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Cindy Pitlock, DNP
Administrator

Nevada Children's Commission Child Welfare Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: Friday, August 5, 2022

TIME: 11:00 A.M.- Adjournment

VIDEO CONFERENCE:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YTk0MzY4MjMtM2JmYy00MDIzLTg5ZTEtNDE2ZTQ0N2U3Zjgw%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: 524 324 887#

1. **Call to Order** – Megan Miller, Tim Burch, Ryan Gustafson, Judge Paige Dollinger, Judge Stephanie Charter, Shelia Parks
The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. by Megan Miller.

2. **Welcome and Introductions (Roll Call)** – DCFS Staff
Members Present by Video: Megan Miller, Judge Paige Dollinger, Judge Stephanie Charter, Shelia Parks

Members Absent: Tim Burch, Ryan Gustafson

Public: None

3. **Public Comment and Discussion**

There was no public comment.

4. **For Information:** Welcome and Introduce Community Stakeholders- Megan Miller
There were no community stakeholders present.

5. **For Possible Action:** Meeting Minutes from March 31, 2022
Megan Miller stated if there were no changes or corrections, she would move to adopt the meeting minutes.

No recommendations were made.

Action: A motion by Judge Stephanie Charter was made to approve the minutes, seconded by Shelia Parks, and carried to approve the minutes of March 31, 2022.

6. For Possible Action: Workplan Committee Goals – Megan Miller, Tim Burch, Ryan Gustafson, Judge Paige Dollinger, Judge Stephanie Charter, Shelia Parks

- Develop implementation plan to fill training gaps identified and prioritized by the Commission. Megan Miller stated the next portion of the workplan is to develop an implementation plan. Previously implicit bias, avoiding trauma in the court room, and Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) training were discussed. At the last meeting, Ryan Gustafson mentioned a race equity plan in Washoe County. Megan Miller asked committee members if they had any thoughts on training.

Shelia Parks stated she had mentioned the implicit bias training as it relates to not just the workers however how cases and investigations happen. Shelia Parks thinks it all impacts the number of children coming into care. Some information was previously shared concerning a study that was conducted. Shelia Parks stated she is looking for someone to do some implicit bias training for CASA. It is something everyone in the child welfare system needs to understand. Juvenile Justice has done a lot of training in that area.

Judge Paige Dollinger commented she sits on the Blueprint for Racial Justice Commission and can reach out to the Chair of the Communication and Implementation subcommittee to see if there is anyone that knows of anything that is child welfare specific. Judge Paige Dollinger suggested the speaker from the Judicial College training.

Judge Stephanie Charter asked Shelia Parks if she thinks it is necessary for all case workers.

Shelia Parks replied she does not know if it should be all case workers and thinks it is something for all of them in the dependency arena. It should be partnered. Dr. Tara Raines, Policy Advisor for the Children’s Advocacy Alliance, knows of someone who specializes in diversity, equity, and inclusion. Shelia Parks will be reaching out to Washoe to see what they did.

Judge Dollinger commented the contact person may be Kendra Materasso.

Shelia Parks stated it is and she will be following up with her.

Judge Stephanie Charter asked committee members what they think about training specific to LGBTQ. Recently Judge Stephanie Charter has had a lot of youth appear in front of her and is concerned she is not using the proper pronouns. Training on how to address, be sensitive and aware of the community would be helpful.

Judge Paige Dollinger stated she agrees.

Judge Stephanie Charter stated Laurie Lytel is involved in that community and may be happy to provide some training.

Megan Miller stated she thinks it is part of the training in the academy. Megan Miller will follow up with Clark County Department of Family Services to see if there is someone they use.

Judge Paige Dollinger suggested having a panel with one or two youth who can talk about their lived experience, why it is important, and explain it.

Shelia Parks commented she has someone in mind.

Judge Paige Dollinger stated the other area she would like to see training on is education specifically for foster parents.

Megan Miller stated in the south, Legal Aid's Educational Department assigns educational surrogates who can help assign educational decision makers. It has been a big push for them.

Judge Stephanie Charter stated she does not think the Educational Service address the day to day such as grades. Judge Stephanie Charter thinks it is a piece that is missing.

Judge Paige Dollinger commented it becomes the norm for the child to get bad grades. Judge Paige Dollinger schedules a review with the youth to check in on them.

Judge Stephanie Charter stated she does a panel review. It would be nice to catch it earlier on and help them address their education before they are juniors and seniors in high school.

Judge Paige Dollinger stated a lot of times by then it is truancy issues. If they can instill and get to them when they are younger there are more interventions they can do. It is an area they can make a lot of positive changes with the process.

Megan Miller stated she will check with Clark County on what the foster parent educational training looks like and with Ilka to see if she has any suggestions about what she has observed that may be missing. Megan Miller asked committee members if they had any other ideas about training.

There were no recommendations.

- Develop implementation plan to fill gaps identified and prioritized by the Commission as well as helpful visual representations and reporting of data.

Megan Miller stated the focus in previous meetings was mental health. The DCFS denial rates were discussed. The Sierra Regional Center assessments were brought up in a previous meeting and it had been identified as a gap. Some of the implementation plan ideas last time were resource and workforce issues and looking at more specialized foster care placements. Megan Miller asked committee members if there are any other gaps.

Judge Paige Dollinger stated it continues to be a huge issue. With the staffing shortages, it goes with the national trend in almost every area. Judge Paige Dollinger feels like money is needed in the budget to be able to get mental health resources back into place. Washoe County has lost a lot of the acute psychiatric providers for children and addiction providers. With all the kids coming into care, they are trying to look at trauma issues, hone in on it and work a different model related to trauma.

Megan Miller asked if there is a new system related to trauma being utilized in the North.

Judge Paige Dollinger stated in Washoe County they have Safe Babies Court where the parents and the children do child parent psychotherapy. It is a trauma model. Hearings are held every two months. On the months they do not have court there is a family solutions team/child family team meeting. It is more hands on.

Megan Miller asked what type of families qualify for the program.

Judge Paige Dollinger stated it is through the Zero to Three organization. At least one of the kids must be 0 to 3 years of age. The Washoe County Human Services Agency identifies the families and assigns them to the Safe Babies docket. The program is designed to focus on reunification and work a concurrent plan from the beginning to ensure the youth is placed in a long-term relative placement who can adopt or an adoptive home.

Megan Miller asked who provides the therapy.

Judge Paige Dollinger stated they bring in community partners and they have different providers. Washoe County Human Services Agency Social Services is training some of their clinical staff in child parent psychotherapy. There are also parent partners which work with the families in the program.

- Identify any necessary statutory changes.

Megan Miller stated last time the committee's ideas focused on statutory or funding for placements. There is also funding and staffing needed for mental health providers.

Judge Stephanie Charter commented they need placements for kids who are not Child Haven. They need to reduce the rate of removal and establish placement for children. A budget is needed.

Megan Miller stated the behaviors they have seen from kids in Child Haven are so much more extreme. Megan Miller thinks it speaks to not only getting them placement and reducing removal but also trying to look at the reasons why there is the behavioral crisis, how to get effective or adequate mental health services to help address the trauma the kids are going through.

Judge Stephanie Charter stated part of it in Clark County is tied with the school district. The school district always seems to be struggling. Part of what they see among the kids who are school age stems from school. Something must be done about the quality of education in the schools.

Judge Paige Dollinger stated a lot of the stuff needs to change legislatively.

Megan Miller asked committee members if they have any thoughts on either of the implementation plans.

There were no recommendations.

7. For Possible Action: Discuss and Decide Upon Next Steps – Megan Miller, Tim Burch, Ryan Gustafson, Judge Paige Dollinger, Judge Stephanie Charter, Shelia Parks

- Assign Tasks to Committee Members (if needed)
Tasks were not assigned.

Shelia Parks stated she would look into the training piece as it relates to DEI training and will follow up on it.

Megan Miller will check on the foster parent training and with CAP about their thoughts on education training.

Judge Paige Dollinger stated she would look at the DEI stuff through the Blueprint for Racial Justice Commission.

- Specify Agenda Items for the Next Meeting
No recommendations were made.
- Confirm Next Meeting Date/Time
A meeting will be scheduled later.

8. Public Comment and Discussion

There was no public comment.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.