

Joe Lombardo  
Governor



Richard Whitley, MS  
Director

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES  
*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



Marla McDade  
Williams, MPA  
Administrator

## Nevada Children's Commission Child Welfare Committee Draft Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** Thursday, August 15, 2024

**TIME:** 12:00 P.M.- Adjournment

**VIDEO CONFERENCE:**

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_MWM0ZTEzZTItZDVjZC00Y2JhLTNmY2YtZGU0MTYxZDZjNzh%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](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MWM0ZTEzZTItZDVjZC00Y2JhLTNmY2YtZGU0MTYxZDZjNzh%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:** 876 162 019#

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Megan Miller.

- 2. Welcome and Introductions (Roll Call)** – Division of Child and Family Services Staff  
**Members Present by Video:** Megan Miller, Ryan Gustafson, Judge Paige Dollinger, Shelia Parks (joined after roll call)

**Members Absent:** N/A

**DCFS Staff:** Marla McDade Williams, Elvira Saldana

**Public:** Lea Case, Dewey Fowler, Linda Anderson, Jonathan Norman, Leah Dods, Belz & Case Scribe

**3. Public Comment and Discussion**

There was no public comment.

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

- 5. For Possible Action:** Approval of June 6, 2024 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 Megan Miller to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Judge Paige Dollinger, and carried to approve the meeting minutes of June 6, 2024. Ryan Gustafson abstained.

**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.
- Discuss and identify any concerns regarding placement resources for young adults entering independent living and/or extended foster care.
- 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.
- Discuss and identify research regarding the efficacy of independent living programs.

Megan Miller stated she met with Wonswayla Mackey and Lisa Martinez from Clark County Department of Family Services to get updates on extended foster care. Megan Miller was informed once the extended foster care gets rolled out, Social Services will be taking over monitoring the cases. There is discussion about what the court process will look like. The state policy is complete, and the subsidy questions are still being worked out. Megan Miller asked committee members if they had anything to add about extended foster care.

Ryan Gustafson stated all the jurisdictions worked on the extended foster care policy. It was recently finalized. It may be a primary topic at the summit this year. The court process, case plans, and housing subsidy support issues need to be figured out.

Judge Paige Dollinger commented she is happy to be involved in discussions regarding what the court process will look like.

Megan Miller stated with the housing issue, there is a potential of having apartment complexes where the landlord rents to this population. One of the concerns identified by Wonswayla Mackey and Lisa Martinez is the rental market in general being unaffordable for this population and is on their radar.

**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.
- Discuss and identify issues surrounding placements for sibling groups.
- Discuss and identify concerns surrounding placement for children who are also involved in the Department of Juvenile Justice Services.
- Discuss and identify issues surrounding congregate care.

Megan Miller stated at the last meeting Shelia Parks mentioned there was a surplus of placements in Clark County. Wonswayla Mackey informed Megan Miller they had about 20 extra homes, however they are now all being utilized. There are 3 CSEC homes being opened. Regarding Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) homes, Bamboo closed, and they

are looking for a new potential for it. Clark County has seen a little bit of impact from the sped-up process for licensing. Megan Miller asked committee members if they had anything else to add.

Ryan Gustafson stated they are still dealing with some of the same challenges. They are pressing forward with the West Hills project which should create some PRTF beds for them. Effective July 1, the Kids Kottage contract expanded which allows for 45 emergency placements.

**8. For Possible Action: Discuss and Decide on Placement Roundtable – Megan Miller, Ryan Gustafson, Judge Paige Dollinger, Shelia Parks**

This agenda item was taken out of order and discussed after agenda item #9.

- Identify and vote to approve stakeholders to invite  
Megan Miller recommended a Clark County stakeholder and a foster placement be invited. Megan Miller asked committee members if they had any ideas for individuals or stakeholders.

Shelia Parks commented she would like to have someone from CASA and asked if one of the committee members would be on the roundtable.

Megan Miller stated the committee members would be present.

Judge Paige Dollinger suggested Washoe County foster family parents. It would be great to get a youth with some lived experience. One of their parent partners who works with a lot of the families in Washoe County could provide a parent's perspective.

Shelia Parks suggested Dashun Jackson.

Megan Miller stated she would love to get someone from the rural communities. If contact is made with Judge Hill, perhaps she would be able to recommend someone.

Judge Paige Dollinger suggested an Indian Child Welfare representative.

Megan Miller stated she can check with Felicia Quinlan who runs the Indian Child Welfare Act unit to see if she has any contacts.

A vote was not taken to approve stakeholders.

- Identify and vote to approve topics of discussion  
Megan Miller stated it might be best to table the approval of topics of discussion.

Shelia Parks commented there needs to be clarification or discussion on how placements will be identified who might have extended foster care youth in their home who are adults and how that will impact them being in a home with younger children.

Megan Miller stated Wonswayla Mackey and Lisa Martinez informed her once extended foster care is rolled out, the housing will go to Social Services for those children. There will likely be

some overlap. It is a good point to bring up to discuss. Megan Miller asked if there were any ideas to add to the roundtable discussion.

Shelia Parks commented not having adequate placements to get children out of Child Haven is an ongoing issue.

A vote was not taken to approve topics of discussion.

**9. For Possible Action:** Discuss and Decide on Subcommittee Membership – Megan Miller, Ryan Gustafson, Judge Paige Dollinger, Shelia Parks

- Discuss and identify areas and/or stakeholders whose representation would benefit the subcommittee
- Discuss and approve recommendations to the Commission regarding additional members of the Child Welfare Subcommittee

This agenda item was taken out of order and discussed after agenda item #7.

Megan Miller stated she would like to discuss areas or stakeholders the committee members think are lacking in the committee or would be beneficial. Knowing that extended foster care is going to be under Social Services, perhaps someone from Social Services to be able to provide updates. Megan Miller recommended having someone from Clark County Family Services (CCFS).

Shelia Parks suggested a representative from the Children's Attorneys Project (CAP).

Dewey Fowler from CAP stated he agrees with Shelia Parks.

Judge Paige Dollinger asked Megan Miller and Shelia Parks if there is a judicial officer in Clark County, they think would be a good candidate since Judge Stephanie Charter is no longer on the committee.

Shelia Parks stated DeDe Parker in Clark County is very involved. Shelia Parks can mention it to her and see if she has any ideas.

Judge Paige Dollinger suggested Judge David Gibson or his designee and Judge Hill in Elko.

Megan Miller stated there is no rural representation on the committee. It would be good insight to have.

Shelia Parks stated during the last judges' meeting, Judge David Gibson asked for volunteers to serve on a couple of committees Judge Stephanie Charter was a part of.

Judge Paige Dollinger stated she can reach out to Judge Hill to see if she would be interested.

Megan Miller stated the list of recommendations is a representative from CAP, CCFS, Social Services, DeDe Parker, a Clark County judicial officer, and Judge Hill.

Shelia Parks suggested not recommending DeDe Parker specifically.

Megan Miller stated DeDe Parker would be removed and the list of recommendations would be updated to be a representative from CAP, CCFS, Social Services, and a Clark judicial officer. Megan Miller asked if Judge Hill should be listed or if it should be and/or Elko representative.

Judge Paige Dollinger suggested listing judicial member from a rural jurisdiction.

**Action:** A motion was made by Megan Miller to approve the list of recommendations to bring to the Commission, seconded by Ryan Gustafson, and carried to approve the recommendations.

**10. 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)  
Tasks were not assigned.
- Specify Agenda Items for the Next Meeting  
No recommendations were made.
- Confirm Next Meeting Date/Time  
September 6, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

**11. Public Comment and Discussion**

Ryan Gustafson commented there will be a roundtable for extended foster care in Las Vegas on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, the state mobile crisis response team for children is part of Washoe County Human Services Agency. The program shifted from the state to the county for mobile crisis response services.

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.