

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Richard Whitley
Director

Statewide Citizen Review Panel

Division of Child and Family Services- Family Programs Office

Dylan Nall

April 29, 2025



Department of Health and Human Services

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Welcome

- 1. Call to order**
- 2. Roll call**



Initial Public Comment

3. Initial Public Comment (Discussion Only: Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for action at a later meeting.)

- To provide public comment telephonically, dial 775-321-6111. When prompted to provide the conference ID, enter 227937282#. If providing public comment during the Teams Meeting, unmute your microphone prior to speaking. Persons making comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name.*



For Information

4. For Possible Approval- *Jane Saint, Chair*

- Consideration, Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Statewide Citizen Review Panel January 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes



For Information

5. For Information: Presentation and Discussion of the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP)- Dylan Nall, Division of Child and Family Services



Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP)

- The Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) is a five-year plan that outlines the goals and objectives that the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) will carry out in administering programs and services to promote the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families. It provides the DCFS with the opportunity to implement a system of coordinated, intergraded, culturally relevant, and family-focused services in keeping with the service principles reflected in 45 CFR 1355.25.
- A primary purpose of the plan is to facilitate DCFS's integration of the federally funded programs that serve children and families along the child welfare continuum. The following programs are coordinated by the submission of the 2025-2029 CFSP.
 - The Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services Program (title IV-B, subpart 1);
 - Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program (PSSF, Title IV-B Subpart 2);
 - Monthly Caseworker Visits Funds;
 - Chafee Program and Training Voucher Program (ETV).
 - Adoption Incentive Funds;
 - The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) as it relates to the activities funded by CAPTA in supporting achievement of the goals and objectives of the CFSP.



Goal 1

- Goal 1: Enhance Nevada's capacity to address the needs of children, youth and families to prevent maltreat.
 - Strategy 1: Develop a Prevention Data Dashboard for planning primary and secondary prevention.
 - Primary prevention connects families to needed resources and supports within their community. Secondary prevention provides families with services to address family needs and prevent child abuse and neglect.
 - Strategy 2: Collaborate with existing prevention program.
 - Staff who oversee the programs will utilize the data dashboard while collaborating with community partners to guide funding activities aimed at providing primary and secondary prevention to Nevada's children.
 - Strategy 3: Increase Differential Response Services throughout Nevada.
 - DCFS will develop a Differential Response Policy and access and reviewing funding sources to increase Differential Response Services throughout Nevada.
 - Strategy 4: Enhance Nevada's Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) program.
 - DCFS will update the CSEC state plan and by-laws and explore funding for receiving Centers in Nevada.



Goal 2

- Goal 2: Enhance Permanency Services to address the needs of Child, Youth and Families.
 - Strategy 1: Implementation of Extended Young Adults Support Services Program (EYASSP).
 - Implement EYASSP beginning July 1, 2025 and develop a and participate in a continuous improvement (CQI) activities.
 - Strategy 2: Maximize the use of the Kinship Navigator program across Nevada and increase Nevada's access to and use the KinGAP.
 - Kinship Navigator: Increase programmatic understanding of the federal funding streams for Kinship Navigator, including the use of Title IV-E and Title IV-B funding, as well as usage allowability through FFPSA to support families that get involved with child welfare and families that do not. Engage parents and caregivers who receive Kinship Navigator programming, or who are navigating child welfare services for their family, or have a child placed in their home to gain lived experience perspective and to inform improvement efforts.
 - KinGAP: Conduct an analysis of the use of KinGAP by the three child welfare agencies and develop and implement an action plan based on assessment of the utilization of KinGAP.
 - Strategy 3: Increase pre and post adoptive services throughout Nevada.
 - Understand current pre- and post-adoption services offered in Nevada, including the use of adoption incentive funding and other funding sources that may be available to support families.



Goal 3

- Goal 3: Enhance relationships between child welfare agencies and court partners resulting in improved court processes and increased timelessness to permanency.
 - Strategy 1: Collaborate with Court Improvement Program (CIP).
 - Collaborate with the CIP to determine common goals and better understand the intersection of the child welfare system with the dependency court system.
 - Increase communication and engagement between DCFS FPO, child welfare agencies, the CIP, judicial and legal partners, and CASA.
 - Understand the needs of both the child welfare agencies and the dependency courts.
 - Assess existing data collection efforts and identify opportunities to improve. Determine what monitoring and evaluative activities can be developed.
 - DCFS FPO will continue participation on CIP's JCAMP project.
 - CIP will continue participation on various child welfare workgroups and on the SQIC



Goal 4

- Goal 4: Healthy Workforce.

- Strategy 1: Nevada will have developed a plan to improve the recruitment and retention of its child welfare workforce.
 - Coach NV
 - Assess impact of CoachNV implementation through refinement of fidelity tool.
 - WIT Team
 - Assess current training policy periodically to determine when updates are needed.
 - Supervisor Training
 - Work with Nevada Partnership Training (NPT) to develop a supervisor training.
 - Workforce Data:
 - Partner with HR programs across the state to identify demographic data that can be shared. This data will be utilized to determine how well Nevada's child welfare workforce reflects the communities we serve.
 - Determine if exit survey data can be shared and analyzed.
 - Develop a communication plan for disseminating workforce data.



Goal 5

- Goal 5: Continuous Quality Improvement.
 - Strategy 1: Enhance existing CQI System
 - Develop a CQI action Plan, enhance policy development, formalize statewide activities and policies, refine Nevada's quarterly case review process in preparation for out CFSR round 4 which starts in October 2025.
 - Strategy 2: Create a community of collaboration with agency, community and system partners
 - In preparation of the statewide assessment and the CFSR Round 4, DCFS FPO will lead the effort to bring the voices of individuals with lived experience and the voices of those historically underserved and overrepresented in the child welfare system to the table.
 - Nevada will solicit participants for various workgroups, focus groups, surveys, or interviews that are cross-representational of the state's population.
 - The state will work collaboratively with child welfare agencies, legal and judicial partners, the CIP, as well as other systems that intersect with the child welfare system.



For Possible Action

6. For Possible Approval- *Jane Saint, Chair*

- Consideration, Discussion and Possible Vote to approve Future Agenda Items



For Information

7. For Information– *Jane Saint, Chair*

- Member Announcements Regarding Their Agencies



Final Public Comment

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Adjournment

9. Adjournment- *Jane Saint-Chair*

- Thank you for your time and commitment to improving services for children and youth in Nevada.

MINUTES

Statewide Citizen's Review Panel

January 28, 2025

9:00am

1. Call to Order – Jane Saint, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM.

Members Present:

Name	Organization
Caleb Bay	Children's Cabinet
Devan Bartmus	WCSD
Jane Saint	Serving Our Kids
Lindsay Marquez	Washoe Schools
Mike Wurm	Boys and Girls Club Truckee Meadows
Molly Blanchette	Washoe County
Stacie Dastrup	Clark County

Absent:

Name	Organization
April Stahl	Division of Child and Family Services
Ariana Barbuti	TBD
Kim Coats	Nevada CASA
Lauren Pow	Children's Cabinet
Laurie Jackson	Division of Child and Family Services
Salli Kerr	Vice-Chair

Staff Support:

Name	Organization
Beverly Brown	Division of Child and Family Services
Dylan Nall	Division of Child and Family Services
Jimesian Sanders	Division of Child and Family Services

2. For Information, Roll Call – Jane Saint, Chair

Dylan Nall called the roll. There was a quorum.

3. **Initial Public Comment Discussion only: (Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled for action at a later meeting) – Salli Kerr, Chair**

There was no comment.

4. **For Possible Approval: Consideration, Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Statewide Citizen Review Panel October 29, 2024, Meeting Minutes – Jane Saint, Chair**

Jane Saint noted some grammatical errors which Dylan fixed. Caleb Bay moved to approve the minutes, with Devan Bartmus seconding. The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. **For Possible Approval: Consideration, Discussion and Possible Vote to draft and submit to the Administrator of the Division of Child and Family Services, Nevada's Department of Health and Human Services, the 2025 Statewide Citizen Review Panel recommendations to ensure child welfare agencies are effectively discharging their responsibility for the protection of children to include discussion of prevention outcomes, gaps in services, analysis of the Databook and other items that may be suggested by the Panel members- Jane Saint, Chair**

Dylan Nall said this agenda item is specifically about our Citizen Review panel recommendations that we do have to submit to the Administrator of Nevada DCFS yearly. She put up on the screen two recommendations to be approved at the next CJA Task Force meeting. They are:

1. The Children's Justice Task Force (CJA) recommends the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) continue to prioritize training for all child welfare staff and community partners in the State of Nevada to improve the investigation and handling of child abuse, neglect, or cases involving both, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation. This training recommendation includes, but is not limited to, child protection assessment and system of care models, family and interpersonal violence, mandatory reporting, medical forensic interventions, trauma-informed practices, and cultural responsiveness.
2. The Children's Justice Task Force (CJA) recommends the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) support efforts to translate best practices and support community-based needs to coordinate the multidisciplinary response to child abuse, neglect, or cases involving both, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation. This Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) recommendation includes introducing, maintaining, and establishing Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) in conjunction with the Nevada State CAC Chapter as appropriate.

Dylan Nall noted that the first recommendation specifically focuses on the front end of child welfare. It is the investigation, the prosecution, the judicial handling of all child sexual abuse, neglect and abuse. So, our recommendations would have to be about making sure child welfare agencies are effectively discharging their responsibilities for the protection of our

children by discussing prevention outcomes and gaps in services. Those are the types of things that we need to make sure are included when we write this recommendation in the next couple minutes. We can have just one recommendation.

Dylan Nall then asked, where do people want to see this group go in the future? What do we want to look at? Do we want to look at prevention outcomes? Do we want to look at gaps in services across Nevada? Because we do have gaps in services. Prevention hasn't really been looked at. We talk about it, but there hasn't been a lot of focus on prevention. And so, with the NRS that we have to abide by, those are the type of things that would be helpful.

Jane Saint said that at the last meeting, we did talk about the possibility of putting together a statewide training. There was a lot of excitement about that, but when Dylan did present that idea to DCFS administration, that was not what they really wanted to hear. Jane and Dylan met last week and opted to pull back. Jane would like to see us put something forward that does not sound like we're attacking DCFS. That that's the last thing they need. They get attacked by everybody else in the state and she would like us to look at some positive things and spin it on the positive side on how we can help DCFS to provide better or even how they can get a better look and feel throughout the state.

Molly Blanchette noted that she has worked for DCFS before and participated in statewide planning efforts. Her question is, can DCFS provide us some information? When Dylan had the NRS up on the screen, it talked about understanding what's in the Data Book. She feels as a group we don't really have enough information to make a recommendation. She wants any recommendation to be something that DCFS needs to do and is helpful to the children and families and not just more sort of busy work. She doesn't know that we've really looked at preventing gaps in services. Can we get some information about that analysis in the Data Book? Can we get some information about that? That might be a great place for us to start. Then with all of our knowledge from our different positions in the community, we could maybe make a good recommendation.

Jane Saint said that is exactly what they are looking to do, and appreciated Molly's comments.

Dylan Nall said we can make a public information request. That's not a data request through DHHS, but we could recommend DCFS work with the national Citizen's Review Panel to get data to see what are the gaps in the services we need. This recommendation can be very simple and if we just start very simple and maybe ask for some data, that would be helpful in figuring out where we want to go with this group.

Jane Saint asked if we have to have the recommendation by the end of this meeting today? Could we meet with the DCFS administration to ask some of these questions? Here is what we are tasked with as part of this panel's work – what would DCFS like us to do? What would they like to see us come forward with? Can we ask that question of Administration?

Dylan Nall said she did not know, and asked Beverly Brown about this.

Beverly Brown thought what she heard from everyone is that because this is only the second meeting this group really hasn't had the ability yet to really look at any of the child

welfare services and really evaluate them. She said we can do one of two things. One is we could make a recommendation that DCFS work with this group on getting you all the data or whatever information it is that you need to really evaluate child welfare services in Nevada

Or we don't do a recommendation. She felt this group probably still needs to decide what it is that they want to focus on, because child welfare is a continuum; there's everything from prevention to removals to foster care, to adoption and permanency. We don't know what this group's interests are. We just know that this group is tasked with evaluating child welfare services, but it's up to you all what you want to focus on. We haven't really had enough meetings yet to have a focus to be able to give DCFS a solid recommendation. Which is why her brain goes to: you can have a recommendation that DCFS works with you and gets you guys the information that you need to really evaluate child welfare services when you decide what those areas are or hold off on doing a recommendation.

Caleb Bay thought it made sense to hold off until we get more information. He did want to throw out a couple potential areas of focus that have been on his mind. One is a potential recommendation around substantiating the role of foster, kinship, adoptive homes, because often the caregiving homes are not an official party to the case and are really limited in how they can support kids in care - substantiating that role to be a bigger part of the conversation, especially since often the caregivers know the kids best, and so being able to really have some tangible input in their care. Another potential focus is building up some of the systems of checks and balances. The case workers often have a lot of authority in the case, and it's very common to have bad experiences with case workers, and there's not a lot in place to check that and to loop in other team members and make sure decisions are being made in the best interest of the kids. Even as a licensed social worker, it is surprising to him how many roles within agencies don't require licensure or something where there's an external board supervising to make sure that decisions are ethical and in the best interest of the kids. So, building up some of that structure for checks and balances could be another area of improvement.

Jane Saint said she totally agreed with Caleb, but here again we have to proceed with caution because we have heard of those situations and want to make sure that it's a good working relationship for all those involved, because in the end, it's all about the kids.

Mike Wurm wondered if we could make sure that DHHS look at this group as a supportive committee there to help them. Could we ask them to come in and present the data that they have and their interpretation of the data and their strengths and weaknesses, and then from that, ask their guidance on which areas they would like us to focus on?

Jane Saint asked if the administrators would be willing to talk to us. Dylan Nall said we are in a really sweet spot if we want to talk about this because of Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) data, from our family service reviews, which are really intensive audits. We just finished one. We're getting ready to go into another next week, and we're going to have some data about where our weaknesses are. She doesn't hate the idea of presenting and providing this data. Dylan was actually talking to Beverly about this before, about providing data to this group about the CFSR, going through and explaining to everyone how it will say, for example, that we have 81% strength in timeliness of investigations or we have 45% in something else.

Beverly Brown said it's not a matter of whether the administrator will come and talk to you all. She thinks that the administrator would always be willing to come and talk to you all. She wondered if Jane was asking our administration to tell this group what they want us to focus on, not totally understanding what Jane was asking.

Jane Saint said there were two things. First, this committee is mandated to support administration with thoughts, recommendations, ideas. The second, as we talked about early in this conversation here, we're just in our second meeting, and don't really know enough of what we're doing to say, here are our recommendations.

Beverly Brown said she totally heard Jane on that. She said that she and Dylan have been managing Citizen Review Panel activities for multiple years and have a good idea of what the responsibilities are. They have also considered trying to bring someone in, possibly to present to this group from some other states that have citizen review panels, because the one difference is that, historically, our panels have always served a dual purpose. But this one, the sole purpose is being a review panel, right? So, they would really like someone to come and present to you all what we're going to try and do. She thought she and Dylan can help guide it and not necessarily have our administrator come in, and that they can get you all the data, and give you some ideas on stuff you want to look at and help you all that way.

Molly Blanchette thought it would be interesting for our group if Dylan and Beverly and the program people who really know the work could take and present about a big initiative like the Child and Family Services five- year plan. Also, what goes on with the CFSR that was talked about? What are the safety related items we could get some information about? Molly was also thinking about the Department of Justice investigation and what opportunity for prevention will there be as Medicaid works on their five-year deal with the Department of Justice in response to that investigation? She wasn't sure if everyone on here knows about that, but getting us some information about that would be really helpful. Which ones do we want to dive into and understand data about and then make a recommendation from there?

Jane saint said that was a good point and the elephant in the room is what's happening in Washington. She understands there are going to be some freezes in federal funding. How much is that going to impact the State level?

Dylan Nall set forth what she thought she was hearing from everybody really fast to make sure that we summarize it. The panel wants a presentation on the State's five-year plan and also about the CFSR. She agreed this is all very new. She has to submit a federal report and will say in it this was only the second meeting and that is why we do not have a recommendation from this committee. Jane Saint asked if there had to be a recommendation at a certain date. Dylan said it was OK, as this is a new committee. We are planning to have one next year. By this panel wanting to get data and information and then also maybe some other state can come talk about their citizen review panels, then new year (next January) we can be able to really effectively write a recommendation.

Caleb Bay wanted to clarify that next year is when there will be a recommendation. Dylan answered, yes, we do them yearly. These are yearly ones that the other group that she's part of, the Children's Justice Act Task Force, write. This task force prioritizes money for training, and so the task force really wanted to make sure that we are continuing to prioritize money for training, so that child welfare staff can get that information. That's what those recommendations are set for yearly. But since everyone's brand new on this panel, and we are trying to figure out where we want to go, we are just saying no to the recommendation and then getting some information.

Molly Blanchette moved that we forego creating a recommendation at this time in an effort to understand more about the needs and the purpose of the committee, the needs of the state, and the purpose of the committee. Stacie Dastrup seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. For Information: Discussion of Future Agenda Items – Jane Saint, Chair

Jane Saint said we definitely want to start getting some information so that we can provide recommendations for next year. What are we looking for? Our group is too small to break into subcommittees. She didn't want to do that. We don't need any more meetings.

Molly Blanchette reiterated her wish for the five-year DCFS plan and the DOJ investigation into Nevada and our compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act to be agenda items.

Jane Saint asked whom we can invite from another state or a couple states to provide what they do. Dylan Nall said she was not able to go to the national CRP conference in San Diego, but Jane and Jamesian Sanders did. Were there speakers they thought would be good? She knows California has a good CRP. Jamesian Sanders said, not right off the top of her head, but she will ask April Stahl. Jane Saint seconded the idea of California, and said Texas has a robust child welfare system, with a large Children's Commission which meets quarterly for three days.

Beverly Brown said one thing we can do is reach out to the national CRP and see what they can offer or maybe they have a state that they would recommend that they think are doing very well.

Dylan Nall said the items brought up would be spread over a couple of sessions of this committee, to give adequate time for the presentations. The items are: five-year Child and Family Service plan; Child and Family Service Review (CFSR); Department of Justice Investigation; CRP representative from California; CRP representatives from Texas, and from its Children's Commission; National CRP representative to lead "CRP 101" session and recommend other state CRP representatives. Stacie Dastrup moved to approve the items. Mike Wurm seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

7. For Information: Member Announcements Regarding Their Agencies – Jane Saint, Chair

Molly Blanchette said Washoe County Human Services Agency just completed a CFSR review last week. They don't have results on that yet, but they will get some results put together and she could possibly bring those to the next meeting if folks are interested. Jane Saint asked, was it good, bad, indifferent, any surprises? Molly said they were working with the new Children's

Bureau team and ramping up to really start official reviews for the Child and Family Services Review process, which is a multi-year process. There were some hiccups, a little stressful, but they made it. Tomorrow they are de-briefing, and it should be good. She feels the new Children's Bureau team is really approachable, really knowledgeable, so that's exciting for us as a state to move forward.

Stacie Dastrup from Clark County Family Services said they have a new director, and he is from Florida. Getting him caught up on different initiatives, meeting a lot of the Community stakeholders. Jane Saint said she moved from Florida to Nevada 36 years ago and loves the lack of humidity.

**8. Final Public Comment Discussion Only: (Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for action at a later meeting)
- Jane Saint, Chair**

There were no comments.

9. Adjournment – Jane Saint, Chair

Meeting adjourned at 9:48.