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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
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Marla McDade
Williams, MPA
Administrator

Nevada Children's Commission Child Welfare Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, June 6, 2024

TIME: 12:00 P.M.- Adjournment

VIDEO CONFERENCE:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MjVjMThlZTAzZmM1OS00YzRkLTliMGMtYTdkZjlkMDI4NDA0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22be58909a-421c-4f56-857e-c5f7d4ef6f7f%22%7d

TELECONFERENCE LINE: 1-775-321-6111

CONFERENCE ID: 612 948 097#

- 1. Call to Order** – Megan Miller, Ryan Gustafson, Judge Paige Dollinger, Shelia Parks
The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Megan Miller.
- 2. Welcome and Introductions (Roll Call)** – Division of Child and Family Services Staff
Members Present by Video: Megan Miller, Judge Paige Dollinger, Shelia Parks

Members Not Present: Ryan Gustafson

DCFS Staff: Marla McDade Williams, Elvira Saldana

Public: April St. James, Holly Welborn, Leah Dods, Sabrina Schnur, Jamelle Nance, Stephen Avillo, Belz and Case Government Affairs- Scribe

- 3. Public Comment and Discussion**
There was no public comment.
- 4. For Information:** Welcome and Introduce Community Stakeholders- Megan Miller
- 5. For Possible Action:** Approval of December 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes – Megan Miller, Ryan Gustafson, Judge Paige Dollinger, Shelia Parks

Megan Miller asked committee members if there were any changes or corrections to the meeting minutes.

There were no recommendations.

Action: A motion was made by Judge Paige Dollinger to approve the minutes, seconded by Megan Miller, and carried to approve the minutes of December 8, 2023.

6. For Information: Discuss and Develop Priorities Regarding Independent Living / Extended Foster Care— Megan Miller, Ryan Gustafson, Judge Paige Dollinger, Shelia Parks

- Discuss and identify steps to ensure deadlines regarding extended foster care in Nevada Revised Statutes 432B.5919 are met and achieved.

Megan Miller stated the Court Improvement committee was working on it; however, she has not heard where they are at with it.

Shelia Parks stated the topic came up at a Community Improvement Council (CIC) meeting. Shelia Parks does not think they have anything finalized and believes they said they are still looking to implement something maybe in January. They are looking at the cost and how it will affect everything.

Megan Miller asked Shelia Parks who was running the meeting.

Shelia Parks stated Wonswayla Mackey from the Department of Family Services responded to the question.

Megan Miller stated she would make a note to reach out to Wonswayla Mackey and see if she can attend a future meeting to provide an update.

- Discuss and identify any concerns regarding placement resources for young adults entering independent living and/or extended foster care.
Megan Miller stated the committee had discussed this topic would be an issue going forward as the new NRS rolls out.

Shelia Parks stated at the CIC meeting they mentioned for the first time ever there was a net surplus for families. The department has been doing a lot of recruitment and they have seen an increase in the number of families, however not specific to any group.

Judge Paige Dollinger asked if it was specific to Clark County.

Shelia Parks stated she believes it is.

Judge Paige Dollinger commented Ryan Gustafson would have more information, however as far as she knows they are still struggling with recruitment of new foster placements in general and extended foster care placements.

Shelia Parks stated Wonswayla Mackey was the one who reported on it.

- Discuss and identify concerns surrounding young adults entering independent living and/or extended foster care who are also involved in the Department of Juvenile Justice Services. Megan Miller stated Judge Bailey has been handling the crossover calendar for the population. It has been a successful way of handling those cases. Megan Miller asked committee members if they have any thoughts, updates, or concerns relating to that population.

Judge Paige Dollinger stated in the North they have a similar crossover docket called the Project One Docket. Judge Robb presides over it, and it is held at the Jan Evans Juvenile Justice facility in Reno.

- Discuss and identify research regarding the efficacy of independent living programs. This item was not discussed.

7. For Information: Discuss and Identify Placements for Children Involved in the Child Welfare System – Megan Miller, Ryan Gustafson, Judge Paige Dollinger, Shelia Parks

- Discuss and identify concerns surrounding children with mental health or behavioral needs. Megan Miller stated the closure of the psychiatric hospital in Washoe County has been a concern. Megan Miller asked Judge Paige Dollinger if there were any updates or further concerns.

Judge Paige Dollinger stated the West Hills Hospital building the county purchased will be used to provide a variety of mental health resources for youth. The vision for the building is coming to fruition.

- Discuss and identify issues surrounding placements for sibling groups. Megan Miller stated as far as she was aware, Clark County was struggling with placements for sibling groups. Now that there is a surplus, Megan Miller is unsure if she has seen it trickle down into her cases. Megan Miller asked committee members if they have anything to add about placements for sibling groups.

Judge Paige Dollinger commented in Washoe County they continue to struggle finding placements for larger group of siblings.

- Discuss and identify concerns surrounding placement for children who are also involved in the Department of Juvenile Justice Services. Megan Miller asked committee members if there were any concerns or updates regarding placement for children who are also involved in the Department of Juvenile Justice Services.

There were no concerns or updates from committee members.

- Discuss and identify issues surrounding congregate care. Megan Miller stated prior to the pandemic, Clark County was very close to having a very low population of kids in congregate care which has increased and has led to the recruitment effort Shelia Parks mentioned previously.

There was no further discussion, issues, or progress to address relating to congregate care.

8. For Possible Action: Identify and Approve a Goal to be Accomplished by the End of the Year – Megan Miller, Ryan Gustafson, Judge Paige Dollinger, Shelia Parks
Megan Miller stated ideally the goal would be related to the two larger subcategories, extended foster care and placements for children in the foster care system. Megan Miller asked committee members if they had any ideas about a goal for the committee this year.

Judge Paige Dollinger commented Ryan Gustafson might have a better idea of an actual, realistic goal that could be accomplished by the end of the year. His input is important.

Shelia Parks stated placements for children who have mental health issues has been a huge issue. They have a lot of children still sitting in Child Haven who they cannot find appropriate placement. Perhaps something surrounding just making sure they have the appropriate placement for children with mental health needs, however Shelia Parks is unsure what can be done by the end of the year.

Megan Miller stated having boots on the ground individuals on the committee who could take the issues up to the Commission was talked about as being the purpose of the committee when she joined the committee. As a goal for the end of the year, it would be helpful to have a roundtable meeting with the placement team from Clark County and Washoe County to see what they are seeing as their biggest challenges and what would be helpful to address the challenges. The committee could then take it back to the Commission.

Judge Paige Dollinger commented she likes the idea. It is a concrete, accomplishable goal. The committee could also identify a DCFS placement representative who could cover the other jurisdictions in the state.

Shelia Parks stated she agrees it is a great plan to work on.

Marla McDade Williams commented placements are part of the Medicaid system. The network of facilities is maintained by Medicaid. Clark and Washoe County receive case management funding through Medicaid to find placements for kids. If a discussion is going to take place, it should include a representative from Medicaid.

Megan Miller asked Marla McDade Williams to provide someone she may have in mind via email.

Marla McDade Williams stated she would engage the Administrator to find someone for the committee.

Megan Miller asked committee members if there are any individuals who should be included in the roundtable. Wonswayla Mackey will be invited.

Shelia Parks commented perhaps DeDe Parker since she works with various teams on discussing specialized placements and hospitalizations. She may have some great insight.

Megan Miller stated she would be happy to accommodate if there are any other thoughts or requests to be included afterwards.

Action: A motion was made by Megan Miller for the committee goal to be to have the roundtable with placements to come up with a list of their largest concerns and asks to bring to the full Commission, seconded by Judge Paige Dollinger, and carried to approve the committee goal.

9. For Possible Action: Discuss and Decide Upon Next Steps – Megan Miller, Ryan Gustafson, Judge Paige Dollinger, Shelia Parks

- Assign Tasks to Committee Members (if needed)
- Specify Agenda Items for the Next Meeting
- Confirm Next Meeting Date/Time
July 25, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

10. Public Comment and Discussion

There was no public comment.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.