



CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS

ANNUAL REPORT

calendar year

2016

submitted by

Children's Justice Act Task Force

Differential Response Committee

Child Death Review –Executive Committee

Clark County Dept. of Family Services Citizens Advisory Committee

Nevada Coalition to Prevent the Commercial Exploitation of Children

To

The Nevada Division of Child and Family Services

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Public Law 104-234, Title I, Section 106, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) provides for a state grant program for the support and improvement of state Child Protective Systems (CPS). CAPTA requires that each state have at least three citizen review panels in order to receive funding for child protection efforts. Citizen Review Panels review various aspects of the child protection system at the state and local levels. (See Appendix A).

Citizen Review Panels have diverse membership including, but not limited to, representatives from:

- Community Advocacy and Non-Profit Organizations,
- Public Child Serving Agencies,
- Law Enforcement,
- Parent and Youth Leaders
- Court Systems including Attorneys and Judges
- Mental and Physical Health
- Education
- Public Health

A list of each panel's members and their affiliations are provided in Appendix B.

Nevada has designated five standing committees to serve as Citizen Review Panels. All Nevada Citizen Review Panels meet at least quarterly and meetings are open to the public. Panels may make recommendations for training, policy, or system improvements. They include the:

1) Children's Justice Act Task Force (CJA)

The Nevada Children's Justice Act Task Force was established in 1994 as a requirement to receive an annual grant to improve child protection services in the State. The Children's Justice Act Task Force is charged with developing, establishing, and operating programs designed to improve the assessment and investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect cases with a special emphasis on sexual abuse and exploitation, child fatalities, and cases involving children with disabilities or serious health-related problems who are suspected victims of child abuse or neglect. The CJA grant funds multidisciplinary training, policy development, and pilot programs.

2) Differential Response Committee (DR)

The Differential Response (DR) Steering Committee is a collaboration between child welfare agencies and community based service providers to oversee the differential response programming throughout the State. DR is an alternate response to child protection reports based on the type and severity of the alleged maltreatment. Select cases are referred to community providers to assess and serve eligible families.

3) Child Death Review - Executive Committee (CDR)

The Child Death Review Executive Committee (CDR) is established through NRS 432B.406. It is a multidisciplinary team which provides coordination and oversight of local child death review teams. The CDR adopts statewide protocols for the review of child deaths, adopts regulations, and makes recommendations to prevent child deaths as well as regulatory and policy changes. The CDR also funds prevention activities statewide.

4) Clark County Department of Family Services Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

The Citizen Advisory Committee was established in 2002 through Ordinance 2782§2 to serve as a liaison between the community and the Department of Family Services. This committee offers perspective on services provided, and how to best meet the needs of families that utilize Family Services resources. The Advisory Committee examines areas of focus along the full continuum of child welfare.

5) Nevada Coalition for the Prevention of the Commercial Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

The CSEC Coalition was established in May 2016 via a Governor's Executive Order and is charged

with mobilizing all available resources to address child sex trafficking in the State. The Coalition must report annually on its progress to improve services and outcomes for child sex trafficking victims and youth at risk of becoming victims.

PANEL ACTIVITIES

1) CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT TASK FORCE

Purpose

The Children's Justice Act Task Force is a requirement of Section 107(a) of the Child Abuse and Treatment Act (P.L. 111-320) which authorizes grants to the State for the purpose of assisting the State to develop, establish, and operate programs designed to improve the:

- a) Assessment and investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect cases, including cases of suspected child sexual abuse/exploitation, cases involving children with disabilities or serious health-related problems, and cases of suspected child abuse related fatalities in a manner that limits additional trauma to the child and the child's family and;
- b) Investigation and prosecution of cases of child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse/exploitation involving a potential combination of jurisdictions such as: intrastate, interstate, Federal-State, and State-Tribal.

Activities

- a) Collaboration with the Court Improvement Program: The CJA Task Force collaborated with the Court Improvement Program to support the development of a Mediation Toolkit to increase Nevada Dependency Courts and stakeholder understanding of mediation in the legal and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect cases. In addition, CJA provided funding for training on the toolkit.
- b) Support development of new and existing Child Advocacy Centers: A Children's Advocacy Center is a child-focused, facility-based, program where representatives from many disciplines meet to discuss and make decisions about investigation, treatment, intervention, and prosecution of child abuse cases. CJA supported multidisciplinary training and improvements to telemedicine for forensic exams, and provided funding for upgraded technology to support communication and coordination of services.
- c) Multi-disciplinary training related to the investigation and assessment of child abuse and neglect cases: The CJA Task Force provided funding for Expert Witness training for prosecutors and forensic interviewers, Investigative Safety Management Decision Making training for child welfare supervisors, and training on Response Protocols for Sex Trafficking Victims for the Nevada Coalition to Prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

2) DIFFERENTIAL RESPONSE COMMITTEE

Purpose

The Differential Response (DR) Steering Committee is a collaboration between child welfare agencies and community based service providers to oversee the differential response programs throughout the State. Differential Response (DR) provides an alternate response to child abuse and neglect reports where there are no identified safety issues and services can be provided in the community. The DR Steering Committee is committed to the improvement of DR services.

Activities

- a) Training and Support Needs: The DR Steering Committee identified a need for DR workers and supervisors to receive similar training as child welfare agency child protection workers. As a result, the State utilized CAPTA funds to provide training specifically developed for the DR workforce to increase knowledge regarding child safety. Shadowing child protection workers and offering On-Line training were identified by the DR Steering Committee as ways to increase the capacity for training DR workers and supervisors. In addition, the DR Steering Committee continues to support

- hiring, training, and the regular meeting of local DR providers with local child welfare agencies to discuss referrals and communication issues between child welfare and DR workers.
- b) Data Collection and Program Evaluation: The DR Steering Committee reviewed types of data being collected on DR cases in UNITY, and identified a need to develop and track outcomes, priority type, and number of cases.
 - c) Capacity Building Technical Assistance: The State began receiving technical assistance from the Capacity Building Center for States in the fall of 2016 to identify gaps in resources, data, policies and procedures. The Center conducted an assessment of the DR workforce to identify regional variances in practice and policy, and program strengths and recommendations. This information is now being used to build capacity for program restructuring, administration, monitoring, and continuous quality improvement.

3) CLARK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Purpose

The Citizens Advisory Committee serves as a liaison between the community and the Department of Family Services. The purpose of the Citizens Advisory Committee is to identify and communicate to the department important social service issues and service requirements regarding client services. The Citizens Advisory Committee also assists in assessing the needs of the community, and is able to initiate recommendations to be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners.

Activities

Major areas of focus were:

- a) Foster Home Recruitment: Advocated for and collaborated with Clark County Department of Family Services and community stakeholders to implement the Quality Parenting Initiative, including the use of media for foster care recruitment.
- b) Educational Needs of Foster Youth: Reviewed and monitored efforts to ensure foster youth's educational needs are met.
- c) Safety Decision-Making: Reviewed and monitored the implementation of a new safety practice model.

4) CHILD DEATH REVIEW-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Purpose

The Child Death Review Executive Committee (CDR) is established through NRS 432B.406. It is a multidisciplinary team which provides coordination and oversight of local child death review teams. The CDR meets quarterly, adopts statewide protocols for the review of child deaths, adopts regulations, and compiles and distributes a statewide annual report that includes statistics and recommendations to prevent child deaths as well as regulatory and policy changes. The multi-disciplinary team is comprised of representatives from: local CDR Teams, law enforcement, mental health, child welfare, vital statistics, and the office of the attorney general. The CDR also provides funding for prevention activities statewide.

Activities

During this reporting period the CDR supported the following projects:

- a) Crisis Call Center-Text4Life: An outreach program that was established in response to a high rate of suicide in Nevada. They also address other crisis situations such as sexual assault, domestic violence, substance abuse and child/elder abuse or neglect. The texting program was designed to better reach out to individuals, especially youth, who use texting as a means of communication.
- b) Nevada Coalition for Suicide Prevention - Reducing Access to Lethal Means: The goal is to reduce the rate of suicide involving the use of guns and medication by educating the public through dissemination of information on gun safety and medication concerns.

- c) Upstream Strategies for Injury Prevention - Prevent Child Abuse Nevada: A Statewide Conference that increases awareness regarding child abuse prevention, child safety activities, and resources available in Nevada.
- d) Social Emotional Learning in Nye County Schools for Upstream Suicide Prevention: The program improves not only academics, but also behavioral and health outcomes which are linked to decreasing risk factors for mental illness, substance use, and ultimately suicide.
- e) Safe Sleep: A Coordinated statewide safe sleep campaign including community partners that meet monthly to look at a variety of factors, and combine all safe sleep efforts into one large prevention effort.

5) NEVADA COALITION TO PREVENT THE COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

Purpose

Nevada Coalition to Prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (the Coalition) was established in May 2016 via Executive Order to prepare a comprehensive Statewide Strategic Plan and recommendations on how to address the Sex Trafficking Provisions of Public Law 113-183 the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act including, but not limited to, the following:

- a) Aligning efforts by promoting strategic and coordinated services for victims at the State, County, local and tribal levels.
- b) Improving understanding by expanding and coordinating child sex trafficking-related research, data, and evaluations to support evidence-based victim services.
- c) Expanding access to services by providing outreach, training, and technical assistance to increase victim identification and expand the availability of services.
- d) Improving outcomes by promoting effective, culturally-appropriate, trauma-informed services that improve the short and long-term health, safety, and well-being of child victims.
- e) Developing public awareness campaigns to better inform communities across Nevada about the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Activities

The Coalition formed five subcommittees that developed work plans to address the objectives and strategies in their respective Charters. The five working subcommittees have multidisciplinary representatives from across the State and at least one Coalition member. Below are the subcommittee objectives and progress to date:

- a) Engagement, Identification, Screening and Assessment: Identify methods to engage with and assess victims or suspected victims of commercial sexual exploitation in a standardized, culturally-appropriate, trauma-informed manner that improves the short and long-term health, safety, and well-being of child victims. This committee reviews screening and assessment tools to recommend for statewide implementation.
- b) Care Coordination: Recommend a holistic array of services that meet the needs of CSEC victims/survivors, and increase the capacity to provide safety and services for CSEC victims/survivors and their families. A survey of service providers across the State has been conducted to identify service gaps.
- c) Training: Ensure all stakeholders have the knowledge and skills to meet the needs of youth who are victims of sex trafficking, and understand how a unified response benefits them. A survey of existing training around the State has been conducted, and a CSEC101 training is in development.
- d) Data Collection: Develop and implement a statewide plan for collecting statewide data and/or a comprehensive statewide CSEC database. Support the reporting requirements for P.L. 113-83. Identify methods in which data can be collected, analyzed, stored and shared. The data committee has identified core data elements, and is developing a memorandum of understanding so agencies can share data.
- e) Prevention: Expand CSEC awareness and prevention efforts through a survey of existing prevention efforts. This subcommittee has begun to forge partnerships which will coordinate and enhance existing prevention efforts.

APPENDIX A: OVERVIEW OF NEVADA CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS

Federal Requirements

As outlined in Public Law 104-235, Title I, Section 106, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) provides for a state grant program for the support and improvement of state child protective services (CPS) systems. This law sets forth a variety of eligibility requirements, including the establishment of citizen review panels. The purpose of the panels are "to provide new opportunities for citizens to play an integral role in ensuring that states are meeting their goals of protecting children from abuse and neglect."

The citizen review panel (CRP) system within a given state must meet certain operational requirements and meet a scope of responsibilities within the function of the panel. These are outlined as follows:

Scope of Responsibilities

Each CRP is required to review the compliance of State and local CPS agencies in the fulfillment of their responsibilities with respect to the following:

- Work in accordance with the CAPTA State Plan;
- Examine State and local policies and procedures;
- Review specific cases, when appropriate; and
- Review other criteria the panel determines important to the protection of children, including the extent to which the State CPS system is coordinated with the Title IV-E foster care and adoption assistance programs and the review of child fatalities and near fatalities.

State Requirements

As part of the CAPTA requirements, states are required to codify CRPs through state law. In Nevada, this was completed with the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 158 during the 1999 legislative session. During 2001, NRS 432B.396 was amended as a result of AB 248 to establish civil sanctions for violations of confidentiality on the part of CRP members. This amendment includes additional language highlighted in subsection two as follows:

1. *Establish a panel comprised of volunteer members to evaluate the extent to which agencies which provide child welfare services are effectively discharging their responsibilities for the protection of children.*
2. *Adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of subsection 1 which must include, without limitation, the imposition of appropriate restrictions on the disclosure of information obtained by the panel and civil sanctions for the violation of those restrictions. The civil sanctions may provide for the imposition in appropriate cases of a civil penalty of not more than \$500. The Division may bring an action to recover any civil penalty imposed and shall deposit any money recovered with the State Treasurer for credit to the State General Fund.*

APPENDIX B: PANEL MEMBERS

Children’s Justice Act Task Force

<i>Member</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Representation</i>
Angela Phillips	Olive Crest Las Vegas	North LV FCR/DR
Debbie Croshaw	Clark County Family Services	Child Welfare
Debora Flowers	DCFS-Family Programs Office	Child Welfare
Kristin Patterson	HopeLink Las Vegas	LV South DR
Toby Hyman	Department of Health and Human Services	Grants Management
Alexia Benshoof	DCFS, UNITY	Information Management
Anna Coons	Lyon County Human Services	County Human Services
Joyce Buckingham	Ron Wood Center	Carson City FCR/DR
Karen E. Stoll	FRIENDS	Churchill FRC/DR
Kristen Monibi	Washoe County Social Services	Child Welfare
Michael Moulian	Washoe County School District	WCSD FCR/DR

Differential Response Committee Members

<i>Member</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Representation</i>
Angela Phillips	Olive Crest Las Vegas	North LV FCR/DR
Debbie Croshaw	Clark County Family Services	Child Welfare
Debora Flowers	DCFS-Family Programs Office	Child Welfare
Kristin Patterson	HopeLink Las Vegas	LV South DR
Toby Hyman	Department of Health and Human Services	Grants Management
Alexia Benshoof	DCFS, UNITY	Information Management
Anna Coons	Lyon County Human Services	County Human Services
Joyce Buckingham	Ron Wood Center	Carson City FCR/DR
Karen E. Stoll	FRIENDS	Churchill FRC/DR
Kristen Monibi	Washoe County Social Services	Child Welfare
Michael Moulian	Washoe County School District	WCSD FCR/DR
Patrick White	Children's Cabinet	Washoe DR
Marla Morris	DCFS-Family Programs Office	Child Protection
Holly Zumwalt		Elko DR
Kelli Weishaupt	DCFS-Fallon	Fallon
Matt Geiger	UNLV	Nevada Partnership for Training

Child Death Review – Executive Committee Members

<i>Member</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Representation</i>
Misty Vaughan Allen	Office of Suicide Prevention	Suicide Prevention
Sharon Benson	Office of the Attorney General	Attorney General
Kathleen Bent	Carson City Mental Health Clinic	Mental Health
Michael Cason	DCFS-Pahrump	Regional CDR Team
Andrea Rivers	Maternal, Child & Adolescent health	Public Health
Sgt. Matthew Kaplan	Nevada Highway Patrol	Law Enforcement
Betty Sharkey	Washoe County Social Services	Regional CDR Team
Kelli Weishaupt	DCFS-Fallon	Regional CDR Team
Natalie Guesman	Clark County Family Services	Regional CDR Team
Vacant	Vital Statistics	Vital Statistics
Vacant	Vital Statistics	Vital Statistics
Melissa Faul	DCFS-Family Programs Office	Regional CDR Team
Jerolyn Tennyson	DCFS-Elko	Regional CDR Team

Clark County Department of Family Services Citizens Advisory Committee Members

<i>Member</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Representation</i>
André Bailey	New Visions Behavioral Health	General Public
Mathew Cox		Child Advocate
Patrice Tew		Child Advocate
Susan Sernoe	Clark County School District	Education
Dashun Jackson		Youth with Foster Care Experience
Dr. Lisa Morris-Hibbler	City of Las Vegas	Parent Advocate
Dr. Bree Mullin	Desert Psychological Services	Mental Health
Sheila Parks	Clark County CASA	CASA
Rabbi Craig Rosenstein	Temple Bet Emet	Foster Adoptive Parents
Crystal Bomar		General Public
Judge Frank Sullivan	Clark County Family District Court	Local Juv. Dependency Services

Nevada Coalition to Prevent the Commercial Exploitation of Children

<i>Member</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Representation</i>
Kelly Wooldridge	Division of Child and Family Services	Co-Chair - DCFS
Justice Nancy Saitta (ret.)	Nevada Judiciary	Chair - Judge, Nevada Judiciary
Ross Armstrong	DCFS Juvenile Services	State Juvenile Services
Judge William Voy	Clark County Courts	Judge - Juvenile Court
Judge Egan Walker	Second Judicial District Court	Judge Dependency Court
Judge Nathan Young		
Linda Anderson	Office of Nevada Attorney General	Office of NV Attorney General
Theresa Benitez-Thompson	Nevada State Assembly	Nevada State Assembly
Peter Crannen	FBI	FBI
Elynn Greene	Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department	Law Enforcement
Derek Jones	Reno Police Department	Law Enforcement
Jim Wright	Nevada Department of Public Safety	Law Enforcement
Brigid Duffy	County District Attorney	Clark County DA Office
Jeff Martin	County District Attorney	Washoe County DA Office
Gianna Verness	Public Defenders Office	Washoe County Public Defender's Office
Paula Hammack	Local Departments of Social Services	Clark County Department of Family Services
Amber Howell	Local Departments of Social Services	Washoe County Department of Social Services
Reesha Powell	Local Departments of Social Services	Division of Child and Family Services – Rural Counties
Kim Yaeger	Nevada Trucking Association	Nevada Trucking Association
Janice Wolf	Non-profit Legal Aid Center	Children's Attorney Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
Victoria Blakeny	Nevada Department of Education	Nevada Department of Education
Paula Smith	Nevada Indian Tribe	Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
Lawrence Howell	Community based organization that provides services to child sex trafficking victims	Rite Of Passage

Alexis Kennedy, Ph.D.	Nevada System of Higher Education	University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Kathleen Sandoval	Mental Health Service Provider	Children's Cabinet
Amy Ayoub	Victims and/or family members of victims of child sex trafficking	The Zen Speaker
Jack Martin	Local Departments of Juvenile Justice Services	Clark County Juvenile Services
Frank Cervantes	Local Department of Juvenile Justice Services	Washoe County Department of Juvenile Services.
Arlene Rivera	Office of Nevada Attorney General	Domestic Violence Ombudsman Office of the Attorney General
Susan Roske	Community Based Organization that provides services to child sex trafficking victims	Sojourn Foundation



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Date: June 7, 2017
TO: Statewide Citizen Review Panels (CRP)
FROM: Kelly Wooldridge, Administrator *Kelly C. Wooldridge*
RE: Response to the Nevada Citizen Review Panel on 2017 Recommendations

Recommendation 1

It is recommended that DCFS educate the child welfare workforce, hospitals, first responders and courts on the revisions to the Save Haven law which protects the anonymity of the surrendering parent.

Response:

DCFS plans to update statewide policy to reflect legislative changes and to partner with the Safe Haven Coalition to help facilitate and ensure that information is provided to first responders and hospitals. In addition, DCFS will partner with the Court Improvement Program to inform the courts of the statutory revisions.

Recommendation 2

It is recommended that DCFS, in collaboration with local child welfare agencies, continue to inform and support Differential Response providers of changes to the Differential Response program.

Response:

DCFS has been using use technical assistance from the Building Capacity Center for States to assist in program evaluation. As a component of the technical assistance, interviews were conducted of the Differential Response workforce statewide to assist in the identification of strengths, challenges and recommendations. The findings from this assessment were shared at the May 2017 Differential Response Steering Committee. The information will be used to build capacity for program restructuring, administration, monitoring and continuous quality improvement. The Differential Response Steering Committee will continue to meet quarterly for the exchange of information.

Recommendation 3

It is recommended that DCFS develop a plan to address the requirements of the Comprehensive Addictions and Recovery Act (CARA) of 2016 which includes input from public and health and substance abuse agencies.

Response:

A work plan has been developed to address the CARA requirements. A statewide workgroup has been formed which is comprised of Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Nevada Rural Hospital Partners, Nevada Hospital Association, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Section of Division of Public and Behavioral Health and DCFS to address the implementation of plans of safe care for infants born with and identified as affected by substance abuse. Additionally, a child welfare policy workgroup which includes representation of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health has been formed to address the policy, practice, data collection and training needs of the child welfare workforce. As a result of recommendations from the child welfare policy workgroup, the required federal revisions were made to state statute during the 2017 legislative session. An information packet is under development which will inform hospitals and medical providers regarding the statutory changes and reporting obligations.