

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Richard Whitley
Director

Statewide Citizen Review Panel

Division of Child and Family Services- Family Programs Office

Dylan Nall

January 28, 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 860245579#. 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 Vote to Approve- *Salli Kerr, Chair*

- Consideration, Discussion and Possible Vote to Approve Statewide Citizen Review Panel October 29, 2024 Meeting Minutes



For Possible Action

5. For Possible Approval– *Salli Kerr, Chair*

- 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.



For Possible Action

6. For Possible Approval– *Salli Kerr, Chair*

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



For Information

7. For Information– *Salli Kerr, Chair*

- Member Announcements Regarding Their Agencies



Final Public Comment

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.)

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Adjournment

9. Adjournment- *Salli Kerr-Chair*

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

MINUTES

Statewide Citizen’s Review Panel

October 29, 2024

9:00am

1. Call to Order – Dylan Nall, DCFS

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM. Dylan Nall explained that in future the meeting would be run by the chair or vice-chair, but as this is the initial meeting, she would run it.

Members Present:

Name	Organization
April Stahl	Division of Child and Family Services
Caleb Bay	Children’s Cabinet
Devan Bartmus	WCSD
Jane Saint	Serving Our Kids
Kim Coats	Nevada CASA
Lauren Pow	Children’s Cabinet
Laurie Jackson	Division of Child and Family Services
Mike Worm	Boys and Girls Club Truckee Meadows
Molly Blanchett	Washoe County
Salli Kerr	Western Regional Children’s Advocacy Center
Sara Velasquez	Division of Child and Family Services
Wonswayla Mackey	Clark County

Staff Support:

Name	Organization
Dylan Nall	Division of Child and Family Services

2. Introductions, Roll Call – Dylan Nall, DCFS

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) – Dylan Nall, DCFS

There was no comment.

4. For Information: Discussion about the role and purpose of the Panel – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Dylan Nall put up a slide outlining the Role and Purpose of the Panel:

Purpose: A committee of volunteer members who are broadly representative of the community; including, members who have expertise in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. The Panel will evaluate the child welfare services provided to Nevada's children and families with a goal of making recommendations aimed at improving child welfare at state and local levels.

Responsibilities:

1. Make recommendations regarding child welfare policy. The Panel may submit to policymakers proposed improvements consistent with its mission or recommendations, in order to make a recommendation on a policy issue the matter must be presented to and approved by the Panel.
2. Ensure effective planning. The Panel must actively participate in periodic planning processes and assist in implementing and monitoring resulting recommendations as detailed in section 4.4.
3. Build a competent Panel. The Panel is responsible for articulating candidate prerequisites, orientation for new members, and periodically and comprehensively evaluating its performance.
4. Ensure ethical integrity. The Panel is ultimately responsible for adherence to ethical norms of conduct. The Panel members should recognize and disclose conflicts of interest.
5. Enhance the organization's public standing. The Panel should clearly articulate the mission, accomplishments, and goals to the public and garner support from the community.
6. Participate in The Panel's meetings. All Panel members must attend quarterly meetings, regularly and attempt to exercise proxy options as appropriate for known absences.

7. Actively contribute skills, expertise, and knowledge to The Panel. Members must serve on committees and working groups as needed. Members should attend professional development programs relevant to The Panel purpose and goals.

Dylan remarked that the purpose of this is the volunteer members who broadly represent the community, including members who have expertise in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. We will evaluate child welfare services provided to Nevada's children's and families with the goal of making recommendations aimed at improving child welfare state at local levels, so we definitely have some people across the state of Nevada, which is great. We have some southern representatives, some rural representatives, and then Washoe County, and so that would be state and local levels for everybody. So, we have some responsibilities, making recommendation regarding child welfare policy. The state does an oversight policy in the family programs office and we want more of the public to have discussion around policy because you guys are definitely the people who are the front people who deal with the children every day, and so the panel may submit to policymakers proposed improvements consistent with its mission. In order to make recommendations on policy issues, the matter must be presented and approved by the panel and then ensure executive planning. The panel must actively participate in a periodic planning

process, and then build a competent panel so the panel is responsible for articulating candidate prerequisites and orientation for new members, and periodically comprehensively evaluate its performance. That's mostly Dylan's job. Have a friend or co-worker or anyone that you think would be beneficial go through her and she would let them make sure that this would be a good fit for them. We have to ensure ethical integrity. We have to make sure we're adhering to ethical norms in conduct and we are disclosing any conflict of interest. There are going to be quarterly meetings. Obviously, if we don't have quorum, we would have to reschedule the meeting. We need to meet quarterly per CAPTA, which is the Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act. You're more than welcome to use proxies as necessary as well for absences and then actively contribute skilled expertise and knowledge to the panel. Members must serve on committees and working groups as needed. Members should also attend professional development programs related to the panel's purpose and goals. We may do some subcommittees. The Children's Justice Act (CJA) task force has subcommittees for things that we need to get done, and then we come back in the large committee. It's just an easier way to get things done and then present it to the large committee.

Dylan put up another slide:

The Panel also serves as one of the three required Citizens Review Panels (CRP) authorized by CAPTA Section 106(c)(4)(A)(i) and NRS 342B.396. The purpose of CRPs is to contribute to improving child protective services at the state and local levels. CRPs may function as a part of other committees already in existence. Also, CRPs can determine how to proceed, identifying projects or activities that interest and best support each CRP's areas of expertise. The CRPs assist DCFS and local county agencies to continually assess the services provided to Nevada children and families by:

1. Examining the policies, procedures, and practices of State and local child protection agencies.
2. Reviewing specific cases, where appropriate and consistent with section 106(c)(4)(A)(iii) of CAPTA.
3. Examine other criteria that it considers important to ensure the protection of children, including the extent to which the State and local CPS system is coordinated with the title IV-E foster care and adoption assistance programs of the Social Security Act.
4. This provision also authorizes the CRPs to review the child fatalities and near fatalities in the State.

There were no questions or comments.

5. For Possible Action: Consideration, Discussion and Possible Vote to approve nominees for the Panel Chair and Vice-Chair – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Salli Kerr said she would like to nominate Jane Saint. Jane said she was just now learning her new job – maybe in six months? Salli spoke about her own role as CJA chair. Dylan's team does a lot of background work and a fantastic job with keeping us in line and giving us briefings and making sure we're covering stuff. The opportunity to get additional learning as leaders through being able to go

to conferences and take trainings as the Chair and Co-chair is invaluable. There's opportunity for a couple of folks to step forward and it's worth not only your time, but Dylan really does make it painless. She added that she would be willing to be vice-chair and supportive in that role if someone is nominated as chair. Caleb Bay said he might be interested, but did not know if he could commit to three years. Dylan said she understood. She always prepares a brief for the chair and the deputy attorney general also helps things run smoothly. Jane Saint noted the next meeting is not until January 28. Perhaps she and Salli Kerr could fill their familiar roles while others are groomed to take over. Dylan said she was fine with that; there could be two vice-chairs until next October and Caleb could learn as one of the vice-chairs during that time. Jane Saint said that she would accept nomination as chair for one year.

The motion was made for Jane Saint to be chair for one year, and Salli Kerr and Caleb Bay vice-chairs. These will be one-year terms. Approved unanimously.

6. For Possible Action: Consideration, Discussion and Possible Vote to approve upcoming quarterly meeting dates for 2025 – Dylan Nall, DCFS

There are proposed dates for January 28th at 9:00 AM, April 29th at 9:00 AM, July 29th at 9:00 AM and October 28th at 9:00 AM. All are Tuesdays. Jane Saint moved for approval, Wonswayla Mackey seconded.

7. For Information: Discussion of future agenda items – Dylan Nall, DCFS

This item was skipped and the meeting moved on the next agenda item.

8. For Information: Discussion regarding planning a Statewide Child Maltreatment Conference – Dylan Nall, DCFS

Dylan noted that she and April Stahl both work for the Division of Child and Family Services, and the Family Programs Office, and she is the CPS specialist and April is the Child Death Review and Child Fatality Specialist. They have been discussing a statewide child maltreatment conference for Nevada. It would be helpful if this group would help plan it and look at possibly doing a statewide conference within this group and then broadening it out to our great state of Nevada for the people who serve our children. With this child maltreatment conference, we would like to start off small, probably virtual because that way we can get people all over the state to come and then maybe broaden out into a larger area, maybe Vegas one year and then the next year maybe do something in Reno and then in the rural region. When April looks at the near fatalities and fatalities, we've come to see a pattern with some diabetes mismanagement and some other things that we can definitely improve as a state and we think with the help of getting other agencies involved in maybe this child maltreatment conference, we can be able to get the whole state together to help serve our children and help to prevent this from happening.

April Stahl said she comes from Alaska where she was with Child Protective Services there for over 18 years and one of the things that has been readily available to child protection agencies to help staff is a child maltreatment conference. Generally, those child maltreatment conferences include folks that are at multidisciplinary centers, the child advocacy centers, law enforcement, everyone that's really tasked with child safety. What has become a concern for her is that Nevada doesn't offer that. We have to provide better training for our CPS staff that are doing this work. So that's really where this is originating from. She would love to be able to join a subcommittee that's going to talk about the scheduling of this so she can share her findings, and what she and Dylan have been talking about for the past year. So that gives you a little more idea about who it is targeted for and why.

Jane Saint asked where the funding would come from. Dylan answered, from the CAPTA grant. Jane asked if various groups could pool their resources and sponsor this? Dylan said, yes. That's why she invited April to this meeting. As coordinator for CJA and then the coordinator for this panel, we could put those together with Child Death Review. Dylan had to present this first here and then in January present it to our CJA Task force.

Mike Worm said he had not been involved in a conference like this. Were there past examples? Dylan talked about one in West Virginia they do in October, though it had to be cancelled this year. It is called Handle with Care. They bring in law enforcement, prosecutors, have talks about self-care for providers, etc. She will find the agenda from the last one she attended. April Stahl said that ideally at any other conference that you go to, there's larger sessions that are sort of an overarching training for everyone, but then there would be different breakout tracks. So, one of the things that's she thinks really important for folks to know is that there's not a pediatric child abuse specialist here in Nevada, which is a huge issue, which is something she's tackling in another subcommittee. The conference would cover things for case workers, like what are patterned injuries and how do you determine them? How do you have that conversation with district attorneys? With law enforcement, how can we work together for prosecution and also keeping kids safe?

Because a lot of this work is interdependent, and the legal culture definitely impacts CPS culture. So, it is really educating all of the folks that would be coming to this. April thinks she has participated in five or six child maltreatment conferences in Alaska. We want to be very specific that this is for the folks doing the hard work to make sure we're keeping kids safe. Forensic nurses that attend, they would be able to get CEUs. Same with social workers.

Dylan Nall pulled up a Handle with Care agenda from 2020. For example, they had empathetic verbal skills for de-escalating youth in crisis confirmation, dealing with imperfect parents in the family court, tricks of the trade of offenders and perpetrators, victims and sex trafficking, working with Guardian at Litems and court appointed special advocates.

Salli Kerr said that April is right, that Alaska conference is amazing, but we do have access to multiple agendas to review what we want to set up, like expert speakers we can bring in. She would be happy to serve on that subcommittee that's working on the conference.

Wonswayla Mackey said for the record she wanted to provide a little information. The other deputy at Clark County Family Services just met with Doctor Lasky and got some information with regards to

some child maltreatment and Children's Hospital is required to have a child abuse neglect specialist. She can definitely reach out to her and get more details. She would also be more than happy to help and participate in any planning.

Molly Blanchette said, if we're thinking about training the workforce, we won't be able to get our entire workforce to the conference. She wondered if it wouldn't be in our best interest to at least consider using those monies to create trainings that go on like our Partnership for Training, so that the whole entire workforce can take it and then it lives on. The other thing is, we have a new workforce all the time, so she just wonders if our concern is really training the workforce, what's the best way to do that? It might be a conference, or it might be creating asynchronous trainings on our Nevada Partnership for Training website that everyone is required to take.

April Stahl thought that was a great idea. That is that Dylan and several others are working on. These trainings need to be recorded and available to our staff that are coming on. But for the purposes of the conference, it's really bringing in the experts and again providing those CEUs in multiple tracks, that really point out the areas that we need to address. But there is something really special about being able to have our staff attend and be able to have that dialogue, and network and make those connections. But if we're able to offer it virtually, then we could do perhaps two sessions. If it's virtual, would we be able to do a couple sessions, have the agenda so staff can attend? Those are all things that we need to plan.

Dylan Nall thought that maybe in our January meeting doing more of a focus on discussing the planning of the statewide conference, or even having an agenda item to approve a subcommittee to start working on that. Does she think this is going to happen the next six months? Probably not. Hopefully, by the end of 2025, we could do it.

Jane Saint said she totally agrees that we need to proceed with this idea, and it would be very important for us to have a subcommittee and get more people involved. Dylan said the subcommittee would bring the ideas to the large committee for the final say. Since we are a Citizen's Review Panel, we will have to give DCFS a recommendation and at our next meeting that will be a future agenda item.

Mike Worm asked if there are opportunities for organizations like Boys and Girls Clubs in relation to the conference. Dylan said yes, and Mike could be part of getting information out to other organizations to have them on the conference. Devan Bartmus added that many teachers and counselors in the Washoe County School District are mandatory reporters and should be paired up with the conference.

9. For Information: Member Announcements – Dylan Nall, DCFS

There were no announcements.

10. 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 – Dylan Nall, DCFS

There was no final public comment.

11. Adjournment – Dylan Nall, DCFS

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM.