoe County	\$794,859
Rural Region	\$353,478
Statewide	\$98,032

Service Decision Making Process for Family Support Services

A Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was released in February 2023 to award funds to community-based subrecipients for the performance period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. The NOFO is for competitive applications and the funding process combines application review with grant allocation. Applications were accepted to provide services in all geographic areas of the state. DCFS believes that the most effective services are in the communities where families live, where they are easily accessible, and culturally responsive. Applications had to describe community needs and address services to be provided to meet these needs. DCFS' Grant Management Unit (GMU) was able to recruit new community volunteers to be a part of the evaluation committee this

year to review and score all of the submitted applications. These volunteers were made up of individuals from different backgrounds and experiences and the feedback we received from them was insightful and invaluable. GMU staff will be utilizing the feedback received from the evaluation committee to enhance the application next cycle. Final funding decisions are still pending, however DCFS will ensure that Family Support Services are funded with community-based agencies.

DCFS' GMU collaborates with FPO and subrecipients to ensure family support services are evidence-based, being accessed, and that families' needs are being met through community-based programs such as: in-home family crisis stabilization services, in-home mental health assessments and treatment, substance abuse assessment and services, and in-home homemaker classes.

The following agencies were selected to provide Family Support Services:

Subrecipient	Description of Services	Agency Type	FFPSA Criteria	Region
Baby's Bounty	Educate parents about the dangers of bed sharing, basic baby care, shaken baby syndrome and child abuse prevention.	Community-Based	No Rating	Clark County
Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows	Implementing a multi-layered approach that will provide support services to families that have demonstrated a need for intervention. The holistic model intends to help families rather than focusing solely on the children or the parents.	Community-Based	Strengthening Families	Washoe County
Cappalappa Family Resource Center	Provides case management, resource referrals, child assessments for early intervention, car seat safety classes, Safe	Community-Based	No Rating	Clark County

Subrecipient	Description of Services	Agency Type	FFPSA Criteria	Region
	Sitters, shaken baby syndrome, child development, and household budgeting.			
Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada	Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada's Thriving Families Support Center will use a trauma informed approach to conduct courses in English and Spanish in-person and virtually throughout Washoe County followed by client-led, peer-to-peer networks.	Community-Based	Nurturing Parenting	Washoe County
Clark County Department of Family Services	Partners with community-based organizations to provide family-focused services aimed at promoting safety and well-being in the home for youth. Improving permanency outcomes for children through the Quality Parenting Initiative.	Child Welfare Agency-Contracts with Community-Based agencies	No Rating	Clark County
Lyon County Human Services	Provides intensive case management focused on building strengths, reducing risk factors, increasing protective factors, achieving educational engagements, and	Community-Based	Family Check Up	Rural Region

Subrecipient	Description of Services	Agency Type	FFPSA Criteria	Region
	accomplishing goals set by the family. Case managers provide families regular home-visits, parenting information, and a connection to resources.			
Nevada Outreach Organization	Provide in-home assessment, crisis intervention, referrals to education and programs.	Community-Based	Nurturing Parenting	Rural Region
Ron Wood	Provides evidence-based parenting classes, family assessments for risk factors, needs assessments, coordination of services, and case management. Individualized resources, intensive therapeutic case management, in-home support services, home safety, cleanliness, nutrition, budgeting, and parenting education as well as outpatient and mental health screening.	Community-Based	Motivational Interviewing	Rural Region
Washoe County School District Family	Provides comprehensive support services to families to alleviate crises, promote stabilization, and	Community-Based	Motivational Interviewing	Washoe County

Subrecipient	Description of Services	Agency Type	FFPSA Criteria	Region
Resource Center	mitigate factors contributing to child abuse and neglect.		Parents as Teachers	
Wells FRC	Provide home visits to support family stabilization and family support services of evidence-based parenting classes to reduce and control potential risk factors that can result in child abuse and neglect.	Community-Based	No Rating	Rural Region

New: Emergency Funding for the Marylee Allen Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Title IV-B Subpart 2- Division X

Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act, Division X of Public Law (P.L.) 116-260, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 provided supplemental Title IV-B, subpart 2 funds to provide community-based family support, family preservation, family reunification and adoption promotion and support services, consistent with the purposes and definitions in sections 430 and 431 of the Act.

The following chart provides a list of agencies statewide that was funded with Division X funding to support the immediate needs of children and families. The target population for the family preservation, family support and family reunification programs are children and families within the child welfare system. The target population for the adoption promotion/support program are adoptive and prospective adoption families.

Table 44: Promoting Safe and Stable Families- Division X Subrecipients

Subrecipient	Description of Services	PSSF Program Category	Geographic Region
Catholic Charities	Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada's Thriving Families Support Center will use a trauma	Family Preservation	Washoe County

Subrecipient	Description of Services	PSSF Program Category	Geographic Region
	informed approach to provide evidence-based positive parenting skills.		
Clark County Department of Family Services	CCDFS was funded for the professional interpretation of the Foster Family Training Manual from English to Spanish. This request is a critical piece of an ongoing effort by CCDFS to ensure adequate service to LEP clients. CCDFS is also requesting funding to purchase school supplies as necessary for DFS children.	Family Preservation	Clark County
Clark County Department of Family Services	Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS) to perform Team Decision Making (TDM) meetings to determine and facilitate the least restrictive placement of children with the goal being prevention of removal or stable placement with a Relative/Fictive while working toward reunification.	Family Reunification	Clark County
Clark County Department of Family Services	Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS) is conducting an Art Project to display art depicting the need for Foster/Adoptive homes for Children in DFS care at various events/exhibits throughout Clark County.	Adoption Promotion & Support	Clark County

Subrecipient	Description of Services	PSSF Program Category	Geographic Region
Family Counseling Service of Northern Nevada	Family Counseling will provide assessments, intakes, and counseling for 20 individuals and approximately 12 families.	Family Reunification	Washoe County
Family Support Council of Douglas County	Family Support Council will partake in a two-part professional development series to solidify the presence of qualified workforce within Douglas County.	Family Preservation	Rural Region
Paths Forward	Services will be provided at our newly built family treatment center. Interventions will include all evidence-based practices such as Parent and Child Intervention Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Functional Family Therapy, Supportive Family Therapy, Psychoeducation, and In-Home services.	Family Preservation	Clark County
TruVista	TruVista provides services to families in Family Treatment Court and Safe Babies Court to promote family stability and reunification. Our Parent Partners provide peer-to-peer support directly to specialty court clients.	Family Preservation	Washoe County

Subrecipient	Description of Services	PSSF Program Category	Geographic Region
Washoe County Human Services Agency	WCHSA will provide placement of children through adoption or foster care and facilitate recruitment of foster and adoptive families.	Adoption Promotion and Support	Washoe County
Washoe County Human Services Agency	WCHSA proposes two targeted objectives to support family preservation efforts for families in Washoe County. WCHSA will provide multiple types of mental health services to parents and supportive services in support of family preservation.	Family Preservation	Washoe County
Washoe County Human Services Agency	WCHSA will support such services for parents who are underinsured or uninsured. Also, in the arena of mental health services, we will contract with Alta Vista Mental Health to provide mental health and substance abuse counseling services to parents in our supportive living community.	Family Reunification	Washoe County
Zero to Three	Technical Assistance to create and implement a Safe Babies Court site in the Carson District Court. Access to database site to capture detailed information on children and families, services provided, time to permanency, run customized reports and other important metrics displayed on a data dashboard for real-time	Family Support	Rural Region

Subrecipient	Description of Services	PSSF Program Category	Geographic Region
	problem-solving and long-term evaluation.		

The supplemental funding was awarded through an application process. The overall funding distribution was disproportionally awarded due to the applications received and the services proposed. The following chart provides the breakdown of funding allocations from the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Division X award with the performance period of February 1, 2022, through September 30, 2022.

Table 45: Promoting Safe and Stable Families- Division X

PSSF Program Category	Awards Statewide	Program Percentage	Service Numbers from February 1- September 30 # Of Children
Family Preservation	\$193,092	25%	837
Family Support	\$79,000	11%	0
Family Reunification	\$284,292	39%	814
Adoption Promotion and Support	\$190,000	25%	99
Total	\$746,384	100%	1,750

Population at Greatest Risk of Maltreatment

In the 2020-2024 CFSP, Nevada, using community surveys, identified statewide populations at the greatest risk of maltreatment. These families have prior involvement with the state's child welfare agencies, those living in poverty, those that experience homelessness, and those that have histories with law enforcement, incarceration,

substance abuse, mental health, and domestic violence. Of the populations at greatest risk of maltreatment, priority populations have been identified, through extensive partnerships with community stakeholders and sister agencies, as Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) and children with behavioral and emotional problems. Specialized teams have been created to provide crisis intervention, screening and assessments to families who fall into the populations at greatest risk of maltreatment.

Nevada continues to identify populations at the greatest risk of maltreatment through the following practice and methods:

- **SAFE Model and Mandated Reporter Training:** Nevada collaborates with local jurisdictions, community partners and both internal and external stakeholders to determine how and where to target child abuse prevention resources to ensure that services are easily accessible to children and families at risk. Statewide practice includes the utilization of formal assessment tools including the Present Danger Assessment (PDA) and the Nevada Initial Assessment (NIA) to determine present and impending danger when making decisions regarding specific children at risk of maltreatment. The utilization of the Protective Capacity Family Assessment (PCFA) and the Protective Capacity Progress Assessment (PCPA) are used to assess impending danger and identify services needed for these families. Nevada collaborated with an outside agency to develop a statewide Mandated Reporter training. The training became available as of October 2022 and is hosted online, available at any time. Nevada developed this training to ensure mandated reporters have the knowledge and skills to carry out their responsibilities to identify and report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect.
- **Funding Opportunities through the Grants Management Unit:** The state's child welfare jurisdictions receive funding for prevention resources through a variety of funding sources. Prior to each funding cycle, statewide representatives work with management and the Grants Management Unit Specialists to identify funding priorities. These priorities are incorporated into the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) announcements that are used to evaluate applications so that funded projects are closely aligned to an agency's identified service needs and priorities. Scope-of work and needs assessments are reviewed annually or more often if requested to ensure the activities continue to support the identified needs.
- **Specialty Courts, Deferred Sentences, MDTs, and Family Court Systems:** Specialty courts have been established statewide to provide intensive case management services for parents who suffer from substance use disorders and/or mental health disorders and have criminal convictions related to child abuse or neglect. Parents and children involved with specialty courts participate in regular Children and Family Treatment (CFT) meetings that include judges, attorneys, caseworkers, and mental health providers. Court hearings are held on a more frequent basis that are titrated down over time as families progress in their case plans. Court officers are assigned by specialty courts to be the intermediary between criminal courts and substance testing.

Criminal sentences are deferred during participation and expunged from their record upon successful completion of programs. Specialty courts provide those with substance use disorders and mental health disorders with long-term support to maintain sobriety and stability, which increases safety for children. Nevada's child welfare jurisdictions have identified service providers to work with youth with mental health and/or behavioral concerns. Nevada continues to make efforts to consider a child's emotional and behavioral health when making case decisions, including those surrounding case plan services, placement, and referrals. Efforts continue throughout the state to participate in community meetings on an ongoing basis to discuss needed services and supports to prevent maltreatment, as well as elicit feedback.

During the last reporting period, the State of Nevada was awarded the statewide expansion grant for infant-toddler court programs implementing these programs in the rural communities and Clark County, while also supporting existing programming available in Washoe County for Safe Babies Court.

- **Building relationships between community providers and mental health professionals to serve at risk youth by providing virtual access for mental health services:** Nevada has faced challenges in having enough service providers that can meet the treatment needs of families. In response to the pandemic, Nevada expanded their ability to provide services virtually. Virtual services have worked well for older children, however, has proven less successful in meeting the needs of younger children, and in completing new patient intake assessments. During the pandemic, services that were deemed "non-essential" were stopped and services bringing people together in the same space, such as group therapy, support groups, and family therapy, were put on hold or terminated for up to two years due to the pandemic. As COVID cases have declined, providers have started to return to in-person visits and are resuming some of the services that were put on hold.

The needs intensify and increase in children and families that are experiencing increased mental health disorder symptoms, and additional disorders due to experiencing isolation, grief and loss, interrupted routines, etc., have some agencies and service providers forced to use waitlists. Despite the negative impacts, there are some benefits of a more virtually connected system. CFT meetings, court hearings, and other multidisciplinary team meetings have been able to use TEAMS and other virtual platforms, which has improved attendance and efficacy at said meetings.

- **Fostering MDTs and local groups for effective management of at-risk youth's behavioral and mental health management:** Unfortunately, the lack of available service providers directly impacts youth with intensive emotional and behavioral issues. Often children in these families are at risk of disruption due to behaviors. Nevada continues to provide referrals, as available, for crisis intervention, assessment, short-term therapy to families, and in-home parenting support. Participation in statewide community meetings to discuss needed services is a priority for Nevada and includes participation in groups such as Nevada Statewide

Children's Behavioral Health Consortium, Washoe County Children's Mental Health Consortium, the Drug Endangered Children's Workgroup, JTNN Coalition, Opioid and Substance Use Taskforce, Statewide System of Care workgroups, State of Nevada CSEC Task Force, and Court Improvement Caucus.

Funding received has supported additional training being provided, such as Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT), Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP), Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) and Circle of Security Parenting (COS-P). Ongoing recruitment for behavioral health providers continues and requests for bids are submitted quarterly. In addition to statewide efforts, the northern region has partnered with Duke University to implement Together Facing the Challenge (TFTC) which is a skills-based training program for therapeutic foster parents who care for children with emotional and behavioral problems. The training program aims to help foster parents in building and maintaining supportive and engaging relationships with children in their care and helps parents learn and use effective behavior management and communication strategies.

- **Making changes based on results of youth surveys who are determined to be at high-risk from local providers:** Feedback shared by our youth population have expressed their feelings that service providers “do not look like them” or “do not understand me and my culture”, therefore, they find it difficult to engage in services. To address this, Nevada has begun efforts to establish a multi-jurisdictional, multi-agency Race and Equity Team. This workgroup is creating strategies for reducing and/or eliminating disproportionality and disparity by developing and supporting the workforce. The Race and Equity Team is working with Casey Family Programs to analyze and promote organizational interventions focused on developing and retaining a diverse and effective workforce. Current and future policies, practices, and training opportunities provided to the workforce will be analyzed under a race and equity lens to ensure, empower, and provide opportunities to the workforce in support of dismantling patterns of institutional, systemic, and structural racism and bias. Additional technical assistance has been requested from the Capacity Building Center for States and a plan is being developed.
- **Nevada Rapid Indicator Tool (NRIT) and CSEC:** With the assistance of a contracted CSEC Coordinator, Nevada is currently overseeing multiple projects supporting the CSEC population. These projects include, but are not limited to:
- The development of a statewide database to track CSEC victims and youth who are at a high risk of being trafficked is being compiled across multiple agencies to build a baseline dataset of this at-risk population. These victims are determined to be at high-risk due to the Nevada Rapid Indicator Tool (NRIT). This tool assesses the youth based on their behaviors and actions. The tool is utilized to determine if the child is a confirmed CSEC victim, at high-risk, or if no risk factors are present at the time of assessment. The NRIT was revised in 2022 to ensure inclusive language was being used. The youth are not directly asked the questions that are included on the NRIT, but rather, the caseworker will complete the assessment

based on information gathered from the youth and other pertinent parties to the youth's case.

- The passing of Senate Bill 274 (2021), which is an act that amended NRS 424 1.1-1.7 to provide for the licensure and certification of receiving centers for CSEC victims as well as entities that provide CSEC services to children. Receiving centers will be secured facilities that operate 24/7 to provide specialized inpatient and outpatient services to CSEC children. Each child that is placed in the care of or referred to a receiving center for outpatient care will receive, as necessary, the following services:
 - Mental health triage;
 - Assessment of basic needs;
 - Assessment of medical needs;
 - Psychiatric evaluation;
 - Referral to detoxification;
 - Short-term placement;
 - Mobile crisis response;
 - Academic support;
 - Preventative services for children who are at risk of CSEC;
 - Therapeutic treatment to assist the child in safely transitioning to home-based placement; and
 - Any other services required.
- The development of the receiving center regulations has been an ongoing project over the past year and will continue to be worked on during 2023. Collaboration with contractors, other state agencies, and the child welfare jurisdictions has identified that more work needs to be done, including legislative revisions.
- Ongoing work of the CSEC Coalition, including three subcommittees. The subcommittees for 2023 are focusing on how to improve parent education, ensuring that there is a continuum of care for this population, as well as appropriate housing, and ensuring that services are reaching, and accessible to, diverse communities.
- All Statewide child welfare jurisdictions are involved in a CSEC taskforce. This taskforce works to develop training for jurisdictions and stakeholders in the identification and screening of potential CSEC victims and service delivery when risk factors are identified.
- In the southern region a protocol has been developed regarding intake of children who are suspected of being trafficked. Incoming reports are sent to a specialized unit, At Risk Youth Support (ARYS) for assessment. The ARYS unit works with the Southern Nevada Children's Advocacy Center (SNCAC), Las Vegas Metropolitan Police (LVMPD) Vice, LVMPD Sexual Assault Juvenile (SAJ) Unit, the Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS), as well as community-based organizations including The Embracing Project, Purple Wings, RISE, St. Jude's Ranch, Living Grace (home for teen moms), Southern NV Partnership for homeless youth, Purchased, Free International and NV Health Right Medical Clinic.
- In the northern region children who are age fourteen and over are assigned to a specialized Independent Living (IL) unit. The specialized IL unit is trained in CSEC policy and can respond appropriately. The IL unit collaborates with local non-profits

specific to CSEC to provide additional case management support, mentoring, and educational support to identified victims.

- In early 2023, a meeting between the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) and each child welfare jurisdiction was facilitated to provide the jurisdictions information on how NCMEC can assist when youth are missing. NCMEC will also be providing further training about their services as requested by the child welfare jurisdictions.
- **Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA):** Nevada continues to partner with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) to lead a statewide initiative to implement the CARA Plan of Care workgroup that meets quarterly. The initiative has evolved into a statewide collaborative Perinatal Health Network which continues to develop strategic approaches for reporting substance exposed infants, creating CARA Plans of Care when an infant is affected by perinatal substance use, understanding when to report to child welfare, outreach, and identification and treatment for postpartum women using evidence-based interventions. This workgroup is composed of physicians, child welfare agencies, Medicaid/Welfare, private insurances, and hospitals. CARA Grants have been provided to support the goal of continued development and implementation of community response and to respond to the emotional, physical, and well-being of children as affected by perinatal substance use and to prevent children from entering/reentering the child welfare system. CARA grants are an integral part of creating an integrated system of services to strengthen and support families and prevent maltreatment. Additional efforts to the implementation of CARA include:
 - Community partnership with the Empowered Program has been established with Roseman University who have created the Parenting Project and the Foundation for Positive Kids. These programs offer prevention services to infants identified as being affected by perinatal substance use, their affected siblings, and parents/caregivers.
 - Participation in local meetings including the Reproductive Health Network, CARA Workgroup and other relevant workgroups/committees.
 - Contracts with the University of Nevada Reno Early Head Start to provide “Parents as Teachers” which is in-home parenting curriculum for families with infants affected by prenatal substance use.
 - Facilitation of the Crossroads Program, a sober living community where individuals who are experiences homelessness or are impacted by mental health and/or substance use disorders can work towards self-sufficiency and long-term sobriety. Families involved with child welfare agencies are prioritized for entry to avoid removal or to facilitate reunification.

Over the next year, services to support these target populations will be prioritized in Nevada’s Family First Prevention Services Act Prevention Plan. The state expects to implement more FFPSA Prevention Services, including evidence-based practices (EBPs) for in-home parent training, mental health (including domestic violence) and substance abuse disorder treatment.

The following tables reflect SFY 2021 and SFY 2022 data for Impending Danger threats associated with the Nevada Initial Assessment (NIA) record, not with specific youth in UNITY. However, for the purposes of this analysis, we are showing the breakdown of impending danger threats selected for the NIA by the age group of the children determined to be “unsafe” on that NIA record. The count of unsafe children represents the count of unique NIA + child ID pairs where the child was unsafe; a child could be marked unsafe on more than one NIA in the year.

Table 46: SFY2021 Statewide – Impending Danger Threats by Age Group

SFY 2021								
Statewide – Impending Danger Threats by Age Group								
	Age 0 -5		Age 6 – 10		Age 11 – 15		Age 16+	
Impending Danger Threat Description	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
13. One or both parents/caregivers lack parenting knowledge, skills, and motivation which affect child safety.	1249	79.6%	469	73.1%	318	69.3%	104	75.4%
7. One or both parents/caregivers cannot control their behavior.	1179	75.1	458	71.3	282	61.4	62	44.9
8. Family does not have resources to meet basic needs.	534	34%	169	26.3%	109	23.7%	21	15.2%
6. One or both parents/caregivers’ emotional stability, developmental status or cognitive deficiency seriously impairs their ability to care for the child(ren).	516	32.9%	211	32.9%	156	34%	26	18.8%

SFY 2021								
Statewide – Impending Danger Threats by Age Group								
	Age 0 -5		Age 6 – 10		Age 11 – 15		Age 16+	
Impending Danger Threat Description	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
5. A parent or caregiver is violent and no adult in the home is protective of the child(ren).	519	33.1%	201	31.3%	142	30.9%	35	25.4%
9. No adult in the home will perform parental duties and responsibilities.	187	11.9%	91	14.2%	122	26.6%	59	42.8%

Table 47: SFY2022 Statewide – Impending Danger Threats by Age Group

SFY 2022								
Statewide – Impending Danger Threats by Age Group								
	Age 0 -5		Age 6 – 10		Age 11 – 15		Age 16+	
Impending Danger Threat Description	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
13. One or both parents/caregivers lack parenting knowledge, skills, and motivation which affect child safety.	1168	79.4%	448	71%	339	70.9%	91	70.5%

SFY 2022								
Statewide – Impending Danger Threats by Age Group								
	Age 0 -5		Age 6 – 10		Age 11 – 15		Age 16+	
Impending Danger Threat Description	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
7. One or both parents/caregivers cannot control their behavior.	1047	71.2%	421	66.7%	275	57.5%	69	53.5%
8. Family does not have resources to meet basic needs.	578	39.3%	202	32%	137	28.7%	26	20.2%
6. One or both parents/caregivers' emotional stability, developmental status or cognitive deficiency seriously impairs their ability to care for the child(ren).	481	32.7%	189	30%	140	29.3%	21	16.3%
5. A parent or caregiver is violent and no adult in the home is protective of the child(ren).	419	28.5%	213	33.8%	116	24.3%	31	24%
9. No adult in the home will perform parental duties and responsibilities.	216	14.7%	95	15.1%	107	22.4%	53	41.1%

Kinship Navigator Funding (Title IV-B, subpart 2)

Unique families served: In 2022, the statewide Kinship Navigator Program at Foster Kinship served 2,030 unique kinship families across the state, which amounted to 1,728 in Clark County, 160 in Washoe County, and 142 in the rural counties.

Navigator Services Provided: 22,553 Navigator services were provided statewide: 18,946 in Clark County, 1,754 in Washoe County, 1,853 in rural counties.

Tangible Resources Provided: Over 8,000 basic need items were distributed to families.

2022 Outcomes: 90% of families achieved legal capacity goals, and 91% of families achieved financial stability goals. 100% of families were connected to community and parenting resources and caregiver emotional support resources.

Foster Kinship offers the Kinship Navigator Program to all kinship families in Nevada, targeting the 30,000 children living in kinship care in the state. Foster Kinship's model is designed to serve any kinship caregiver (defined as both relatives and fictive kin) raising children in nonparental care (neither parent resides in the home) in the state of Nevada. Kinship Navigator Program serves all types of kinship families, including:

- Formal families (child welfare agency has custody- may be licensed kinship foster parents or unlicensed kinship foster parents),
- Informal families (diverted kinship caregivers and private kinship caregivers who range from physical custody to legal guardianship), and families who have adopted and are now considered the legal parent.

Families are informed of support services via a toll-free helpline, website (www.FosterKinship.org), and referrals from partner organizations. Foster Kinship operates an office and kinship family resource center in Las Vegas, Clark County and has a second office in Reno, Washoe County. All Navigator services are free and available in English and Spanish. The Kinship Navigator program remains connected the Nevada's 211 which now has a mobile app.

Foster Kinship- Kinship Navigator overview:

Our first goal is to build a foundation of safety for children by meeting immediate needs of the kinship family.

Our second goal is to provide the most stable home for children by stabilizing the kinship family legally and financially.

Our final goal is to meet the well-being needs of children by increasing caregivers' capacity to provide nurturing parenting.

Navigator Goals:

Legal Capacity:

Kinship families will establish appropriate legal relationships with the children in their homes to increase family stability. To assess the progress towards legal custody,

participants will be evaluated based on changes in the custody status of at least one of their kinship children since initial intake. Family Advocates will complete an intake form and will determine if a change in legal status is necessary for the kinship family. For kinship families needing a change in legal status, the model goal is for 80% of kinship caregivers to experience a positive change in legal relationships for at least one of their kinship children upon program completion. We anticipate that for the remaining 20%, some children will be reunified with their parents or placed with other relatives.

Financial Stability:

Kinship families will experience an increase in knowledge and access to available financial resources to help meet their family's needs. To assess this, participants will be evaluated on the change in several financial and community resources utilized since initial intake. Family Advocates will determine if the kinship family is eligible for any financial assistance programs not previously utilized. Upon exiting the Kinship Navigator Program, 80% of kinship caregivers who qualify for additional financial support will have received additional financial benefits for their kinship children. We anticipate that for the remaining 20%, some caregivers will refuse financial assistance for which they are eligible, and some children will be reunified with their parents or placed with other relatives.

Parenting and Child Community Connection:

Family Advocates will complete an intake form to determine the number of community resources utilized at the time of intake. Upon exiting the Kinship Navigator Program, 100% of kinship caregivers will have received a personalized list of community resources to match their identified needs. By case end, 90% of caregivers will have increased their utilization of supportive services. We anticipate that for the remaining 10%, some children will be reunified with their parents or placed with other relatives.

Caregiver Emotional Support:

Kinship families will experience an increase in the number of formal and informal supports to increase the caregivers' capacity to meet the well-being needs of the children. To assess this, participants are evaluated on the expansion of their network of support through participation in family events, support groups, or educational classes since initial intake. Upon exiting the Kinship Navigator Program, 90% of kinship caregivers will have connected to someone who understands their unique experiences through participation in at least one of the program activities. We anticipate that for the remaining 10%, some caregivers will refuse to participate in supportive events, and some children will be reunified with their parents or placed with other relatives.

Services:

Information, Referrals and Support

General Information regarding community, legal, financial, and emotional resources for kinship families available via a variety of mechanisms to deliver the same information:

- Online Kinship Resource Locator Tool (RLT) (self-service or case manager use)
- Telephone helpline with toll-free and local numbers staffed by professional family advocates
- In-person support by professional Family Advocates in local offices
- Email
- Website: FAQ about guardianship, child only TANF, Kinship Care, and Resources.
- Intake Services: provided by Family Advocates specializing in Intake through phone or in-person assessment. Once intake is completed, all families receive a personalized Kinship RLT via in person, email, or mail. Post-intake, if any needs are identified, the family is referred immediately to the case management service.
- Community Referrals: to food banks, clothing closets, family resource centers, government services, churches, provided by Family Advocates after intake.
- Support Groups: In person groups include meals/childcare. Online groups are also provided. Additionally, a Spanish-speaking only group is offered at least once a month.
- Education: Free Nurturing Parenting classes, guardianship assistance clinics, private TPR/adoption assistance clinics, car seat and CPR classes
- Family Events: designed to be fun for kids but also as a vehicle for distributing info to caregivers and emergency resources to families: Back to School, Thanksgiving, Christmas, etc.
- Online Support Group: "Nevada Kinship Caregivers" managed and moderated by Family Advocates.

Case Management:

- Case planning unique to the family to determine community, legal, financial, and emotional goals for the kin family conducted by Family Advocate specializing in Case Management. Case plans average 90-120 days until close and at least 90 minutes of services are provided to a kin family by a Family Advocate. Case plans do not extend longer than six months
- Application explanation, completion, and submission support including: NRS 159 guardianship, private TPR/adoption, child-only TANF applications/child-support documents, SNAP, Medical, Energy Assistance Program, kinship licensing through foster care, childcare subsidy, WIC, etc.
- Financial Assistance to meet any case plan goal application requirements (e.g., pay for birth certificates to prove relationship for child-only TANF, or certification of -mailing for guardianship)
- Notary and Copy Service to meet legal and financial case plan goals
- Emergency Resources: diapers, food, clothing, beds, strollers, gift cards, car seats, childcare or rent payments, provided it meets case plan goals
- 1:1 emotional support throughout the case plan
- Regular Follow up with all goals and services outlined in the case plan

- Foster Kinship's Navigator Model was submitted to the Federal Families First Clearinghouse in late 2021 for review and received a rating of "Promising" in April 2022 (<https://preventionservices.acf.hhs.gov/programs/476/show>).

Kinship Navigator Evaluation Summary

Dr. Mark S. Preston of Preston Management and Organizational Consulting remains contracted by Nevada to evaluate Foster Kinship's Navigator Program for formal families. Dr. Preston is an independent research consultant who works with non-profit and governmental human service agencies to strengthen the effectiveness and well-being of both front-line and management staff. The evaluation contract involved conducting three separate, but interrelated, empirically based evaluation studies. The first was an observational evaluation that sought to ascertain Foster Kinship staff's level of fidelity to its Kinship Navigator Program manual for formal kinship families. The second and third were quantitative evaluations designed to determine whether Foster Kinship's Navigator Program for formal kinship families met the minimum standard for promising practice under FFPSA's evidence-based requirements.

With respect to the observational evaluation, two unique fidelity rubrics were created, one for job tasks performed by the intake unit and a second for the case management unit. Each unit's staff was observed on two separate occasions. Observations were documented on the corresponding fidelity rubric and judged against the protocol tasks listed in the Foster Kinship Navigator Program Manual.

Findings uncovered an overall fidelity percentage of 95% across both units. The intake unit's level of fidelity was 93%, whereas the level of fidelity for the case management unit was 96%.

The first external outcome evaluation of the Navigator Program on the formal kinship population in Clark County provided evidence that the program:

- Decreases the likelihood of disruption, preventing children from entering the traditional foster care system. Compared to children whose caregivers did not receive navigator services, those who used our program were 3.41 times more likely to access needed services, and those who used our program were 2.99 times more likely to provide a stable home.
- Increases connection to vital resources, like kinship licensing. Compared to those children whose caregivers did not receive navigator services, those who used our program were 3.41 times more likely to access needed services.

The external fidelity evaluation showed 93% fidelity to the intake and assessment portion of the model and 96% fidelity to the case management portion of the model.

In the second and third studies, secondary data from Clark County, the Nevada Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS), and Foster Kinship were analyzed within the framework of a quasi-experimental research design. Equivalent intervention and

comparison groups were generated using propensity score matching, using one-to-one nearest neighbor matching without replacement to generate a matched data set of 1,116 children (558 intervention group and 558 comparison group children). Data were analyzed using generalized least squares logistic regression.

Findings in the second study, which matched data from Clark County with Foster Kinship, revealed a statistically significant difference between the groups for the study's two outcomes, access to services and placement stability.

Relative to the comparison group, the intervention group was:

- 3.4 times more likely to become licensed by Clark County (access to services)
- 2.99 times more likely to not experience a placement disruption (placement stability)
- Additionally, the Cohen's D for each outcome was substantially large at .68 for access to services and .60 for placement stability.

In the third study, secondary data on child only TANF, a form of financial support available to some kinship families from DWSS, was matched with Foster Kinship data and analyzed. A generalized least squares multivariate logistic regression analysis uncovered statistically significant differences between the intervention and comparison groups.

Relative to the comparison group, the intervention group was:

- 1.71 times more likely to receive Child-only TANF from the State of Nevada (access to services).

In conclusion, results from these evaluation studies not only support fidelity to Foster Kinship's Kinship Navigator Program Manual but also offer rigorous preliminary evidence that Foster Kinship's Kinship Navigator Program would meet the minimum standard for promising practice as outlined by the Handbook of Standards and Procedures for the FFPSA's evidence-based requirements.

The report on Foster Kinship Navigator Program can be found [Here](#). [Foster Kinship's Navigator Model](#) was submitted to the Federal Families First Clearinghouse by the state of Nevada in late 2021 for review and received a rating of "Promising" in April 2022. <https://preventionservices.acf.hhs.gov/programs/476/show>

Monthly Caseworker Visit Formula Grants and Standards for Caseworker Visits

The Title IVB-2 Promoting Safe and Stable Families: Caseworker Visitation funding is awarded to Nevada's child welfare agencies to support monthly caseworker visits. During the past year, the regions have used the Monthly Caseworker Visit grant to fund a variety of strategies to improve the frequency and quality of caseworker visits including:

- Using funding to increase caseworker visits with children and completion of documentation by allowing overtime when time does not permit during a normal 40-hour work week.
- Utilizing the grant for travel to see children outside of the State of Nevada to see children in outside residential treatment placements.
- Using funds to purchase meals and appropriate activities for children to utilize during visits to promote engagement and improve the quality of the visit.
- Maintenance of vehicle fleets and utilizing mileage reimbursement to promote worker transportation to visits, especially during COVID-19 restrictions when offices were closed.
- Using funds to purchase technology utilized by staff to conduct visits, including taking pictures, navigational support, and safety during emergency situations, as well as maintaining essential communication between caseworkers and families.
- Promoting comprehensive and ongoing training concerning the importance of child contacts and quality, providing data tools to use during supervision and coaching, and keeping a standing agenda item centered around CQI, frequency of visitation, CFSR items, and Nevada PIP goal items.
- Developing a caseworker parent and child contact report to monitor frequency of visits and ensure documentation in UNITY is timely. The reports are available on demand. In addition to the report, Team 2 has developed a rubric to gauge the quality of visits. This provides standardization of quality visit standards statewide and gives opportunity to coach staff to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of children involved with the child welfare system.

Nevada continues to monitor the frequency of caseworker contact using a developed Caseworker Visit report (7D7), as well as various internal contact reports and performance report cards. These reports indicate the days between visits as well as the date the next visit is expected. Supervisors and Managers can run these report as needed to provide them to their staff. In 2021 all jurisdictions were given access to run additional caseworker contact reports in UNITY as part of PIP team 2 major deliverables. These reports help supervisors proactively monitor caseworker visits to coach staff on how to ensure all visits are completed, the frequencies required, and quality to ensure the safety, permanency, and well-being of children involved in the child welfare system.

Statewide, regions continue to experience staff turnover and high caseload volumes which impacts the ability to achieve compliance with the performance measure. Additionally, COVID-19 impacted the frequency and quality of visits as offices statewide were closed under a shut-down order by the Governor commencing March 17, 2020. The shutdown impacted the ability to travel and caused financial hardship statewide well into 2022.

Jurisdictions continue to rely upon CFSR activities to glean insight about the quality of the contact between workers and the families they serve. Those processes include the case review activities itself, as well as conducting focus groups and surveys of parents/caregivers, children, and foster parents.

The following activities are planned in the next reporting period to support quality and frequency of caseworker contacts and visits:

- Both Clark and Washoe County will use the ChildStat program to help monitor caseworker contact with children and the impact of quality engagement on child wellbeing and permanency. A monthly ChildStat data presentation will be provided to staff to promote transparency and to support an improvement in safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes. Conversations will be facilitated regarding systemic influences that impact the child welfare system.
- Washoe County's CQI team will meet weekly with their Permanency Unit Leadership to discuss visitation reports to support comprehensive ongoing training.
- In the rural region supervisors are conducting monthly case pulls of a minimum of five cases to review caseworker's monthly visit notes. Feedback and coaching is being provided where needed.

DCFS Rural Region has a rigorous system in place to monitor the frequency of monthly caseworker visits. The goal is to ensure the prior months visits occurred and/or are documented accurately in UNITY. Steps involved include: 1) Data reports are run by the QA unit and/ or District Office managers to assess prior months compliance in meeting the 95%. 2) Feedback is given via an email to supervisors with lists of cases that caseworkers have not yet entered the prior months child contacts into UNITY. 3) Supervisor oversight ensures those visits are accurately documented from the month prior. 4) Those reports are reviewed monthly at leadership team meetings. 5) If caseworkers are identified as not meeting the 95% then the supervisor and/or manager works with the caseworker to identify barriers to achieving the goal of 95%. Compliance with the monthly caseworker visit requirement remains in the Casework Management Specialist and Social Worker, Work Performance Standards.

Quality Caseworker Visit tools were developed because of reviews completed during the PIP were distributed to all casework staff, supervisors, and managers. QA presented at all staff meetings throughout the region on the purpose and use of the tools. Examples of quality contact notes were also provided to staff. New caseworkers are educated on the tools and the importance of documenting their monthly child contacts.

Caseworkers are encouraged to schedule their monthly child contacts early in the month to have the best opportunity to visit their child(ren). When they are not able to have in person contact with a child due to circumstances not in the control of the agency, they are encouraged to complete the contact virtually as is approved until June 30, 2023. They must still have private conversations with the child and are instructed to look for anything that would be an indication that the child is alone and not being monitored during the contact by caregivers (looking up from the device, whispering to someone, hearing other people talking etc). Caseworkers also must not rely solely on virtual visitation and must see the child in person as soon as practically possible after a virtual visitation.

Over the coming year, Rural Region Child Welfare QA will be working closely with District offices that continue to struggle achieving the goal of 95% for monthly caseworker visits. QA will be partnering with those offices to understand what they are doing to meet the 95% standard and if these strategies are able to be implemented in other district offices. QA will also continue to monitor all district offices' performance to ensure that offices that are doing well continue to do well.

DCFS used caseworker visit money to pay for state issued cell phones for caseworkers. Rural Region caseworkers have large geographical area to cover and as a result spend considerable hours driving and/or working out of different offices and/or locations. State issued cell phones have proven to make it much easier for parents and youth to stay in touch with their caseworker.

During this reporting cycle, WCHSA continued to utilize the Monthly Caseworker Visit Grant for travel to other states to see children in residential treatment placements and pay staff overtime beyond their standard 40-hour work week to see children as required by state and federal policy.

WCHSA continued efforts to monitor and improve the frequency and quality of Case Worker visits through reporting mechanisms, case reviews, and the CFSR. The Agency continued to maintain a fleet of vehicles and utilized mileage reimbursement to facilitate worker transportation to visits. All fleet vehicle policies and practices in place returned to pre-pandemic regulations. Fleet vehicles continue to be housed at the central office and caseworkers can check out a vehicle as needed to facilitate visitation. CQI representatives met regularly with permanency and assessment leadership teams and during ChildStat meetings where caseworker visit data is discussed and analyzed. WCHSA continues to problem-solve and worked with WCHSA's supervision team to QA the available reports. We continue to have a focus on providing comprehensive, ongoing discussions and data analysis concerning the importance of child contacts and requirements to ensure the safety, permanency and well-being of children in foster care.

Over the last reporting period, WCHSA has worked with the State of Nevada IS to gain access to COGNOS. Working collaboratively, WCHSA and Nevada IS are working to generate additional useful reports to help caseworkers and supervisors manage their caseload requirements. WCHSA will continue to learn and build reports that are useful for staff into the next reporting period.

With the implementation of WCHSA's Collaborative Safety Model for CQI, starting in January of 2022, WCHSA implemented a monthly ChildStat Data presentation to staff within the agency. These data meetings share data including data around monthly caseworker visits. WCHSA anticipates that being transparent with the data collected and presented will improve CFSR safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes. Creating a vehicle to disseminate information is imperative to understand where the agency is to make systemic changes that can produce better outcomes for families. In each meeting data is presented and conversation is facilitated regarding systemic influences that impact

a worker's ability to see children each month. WCHSA will continue these monthly presentations for ChildStat throughout the next and subsequent reporting periods.

Caseworker visit grant funds were used to support OT for staff to help ensure that contact with foster youth was of sufficient quality and frequency.

Clark County DFS met expectations for caseworker contact with children. To support continued high performance in this area, DFS maintains several data reports and data dashboards so that managers and supervisors can review and monitor current performance data (daily if needed). Caseworker contacts are regularly reviewed during scheduled Child Stat meetings at the Managerial level and during supervisor 1 on1 sessions with workers.

Also, DFS plans to deploy a mobile application in June 2023 that will allow workers to complete case notes from a mobile device and in turn that note will be remotely sent from the application and logged into UNITY. We anticipate the app encourage timely and accurate documentation as they will be able to enter case notes from the field while completing other tasks, or during lulls in normal time, such as waiting for court hearings etc. without having to return to a desk to complete their notation.

Clark County DFS did not rely on virtual methods to complete child contacts. During this reporting year the department has mandated that monthly child contacts with case workers must be face to face.

Table 48: Compliance of Monthly Caseworker Visits with Children

Reporting Period	Compliance Rate	Performance Goal
FFY 2019	93.57%	95%
FFY 2020	93.81%	95%
FFY 2021 YTD	95.56%	95%
FFY 2022 YTD (10/1/2021 through 4/20/2022)	91.75%	95%

Source: UNITY RPT7D7

Table 49: Compliance of Monthly Caseworker Visits with Children in their Residence

Reporting Period	Compliance Rate	Performance Goal
FFY 2019	91.55%	50%
FFY 2020	92.45%	50%
FFY 2021 YTD	2.51%	50%
FFY 2022 YTD (10/1/2021 through 4/20/2022)	89.56%	50%

Source: UNITY RPT7D7

States are required to ensure the total number of monthly caseworker visits is not less than 95 percent of the total visits that would be made if each child were visited once per month. In addition, at least 50 percent of the total number of monthly visits made by caseworkers to children in foster care must occur in the child's residence (section 424(f) of the Act). The state is not in compliance with the 95% goal.

PIP Items that will strengthen the state's compliance with caseworker visits are in various stages of completion. PIP Items 2.2.2 (Q1), 2.2.3 (Q2) (Q4), 2.2.4 (Q4) (Q5), and 2.2.5 (Q4) (Q6) are evaluating and enhancing reports to monitor the frequency and quality of child contacts. The state is working closely with the CBCS on the development and utilization of these reports.

Additional Services Information

Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Payments

The Adoption and Legal Guardianship Incentive Payment funds have been awarded to Nevada to assist with inter-jurisdictional placements, diligent search for relatives, home studies, social summaries, recruitment of adoptive and foster parents, professional development, and post-adoption services. Subrecipients of the incentive payments include all Nevada's child welfare jurisdictions and Raise the Future (formally the Adoption Exchange). Each subrecipient provides a variety of services to adoptive families and adoptees to achieve timely permanency, including:

- Processing Termination of Parental Rights (TPRs) that allow for youth to become legally available for adoption;
- Diligent searches for potential relatives;

- Completion of home studies and social summaries;
- Marketing and public awareness for recruitment of foster parents, adoptive parents, mentors, and volunteers for youth in care, through different news, radio, and social media outlets;
- Development of Spanish resources to increase outreach efforts;
- Ensuring children out-of-state in permanent placements receive necessary support services related to medical expenses not covered by Medicaid, neuropsychological evaluations, educational needs, basic needs (food, utilities, rent, etc.), specific therapies, hotels for families to travel for the needs of children, and other identified needs to support adoptive placements;
- Sending resource parents and staff to conferences relating to adoption, fostering, and mentoring youth in care;
- Updating technology that supports adoption related activities;
- Travel expenses related to placing youth with adoptive families, including travel expenses for birth parents that live out-of-state to return to Nevada to complete the TPR/relinquishment process to ensure youth are free for adoption;
- Material for adoptive families to use with youth in anticipation of being legally adopted including books, pins, blankets, stuffed animals, etc.; and
- Adoption Day activities
- Raise the Future oversees Nevada's Recruitment Response Team (RRT) funds. Raise the Future's projects include Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK), which employs contract recruiters to assist in locating adoptive parents and permanent connections for youth; a strategy identified in the state's Adoption Call to Action Plan. Through Raise the Future, Nevada also uses grant money to pay for a statewide membership to AdoptUsKids, which facilitates national recruitment activities. Raise the Future supports Nevada's statewide efforts in recruiting foster and adoptive families by providing responsive, timely, customer service support for individuals who inquire about becoming foster and/or adoptive families via the national AdoptUsKids website. Raise the Future's knowledge and expertise of AdoptUSKids' Family Intake Tracking Tool (FITT) enables Nevada to efficiently and effectively compile family intake data, track progress towards the approval process, and encourages families to stay engaged in becoming a true resource for children in care.

Nevada has also contracted with the University of South Florida to provide training and direct services to current and prospective foster/adoptive families, relative caregivers, and birth parents through a collaborative Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) and Just-In- Time (JIT) training website. The website provides information and web-based training videos that will facilitate learning strategies to improve parenting skills. Web-based trainings will include such topics as:

- Trauma informed parenting;
- Mentoring of biological parents by foster parents;
- Strategies to support successful reunification;
- Supporting foster children's education;

- Supporting healthy development of infants, toddlers, and youth in care; and
- Importance of providing quality health care.

Adoption Incentive (AI) funds will continue to be used to support pre- and post-adoption service needs, as well as to ensure children in out-of-state permanent placements receive necessary supportive services related to non-Medicaid covered expenses, neuropsychological evaluations, educational needs, basic needs (food, utilities, rent, etc.), specific therapies, hotels when families need to travel for the needs of the child and other needs to support the adoptive placement.

- WCHSA also used AI funds for to market adoption, fostering, mentoring, and volunteering for youth in our care. They maintained a contract with LearField Sports LLC (Wolf Pack) to accomplish this goal. There were many activities conducted by this group including sponsorship games/events held to express appreciation for our foster families where an announcement to thousands of attendees was made recognizing foster parents during football and basketball games at the local university. There were many presentations and radio interviews conducted by recruitment and training staff to promote fostering, adopting, mentoring, and volunteering throughout the community. Also, WCHSA did a PSA (featured on all local news agencies and social media postings) using AI funds to promote fostering teens in Washoe County. AI funds are allocated to support social media advertising for recruitment efforts toward adoptive families. AI funds are allocated to develop a Spanish-speaking orientation video to promote adoption/foster care, increasing our outreach efforts to this population. AI funds were also used to update our LiveScan fingerprinting machine to continue to fingerprint potential foster and adoptive families. AI funds have been used and will continue to be used during this reporting period for travel expenses associated with matching children and adoptive families as well as travel expenses for biological parents that live out of state to return to relinquish their parental rights, freeing the child for adoption.
- AI funds are also used to support Adoption Day activities. Adoption stars are provided to every child as well as blankets, stuffed animals, and adoption readiness books for the family in anticipation of their legal adoption in Washoe County.
- WCHSA intends on continuing the activities into the next reporting period dependent on funding levels.
- In FY 23, funds were used for District Attorney support staff to assist with the TPR process. Approximately 350 TPRs are finalized annually. Funds were also used to continue the existing Clark County Marketing Campaign to encourage public interest in becoming a Foster Parent in Clark County. CCDFS licenses an average of 16 new Regular Foster and/or Adopt Only homes per month. Approximately 75% of all adopted CCDFS youth are placed through a foster home. In addition, funds were used to complete Social Summaries and Home Studies needed for the Adoption Program.
- The southern part of the state faces some challenges utilizing the funding for this grant as it funds several positions. Merit increases and cost of living increases

have not been accounted for and this continues to be an area where the state can improve through better planning.

Adoption Savings

Historically, adoption savings funds have not been available to reinvest in the current state fiscal year or any subsequent year. A statutory change was necessary to allow Nevada to have access to and spend adoption savings funds. Efforts were made during Nevada's 2019 Legislative Session to allow DCFS to not revert the savings back to the General Fund. Bill Draft Request #19A4092104 was submitted during the 80th Regular Session of Nevada's Legislature (2019). While the BDR was submitted, the Governor's Finance Office postponed the consideration of any legislative change until the next biennial Agency Request budget submission.

DCFS prepared and presented a new Bill Draft Request to the 2021 Legislative Session (Senate Bill 377) to allow DCFS to reinvest adoption savings. The bill passed, paving the way for Nevada to reinvest adoption savings as outlined in the federal law by allowing for reported Adoption Savings Funds to be balanced forward to the next state fiscal year for use in that year. Any unused portion at the end of the following year will revert to the State General Fund. DCFS

utilizing the savings in SFY 2023, starting July 1, 2022. Jurisdictions will receive the calculated savings identified in their FY21 CB 496 Part 4 report (See Attachment E). At this time, unused savings calculated for previous years will not be expended as it has not been appropriated by the State Legislature.

Adoption Savings Funding in the Northern Region

- During the last reporting period, WCHSA was awarded Adoption Savings funding for the first time.
- WCHSA allocated \$401,451 from Adoption Savings to fund the Washoe Adoption and Foster Family Life Enhancing Subsidy (WAFFLES) program. WAFFLES provided funding for incidentals, day care and activities for family's pre- and post-adoption, pre- and post-guardianship, and other resource families to have opportunities for social-emotional development, connection and bonding, and self-care.
- WCHSA allocated \$100,000 of Adoption Savings provided incentive funding to resource families who welcome children and youth into their home on an urgent/emergent basis, take sibling groups into their home to further maintain the sibling bond and keep them from being separated, and/or take medically fragile children and provide care as outlined by medical professionals.
- WCHSA allocated \$10,000 of Adoption Savings to contract with RAVE to provide respite services for adoptive parents in Washoe County. The contract was awarded to provide respite services for up to 30 children from post-adoptive families to receive two, 3-hour respite sessions per month.

- WCHSA allocated \$10,800 of Adoption Savings to contract with Foster Kinship to provide pre-service training to relative and fictive kin foster parents.
- WCHSA allocated \$3,333 of Adoption Savings to provide funding for non-recurring adoption fees to allow for prospective adoptive parents to have legal representation when negotiating post-adoptive contact agreements and sibling contact orders.
- Adoption Savings funded numerous new positions at WCHSA equal to \$256,328. These positions include a post-adoption caseworker, a program specialist, two runners, and an additional management analyst to support agency efforts of children in pre and post adoptive homes.
- WCHSA allocated \$5,000 of Adoption Savings to provide therapy sessions for adoptive families with licensed therapeutic providers in Washoe County to assist with adjustment to new family compilation and address any transition issues that arise.
- WCHSA allocated \$35,000 of Adoption Savings to provide funding for expenses related to training, transitions, and/or travel for staff, foster, or prospective adoptive parents. Funding included sending 18 staff and resource parents to the National QPI virtual conference held in May 2023. Funds will also be used for other training/conferences for staff including sending seven individuals including staff, clinicians, and adoptive parents to the National Council for Adoption (NCFA) conference in St. Louis, six individuals including staff, clinicians, and adoptive parents to the Florida FAPA annual education conference being held in Orlando, and two staff attended the California Adoptions Conference which was held virtually.
- A percentage of Adoption Savings funding was directly allocated toward prevention services including therapeutic interventions, basic needs, and transportation for families.
- WCHSA does not anticipate having any remaining funding available at the end of the reporting period.
- WCHSA received funds well beyond the expected timetable outlined for use. WCHSA was notified of funding in November 2022, leaving the agency roughly six months to spend a one-year full grant allotment. WCHSA had to be creative and responsive to spend these funds before the grant ended. This grant award was for one year only and extensions were not allowed.

Adoption Saving Funding in the Rural Regions

- The newly created Adoption Support Services Program identifies four (4) key areas related to permanency achieved through adoption: selection and preparation; pre-placement support; post-placement support and post finalization. These areas were identified to provide training, psychoeducation and support to children and families to better ensure appropriate selection, placement and support are provided to children and families throughout the life of an adoption case to decrease adoption disruption or placement of a child outside the adopted home. Partnerships with adoption specialists, advocates, and training partners such as

Raise the Future, North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) and National Adoption Competency (NTI) to provide training, support and adoption competency to child welfare staff, stakeholders, children and families have also been created through developments of contracts with these entities to provide training, support and technical assistance.

- The Adoption Support Services Program was developed in strong partnership between the Adoption Unit, including the Adoption Recruiter, and Clinical Program staff to work in tandem through each step of the adoption process, as well as to enhance workforce development related to issues pertaining to adoption across the Rural Region.
- Selection and Preparation of Adoptive Parents: these are services designed to enhance child-focused identification and recruitment of permanent adoptive homes. New recruitment elements and a multimodal approach has been identified including structured family interviews conducted by the Adoption Recruiter, Clinical Program staff (Mental Health Counselors), use of psychometric measures to better understand strengths and challenges of the family and use of a child characteristic checklist to enhance matching. Based on the results from this multimodal approach, a specific training plan is developed based on the needs of the child, the family designed to prepare and educate adoptive families on trauma, attachment, grief and loss, honoring and respect of birth families and the child's history and narrative, and integration and assimilation into a permanent family.
- Pre-placement Support: Planning for placement: through assessment of the needs of the specific child(ren)/sibling group, and the potential family to develop specific, targeted plans to prepare for placement, support placement, plan for permanency and post finalization success. Preparation of the child is done through age-appropriate dialogue, games, activities, books, etc. with structured oversight by Mental Health Counselor. Supportive clinical services are provided to the identified adoptive family through individual services, education, and training. Utilization of evidenced based services to address specific issues, such as Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI), Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP), Trauma Informed Care (TIC), Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT), Attachment Based intervention, etc. Invitation to join monthly adoptive parent coaching and support calls through NACAC, along with other adoptive parents, to share their lived experience. Topics are relevant to issues faced and experienced by children from the child welfare system and include Trauma Responsive Parenting Strategies, Adoption Through the Eyes of an Adoptee, Self-Care, Grief and Loss, What Do I Say, The Dance of Diagnostics and others.
- Post-placement Support: Clinical support is provided to adoptive families to implement strategies from training into their day-to-day interaction and engagement with the child/ren. Clinical support immediately can address success and challenges upon placement and provides advocacy and encouragement, along with skills, psychoeducation, and tools, to support and sustain the placement and enhance the parent/child relationship and development of the family relationship. After the initial intervention phase is complete, regular, and consistent check-ins occur through finalization. Connections are made to community

providers to continue to address the child/family needs (such as developmental services, mental health services, educational support, medical care, etc.).

- Post Finalization Support: Check-ins at regular intervals (1, 3, 6, 9 and 12 months) for support and service delivery if identified.
- Since the submission of the last APSR, this program has been more thoroughly developed with the creation of the outline above. Services to families have included structured family interviews, which required training by staff, purchasing of relevant psychometric measures to assess child and potential family strengths and challenges (Child Behavior Checklist, Parent Child Relationship Inventory, Personality Assessment Inventory, Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule – clinician training and materials, etc.). Materials have also been purchased to support preparation and post placement activities (such as developmentally appropriate books related to understanding adoption, grief and loss, understanding early childhood trauma and the impact on current and future functioning and lifespan development, etc.).
- In the next fiscal year, the Adoption Support Program will expand through additional training to Adoption Unit and Clinical Program staff to continue to enhance matching, preparation, and support intervention. This includes use of high-quality digital equipment to use for recruitment purposes, additional psychoeducation materials (books, games, etc.), travel for visitation between children and identified adoptive families. Enhanced clinical support by training and additional Clinical Program staff in the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS); Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) and training and materials for the Neurosequential Model which is relevant to pre and post adoptive services to better understand and organize the child's history and current functioning, articulate primary problems, identify key strengths and apply interventions that assist the family, educators, therapists and related professionals best meet the needs of the child. In the next fiscal year, the program will also develop a training curriculum and schedule to enhance adoption competency by child welfare staff across the Region.

Adoption Savings Funds in the Southern Region

- In March 2023, CCDFS contracted with Foster Kinship to provide services using an evidence- based Navigator Model and TBRI trainings to CCDFS Post Adopt families. To facilitate a smooth transition and to prevent disruptions, Foster Kinship will provide outreach, case management, group and individual in-home support, assessments, and community agency referrals. It is estimated that Foster Kinship will provide outreach efforts to a minimum of 160 families and provide services to 80 families in FY 23. In February 2023, CCDFS contracted with The Therapeutic Solutions (TTS) to provide as needed daily therapeutic respite for families struggling with the behavioral and/or cognitive issues of CCDFS youth. During respite sessions, TTS will provide assessments, consultations, and apply various evidence based therapeutic techniques designed to improve the youth's coping and behavioral skill sets. It is projected that TTS will serve up to 50 youth in FY

23. Funding will also be used for Kingap Subsidy payments for approximately 180 families, and to provide Home Studies and/or Social Summaries for 50 youth.

- If the current level of funding remains available for FY 24, CCDFS plans to continue and expand these same services. In addition, two full time staff will be hired to assist with Adoption Subsidy records and act as an Adoptive Resource Coordinator for the Department.
- Legislative language and budgetary concerns have caused uncertainty with continued funding and/or stable funding awards. Until these issues are resolved, it will be difficult to start new programs and build them to the level Clark County needs.

Family First Prevention Services Act Transition Grants

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was enacted on February 9, 2018, as part of P.L. 115-123. Overall, the law supports the use of evidence-based practices to promote the well-being of children, youth, and families and to prevent unnecessary foster care placements. To support implementation of FFPSA and further its goals, Congress passed the Family First Transition Act (henceforth, "Transition Act") as part of P. L. 116-94, signed into law on December 20, 2019, which included an appropriation of funds. FFPSA funding has been awarded to Nevada for activities directly associated with implementation FFPSA initiatives.

Funds will be used for statewide activities such as:

- Contracting with consultants to assess and expand service arrays in alignment with Nevada's FFPSA Prevention Plan
- Assisting congregate care facilities in meeting the criteria for Qualified Residential Treatment Programs
- Training and implementation of evidence-based models in alignment with Nevada's FFPSA Prevention Plan
- Enhance data collection and CQI capacity as required by FFPSA
- Contract with community providers to monitor prevention plans
- Update UNITY to track data and practices required by FFPSA
- Update Child Welfare Academy trainings to account for changes in practice due to FFPSA

To date, funds have been used by the jurisdictions in the following ways:

- Clark County:
 - Funds for consulting fees to assist with FFPSA implementation. The consultant gathered information regarding a rate study to help determine an appropriate rate for future Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) as well as confirming an appropriate rate for the specialized foster care population.
- Washoe County:

- Contracted with the University of Nevada Reno, Early Head Start Program to facilitate the “Parents as Teachers” program, which is a well-supported model for home visits, assessments, screening, and support.
- Contracted with a consultation group at the University of Nevada Reno to provide Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). ACT is a planned mental health model that Washoe intends to use to train staff of FFPSA.
- Implementation of the mental health intervention of Trauma Focused CBT, in addition to group training and travel costs.
- Partnership with Collaborative Safety, LLC to implement Collaborative Safety’s Safety Science Model for critical incidents as well as an agency wide quality improvement model. The model will use evidence-based practices to provide system reviews to determine root causes and systemic concerns that impact practice to help shift to a culture of psychological safety and learning.
- Consulting fees for contracts that support FFPSA intervention strategies.
- Interventions for Emergency Placement support.
- Additional licenses for IBM-COGNOS which is a data system that will be used to pull data and identify trends.
- Rural Region
 - No FFPSA Transition Grant funds have been used to date.

Family First Transition Act Funding Certainty Grants

This grant was made available to IV-E waiver demonstration sites. In Nevada, Clark County participated in the IV-E waiver demonstration program, and therefore was eligible for a Family First Transition Act Funding Certainty Grant.

Clark County Department of Family Services will use funds from the Certainty Grant to continue the Child Welfare Integration process by providing child welfare services and determining eligibility and foster care licensing. As reported last year, Clark County is planning on using funds to provide the following activities:

- Enhanced and improved services to the current and increasing needs of children in southern Nevada;
- Coordination of services between parties to meet the current and increasing needs of children in southern Nevada; and
- Background checks and fingerprinting for prospective foster care agencies/homes and licensing family foster homes, specialized foster homes, independent living foster homes or group foster homes and ensure training of employees who have direct contact with children.

Clark County previously used Demonstration Waiver dollars to assist with funding some non-IV-E eligible placement costs. After the waiver ended, Clark County used Funding Certainty grant monies to assist with paying up to 11 million dollars in non-IV-E placement costs. A lack of adequate increases to the CW Block Grant, during the years that Clark

County operated the waiver, contributed to this shortfall. These costs are not currently IV-E eligible. Clark County is working on a plan to increase the penetration rate to limit the amount of non-IVE eligible placement costs in the future. Clark County is anticipating the implementation of FFPSA may help, along with requests to increase the CW Block grant.

John H. Chafee Foster Care Program For Successful Transition to Adulthood (The Chafee Program)

Nevada's independent living (IL) program continues to provide youth individualized case management, workshops, funding for secondary and post-secondary education, job seeking and employment services, and helps build skills that promote self-sufficiency as youth transition into adulthood. IL youth are supported through referrals by the child welfare agency to the IL unit by CFT meetings that are arranged as close as possible to the youth's fourteenth birthday to ensure the development of a nurturing relationship between the youth and the IL worker.

Nevada delivers, facilitates, and administers its own IL program in the 14 rural counties and the independent municipality of Carson City, with the assistance of public and private partnerships, while Clark, and Washoe counties facilitate their own under the supervision of the Family Programs Office. While each region/jurisdiction develops a service array unique to its community, jurisdictions work collaboratively to implement statewide policies and programming.

The state remains committed to improving the quality of services and support offered through IL programs. The FPO has two full-time IL Specialists that work closely with the agencies, stakeholders, and service providers. The addition of a second specialist in 2021 has allowed the state to more effectively monitor and track service provision and outcomes, helping us tailor our programs to meet the needs of our older youth more effectively.

On February 15, 2019, Assembly Bill 150 was introduced during the 80th Nevada Legislative Session, which would require the establishment of a work group to study ways to improve the outcomes for persons who leave the custody of an agency which provides child welfare services when they reach 18 years of age and was approved by the governor on June 7, 2019. On March 26, 2021, Senate Bill 397 was introduced during the 81st Nevada Legislative Session, which would revise provisions relating to certain persons who remain in foster care beyond the age of 18 years and was approved by the Governor on June 4, 2021. Effective January 1, 2024, Nevada will serve youth up until the age of 21 under the "Extended Young Adult Support Services Program." Nevada currently provides foster care to youth up until the age of 18. To prepare programmatically and fiscally for implementation of Title IV-E extended foster care, Nevada has contracted with Social Change Partners (SCP), LLC who is currently working with a Nevada team of statewide child welfare, fiscal, and legal representation as well as representatives from the Capacity Building Center for States.

Nevada's consultation and efforts for the implementation of Extended Foster Care

SCP is assisting Nevada with a detailed examination of the programmatic implications to consider with shifting to a Title IV-E extended foster care program. They are providing consultation on fiscal opportunities and determining the structure for a side-by-side implementation of EFC with existing programs. SCP also lends its experience to identify needed changes to law, regulation, policy, and practice would be necessary to implement all the above. They also work in collaboration with other consultants assisting Nevada for the development of a strengthened placement and service array.

August of 2021 marked the initiation of the meetings between SCP and the Nevada team, which has been primarily comprised of statewide child welfare representation, CBCS and FPO. The initial conversations have evolved into targeted workgroups that include DCFS fiscal and legal representation. Established workgroups are simultaneously tackling CCWIS system updates as well as policy and document creation. FPO in collaboration with SCP has also created an ongoing, comprehensive FAQ document specific to EFC that is updated monthly and shared statewide via the SQIC. Over the next couple of months, additional workgroups will be created to develop communication and training plans for EFC eligible youth and young adults as well as workers, stakeholders and service providers. Throughout the process, SCP has and will continue to provide technical assistance, research support, and analysis to DCFS, CCDFS, and WCHSA to add specificity and detail to ongoing planning regarding the implementation of EFC.

Nevada continues its partnership with the Capacity Building Center for States on the Integrated Capacity Building Plan that started in 2021. The plan includes collaboration with the regions, and upon completion will yield an Independent Living program that is well-integrated with resources, programming and partnerships within and outside the state to meet the needs of youth and young adults aging out of care. Staff will be better able to engage and partner with youth and young adults and their family when assessing and planning for their transition out of care.

The initial work plan was approved by the Children's Bureau on April 16, 2021, and the project team was initiated in July 2021. The project team is comprised of representation from the state, rural counties, Clark County, and Washoe County. The project team also includes SCP, Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA), which is the organization contracted to assist the state with forming and maintaining the statewide youth advisory board as well as Young Leaders (youth and young adults with lived experience).

Since the project's initiation, the team has infused CQI into the process and conducted a comprehensive review of the state's IL program. It underwent an extensive process of deeper problem exploration that involved gathering and analyzing secondary (existing) data, as well as collecting and analyzing primary data via interviews with key informants and focus groups with youth and young adults. The first stage of deeper problem exploration involved examining existing data on IL and EFC programs across the state and within counties, including data from NYTD, AFCARS, and state-specific databases.

The second stage of deeper problem exploration involved collecting primary data from two sets of key informants. Individual interviews were conducted with statewide leadership and management-level staff. Interview data was analyzed using content and thematic analysis, and a summary matrix of findings was developed. Following the interviews, two statewide focus groups were conducted with youth and young adults. Focus group data was analyzed using content and thematic analysis, and a summary matrix of findings was developed. The summary matrix was also used to develop a summary visual that was disseminated to focus group participants and others including the SQIC, ADG and YABs. All components of problem exploration generated greater insights of root cause analysis of identified problems and contributing factors. These findings have been critical in the next stage of the work plan, identifying a plan for program enhancements to IL and EFC.

The identification of the contributing factors and root causes provided a foundation for the development of three problems for which theories of change have been drafted, followed by the creation of a working subgroup for each. Specifically, the subgroups are as follows:

- Ensuring youth and young adult engagement in IL and EFC program development and case planning is authentic
- Ensuring the service array for youth and young adults in IL or EFC housing, behavioral health, and financial support are sufficient
- Ensuring information about IL and EFC is better retained across all jurisdictions and that the program data is reliable and valid

As part of the initial solution generating phase, the subgroups which include jurisdictional representation at the leadership and fieldwork level, as well as SCP and Young Leaders, have engaged in discussions on a monthly basis. The monthly discussions incorporate 'homework' that is assigned between sessions which provides an opportunity for the group to gain insight on programmatic nuances in other states as well as Nevada at the jurisdictional level. Because each group meets monthly, the 'homework' also helps ensure continued engagement between sessions. Furthermore, bi-monthly stakeholder meetings provide a collaborative opportunity for the different subgroups to exchange successes, discuss barriers, and brainstorm solutions. Significant progress has been made in each of the subgroups since their inception in January 2023. In the following months, the subgroups will continue to infuse their understanding of how to strengthen the state's current IL and future EFC programs to incorporate strategic solutions for service array and youth and young adult engagement improvement statewide.

Following the completion of the research and solution generating phase as described above, the state, with coaching, consultation and resources from the Center will conduct a readiness assessment, a precursor to the plan for implementation. The state intends to implement findings to strengthen the state's IL programs using an implementation science framework through a team comprised of regional and county partners, Young Leaders and community partners. Through this collaboration with the CBCS, Nevada will have an enhanced IL service array that is trauma-informed, integrated, and coordinated to better prepare youth aging out of care with the necessary knowledge, skills, resources and

supports to achieve goals for independence and have improved safety, permanence (e.g., social, emotional, and family connections) and well-being.

The state is committed to ensuring the implementation of EFC and the improvements of the IL program via the work plan with the Center is an efficient process. SCP has been integral in assisting with the process of identifying areas of overlap between both projects and outlining opportunities to leverage the work ahead. As opportunities to do so present themselves, ad-hoc groups will convene as needed to ensure all elements of both projects are streamlined and align with the designated timelines.

Activities to Solicit Feedback from Youth & Young Adult's Service Needs & Desired Outcomes

Findings and recommendations from the state's comprehensive IL review discussed in the paragraphs above were shared with stakeholders to facilitate ongoing program development. Due to staff turnover, and the recognition of the need to increase youth involvement to provide sustainability, Nevada contracted Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA) to facilitate and support the work of the statewide Youth Advisory Board (YAB). Responsibilities of CAA include, but are not limited to, facilitating, and coordinating virtual meetings, strengthening partnerships with stakeholders, providing leadership training opportunities, and ensuring YAB members are compensated for their participation.

Increasing participation in Nevada's statewide Youth Advisory Board, Nevada Life, is an area of high focus for CAA. As a state, we continue to experience barriers with increasing geographically diverse youth and young adult's engagement in the statewide group. Although in-person meetings were planned for July and August of 2022, securing youth and young adult's attendance was not successful. CAA will continue these efforts throughout the remainder of 2023 with planned visits to the northern and rural regions of the state. There are currently 10 active participants that meet monthly for Nevada Life. Leadership and advocacy are areas of interest for participating youth and young adults, as such, they have recently connected with the Self Love Foundation as well as the National Foster Youth Initiative. By establishing these connections, CAA has helped provide a platform for youth and young adults to lend their voices and expertise on larger scale. The Self Love foundation has provided leadership training which has encouraged youth and young adults to periodically take on a facilitator's role during their meetings.

Nevada continues to encourage youth and young adult voices and engagement as part of our work with CBCS and SCP. One of NV LIFE's active members has been a significant presence in the state's IL work plan with CBCS. Their consistent input in all areas of the work plan has been vital in framing the perspectives needed to adequately structure the work ahead. They, along with the other Young Leaders have expressed great enthusiasm to spark programmatic change via these continued partnerships. Although members on our CAA and CBCS teams include individuals with lived expertise, Nevada will continue to ensure youth and young adults remain integral partners in service delivery for the IL program by recruiting more young people.

Youth and young adults are at the center of agency level efforts to ensure that IL programming is aligned with their interests and needs while also being age and culturally appropriate. Along with individualized case management, workshops are held where topics and speakers are selected by youth and young adults. Topics include education and employment preparation, substance abuse prevention, preventative health activities, physical and mental health, budgeting, tax preparation and cooking. Youth and young adults are also encouraged to provide feedback regarding activities and programming to ensure they are receiving information they feel is beneficial to their transition to adulthood. The southern part of the state has recently piloted mentorship opportunities via peer-to-peer interactions with young adults that have aged out of care. Young adults help youth understand what to expect when being in care and are a source of meaningful and age-appropriate relationship building. It is the state's intention to, over the next reporting period explore the expansion these efforts as they have thus far, proven successful.

The FPO, as part of a pre-emptive move toward future EFC communication planning, created a survey where youth and young adults were able to share their preferred communication methods as well as areas of interest and potential participation regarding child welfare. A total of 45 youth and young adults ranging in ages from 14 to over 21 participated in the survey. Results informed the state that the group's preferred social media platforms are Tik Tok, Instagram and Snapchat. When asked their preferred method of receiving IL and EFC program information, the group had high preferences for Instagram, email and text messages. When asked if they would be interested in participating in small group discussions, conversations, workgroups or providing feedback on specific projects, eight youth and young adults stated 'maybe' while the remainder of the group was split between 'yes' and 'no'. When asked to identify all areas of interest for small group discussions, workgroups and/or providing feedback, the results were as follows:

- Youth and young adult engagement (19)
- Nevada foster youth and young adult data collection (10)
- Legal (Courts, legal representation) (10)
- YABs (Youth Advisory Boards) (4)
- Youth and young adult case planning (10)
- Internship opportunities (17)
- Permanency options for youth and young adults (6)
- Social work practice – CPS, safety and risk (13)
- Nevada IL program –life skills education (13)
- Services for youth and young adults in foster care and beyond (11)
- Creating connections for ongoing support (15)

The survey results will inform EFC communication planning in the coming months as well as overall IL program improvement as part of the NV IL work plan with the CBCS.

Services Provided Since 2023 APSR

The state continues to deliver youth and young adult driven IL services that teach, support and encourage self-reliance and independence. Since the last submission, the agencies have continued to organize workshops according to the expressed needs and interest of young people. The northern part of the state has brought on additional staff to support after care programming and assist with transitioning youth and accessing services and basic needs. Over the next year the state will continue to focus on workshops to enhance the independent living skills of the youth and young adults. Additionally, the state has identified a need to clearly articulate, operate, and strengthen the state's existing IL and EFC models and practices. With these implementations, youth and young adults will have voice and ownership during their time in care and be more engaged in their plan development and plan for discharge. Youth, young adults, and family will be more likely to engage in available services and supports; and young adults exiting care will have greater awareness, understanding and the needed skills to maintain their independence post discharge from care.

Division X Additional Funding from the Supporting Foster Youth and Families Through the Pandemic Act.

The pandemic has continued to present unique challenges to our IL youth, staff, and programs. However, the impact of Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act, Division X of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law (P.L.) 116-260, allowed for flexibility in providing support to IL youth in ways that kept youth safe, secure, and in a position to look forward to and plan for the future, rather than fear long-term negative impacts due to the impact of the pandemic. Below is a summary of the efforts to serve and outcomes for youth and young adults who were served in the context of P.L. 116, Division X funds and flexibilities.

To ensure coordinated and consistent use of the P.L.116 enhanced flexible funds across the state, Nevada issued a program instruction on the use of funds and notification requirements and provided each region the names of youth that required notification in compliance with ACYF-CB-PI-21-04. Nevada contracted with FM Marketing, LLC to launch a public awareness campaign that included the development of a social media campaign which was distributed statewide for use by child welfare and community partners (e.g., Nevada System of Higher Education, legal aid, public health, CIP). The social media campaign (Twitter, Facebook, posting on sister websites and Department of Motor Vehicles, press release) included a single point of contact for youth to access services within their local community. The contracted media firm enhanced its campaign outreach to include but not limited to; television and radio interviews as well as advertisements targeting eligible youth. The public awareness campaign concluded on September 30, 2021, with 310,643 impressions and a video completion rate of 278,963.

Additionally, Nevada's statewide P.L. 116, Division X work group met weekly through September 30, 2021. P.L. 116 updates were provided regularly via the monthly statewide IL meetings. In addition, the P.L. 116, Division X work group came to a consensus around tracking methodology, to be certain that we had a thorough understanding of the needs

of youth and young adults across the state related to the pandemic, as well as the specific efforts undertaken to meet those needs.

Final Updates: Accomplishments & Lessons Learned

During the Division X timeframe, Nevada wanted to ensure eligible youth and young adults received as much assistance and support as possible by opting into the allowable flexibilities of serving young adults up to the age of 27 and funding room and board expenses greater than the usually allowable 30%. A combination of both needs based payments and enhanced existing programming stipends were provided to the eligible youth and young adults throughout the entire Division X timeframe. A total of 1,145 youth and young adults who experienced being in care received direct assistance with general needs like housing, utilities, childcare, driving assistance and transportation including driving lessons, learner's permits, and auto repairs. Moreover, youth's extracurricular activities and trips as well as graduation keepsakes and field trips were also funded. Counties also used Division X funds to pay for vital health needs pertaining to dental, medical, and mental health services not fully covered by insurance. Expenses for direct assistance to youth and young adults as described totaled approximately \$2,747,651.34.

The state did not experience barriers in spending the Division X funds as the needs of young people were extensive. Youth and young adults benefited immensely from the additional financial assistance. Furthermore, agencies found that the durations of the flexibilities were not long enough as there was a continued need for assistances and services. The agencies learned how much of a need there is for young people ages 21 to 27. When Division X funding could be used for young adults ages 21 to 27, the state was able to make a significant impact on their lives. It was noticed that young adults still struggle and are not fully ready for adulthood at age 21. The identified concerns will be used when considering future services during the implementation of EFC. It will be the hope that additional resources and services will help Nevada's young adults be better prepared for adulthood. Additionally, removing barriers and having flexibility in spending funds ensures the jurisdictions can meet the individual needs of all youth and young adults.

National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)

Although Nevada continues to make data available using National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) data, the CBCS' work plan focuses on improved data quality requirements. The FPO has continued to attend national and regional conversations around this topic to stay current and abreast of emerging trends in working with young people. In August 2022, the FPO attended the Children's Bureau facilitated webinar in preparation for Cohort 5 – baseline cohort which started on October 1, 2022. Additionally, the FPO attended the March 2023 NYTD webinar focused on the data snapshots released after the completion of cohort 3. We continue to learn and are working on a plan to incorporate better ways of establishing and maintaining communication with youth and

young adults as well as compensating them for their participation as these methods have proven successful in several states.

NYTD continues to be a statewide effort with the FPO IL specialists conducting weekly or bi-weekly reports (dependent on cohort type) that are sent out to each jurisdiction for survey completion updates. NYTD serves as a standing agenda item on each monthly statewide IL meetings as well as the bi-weekly Statewide Quality Improvement Committee (SQIC) meetings. Nevada uses these platforms to provide added support to the jurisdictions, provide updates and address barriers as needed. Additionally, the FPO has recently introduced 'NYTD Check-In's' which are meetings held individually with each jurisdiction at the onset of each half cohort. This space allows for jurisdictions to provide staff or practice updates and together with the FPO IL specialists establish a plan for a successful reporting period. Throughout each cohort, the FPO IL specialists are also available to support the jurisdiction through training and/or technical assistance as needed.

Over the next year, the FPO plans to lead in-depth discussions with the jurisdictions across the state involving young leaders to develop the plan referenced above. This will be facilitated through the existing work group with the CBCS and through the formation of subgroups as needed. The FPO will continue to attend national and regional conversations around NYTD and over the next year. Nevada plans to formalize and refine its process of monitoring NYTD data while continuing to share this data with stakeholders. Feedback loops are in place through the monthly statewide IL meeting and the SQIC. The FPO will provide the space for discussion and ways to improve. Over the next year, the state will discuss and develop mechanisms to share this data with young people, develop feedback loops and strategies to involve them in the process. As we have learned that NYTD is crucial in identifying trends for the IL and EFC programs.

Additionally, over the next year Nevada will work with data analytics experts within the state and consult with the CBCS on ways to further utilize NYTD data to inform program improvement. The state will work collaboratively with these experts to identify potential strategies to improve data quality, collection, or analysis, as well as any potential interface with other systems. Focus over the next year will be to also infuse a CQI lens when looking at NYTD data and providing learning opportunities to staff around CQI and data literacy.

Public and Private Sectors

Child welfare agencies continue to collaborate with public and private entities to ensure youth and young adults in care are supported in a manner that best fits their needs. Community providers are a significant presence in workshops and at designated IL meetings, connecting directly with youth and young adults. The northern part of the state has partnered with Nevada PEP and Youth MOVE. Youth MOVE is a youth led organization that aims to help other youth develop self-advocacy skills, create systems change and remove the stigma placed on mental health. In addition to their active social media presence, Youth MOVE also holds weekly virtual meetings and podcasts.

The state has also been working with the Court Improvement Program (CIP) – who plays a significant role in several areas of the current IL program as well as the planning of the EFC program. Most recently, the CIP has brought on a young person with lived experience to participate in their Judicial, Court, and Attorney Measures of Performance (JCAMP) project. This opportunity allows for the young person to work alongside lawyers, judges, CASAs and the FPO. The selected young person has helped in identifying priority measures and will also be included in the data collection process. Additionally, they are part of the CIP Select Committee as a voting member. As a CIP representative, they will also be involved in workgroups and committees where youth and young adult voice and perspectives are needed.

Over the next year, the state will continue to explore additional opportunities to collaborate with other public or private systems and ways to expand the state's service array while ensuring it is diverse, equitable and inclusive. This work is planned for the established collaborative workgroups that have statewide representation and are inclusive of young leaders' voices. The state will continue to receive consultation and technical assistance from the CBCS and SCP.

LGBTQ+ Supports for Youth and Young Adults

The state continues to build upon its commitment to ensuring LGBTQI+ youth and young adults in care feel supported and are provided with services aligned with their unique needs in a safe and affirming manner. In addition to ongoing staff trainings, agencies collaborate with local LGBTQI+ organizations to help cultivate a positive environment for youth and young adults that identify as LGBTQI+. These organizations are an essential part of supporting youth and young adults. In some parts of the state, panels have been held by LGBTQI+ organizations to help educate foster parents on how they can best support this population. Additionally, speakers are invited to IL meetings and workshops where resources are also regularly distributed.

At the onset of 2023, the FPO conducted an internal review of statewide forms and policies to identify areas where in addition to requests for race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression (SOGIE) would also be included. This was done in response to SB309, from the 2021 legislative session, which states that government agencies shall request from a person information related to the person's sexual orientation and gender identity or expression if they are also requesting from a person information related to the person's race or ethnicity. In the near future, the state will use this data to better inform IL and EFC programming and activities as well as service array gaps.

Coordinated Efforts with Federal and State Programs

In coordination with the Nevada Housing Division (NHD), which is partially funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the state refers IL youth and young adults to the Housing Division for their multiple programs. NHD offers a

housing locator in response to Nevada Statutes, NRS 319.143, which requires NHD to create and maintain a state-wide low-income housing database. The Nevada Housing Division provides a comprehensive on-line locator list of affordable housing options at <http://nvhousingsearch.org/> or by calling 1-877-428-8844. NHD also offer emergency solutions through grants such as rapid rehousing and homeless prevention, weatherization assistance for child welfare families who have a need in this area, as well as multiple homebuyer programs for child welfare families who qualify.

Child welfare agencies continue to collaborate with their Regional Housing Authority to revise and/or create the MOU's for both Family Unification Program (FUP) and the Foster Youth Initiative (FYI). Over the last year, approximately 30 housing vouchers have been awarded statewide, however the application process is difficult for young people to navigate without considerable assistance. Once awarded the voucher, young people have a short timeframe for it to be used, which has been a cause for concern given the limited housing resources throughout the state. In response to this, the northern part of the state has introduced a Housing Specialist position – this position provides individual assistance to youth and young adults with applying for and obtaining housing. This is an area of high focus for the state and is being actively discussed via the NV IL Work Plan subgroup that is working to identify ways to improve the IL service array. The next phase in the subgroups will include determining the feasibility of the proposed solutions. Over the next reporting period, the state anticipates creating a plan for implementation of the solutions as it recognizes that it will potentially require systems-level changes. The young leaders that participate have been especially vocal about the need for housing supports and services to improve for them statewide.

The IL Program Specialist continues to participate in the Nevada Foster Youth Higher Education Committee Meeting and Nevada Foster Youth Education Data Subcommittee. These meetings are designed to partner with stakeholders, including former foster youth, legal advocates, local child welfare, and ETV providers to identify supportive activities and eliminating financial barriers while increasing the number of youths pursuing higher education.

The state continued to support the housing needs of youth and young adults using Division X funds as described above in the section 'Division X Additional Funding from the Supporting Foster Youth and Families Through the Pandemic Act'.

The state continues its efforts in understanding gaps in Medicaid coverage for eligible youth and young adults. During FY2020, one issue that became apparent from the NYTD surveys was that Medicaid applications for young adults 18 years and older were routinely denied benefits. In September, the state facilitated conversations with the jurisdictions around the specific barriers each was experiencing in this area. The information was shared with the Department of Welfare & Support Services (DWSS). Changes in leadership and limited staffing resources have made it difficult for the FPO to make progress but has continued to collaborate with the DWSS to resolve the issue. The aged-out Medicaid application has been made readily available for youth and young adults on the State's site. Application completion assistance as well as guidance on eligibility and

required documentation are also offered. Over the next year, efforts will continue to collaborate across programs to streamline this process and further address any lapses in Medicaid coverage.

- Provide an update on coordinating services with “other federal and state programs for youth (especially transitional living programs funded under Part B of Title III of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974), abstinence education programs, local housing programs, programs for disabled youth (especially sheltered workshops), and school-to-work programs offered by high schools or local workforce agencies” in accordance with section 477(b)(3)(F) of the Act.
- Provide information on the actions taken to address the housing needs of young adults in transition from foster care. Outline the federal, state, local, and public/private resources utilized to support a range of safe, affordable, and age-appropriate housing options for young people.
- *Note:* In July 2019, the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development announced the “Foster Youth to Independence” (FYI) Voucher Program. On October 6, 2020, a notice from HUD was released updating the program requirements for new funding under the initiative. The FYI Voucher Program provides eligible young adults with a housing voucher to assist in the prevention of homelessness among young adults with foster care histories. In order to receive a voucher, the child welfare agency must ensure the provision of supportive services for the duration of the voucher.¹² While the FYI Voucher Program operates in most states at the community level, it is important that state child welfare agencies support and facilitate conversations to assist in implementation of this initiative. As part of the update on the coordination of Chafee services with other federal and state programs, provide information on the state’s efforts to support and facilitate the coordination of child welfare agencies and Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to utilize FYI vouchers, including any relevant data. Identify any barriers or challenges in working with the PHA to utilize FYI vouchers in their state.

Promoting Wellness & Proactively Addressing Mental Health Needs

Nevada is committed to ensuring youth and young adults have access to mental health and wellness resources and supports. Statewide, youth and young adults receive referrals to address and improve their mental and emotional wellbeing. Additionally, agencies host workshops with a specific focus on mindfulness, nutrition for a balanced mind, exercise, realistic self-care and self-growth. As mentioned above, the northern part of the state also partners with Nevada PEP and the Youth MOVE program, which is youth led and aims at empowering young people in areas including removing the stigma of mental health. Mental health services are another area of high focus for one of the NV IL Work Plan subgroups as mentioned above. Over the next reporting period, the state as part of the work plan process, anticipates establishing an implementation plan that includes interventions that will address gaps in mental health needs for young people in and out of care.

Access to Medicaid for Former Foster Youth

Effective January 1, 2023, the SUPPORT Act, Pub. L. No. 115-271, expanded eligibility of the Medicaid eligibility group serving youth formerly in foster care (the former foster care children group, or FFCC group) to individuals who were in foster care from other states and simplified eligibility determinations and the enrollment processes for this population.

The DCFS has been in collaboration with DWSS to discuss needed changes to processes and systems to ensure compliance with the new expanded eligibility. Earlier this year, DWSS modified its system to allow former foster youth who aged out on or after January 1, 2023, in any state to receive Aged Out Medicaid through the age of 26. Former foster youth who have aged out of care in Nevada remain eligible through the age of 26.

Nevada has not yet requested the 1115 demonstration waiver to cover youth formerly in foster care who have aged out of another state and who turned 18 prior to January 1, 2023. Due to this former foster youth who have aged out of care from another state prior to January 1, 2023, remain eligible only through age 21. At this time, Nevada is still working toward requesting the 1115 demonstration. DCFS will continue to work in collaboration with DWSS and DHCFP to evaluate if a 1115 demonstration can be requested and supported.

DWSS has already started approving individuals based on this change. As of now the changes in enrollment information is being provided by the child welfare agencies when contacted by and out of state youth or another agency. Over the next year Nevada will work to implement this messaging into our Independent Living Program and Extended Foster Care program/implementation.

Former foster youth and young adults frequently experience barriers to accessing their Medicaid benefits when moving to a different state. When youth and young adults that experienced care in a different state move to Nevada, they receive assistance accessing Medicaid and/or a referral to access Medicaid through Welfare Support Services, if they are under the age of 21. When a former foster youth express plans to move to another state, they are provided with enrollment information for that state, a proof of wardship letter for eligibility and encouraged to contact that state's Medicaid division. Over the next reporting period, the state will collaborate with the jurisdictions to create a plan for establishing a formal process that ensures youth and young adults can access information to facilitate enrollment whether they are moving to or from Nevada.

Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) Program (section 477 (i) of the Act)

The Education and Training Vouchers Program (ETV) is administered and managed by two entities, Clark County Social Services (CCSS) and The Children's Cabinet. The role of CCSS is to administer the ETV program for the Clark County jurisdiction. The role of The Children's Cabinet is to administer the ETV program for the remaining regions of the state. Both entities are responsible for contacting current ETV recipients, managing the

eligibility requirements and maintaining compliance with the ETV program. If the youth aged out in another state, but currently reside in Nevada, both CCSS and The Children's Cabinet contact the other state's ETV program to ensure no duplication of funds.

Both CCSS and The Children's Cabinet collaborate with child welfare agencies, the legal community, the higher education institutions located throughout Nevada, and regularly attend all statewide IL meetings, including policy workgroups. In addition, both entities have partnered with the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Foster Youth Success Initiative with the primary mission to recruit more effectively, support, and retain students who have been dependents of the child welfare system. The collaboration allows Nevada to comprehensively track the long-term educational achievements of foster youth. This initiative has also established direct contacts in financial aid and enrollment officers across Nevada's NSHE institutions. These institutions include:

- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- University of Nevada, Reno
- Nevada State College
- College of Southern Nevada
- Great Basin College
- Truckee Meadows Community College
- Western Nevada College

The state still plans to explore portal options to make the ETV application process efficient and young people friendly. Additionally, the creation of an ETV policy has also been tabled as efforts have temporarily shifted at the onset of 2023 toward updating the current ETV application for data collection purposes. Updates include adding questions around the young person's permanency outcome upon exiting care at 18, state in which they experienced care in, application status (new, ongoing or returning) as well as whether they are a first-generation college student. Additionally, using a DEI lens, a review was conducted on the existing questions around LGBTQI+ and SOGIE to ensure they are being asked in a non-discriminatory and affirming manner. Both ETV providers and the FPO are in the initial stages of developing a statewide comprehensive data collection process. The intent is to collect application and participant data that will better inform young people's needs when pursuing post-secondary education. The data will also help speak to gaps in services and/or resources in our state.

ETV Services Since 2023 APSR

One of the main changes that has occurred in the last year is that CCSS hired an ETV Coordinator to provide more direct outreach and supports to help identify any previous student who may still be eligible, as well as students who have not applied for ETV before that may be eligible. Since CCSS operates both ETV and state funded extended foster care for Clark they are able to identify current and former program participants who are ETV eligible and reengage students if needed. As part of strengthening program goals, Children's Cabinet ETV staff participated in Level II of the ICF- Fostering Success Coach Training plus an additional 10 hours of mentor coaching.

The ETV program continues to support youth and young adult's pursuit of post-secondary education by providing funds to their meet needs around housing, transportation, childcare and additional areas that aid in them achieving their education goals. Since the last reporting period, ETV outreach and engagement have increased statewide. These efforts have created awareness for populations that have previously not known of their eligibility like youth and young adults that achieved guardianship or adoption after 16 years of age. Outreach efforts have included collaborations with higher education institutions, participation in education outreach events at high schools, sharing program information with caseworkers, foster parents, guardians, and social media postings. It is the intent of the state to ensure all eligible youth and young adults as well as their workers and parents or guardians are aware of the available financial assistance options. The state believes that making this information regularly available will help promote enrollment, retention, and graduation.

<https://nshe.nevada.edu/initiatives/foster-youth/https://nshe.nevada.edu/initiatives/foster-youth/https://nshe.nevada.edu/initiatives/foster-youth/>

Division X Additional Funding from the Supporting Foster Youth and Families Through the Pandemic Act.

Both ETV providers participated in P.L. 116, Division X weekly meetings to ensure no duplication efforts for services with Chafee and state funding. Through FFY 2022, a temporary increase in monthly stipend of \$200 to \$500 was put in place for those who may have not otherwise been eligible for ETV due to age and/or exceeding maximum allotment that existed under regular Chafee.

The COVID-19 pandemic did not affect contact efforts, and the ETV program has been active in reaching out to previous recipients, as well as maintaining contact with current recipients to aid in program compliance. Contact methods include, phone calls, text messaging, emails, and meeting virtually via Google Meet and Zoom. ETV recipients have continued to receive case management and supports including coaching on spending costs associated with an increase in funding so the youth will better understand how best to utilize their funds for any and/or all unmet needs as well as helping them address other education-related matters that might affect them.

The Division X additional funding allowed for the ETV program to expand much needed existing supports to participants affected by the pandemic. The ETV program collaborated with the child welfare agencies to maintain communication with and support participants through their individual educational needs. Although many students' education was interrupted by the pandemic, consistent engagement efforts helped students overcome different challenges, helping them get back on track. Success stories include students recovering from health conditions, and becoming parents, with the help of ETV staff, finding their way back to school, and now holding a 4.0 GPA. Another impactful success story was around a student who is a parent and identifies as transgender completing their vocational goals and are now pursuing higher level education, putting them on track to

becoming a first-generation college graduate. Throughout the Division X timeframe, the state did not experience any barriers in utilizing the funds as there was an ample need. Below is the breakdown of how the funds were used to directly assist 125 participants:

- Rent \$45,529.38
- General \$27,363.74 (books, technology, transportation)
- Tuition \$82,280.34
- Utility Support \$1,838.65
- Scholarships/Stipends \$214,618.41

Total ETV Awards for School Years 2021-2022 & 2022-2023

The total number of Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) awarded from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, was 81 with the number of new students receiving vouchers totaled 46.

The total number of Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) awarded from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, is estimated to be 105 with 100 youth being served as of April 30, 2023. The number of new students receiving vouchers totaled 37.

Chafee Training

The state continues to offer the IL training developed by UNLV for IL caseworkers and supervisors. The training curriculum includes, but is not limited to, Chafee and FAFFY funding, the availability of additional financial assistance streams depending upon the youth's age and eligibility, and the use of general funds to support Normalcy for Foster Youth. The online training launched in early 2022 in three unique modules and has been piloted to assist UNLV in enhancing the training package. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resources were shifted to prioritize the transition of all training to an online platform to meet PIP requirements and training needs of the general child welfare workforce. As a result, postponement of the IL training and implementation occurred but is now available to both IL caseworkers and supervisors. Positive Youth Development and Motivational Interviewing trainings continue to be available to staff to support engagement. Over the next year, with the work being completed to ready the state for EFC implementation, Nevada will update and improve existing training, and look to incorporate elements of coaching into the curriculum. The FPO will partner with the child welfare agencies and NPT, as well as utilize its contractor, SCP, and young leaders to inform those changes. Delivery of the training may be delivered by SCP, NPT, FPO, or a combination of those.

During the next reporting period, WCHSA will be implementing the LifeSet evidence-based program through the Independent Living program for foster youth ages 14 to 21. WCHSA was awarded a Youth Villages grant for implementing this model, starting in the fall of 2023. Through implementation of the Youth Villages Lifeset evidence-based model

program that supports foster youth ages 17 to 20, WCHSA intends to improve the outcomes of youth transitioning from foster care to independence. Outcomes include permanent relationships, education/vocation achievement, living wage employment, housing stability, emotional and physical well-being, youth expectations of safe and healthy relationships, and reduced intimate partner violence. WCHSA will report on initial outcomes of this new program during the next and subsequent reporting periods.

Consultation with Tribes (Section 477(B)(3)(G) Of The Act)

Following the approval of the CSFP 2020-2024, Nevada's tribal IL provider elected to return previously awarded Chafee funds to be used for services to tribal youth. As a result of significant staffing changes and COVID-19, a subaward with a tribal entity was not established. Native American children in tribal custody were not specifically targeted nor served. Of the five youth identified as Native American who aged out of child welfare custody between July 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, no Native American foster youth accessed IL services. Over the next year, as part of the work with the Capacity Building Center for States work plan, Nevada will evaluate Chafee programming, engagement, and outreach to develop a plan to ensure fair and equitable treatment to Native American youth. Additionally, ETV will also be addressing outreach and service provision over the next year. As is practice, the IL Specialist will continue to collaborate and coordinate with the tribal liaison to inform tribes of the Chafee program and to facilitate access to Chafee benefits and services through the Indian Child Welfare (ICW) meetings. NV Tribes have been informed of Chafee and ETV opportunities and services through DHHS Tribal Consultation, individually through discussions with DCFS tribal liaison. A presentation from the Children's Bureau in a scheduled ICW meeting August 2021 on the benefits of Title IVE / IVB services resulted in feedback from tribal social services and NV BIA Agency Representatives to DCFS tribal liaison as a lack of interest due to minimal to no infrastructure in NV Tribes.

CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION WITH TRIBES

The State of Nevada has 27 tribal entities that include federally recognized tribes, bands, and colonies. These entities include Battle Mountain Band Council, Carson Colony Community Council, Dresslerville Community Council, Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, Duckwater Shoshone Tribe, Elko Band Council, Ely Shoshone Tribe, Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe, Fort McDermitt Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, The Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, Lovelock Paiute Tribe, Moapa Band of Paiutes, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, South Fork Band Council, Stewart Community Council, Summit Lake Paiute Tribe, Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone, Timbisha Shoshone Tribe, Walker River Paiute Tribe, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, Wells Band Council, Winnemucca Colony Council, Woodfords Community Council, Yerington Paiute Tribe, and the Yomba Shoshone Tribe. To gather input from the Nevada tribes, the DCFS tribal liaison conducts bi-monthly Indian Child Welfare (ICW) Committee meetings. The meetings are open to all tribal entities and tribal stakeholders. The DCFS tribal liaison co-hosts the ICW Meetings in collaboration with the

local Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) social workers. Discussion items are driven by tribal requests for program information.

Services provided since 2022 APSR

To encourage statewide participation, meeting notifications are done by a listserv which includes the agenda and minutes from the prior meeting. The ICW Committee membership includes representatives from Nevada Tribes, Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN), Nevada Indian Commission, CIP, Bureau of Indian Affairs (Eastern and Western Nevada Agencies), State of Nevada Attorney General's Office, WCHSA, CCDFS, Nevada Legal Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Nevada Early Intervention Services, The National Council of Judicial and Family Court Judges, and DCFS. The purpose of the committee is to provide an opportunity for consultation and collaboration between state, tribal and county entities. This collaboration provides a forum for discussion and recommendations between state, tribal and county entities for improving the child welfare system. This forum is where policies, procedure and practice interface or relate to Indian children and families and confer on topics of interest to the tribes. Speakers may be added to the agenda to address ongoing Indian child welfare issues and provide opportunities for trainings and listening sessions between jurisdictions and NV tribes on statewide child welfare issues and updates.

This shift in focus on COVID-19 has impacted attendance at of the ICW virtual meetings. The tribal liaison offered to change the frequency of meetings to accommodate tribal needs and increase participation, however, the majority of tribes declined. ICWA Meetings in 2022 were held on March 3, and November 10, ICW meetings were held in 2021 on January 28, March 4, April 1, June 24, August 25, and November 2. ICW meetings in 2020 were held on January 18, March 22, May 24, and July 19. In March 2020, Nevada's Governor gave orders for all non-essential state employees to work from home. Although the majority of Nevada's federally recognized tribes were closed to the public due to the pandemic in 2020 / 2021, DCFS tribal liaison was able to assist tribal social workers in learning the virtual TEAMS format to participate in ICW meetings virtually.

ICW meeting topics in 2020 / 2021 included:

- Indian Child Welfare (ICW) and Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)
- Continuing work by the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) on a tribal consultation and MOU processes
- The importance of Tribal Stakeholder representation
- Resource and referrals
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and strategies NV is implementing to meet the needs of this population
- IL tribal youth services and supports to include Chafee and ETV
- Title IVE and Title IVB funding opportunities

- Respite services for children with special needs and caregivers through System of Care (SOC) and Rural Services
- Grant opportunities for Tribes (VOCA)
- Nevada Indian Commission (NIC) services and resources
- Medicaid Partnerships with DHCFP
- National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) updates including annual memberships gifted to NV Tribes through a DCFS Casey Family Programs Grant
- Introductions to DHHS tribal liaisons and services

In addition to the ICW meetings, the DCFS tribal liaison continues to gather input, collaborate, and coordinate with the tribes through individual consultations and other ongoing state and/or tribal meetings. Individual consultation focuses on developing and updating MOUs to ensure culturally appropriate cross-jurisdictional placements and to ensure adherence to ICWA. DCFS tribal liaison began the consultation, collaboration process with the Elko Band Council in 2020. After being invited to participate and present on the MOU with DCFS for cross-jurisdictional placement of children at an Elko Band tribal council meeting virtually in 2021. DCFS tribal liaison and Elko Band social workers were able to get the MOU signed November 2021. DCFS tribal liaison began the consultation, collaboration virtually with the Walker River Paiute Tribe (WRPT) social service team for a MOU with DCFS during the pandemic, in the Spring of 2020. This resulted in a virtual invitation for the tribal liaison to attend a tribal council meeting on Zoom. Tribal liaison presented the MOU draft along with WRPT workers which resulted in the council approving the MOU July 2020. The Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribal Chairman also requested a presentation on the MOU process with DCFS in the Spring of 2020. Tribal liaison not only gave a MOU presentation but worked collaboratively with Fallon's tribal social service director to create a MOU approved by counsel July 2022. In 2022, tribal liaison has begun the MOU draft process with tribal social workers from the Lovelock Paiute Tribe, the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, and the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony. NV Tribes with current MOUs or with MOUs in draft, consult and collaborate with tribal liaison individually after bi-monthly ICW meetings. This allows for individual consultations after group ICW meetings.

In addition to the ICW meetings, the DCFS Tribal Liaison participates in tribal consultations through the DHHS, Nevada Indian Commission, and the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada Executive Board Meetings. Tribal leaders are invited to both meetings to discuss issues within Indian Country. DHHS tribal liaisons are required to give updates within their divisions (e.g., Medicaid, Welfare, Aging and Disability) to support cross-collaboration and information exchange.

Barriers to Coordination / Collaboration

Individual tribal elections take place at different times of the year, so leadership may continuously change. This too impacts the validity of existing MOUs which are subject to change upon new tribal leadership. The DCFS tribal liaison has continued to use virtual platforms and meet in person as needed to engage tribal leaders regarding MOU

development. Tribal input and feedback are always encouraged and noted as well as sharing of available resources to allow for the provision of constructive feedback between the state agency and the tribes.

The main barrier to collaboration and coordination with Nevada tribes has been the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in the shut-down of outsiders onto tribal lands. Several Nevada tribes closed access to the reservations due to high COVID numbers and deaths. Many tribes were financially impacted as the general population could not shop at stores (smoke shops, retail, gas stations, restaurants) located within tribal land. Priorities within individual tribes shifted to accessing PPE and medical care while trying to meet the basic housing and nutritional needs of their communities. Other barriers to the coordination include COVID-19 illness and related deaths in tribal members, and continuous turnover and changes in tribal and state staff, tribal leadership, tribal council, and tribal social workers. DCFS tribal liaison requests continuous updates in tribal staff contacts through the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN), local Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) agencies, and the Nevada Indian Commission (NIC). NV tribes are required to notify these tribal agencies whenever there is a change in positions.

DCFS tribal liaison met with the Western and Eastern Human Services Agency Representatives from the NV Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) office in 2022. Per report, each tribal social service agency has the ability to license foster homes. However, the problem NV tribes are seeing consistently is the lack of tribal families wanting to apply to become licensed foster parents. BIA Human Services Agency Representatives meet quarterly with tribal social service teams in their designated regions quarterly who report no current licensed tribal foster homes on tribal land. This makes it difficult to place Indian children in state / county custody per placement preference when following ICWA.

Over the next year, the DCFS tribal liaison will continue to collaborate and share with tribes the implementation of the CFSP/APSR in the following ways:

- Meet and consult with other state agency tribal liaisons monthly
- Attend quarterly Tribal Consultation Meetings and give updates on DCFS services per request
- Attend quarterly NV Indian Commission (NIC) meetings to stay updated on tribal community issues across the state
- Attend and participate in NV Indian Education Association meetings to address the importance of early childhood welfare topics and issues amongst the state
- Meet with other state agency tribal liaisons monthly to discuss current needs of NV Tribes
- Participate in a quarterly National ICW Manager's calls with other ICWA specialists in other states where ideas from each state are discussed and shared regarding ICWA
- Attend monthly Tribal Health Director's Meetings at ITCN and give updates regarding DCFS-ICW issues involving the tribes

- Monitor and update the ICWA page on the DCFS website which is made accessible to all NV Tribes via internet
- Provide training opportunities from various sources through the NVICWA listserv and announcements at meetings
- Attend bi-annual Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities
- Attend quarterly CJA meetings
- Continue to participate in case reviews and case consultations
- Assist state and tribal partners in the identification of appropriate actions surrounding ICWA.
- Participate in Casey Family Program's Mechanisms of AIAN Inequality in Child Welfare: A Race Equity Improvement Collaborative Conversation.

ICWA

The NV ICWA Policy 0504 was updated and approved in the Fall of 2020 to include the new federal regulations which provided ICWA definitions. Feedback has been received that the federal definitions have caused further confusion rather than clarity as was intended. The NV ICWA Policy 0504 provides detailed information to state, county, and tribal social service workers on who is responsible for providing child welfare services once a child welfare case is recognized as an ICWA case. DCFS tribal liaison is contacted by the child welfare worker from either the state or county once an inquiry has been made with possible Native American / Alaskan Native Ancestry. Tribal liaison assists throughout the case to ensure ICWA is followed. In the 2023 legislation session Nevada approved AB444 which established various provisions governing proceedings relating to the custody, adoption or protection for Indian children or the termination of parental rights to provide additional protections for Indian children in state law. DCFS develops and implements MOUs with NV Tribes for the culturally appropriate placement of children across jurisdictions. The MOUs outline protocols coordinating the placement of foster children into tribal licensed foster homes located on tribal land. The establishment of the MOU between the NV tribes and DCFS allows for greater collaboration between the state, tribe, and counties for better provision of services on and off the tribal communities in NV, and the reduction of trauma to Indian children by placing them within their own culturally appropriate communities. The MOU is created through state and tribal consultations in face-to-face meetings or via phone consultations between the DCFS tribal liaison and tribal social services. A complete draft is then presented to the tribal council before being submitted to the state's Attorney General's Office for review. The MOU gives specifics to who is responsible for providing the child welfare services and protections for tribal children. Tribes can personalize a MOU to meet the needs and expectations to best represent the sovereignty and individuality of each tribal entity. MOUs provide descriptions and details after consultations on who is responsible for providing child welfare services and what role each person and / or agency has throughout the process. Tribal and state social workers work together with tribal liaison's assistance to collaborate, gather, and share the best resources for tribal children. DCFS ensures that active efforts are adhered to by attempting to keep sibling groups together; engaging the age-appropriate child, parents, extended family and tribal agencies in case

planning and Child and Family Team Meetings; identifying appropriate services and helping parents to obtain such services; monitoring progress and participation services; conducting diligent searches for the child's extended family members; supporting regular visitation with parents, siblings and extended family including providing transportation for such visits; and providing post-reunification services through monitoring.

DCFS continues to provide training to tribal, state, and county workers to ensure active efforts are taken to prevent the breakup of the Indian family when a child may be placed in foster care or for adoption. For new state and county social workers, the mandates of ICWA are included in the mandatory Nevada Academy Training. The Nevada Partnership for Training offers an online ICWA training that is open to all jurisdictions. The hope is to continue and support positive relationships between NV tribes and state and county workers for the benefit of tribal children and families. Additionally, the DCFS tribal liaison coordinated and provided refresher training on ICWA and MOUs upon request.

The "Indian Child Welfare Resource Guide for Nevada" was designed to assist state and county child welfare agencies on the law and tribal contacts within NV Tribes. DCFS tribal liaison continues to update ICW Resource Guide available on the DCFS website. The CFSP and APSR are available for public review and inspection on the DCFS website at dcfs.nv.gov/Tips/Reports/. DCFS tribal liaison will continue to share opportunities with NV Tribes to receive funding to include Title IV-E and Title IV-B opportunities. It is up to individual tribes whether they wish to apply or not for any funding sources. It is up to individual tribes to also participate in the MOU process with DCFS. No tribal entity is currently interested in becoming an IV-E eligible due to infrastructure challenges even after a presentation from the Children's Bureau during an ICW meeting in August 2021

During FY 2022, DCFS monitored compliance with ICWA through case compliance/quality assurance review and training and through individual continuous quality improvement case reviews with the Deputy Attorney General who represents DCFS. Item 9 is the only item on the CQI tool that relates to Indian Child Welfare (ICW) in foster care cases by inquiring about preserving connections for Indian children. The 1 Indian child case reviewed reported "Strengths" in all areas of Item 9. Reports are available for review on the DCFS website and per request Nevada will be working over the next year to improve data collection for Native American children and youth in preparation of upcoming AFCARS changes.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT (CAPTA) STATE PLAN REQUIREMENTS AND UPDATE

Nevada submitted a CAPTA State Plan in SFY 2011; it remains in effect.

Substantive Changes

There have been no substantive changes to state law or regulations, including laws and regulations relating to the prevention of child abuse and neglect that could affect Nevada's eligibility to the CAPTA state grant.

Elected Program Areas FY 2021

There have been no changes to the program areas Nevada is addressing since the submission of the 2022 APSR. To date, there has been one change from the CFSP. During the 2022 APSR Nevada added the following program area as a statewide mandated reporter training was identified as a need in Nevada:

- Section 106(a)(8) developing, facilitating the use of, and implementing research-based strategies and training protocols for individuals mandated to report child abuse and neglect.

Description of Activities, Services, and Training Funded Under the CAPTA State Grant

For the reporting period, CAPTA funds were used to support state's approved CAPTA plan. Funds were used to support CPS programming, including CARA program development activities.

Positions funded to support the CAPTA program include:

- A Social Services Program Specialist III who participates in the planning, coordination, evaluation, and development of policy statewide; and participates in CARA and FFPSA development activities., and
- An Administrative Assistant to respond to Central Registry requests statewide.

Nevada collaborated with an outside agency to develop a statewide Mandated Reporter training. The training became available as of October 2022 and is hosted online, available to be completed at any time. Nevada developed this training to ensure mandated reporters have the knowledge and skills to carry out their responsibilities to identify and report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect.

Training was provided for the following:

- Evidence-Based Batterer Intervention
- Rocky Mountain Symposium on behavioral health, addiction and treatment
- Cape Cod Symposium on Addictive Disorders
- American Society for Addiction Medicine (ASAM) basic training
- Perinatal Mood Disorders Components of Care

Training and technical assistance to implement the Sobriety, Treatment, and Recovery Team (START) Program (a supported Family First prevention service) was provided.

Nevada currently has three Citizens Review Panels (CRP) who each play an integral role in ensuring that Nevada is meeting its goals of protecting children from abuse and neglect. Nevada's current CRPs include:

- The Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children (CDR);
- The Children's Justice Act Task Force; and
- Clark County Department of Family Services Citizens Advisory Committee

The continuing work of these CRPs and their recommendations to DCFS is included within Nevada's annual CRP report received between January and April 2023 (Attachment G). DCFS has responded to all recommendations made by the CRPs (Attachment H) as of June 2023.

Child Welfare Agencies began implementing CARA Plan of Care monitoring and services at the community level in January 2021. See the Update on Provisions Relating to Substance-Exposed Newborns and Infant Plans of Safe Care. Nevada has utilized CAPTA funding to further CARA efforts and strengthen monitoring and follow-up with families who have a CARA Plan of Care (see CARA section below).

Update on Provisions Relating to Substance-Exposed Newborns and Infant Plans of Safe Care

DCFS continues to be a central participant of the Nevada Perinatal Health Initiative (PHI) a project under the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), which has been underway since November of 2018. The PHI Action Plan was utilized to continue the work of the Initiative and has guided efforts over the past year. The PHI Core Team guides the initiative in which DCFS represents child welfare. There are several workgroups comprised of various stakeholders who make recommendations to the Core Team which has oversight of the action plan. These stakeholders include child welfare representatives, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy representatives, Division of Public and Behavioral Health representatives, social workers from hospitals, medical professionals, non-profit community, and substance use treatment providers in its current work groups.

- CARA Leadership
- Reproductive Health Network
- CARA Plan of Care¹⁴

¹⁴ *CARA Plan of Care was used in lieu of Infant Plan of Safe Care to avoid confusion with other documents used in child welfare in Nevada.

- Nevada Perinatal Core Team

Providers in Nevada continue to use the consensus definition of a substance-exposed infant when making the determination whether an infant is substance exposed and a CARA Plan of Care is required. In Nevada a “substance affected infant” is an infant:

- Whose mother is receiving medication assisted treatment for a substance use disorder and/or is actively engaged in treatment for a substance use disorder; or
- Whose mother is misusing prescription drugs, or is using legal or illegal drugs, and meets criteria for a substance use disorder, but is not actively engaged in a treatment program; or
- Who is experiencing symptoms of withdrawal; or is likely to experience symptoms of withdrawal, based on chronic, habitual, regular, or recurrent use of a controlled substance by the mother during pregnancy; or
- Who displays the effects of a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

Summary of Major CARA Related Activities

Included CARA implementation in the Nevada PHI Action Plan which is a statewide strategic approach that incorporates best-practice outreach, identification, engagement, management, and care for Nevada’s pregnant and postpartum/parenting women with substance use disorders and their infants with prenatal substance exposure so that health safety, and recovery outcomes for this vulnerable population improve. Activities completed during the reporting period include:

- Development of an FAQ sheet that distinguishes the differences between the CARA Plan of Care and child welfare services.
- Targeted activities and discussion that are aimed at advancing medical provider awareness and use of the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT).
- The PHI has focused on alignment across state priorities as there are multiple initiatives in Nevada with crossover related to substance use disorders with emphasis on pregnant women and women of childbearing age.
- CARA Plans of Care education materials and resources and CARA outcome data continue to be a priority for PHI Providers are utilizing the OpenBeds platform to complete CARA Plans of Care. Statewide participation by child welfare agencies in the activities of PHI that are related to CARA.
 - CCWIS enhancements were completed in May 2022 and training provided to child welfare staff to improve data collection related to substance affected infants.
 - Nevada’s child welfare agencies are further supporting collaboration efforts of CARA at the state and community levels (with CAPTA funding). Each jurisdiction is implementing efforts that support their communities and the families they serve such as:

- Referring families to community service providers when the report to the child welfare agency does not meet criteria for investigation. Service provider examples include Early Head Start, Thrive by Five, Southern Nevada Health District, and Family Resource Centers who provide home visiting services.
- Multidisciplinary team meetings to ensure the following:
 - Identification of community partners/stakeholders needed to ensure the success for implementation of CARA Plans of Care;
 - Community wide requirement and method of timely reports to the child welfare agency are met;
 - Establishment of effective method of communication/information sharing between all stakeholders/partners;
 - Establishment and documentation of a method for determination of need for and implementation of cross training/staff development to ensure consistency of services;
- Conduct county-specific and stakeholder meetings to discuss CARA implementation issues and
- Provide CARA-related training as needed.
 - Create promotional materials for prenatal care providers to engage them with CARA-related trainings.
- Create promotional materials for pregnant persons at risk of a CARA Plan of Care at delivery to engage them with resources and services.
- Integrating the CARA Plan of Care with family's case plans and referring both infants and caregivers to identified services and monitoring service provision.

Lessons Learned

The decision by the Department of Health and Human Services' Director to require CARA Plans of Care to be codified in regulation was pivotal in supporting implementation. This was a recognition that CARA was first and foremost a public health issue that needed to address not only infants identified at birth but also to identify pregnant women with substance use disorders to enhance prenatal services, post-partum services and beyond. Additionally, collaboration with the DBPH and medical and substance use treatment providers has been key to identifying a process that works for providers while at the same time meeting the requirements of CARA.

Marijuana prenatal substance exposure continues to be a topic of discussion amongst providers, child welfare agencies, and the PHI Core Team. Data suggests that there has been an increase in reported Marijuana use by birthing persons during pregnancy since Marijuana was legalized in Nevada.

Staff turnover has increased the continued need for education amongst those involved with the CARA Plan of Care process.

Data collection has had challenges and the implementation of OpenBeds for CARA Plans of Care in addition to CCWIS enhancements will improve data collection moving forward. Data will help the state understand the service needs of this population and assist the state in ensuring services are provided to these families. Continued conversations around implementation of CARA Plan of Care and the requirements, barriers or challenges faced by hospitals, and ways to strengthen the referral process and monitoring are necessary for strengthening CARA implementation in Nevada.

Plans for Use of CAPTA State Grant Funding

To support the development, implementation, and monitoring of CARA Plans of Care for substance-exposed infants, Nevada continues to provide CAPTA State Grant Funding to the child welfare agencies. The funding is used to support collaboration at the state and community levels by allowing local child welfare agencies to participate in the activities of the PHI related to CARA, to provide additional support to families and infants affected by prenatal substance exposure, including monitoring of CARA Plans of Care, and to provide relevant training and education materials to stakeholders throughout Nevada. Additionally, Nevada is continuing collaborative efforts with DPBH and child welfare agencies to utilize CAPTA State Grant Funding to further support CARA implementation, including monitoring of CARA Plans of Care.

Nevada is exploring the expansion of a Family First prevention service, Parents as Teachers, in rural areas that will support families with a substance exposed infant.

For the additional CAPTA State Grant funding because of the American Rescue Plan (ARPA), Nevada has started to expend funds. Current projects with CAPTA ARPA funding include:

- Drafting of regulations for Nevada to govern CSEC receiving centers in Nevada that will serve the CSEC population. Although the regulations will not be completed by July 1, 2023, due to revisions that will need to occur during the next legislative session, a detailed report of the work that was conducted around the receiving center will be completed. The report discusses the continued need of the receiving center, the services that the receiving center will offer, and the barriers that have been encountered while working on this project.
- A subject matter expert who serves as the DCFS CSEC Coordinator that leads various CSEC efforts in Nevada, such as the CSEC Coalition and its subcommittees.
- In March 2022, DCFS began a statewide racial equity workgroup committed to pursuing sustainable system change. As this workgroup identifies ways Nevada can address racial equity and improve outcomes for families, CAPTA ARPA funding will be utilized to further their progress towards goals.

Nevada is also exploring the use of CAPTA and/or CAPTA ARPA funds to support implementation efforts for the Families First Prevention Services Act and primary prevention services.

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UPDATES TO TARGETED PLAN WITHIN THE 2020-2024 CFSP**Foster and Adoptive Parent Diligent Recruitment Plan**

Nevada's Diligent Recruitment Plan outlines statewide efforts to reach out to all parts of the community for recruitment of foster and adoptive families. Each Child Welfare Agency in Nevada utilizes specific strategies to meet the needs of their communities. Strategies include:

- Outreach to churches in targeted communities through programs such as Every Church, Every Child, where printed materials are provided to churches and information is provided about varying levels of participation from the community, including, information sessions, donation collection, providing areas to post materials, hosting trainings, and allowing for support groups for foster and adoptive families.
- Providing information at local events, to public employers, through media and social media outlets, and public service announcements.
- Targeted recruitment strategies in communities with higher removal rates and areas with higher rates of families of certain race/ethnicity that are overrepresented in the child welfare system.
- Coordination and collaboration with various local agencies, including but not limited to the University of Nevada, Reno Wolfpack, the Reno Aces, area schools and preschools, local businesses, Parent Teacher Associations, the Discovery Museum, and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).
- Utilize marketing to produce billboard, newspaper, and radio ads.

Additionally, Nevada believes that supporting and retaining foster caregivers leads to better outcomes for Nevada children. The state's child welfare agencies employ various strategies aimed at providing support to foster caregivers, one of which is QPI Nevada and all the resources provided within that movement. These resources include training, information, comfort calls for children and birth families at removal, implementation of the Ice Breaker process between foster families and birth families. Each jurisdiction provides their own Caregiver Courier newsletter which provides information to caregivers on topics such as caregiving, community events, activities, and other types of meetings. The Caregiver Couriers have been revamped and now solicit participation from caregivers to include spotlights of caregivers, to encourage participation in the Local QPI meetings, and caregivers identifying features and topics they want for upcoming Caregiver Couriers. QPI Nevada strives to provide messaging and create a culture in which the foster parents

are an integral part of the child welfare team. To support and retain current foster parents the statewide QPI committee had created policies/processes for child transitions, ice breakers, QPI bench cards, and created infographics for local resources. Further details can be found in Attachment A Nevada Foster and Adoptive Parent Diligent Recruitment Plan.

A statewide workgroup began in January 2021, which includes members of the Adoption Call to Action Team and met monthly to review the statewide Diligent Recruitment plan and to make efforts to identify areas of concern and produce a statewide standard for foster care licensing and recruitment. This update allows Nevada to identify strategies that will assist with retaining foster parents. The workgroup focused on statewide documentation and improving the data quality within the CCWIS. Additionally, the workgroup identified strategies to improve recruitment and support for relative placements. Further details can be found in Attachment A Nevada Foster and Adoptive Parent Diligent Recruitment Plan.

Nevada recognizes the need to increase the racial and ethnic diversity of adoptive homes, and to meet the needs of children who are older, have experienced disrupted adoptions, have special needs, and are part of sibling groups. As a result, the ACTA Team has been working monthly with Raise the Future to improve the recruitment activities and data collection for children identified as needing additional recruitment support.

Recruitment and retention will continue to be standard topics of discussion along with changing and/or differing demographics and how to work more collaboratively statewide in our recruitment efforts.

Efforts to support and retain foster caregivers

The Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) in Nevada has implemented several initiatives to support and retain foster caregivers.

- Organized the Angel Tree event for Districts Two and Three in the state (Carson City and Douglas, Lyon, Churchill, and Pershing Counties), which provides holiday gifts for foster children and helps support foster families. This was done in December of 2022.
- Hosted a foster parent appreciation picnic in Carson City in August 2022,
- Organized the Nye County Caregivers Day, which offered free bowling and pizza for foster caregivers in May of 2022.
- Serves as the primary disseminator of resources and announcements for caregivers across the state.
- Administers the Rural Nevada Foster Parents & Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI) Partners Facebook Page and publishes the bi-monthly Caregiver Courier virtual newsletter for foster parents, community partners, and staff to share fostering resources in an online newsletter format.

- Partners with the organization Foster the City to provide "support friends" for foster parents within participating churches.
- Partners with the Reno Rodeo Foundation for donations of clothes, toys, and other children's supplies for foster children.
- Hosts monthly virtual caregiver support groups called the Caregiver Corner, beginning January 2023. These groups provide a forum for caregivers to connect with each other, share experiences, and receive support.
- Families in rural Nevada can access trainings any time of day or night regarding many topics which foster parents need information to support placements. Access to the training website called Just in Time Nevada (QPI) is free, removing the barrier of cost to the families.
- Families can complete the documentation for their renewals and relicensing online through the Binti software system. This allows them to simply take pictures of their documents and upload them from their phones directly to their secure online profile. Implementation of the Binti software has made the relicensing process more efficient and shorter.

By offering a range of initiatives and support mechanisms, DCFS hopes to create a supportive and inclusive environment for foster caregivers, helping them to feel appreciated, connected, and empowered.

Foster parent training:

Before COVID-19, DCFS performed all pre- and post-foster trainings in person. However, beginning in January of 2021, all trainings were delivered live but virtually on Microsoft Teams. Participants came from 15 of the 17 rural Nevada Counties and represented 19 communities.

Barriers encountered include minor limitations in the Teams platform. However, it has been decided that since more families can be trained with less staff time and resources and families attending consistently report that the training is a positive learning experience, that virtual training will remain in place for the time being. In addition, participants of this training method have agreed that it's more convenient and it makes the training more accessible to them.

Another barrier encountered is that many of the families in the Rural Region work in the mining industry. Mining jobs often have irregular schedules and some participants have had to miss one or more sessions of the pre-service training. Because the trainings are virtual and are recorded, missed sessions can be viewed and then reviewed in a brief Teams meeting with one of the trainers. This has helped attract and retain people in the training who might otherwise have dropped out.

Before 2022, relative and fictive kin candidates attended one portion of the DCFS family foster care pre-service training. This was not a good fit as the relative and fictive kin candidates have some different needs and requirements in this type of training. In 2022,

DCFS contracted with Foster Kinship Navigators to provide pre-service training that is specific to the needs of relative and fictive kin homes. Foster Kinship Navigators is an organization that specializes in working with homes that will be fostering children who are relative or fictive kin. Foster Kinship provides ten trainings per year on the Zoom platform. This has resulted in the ability to better engage and train this group of foster caregivers.

WCHSA moved orientation and trainings to virtual platforms like Zoom in both English and Spanish. WCHSA has decided to maintain these trainings and future trainings as virtual based on the needs articulated by our foster parents. In addition to scheduled trainings, WCHSA has prerecorded on-demand trainings in both English and Spanish for foster parents to view at their convenience. WCHSA has maintained increased telephone follow-up to sustain a personal touch with trainees. WCHSA staff have participated in Trust Based Relational Interventions (TBRI) and trained in the Circle of Security Parenting (COSP) training program to increase knowledge and intervention strategies when teaching caregivers about the importance of connection and relationships. WCHSA enhanced pre-service training content and material to a more focused approach regarding fostering and made multiple updates to existing material with this focus. WCHSA has partnered with the statewide Foster Kinship Program to provide additional education and support, including technology, to kinship and relative caregivers in Washoe County.

Clark County DFS has transferred all pre-service trainings back to in person due to the concerns with retaining and comprehending the needed information to foster. We have trainings throughout the week, weekends, and evenings.

During the reporting period the Rural Region had 72 people signed up for the family foster care (i.e., non-relative, non-fictive) pre-service trainings for family foster care. Of those 72, 67, representing 39 households started the course. To date, 22 households or 56% of those that started the course completed the training and 17 of the 22 or 77% have been assigned to a worker to complete the licensing process or have become licensed. The virtual trainings have been well attended and the Division is now training more families from a greater number of communities than before 2020 when all trainings were in person and were often poorly attended.

During the reporting period, 39 people from 24 households signed up for the foster care pre-service trainings for relative/fictive kin that are put on by Foster Kinship Navigators. To date, 21 households or 88% completed the training or are still in progress and 75% of those that completed have been assigned to a worker to complete the licensing process or have become licensed.

Preservice training totals – 120

Relatives – 69 (59 in English, 10 in Spanish)

Non-Relatives – 51 (41 in English, 10 in Spanish)

Over the last year, Clark County DFS had 215 homes complete trainings through the 23 trainings offered. We translated our current Professional Caregivers Pre-service training was translated to Spanish in 2022 and have had 2 classes completed two classes.

Foster Kinship provides “Caring for Our Own” pre-service trainings for all kinship families statewide that are interested in licensure and for adoption purposes. There were 467 kinship households that completed the trainings.

In 2022, DCFS began to develop live and recorded trainings for those that are newly licensed on topics such as attachment, correction, sexuality, trauma, and more. These trainings have been well attended and plans are being made to expand the list of topics so that foster homes in their first year can receive a wide range of training and the opportunity to build their parenting skills. Some of the topics will include Record Keeping, Visitation with Birth Parents and Family, Normalcy, Foster Home Payment, Co-Parenting with Birth Parents, Transporting Children, Respite, Foster Home and Caseworker Communication, Healthy Transitions Between Placements, Understanding the Court’s Role, Confidentiality, and more. Some of the trainings will be very brief and some up to an hour. All trainings are consistent with state laws and regulations, as well as Division policy and practice.

WCHSA reconfigured pre-service training content and material to a more focused approach regarding fostering and made multiple updates to existing material with this focus. The training is 18 hours and is steeped with themes surrounding co-parenting/QPI, trauma informed caregiving, and information to prepare families when working with the agency and the courts. The training is the initial introduction in working with children who are in foster care and this information is supported and reinforced by a team of placement support liaisons.

Clark County DFS has continued to provide updates to the trainings to assist families to be prepared for fostering. They have added a monthly support group for families to add to their knowledge of processes and responsibilities.

Clark County DFS has Foster Parent Champions Program that supports licensed caregivers through phone calls, in person visits, and referrals for support services.

Clark County DFS will be partnering with Raise the Future for pre-service trainings and adding TBRI information into those trainings through next year.

There is a statewide licensing meeting quarterly in which we all discuss on-going training needs and have worked to have updated trainings on the QPI website.

Training requirements for relative and non-relative placements per Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 424 are the same for relative and non-relative homes. However, in practice, family foster homes are required to complete the pre-service course that is the equivalent of 25-30 hours of classroom time and assignments. The curriculum consists of training in trauma informed care, understanding the foster care licensing process, understanding

how a foster child becomes involved in the system, obligations of a foster parent, and more. This training differs slightly in each jurisdiction.

The relative/fictive kin training that is put on by Foster Kinship Navigators is about 15 hours in duration and is geared toward the needs of families that are fostering relatives or fictive kin to prepare them to take in that child or sibling group. The training is still geared toward and driven by trauma informed care but the information on other aspects of fostering is tailored to the specific needs of these parents.

Training requirements for relatives and non-relatives are different than non-relative placement. Non-relative placements are required to attend 18 hours of preservice training, and relative placements are required to attend nine hours of preservice training.

Kinship families participate in a 5-week pre-service training, Caring for Your Own, that is through Foster Kinship. The partnership with Foster Kinship adds additional supports to families, such as with TANF, SNAP applications, and the in-home navigator program. CCDFS staff provide mobile printing opportunities for families at Foster Kinship.

In the Rural Region, at the present time 41 or 80% of family foster homes are Caucasian, 7 or 14% have at least one caregiver who is Hispanic/Latino, and 3 or 6% have at least one caregiver who is African American or Black. The Division employs several Spanish speaking staff, but none are in the Foster Home Licensing Unit. Spanish speaking staff have been utilized to help with translation when one or both foster parents do not speak fluent English. If a family needs Pre-Service training and primarily speaks Spanish, they can be referred to Washoe County (Reno) for training. Also, some of the training available on the Just in Time Nevada website is in Spanish. Finally, the Pre-Service Training covers information about diversity and children's needs, including cultural, racial, ethnic, sexuality, and gender identity.

WCHSA plans to implement the placement matching module within the Binti software system during the next reporting period. The intention of this program is to make more suitable matches with our resource families and foster children, while being more cognizant of the cultural competencies that come with placing a child of a specific ethnic background with foster parents that share the same ethnic background.

Spanish training sessions continue to be offered on a bi-monthly basis and no are also available on-demand. Attendance and participation have been steady throughout the year. Support groups are held monthly in Spanish to offer support and information sharing to meet the unique needs of Spanish speaking families.

Recruitment team is partnering with County Commissioners to develop community relationships to enhance the education of communities. WCHSA is hosting community events in which community leaders are invited to discuss how we can support our children and families within their own communities.

Health Care Oversight and Coordination Plan

Statewide, child welfare agencies continue to partner with their local health districts in response to the lingering effects of COVID, as well as any new strains. Strategies to provide direct services have differed based upon COVID positivity rates. As observed during PIP onsite case reviews, the delivery of preventative dental and medical care was impacted, and care was difficult to access as many medical providers were overwhelmed with emergency services and would not provide routine preventative care. Over the past year, this continued to be true.

Consistent with national trends, mental health treatment shifted to telehealth platforms, however, there were not enough providers, even for the general population, to meet community needs. Over the past year, Nevada saw a trend of some providers returning to providing some services in person; however, telehealth continues to be an option in some areas of the state. Nevada lacks a sufficient service array to meet the needs for those youth with intensive emotional and behavioral issues, however. As the national pandemic progressed, the state was able to leverage existing funding sources to expand existing community services to improve its service array. Some of the expansion of existing community services included expanding coverage areas by incorporating telehealth platforms, certifying new clinicians in telehealth, expanding access to psychiatric services/assessments, as well as expanding access to early childhood clinical interventions.

Child welfare agencies' clinical teams provided a variety of assessments and services using robust telehealth clinical option for children and families to ensure there was continuity of care. These clinical teams continue to meet the increased need for mental and behavioral health needs by providing clinical consultation, behavioral consultation, therapeutic referrals, direct crisis intervention, supportive therapeutic services, and referrals for higher levels of care. As outlined in the Disaster Plan, Nevada:

- Expanded telehealth delivery utilizing various platforms to deliver treatment services with the following exceptions: Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR), Basic Skills Training (BST), group therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy and medical services which required direct contact.
- Expanded and shifted Mobile Crisis to telehealth services in most circumstances, or face-to-face abiding by CDC guidance and utilization of PPE.
- Residential Mental Health Services instituted teletherapy.
- Upon review of PIP monitored case reviews over the past year, it is apparent that a CQI process must be implemented at the statewide level to ensure children have access to preventative care. and ensuring foster parents and kinship placements receive the copies of health records.

Many resource families were unwilling to have youth with intensive emotional and behavioral needs in their homes because of the increased risk of infection to themselves or other members of the household. As a result, and to prevent the spread, a plan to address these situations when they occur in a foster family was developed, and continues to be in operation, to provide care for children that are presumptively positive or test positive for COVID. NAC 424.555 requires "All children residing in the foster home must

be currently immunized against diseases according to the recommendations set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.” As a result, Nevada is attempting to immunize all foster children over the age of 12. Parental consent is being sought, however, if parents decline, the matter is being brought before the courts for review unless the child’s pediatrician recommends against the vaccination.

Nevada has strong statutory requirements for all youth receiving psychotropic medications; the court of jurisdiction appoints a Person Legally Responsible (PLR) for the oversight and management of psychotropics. Nevada Statutes encourages the Person Legally Responsible to be the parent. If the parent is not able or willing, the court may appoint the caregiver, court appointed attorney, guardian ad litem, substitute care giver or the child welfare agency. Over the past year, 42 cases were reviewed for PIP monitoring, of those, only four cases were applicable to psychotropic medication oversight. Those four cases did not identify any concerns with medication management.

Nevada has not developed a statewide approach to monitoring the impact of the PLR programs. Over the next year, a statewide CQI process will need to be developed and refined, including the consistent and uniform tracking of data. Currently in parts of the state, information related to psychotropic medication use with children in custody is tracked and kept on a spreadsheet through internal clinical programs and is sent out monthly to all district offices for review and updates. If changes occurred during the month, those changes are appropriately entered into UNITY. The regions do not have child welfare staff enter psychotropic medication information in those UNITY windows to minimize data entry errors.

Vacant positions and staffing capacity continue to impact Nevada’s ability to put CQI processes in place. Without qualified professionals, such as psychiatrists, the state has not been able to do formal Psychotropic Medication Reviews. This past year, progress was made on this front through options to use an APRN, with specific qualifications, in addition to a psychiatrist, to ‘widen the net’. Efforts to fill positions with qualified professionals will continue over the next year. In lieu of Psychotropic Medication Reviews, some parts of the state utilize clinical program staff to review the list of children on medications, and their medications, monthly. They then request additional information from child welfare workers and/or PLRs for consideration at upcoming psychiatric appointments. Quarterly review panels are utilized in other parts of the state to do the same.

In parts of the state, Nevada has also implemented processes such as consultation and staffing opportunities prior to children being referred for psychiatric evaluations to manage symptoms and/or outpatient counseling. These processes are utilized to determine what services can be provided in-home through interventions such as additional training, coaching, etc., to keep children from being referred for medication without trying other interventions first.

In review of Item 17 data over the past year, Nevada must continue to focus on improving health care services. While preventative services declined during the COVID-19 pandemic, this was an area needing improvement prior to COVID-19. There is a recognition that when placement changes are made, preventative services are not consistently provided to children and information is not shared with the new placement resource. Although jurisdictions in Nevada experienced delays during the pandemic with accessing medical, dental, eye and psychiatric services for youth due to office closures, medical offices are now open and children can receive medical, dental and eye health services. Access to and availability of mental health services, however, continues to present challenges across the state.

Over the past year, work continued the statewide report used to monitor EPSDT screening at a child level. Some jurisdictions across the state moved to 100% electronic file system that includes UNITY and internal scanning systems when the pandemic started. This has helped the jurisdictions with tracking services, data entry and access to medical records. Work continues to implement the new statewide transition policy which provides guidance on information sharing and activities that must occur to support children and families when placement changes are made. Over the next year, Nevada will continue to assess data quality in UNITY and the effectiveness of data reports being utilized to track services for children in care.

Disaster Plan

Throughout the end of 2022 and into 2023, Nevada and the rest of the nation continued to evolve and learn from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevada lifted the pandemic restrictions that began in 2020. As of the writing of this report, most of the child welfare staff and agencies have either fully returned to normal in-office operations or are in the active process of doing so. This includes the Family Programs Office (FPO). The jurisdictional offices throughout the state have also either completely returned to in-office work or adapted hybrid-based work schedules for their child welfare staff.

While Nevada's emergency declaration concerning the pandemic is now ending, the Children's Bureau has extended the following provisional flexibilities accorded through the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act:

- A letter allowing agencies flexibility in meeting the fingerprint-based criminal records checks (CRC) of national crime information databases (§471(a)(20)(A), (C), and (D) of the Social Security Act (the Act)) and that caseworker visits conducted by video conferencing would count as "in the child's residence" for meeting the requirement in §424(f)(2)(A) of the Act.
- ACYF-CB-PI-20-10 allowing agencies flexibilities regarding a simplified process for opting to provide Title IV-E assistance to youth age 18 and older (§475(8)(B) of the Act), modifying the requirement for older youth to meet education or employment conditions for youth who are unable to fulfill this requirement as a direct result of the pandemic (§475(8)(B)(iv) of the Act), providing flexibility in completing the accreditation or reaccreditation as a Qualified Residential

Treatment Program if the requirement is unable to be met as a result of the major disaster (§472(k)(4)(G) of the Act), and allowing claiming for a foster family home that is provisionally or conditionally approved or licensed (§472(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Act).

- A letter allowing programs and services to be adapted to a virtual environment for the Title IV-E prevention program.

The Children's Bureau has determined that these flexibilities afforded to Title IV-B/IV-E agencies will remain available through June 30, 2023. This extension beyond the May 11, 2023, closing date of the COVID-19 major disaster incident period is being provided to Title IV-B/IV-E agencies to facilitate the completion of any needed administrative actions or revisions to agency policy and procedures, and to prevent additional administrative work that may be associated with applying revised guidance in the middle of a month or calendar quarter.

These flexibilities are only those granted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Any Stafford Act flexibilities with respect to administrative conditions of federal assistance for Title IV-B or IV-E programs that may have been granted, or that may be granted in the future, due to a disaster other than the COVID-19 public health emergency disaster declarations are not addressed above.

While there have been no additional natural disasters that have affected state or jurisdictional operations, the global pandemic continued to have impacts throughout the state during this period. Since the original Disaster Plan from 2020 and prior did not have any contingencies or direction for either a pandemic or a national health crisis, the plan has since been updated with information regarding those specific scenarios.

Over the next year, the state will look to developing a more effective communication system to ensure quick and accurate information is coordinated between the state and jurisdictional agencies concerning counts and information about children and families effected during an event. Updates from affected areas about displacements, locating children in question, services that the jurisdictions will be provided and assistance that they will be needing from the state level to assist in given emergencies. The information can then be used to inform all parties of the situation and ensure a timely response so that all needs are addressed.

Nevada will also work on the current Disaster Plan to make sure the state can actively identify and address any type of disparities for marginalized groups, including people of diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. While the current Disaster Plan is designed as an all-encompassing plan that should take all situations into consideration, we will need to take a deeper dive into the existing plan to ensure that these factors are fully being taken into consideration. If issues are found with the current plan, Nevada will make all changes necessary to update the plan and correct the identified situations.

Training Plan

The Training Plan, Attachment D to this document, was updated to include any changes to training activities paid for with Title IV-E funds. The plan also includes any training activities planned for the upcoming year to be paid for with Title IV-E funds. Additionally, the plan includes new trainings developed over the past year, along with details for each of these trainings. The new trainings developed through the PIP this past year include Trauma Informed Communication (Key Activities 2.1.3, 2.1.4) and Juvenile Dependency Mediation Program (JDMP) (Key Activity 3.1.3).

The Training Plan has been updated to include any continuing impacts the state experienced since the national health emergency of COVID-19, which was mostly seen in how trainings were delivered. Over the past year, the state has transitioned to a hybrid model for training, allowing for both in person and virtual delivery. Also, the plan includes any modifications to existing training and the increased utilization of the state's Learning Management System (LMS). Updates for progress on CoachNV is also included in the attachment.

STATISTICAL AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

CAPTA Annual State Data Report Items

Information on Child Protective Service Workforce

In 2018, UNLV and UNR launched the statewide child welfare learning management system, NPTLearn. Prior to that time, a rudimentary LMS was used primarily as a training registration system. NPTLearn is funded and managed by UNR and UNLV as part of their Title IV-E training contracts with the State of Nevada. This system, while replacing the former training registration system, is serving as a fully functional child welfare workforce development platform. NPTLearn is currently used to:

- Host personal profile for each member of the child welfare workforce including but not limited to:
 - agency/location
 - demographic data
 - position and changes
 - supervisor and changes
 - start date/end date
 - contact info
 - languages
 - training record (including external trainings)
- Support personal training dashboard
- Support supervisor/manager training dashboard
- Host training registration including:
 - Ability to enroll in currently available class
 - Ability to identify course and receive notification when available
- Host synchronous on-line trainings

- Host asynchronous on-line trainings
- Generate Pre-Tests, Post-Tests, and Evaluation Surveys
- Maintain a training record for the child welfare workforce
- Generate CEU/Certificates of Completion on demand
- Generate reports of all the above elements
- Use on desktops, laptops, tablets, and phones

With NPTLearn being in use for almost five years now, Nevada is starting to use the peer/social networking and analytic capabilities of the system to bolster professional development beyond single training events and support transfer of learning outside of the classroom (more information on this is provided in the CoachNV section). Additionally, compliance reports have been created for all required PIP training in which the system automatically emails the jurisdictions on a regular basis to aid in monitoring training attendance.

A procedure has been established to ensure personal profile information of each member of the child welfare workforce is updated annually to aide in generation of accurate and current child welfare workforce demographic data reports.

Northern Region: Washoe County Human Services Agency

Information on the education, qualifications, and training requirements established by the state for child protective service professionals, including requirements for entry and advancement in the profession, including advancement to supervisory positions.

All caseworker positions require a Bachelor or Master of Social Work or related degree. To advance to a caseworker supervisor, the person must also have four years of full-time experience performing professional case management in a human services field. A master's degree from an accredited college or university in social work, sociology, psychology, criminal justice, or a closely related field may substitute for one year of experience.

Data on the education, qualifications, and training of such personnel.

Of the 49 child protective services personnel who entered data in the LMS, 67% held a bachelor's degree and 16% held a master's degree (16% did not provide their education). Of these, 40% were social work degrees while the remaining percentage held related degrees or declined to answer. Caseworkers are required to complete Academy and additional foundational training, as outlined in the statewide Training Policy, within the first year of employment. Supervisors are also required to complete the supervisor curriculum offered through the Nevada Partnership for Training within one year of entering a supervisory position. All caseworker and supervisory staff are required to complete 30 continuing education units every two years. Suicide Prevention, CSEC, Bridges Out of Poverty, Ethics, and Mandatory Reporting are required courses with staff having the ability to select other training that is relevant to their professional development.

Demographic information of the child protective service personnel

49 child protective services personnel completed data in the LMS. Of those 80% are female, 4% male and 16% declined self-identification. 61% percent are Caucasian, 10% are Hispanic/Latino, 2% African American, 4% Mixed/Dual Background, and 23% declined to answer/did not provide the information. The workforce age demographics identify 22% are 20-30, 27% are 31-40, 27% are 41-50, and 4% are 51-60 and 20% did not provide the information.

Information on caseload or workload requirements for such personnel, including requirements for average number and maximum number of cases per child protective service worker and Supervisor (section 106(d)(10) of CAPTA).

WCHSA provides for a reduced caseload for caseworker trainees while they are in the training unit. Once the case worker trainee has completed pre-service training, the caseload is increased based on workers skills and ability to manage the caseload. The agency does not have a maximum caseload size. WCHSA has implemented a caseload weighting tool for assessment staff that allows for targeted assignment based on the complexity of the case and the staff person's experience level and the weight complexity of their current workload. This helps ensure a more equitable distribution of cases throughout the units.

Rural Region: Division of Child and Family Services

Information on the education, qualifications, and training requirements established by the state for child protective service professionals, including requirements for entry and advancement in the profession, including advancement to supervisory positions.

There are two classifications of CPS caseworkers: a licensed social worker or a Casework Management Specialist. The Casework Management Specialist (CMS) positions that carry out CPS duties must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in early childhood education, special education, human growth and development, criminal justice, psychology, counseling, social work or closely related social/human services-related field.

Licensure as a Social Worker, Clinical Social Worker, Independent Social Worker, or an Associates of Arts degree in Social Work by the State of Nevada Board of Examiners for Social Workers is required to apply for and maintain employment as a case carrying social worker; licensure must be current at the time of appointment and as a condition of employment with DCFS. The Casework Management Specialist (CMS) positions that carry out these duties must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in early childhood education, special education, human growth and development, criminal justice, psychology, counseling, social work or closely related social/human services-related field. Requirements of employment are the ability to work on call evenings and weekends as required, a valid driver's license at appointment and

ongoing, a pre-employment CANS check, criminal history check and fingerprinting are also required. All Social Worker and CMS staff must complete at least 30 continuing education hours every 2 years, of which, 2 hours must relate to ethics in the practice of social work and completion of at least two (2) hours of instruction on evidence-based suicide prevention and awareness every two (2) years from date of hire.

Training begins for case carrying staff and supervisors with the Nevada Partnership for Training (NPT) New Worker Academy Training curriculum; a 10-week course that consists of four weeks of in-class instruction, complete with pre-reading assignments and homework with alternating weeks (5) of on-the-job training. Other required training for staff is as follows, year one: case-carrying child welfare staff and the direct supervisors of case carrying child welfare staff should complete the following courses in addition to Academy in the first year upon hire: LGBTQ and Cultural Competency/Working Effectively with LGBTQ+ Identified Youth; Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and the Vulnerability of Youth in Child Welfare; Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA); a foundational overview of substance use disorders and child welfare practice, childhood trauma and child welfare practice, mental health conditions and child welfare practice, father engagement and child welfare practice, and domestic violence and child welfare practice; year two courses required/provided by NPT include: annual LGBTQ course; annual CSEC course; Worker well-being; Child sexual development; Substance use disorder; Mental health conditions.

Other required trainings provided by DCFS include but not limited to: Mandatory Reporting; Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, 4th, and 14th Amendments; Integrative Case Planning: Developing and Writing Case Plans. Caseworker Contact: Case Note Training for Quality Visits; Persons Legally Responsible: Medical Care and Psychotropic Medication; additionally, training around the Practice model is required: Intake Assessment, Nevada Initial Assessment (NIA), and Conditions for Return, PCFA, and PCPA. In addition, all supervisors are required to complete several distinctly different trainings; Consultative Supervision, Nevada Supervisor Training and implementing this year the coaching model Building Coaching Competency. Requirements for staff to advance to Social Work Supervisor positions include licensure or provisional licensure as a Social Worker, Clinical Social Worker, Independent Social Worker, or Associates of Arts degree in Social Work and one year of advanced journey level professional experience providing case management in a social work setting equivalent to a Social Worker III in Nevada State service. Requirements for staff to advance to Casework Management Specialist Supervisor require a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in early childhood education, special education, human growth and development, criminal justice, psychology, counseling, social work or closely related social/human services-related field and four years of professional experience providing case management services specific to children in a health and/or human services setting, one year of which included supervising staff who provide case management services to children in a health and/or human services setting; or one year of experience as a Casework Management Specialist IV in Nevada State service; or an equivalent combination of education and experience above the Bachelor's degree level.

Data on the education, qualifications, and training of such personnel.

Of the 19 child protective services personnel who entered data in the LMS, 68% held a bachelor's degree and 26% held a master's degree and 26% did not provide their education). Of these, 7161% were social work degrees while the remaining percentage held related degrees or declined to answer. Trainings of staff begins with Nevada Partnership New Worker Academy Training curriculum and trainings detailed above.

Demographic information of the child protective service personnel.

19 child protective services personnel completed data in the LMS. Of those 63% are female, 16% are male and 21% declined self-identification. 4229% are Caucasian, 164% are Hispanic/Latino, 0% African American, 5% Mixed/Dual Background, 5% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 32%declined to answer/did not provide the information. The workforce age demographics identify 11% are 20-30, 37% are 31-40, 5% are 41-50, and 11% are 51-60, 5% are 61+ and 32% did not provide the information.

Information on caseload or workload requirements for such personnel, including requirements for average number and maximum number of cases per child protective service worker and supervisor (section 106(d)(10) of CAPTA).

Supervisors do not normally carry a caseload, although currently several do. With vacancies in many offices some supervisors and managers carry a caseload in addition to all their other supervisory requirements and requirements for overseeing child welfare services for the office, until new staff can be hired and trained. There are no caps on caseloads for DCFS. The average number of new CPS cases per month is 6-8, which means a supervisor is responsible for 48 new cases and upwards of 60-70 cases that are in the assessment phase but have not yet concluded. Although caseworkers may have a specific area of concentration, they are generalists and as such perform all necessary child welfare functions such as Emergency On-Call Response, CPS assessments (formerly referred to as investigations) and Substitute Care.

Southern Region: Clark County Department of Family Services

Information on the education, qualifications, and training requirements established by the state for child protective service professionals, including requirements for entry and advancement in the profession, including advancement to supervisory positions.

In Clark County, Family Service Specialist (FSS) provide child welfare services. The education requirements for FSS positions are a bachelor's degree in social work, Child Development, Psychology, Special Education, Behavioral Science, Counseling, Early Childhood Education, Health Science, Human Services, Education, Nursing, Criminal Justice, Social services, Sociology, Public Administration, Business Administration, Communications, Marketing or Social Science.

In addition to the above, FSS Specialist II must have two (2) years of full-time experience providing protective casework/counseling services, assessments, or treatment services in a child welfare, social service, juvenile justice and/or residential setting. Senior FSS must have three years of this experience. Family Services Supervisors must have four years of this experience and one year of which were lead or supervisory in one or more elements of a comprehensive child welfare, social service, juvenile justice and/or residential system. Possession of an advance degree may be substituted for one (1) of the years of the required

Upon hiring FSS they are required to attend the Nevada Child Welfare Training Academy before they are assigned to any families. All promotional opportunities to become a Senior Family Service Specialist or a Supervisor are internal departmental promotional opportunities. All Family Service Specialist follow the statewide training policy for initial and ongoing training.

Family Services Specialist I - bachelor's degree in social work, Child Development, Psychology, Special Education, Behavioral Science, Counseling, Early Childhood Education, Health Science, Human Services, Education, Nursing, Criminal Justice, Social Services, Sociology, Public Administration, Business Administration, Communications, Marketing or Social Science.

Family Services Specialist II - In addition to the above: Two (2) years full-time experience providing protective casework/counseling services, assessments or treatment services in a child welfare, social service, juvenile justice and/or residential setting.

Senior Family Services Specialist: Bachelor's Degree in Behavioral Science, Business Administration, Child Development, Communications, Counseling, Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Education, Health Science, Human Services, Marketing, Nursing, Psychology, Public Administration, Social Science, Social Services, Social Work, Sociology, or Special Education AND three (3) years of full-time experience providing casework/counseling services, assessments or treatment services in a child welfare, social service, juvenile justice and/or residential setting.

Family Services Supervisor: Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Child Development, Psychology, Special Education, Behavioral Science, Counseling, Early Childhood Education, Health Science, Human Services, Education, Nursing, Criminal Justice, Social Services, Sociology, Public Administration, Business Administration, Communications, Marketing or Social Science AND four (4) years of full-time experience providing protective casework/counseling services, assessments or treatment services or performing administrative, organizational analysis or budgetary experience in a child welfare, social service, juvenile justice and/or residential setting; One (1) year of which were lead or supervisory in one or more elements of a comprehensive child welfare, social service, juvenile justice and/or residential system. Possession of an advanced degree may be substituted for one (1) of the years of required experience

Data on the education, qualifications, and training of such personnel.

Of the 213 child protective services personnel who entered data in the LMS, 4339% held a bachelor's degree, 21% held a master's degree, and 36% did not provide the information. Of these, 5% held social work degrees, while the remaining percentage held related degrees or declined to answer. Caseworkers are required to complete Academy and additional foundational training, as outlined in the statewide Training Policy, within the first year of employment. Supervisors are also required to complete the supervisor curriculum offered through the Nevada Partnership for Training within one year of entering a supervisory position. All caseworker and supervisory staff are required to complete 30 continuing education units every two years. Nevada Partnership for Training within one year of entering a supervisory position. All caseworker and supervisory staff are required to complete 30 continuing education units every two years. Suicide Prevention, CSEC, Bridges Out of Poverty, Ethics, and Mandatory Reporting are required courses with staff having the ability to select other training that is relevant to their professional development.

Demographic information of the child protective service personnel.

213 child protective services personnel entered data in the LMS; of those 58% are female, 12% male, 1% are non-binary; at 17% declined self-identification 24%are Caucasian, 14% are Hispanic/Latino, 24% African American, 2% Mixed/Dual Background, 28% did not answer and 5% declined to answer. The workforce age demographics identify 9% are 20-30, 23% are 31-40, 20% are 41-50, 8% are age 51-60, 1 person is 61 or older (0%) and 39% did not provide an age.

Information on caseload or workload requirements for such personnel, including requirements for average number and the maximum number of cases per child protective service worker and Supervisor (section 106(d)(10) of CAPTA).

Clark County does not maintain a maximum number of cases per worker. The average caseload for a Family Service Specialist conducting child abuse and neglect assessments in 2022 was approximately 11 families per worker monthly. In Clark County caseloads are reviewed on a quarterly basis and adjust zip code distributions to our geographical zones to ensure that caseloads are balanced across all geographical zones. They do not maintain a maximum number of cases per NIA or permanency workers either, and during the reporting period, the average number of cases held by a NIA worker was 11 per month and 15 per month for Permanency Workers.

Juvenile Justice Transfers

The table below includes the number of children that were transferred to state juvenile custody (committed to a juvenile correctional facility or youth parole) from child welfare (receiving services or in protective custody). These youths were known to the child welfare system prior to entering the juvenile justice system and these numbers are collected monthly via UNITY.

Table 50: Juvenile Justice Transfers SFY 2022 YTD (7/1/2021 through 5/4/2022)

Age	Male	Female	Total # Committed
16	1	1	2
17	0	0	0
18	0	1	1
Total	1	2	3

Source UNITY Report CFS748*

Youth may be under reported on this report (CFS748) since state-level juvenile justice implemented a new database, Tyler Supervision in SFY2019. Also, there were no transfers listed from Washoe or Rural Counties; all transfers were from Clark County.

Inter-Country Adoptions

There are no documented instances where a child adopted from another country had a disrupted or dissolved adoption this past year. Nevada's ACTA team recognized the lack of guidance provided to staff in relation to inter-country disruptions. This lack of guidance impacted the ability to collect data. As a result, the ACTA team drafted a new 0105 Adoption Inter-Country Disruption-Dissolution Policy which was finalized March 2022. Over the next year, the ACTA team will evaluate the data collected, and assess the need to further refine statewide processes.

Monthly Caseworker Visit Data

Refer to Update to Service Description Section: [Monthly Caseworker Visit Formula Grants](#) and Standards for Caseworker Visits

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Information supporting payment limitations RE: Title IV-B, Subpart 1 is reflected in the CFS-101 Parts I, II and III. Refer to Attachment L for CFS-101 Parts I, II and III.

Payment Limitation: Title IV-B, Subpart 1: The CFSP submission must include information on the amount of **FY 2005** title IV-B, subpart 1 funds that the state expended for childcare, foster care maintenance, and adoption assistance payments for comparison purposes.

Nevada did not use Title IV-B, Subpart 1 funds for childcare, foster care maintenance, or adoption assistance payments in 2005. Lines 7, 8, 15 of the CFS-101, Part II, also report that no Title IV-B, Subpart 1 funds were used or plan to be used for these purposes under the timeline included for the CFSP.

Payment Limitation: Title IV-B, Subpart 2: Provide the **FY 2020 state and local share expenditure amounts** for the purposes of Title IV-B, subpart 2 for comparison with the **state's 1992 base year amount**, as required to meet the non-supplantation requirements.

Award 201NVFPSS Title IV-B, Subpart 2

- Fed share \$3,000,839
- State share \$1,000,280

We maintain grant files for 6 years, and do not have records back to 1992.

Title IV-B, Subpart 2 Funds:

The following chart provides the breakdown of funding allocations from the Promoting Safe and Stable Families FFY20 award

PSSF Program Category	Awards Statewide	Program Percentage
Family Preservation	\$733,930	24.45%
Family Support	\$693,379	23.10%
Family Reunification	\$576,059	19.20%

PSSF Program Category	Awards Statewide	Program Percentage
Adoption Promotion and Support	\$669,221	22.30%
Planning/Service Coordination	\$28,167	.95%
Total	\$2,700,756	90%

The Title IV-B, Subpart 2 funds were fully expended however the Family Reunification service category did not meet the threshold of 20% and only 19.20% if funding was spent on Family Reunification services. A minimum of 20% of funding was awarded to community-based and child welfare agencies to provide Family Reunification services through an annual Notice of Funding Opportunity competitive process. Funded Family Reunification agencies did not fully expend their sub awarded funding amount which resulted in the Family Reunification service category to be underspent as there was not enough time left in the grant performance period to reallocate funding to another agency. The Grants Management Unit continues to monitor agencies throughout the performance period. The Grants Management Unit has implemented a past performance assessment as part of the annual Notice of Funding Opportunity. Applicants for funding are rated on their past performance with the Grants Management Unit including if an agency fully expended their prior subaward. Also, as part of the Notice of Funding Opportunity process, the Grants Management Unit will re-award any unexpended funding from the prior year.

Supplemental Title IV-B, Subpart 1 Funds:

The following outlines why Nevada had unspent funding in supplemental Title IV-B, Subpart 1 through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act:

Nevada was unable to fully expend the CARES funding to awarded agencies. The funding was distributed to the three (3) child welfare agencies and could not be re-distributed before the performance period ended. Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS) reported challenges in getting the funding out into the community. CCDFS reported lower than anticipated requested for COVID related financial assistance.

ACRONYMS

AAP	American Academy of Pediatrics
AB	Assembly Bill
ABA	Applied Behavior Analytics
ACTA	Adoption Call to Action
ACCWIC	Atlantic Coast Child Welfare Implementation Center
ACF	Administration for Children and Families
ACYF	Administration on Children, Youth and Families
ADA	American Disabilities Act
ADEI	Anti-racist, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
ADG	Assistant Director Group
ADSD	Aging and Disability Services Division
AFCARS	Adoption Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System
AI	Adoption Incentive
ANI	Area Needing Improvement
AOC	Administrative Office of the Court
APD	Advanced Planning Document
APRN	Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
APSR	Annual Progress & Service Report
ASFA	Adoption and Safe Families Act
ASQ	Ages and Stages Questionnaire
ASTHO	Association of Health and Territorial Health
BDR	Bill Draft Request
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
CAC	Child Advocacy Center

CAHS	Consolidated Agencies of Human Services
CANS	Child Abuse and Neglect Screening
CAPTA	Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
CARA	Comprehensive Addictions and Recovery Act
CASA	Court Appointed Special Advocate
CB	Children's Bureau
CBCS	Capacity Building Center for States
CBCAP	Community Based Child Abuse Prevention
CCDFS	Clark County Department of Family Services
CCL	Child Care Licensing
CCSD	Clark County School District
CCSS	Clark County Social Services
CCWIS	Comprehensive Child Welfare Information System
CDC	Centers for Disease Control
CDR	Child Death Review
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CFSP	Child and Family Service Plan
CFSR	Child and Family Services Review
CIC	Court Improvement Council
CIC	Community Improvement Council
CIP	Court Improvement Project
CJA	Children's Justice Act
CMS	Case Management Specialist
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

CPS	Child Protective Services
CQI	Continuous Quality Improvement
CRC	Criminal Records Check
CSEC	Commercially Sexually Exploitation of Children
DA	District Attorney
DAG	District Attorney General
DCFS	Division of Child and Family Services
DCFS RR	Division of Child and Family Services Rural Region
DEI	Diversity Equity and Inclusion
DFS	Department of Family Services (Clark County)
DHCFP	Department of Health Care Financing and Policy
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
DHR	Department of Human Resources
DMG	Decision Making Group
DPBH	Department of Public and Behavioral Health
DR	Differential Response
DRC	Desert Regional Center
DVRC	Domestic Violence Resource Center
DWSS	Department of Welfare and Supportive Services
EFC	Extended Foster Care
EPSDTS	Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment
ETV	Educational Training Voucher
FAFFY	Financial Assistance to Former Foster Youth
FASD	Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder
FFPSA	Families First Prevention Services Act

FFY	Federal Fiscal Year
FIMR	Fetal and Infant Mortality Review
FPO	Family Programs Office
FRC	Family Resource Center
FSS	Family Service Specialist
FY	Fiscal Year
GMU	Grants Management Unit
HHS	Health and Human Services
HMA	Hearing Management Associates
HR	Human Resources
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
ICF/ID	Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities
ICPC	Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children
ICTN	Inter-Tribal County of Nevada
ICWA	Indian Child Welfare Act
IDEA	Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
IEP	Individualized Education Plan
IL	Independent Living
ILA	Independent Living Agreement
ILP	Independent Living Program
ILPS	Independent Living Program Specialist
ILSSPS	Independent Living Social Services Program Specialist
IM	Instructional Memorandum
IS	Information Services
IT	Information Technology

ITCN	Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
IV-B/2	Title IV-B, Subpart 2
IV-E	Title IV-E
JCAMP	Judicial, Court, and Attorney Measures of Performance
JD	Judicial District
JDMP	Juvenile Dependency Mediation Program
JOIN	Job Opportunities in Nevada
JVTA	Juvenile Victims of Trafficking Act
KinGAP	Kinship Guardian Assistance Program
LACSN	Legal Aid of Southern Nevada
LGTBQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning
LMS	Learning Management System
LSW	Licensed Social Worker
MI	Motivational Interviewing
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAC	Nevada Administrative Code
NCANDS	National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System
NCID	National Criminal Investigative Database
NCJFCJ	National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
NEICE	National Electronic Interstate Compact Enterprise
NHD	Nevada Housing Division
NIA	Nevada Initial Assessment
NIC	Nevada Indian Commission
NITC	Nevada Inter-Tribal Council
NOFO	Notice of Funding Opportunity

NOTO	Nevada Outreach and Training Organization
NPT	Nevada Partnership for Training
NRIT	Nevada Rapid Indicator Tool
NRS	Nevada Revised Statutes
NV LIFE	Nevada Life Nevada's Youth Advisory Board Leaders in Future Excellence
NYTD	National Youth in Transition Database
OMNI	Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Initiative
OMS	Online Monitoring System
OPPLA	Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangement
OSR	Onsite Review
OT	Occupational Therapy
PEU	Children's Mental Health Planning and Evaluation Unit
PIP	Program Improvement Plan
PLR	Person Legally Responsible
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PRTF	Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility
PYD	Positive Youth Development
PSSF	Promoting Safe and Stable Families
QA	Quality Assurance
QICR	Quality Improvement Case Review
QPI	Quality Parenting Initiative
QRTP	Qualified Residential Treatment Providers
RR	Rural Region
RRT	Recruitment Response Team
RSP	Risk Standardized Performance

SACWIS	Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System
SAFE	Safety Assessment and Family Evaluation
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration
SAPTA	Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act
SB	Senate Bill
SCP	Social Change Partners, LLC
SFC	Specialized Foster Care
SFY	State Fiscal Year
SQIC	Statewide Quality Improvement Committee
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TA	Technical Assistance
TMT	Training Management Team
TPR	Termination of Parental Rights
U of MI	University of Michigan
UNITY	Unified Nevada Information Technology for Youth
UNLV	University of Nevada, Las Vegas
UNR	University of Nevada, Reno
VOCA	Victims of Crime Assistance
WCHSA	Washoe County Human Services Agency
WHO	World Health Organization
WIT	Workforce Innovation Team
WWK	Wendy's Wonderful Kids
YAB	Youth Advisory Board
YL	Young Leader
YTD	Year to Date

YYA Youth and Young Adults

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A Foster and Adoptive Parent Diligent Recruitment Plan

Attachment B Health Care Oversight and Coordination Plan

Attachment C Annual Reporting of Education and Training Vouchers Awarded

Attachment D Training Plan

Attachment E Adoption Savings Methodology

Attachment F Disaster Plan

Attachment G PIP Q6 Progress Report Plus Letter Dated September 29, 2022 from Children's Bureau Confirming Completion of PIP

Attachment H Nevada CRP Report

Attachment I DCFS' Response to the CRP

Attachment J CQI Self-Assessment

Attachment K CQI Action Plan

Attachment L NV IV-E Plan FFPSA Amendment PIP

Attachment M NV FY2023 CFS-101, Part I, II, III, and Grants for Title IV-B