

NEVADA CITIZENS REVIEW PANEL ANNUAL REPORT

Calendar Year 2017

Submitted by

Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children

Children's Justice Act Task Force

*Clark County Department of Family Services Citizens Advisory
Committee*

Differential Response Steering Committee

*Nevada Coalition to Prevent the Commercial Exploitation of
Children*

To

Nevada Division of Child and Family Services

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Executive Summary

Public Law 104-234, Title I, Section 106, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) provides for a state grant program for the support and improvement of state Child Protective Systems (CPS). CAPTA requires that Nevada have at least three (3) Citizen Review Panels (CRP) to receive funding for child protection efforts. Citizen Review Panels review various aspects of the child protection system at the state and local levels. (See Appendix A).

Citizen Review Panels have diverse membership, including but not limited to, representatives from:

- Community Advocacy and Non-Profit Organizations
- Public Child Serving Agencies
- Law Enforcement
- Parent and Youth Leaders
- Court Systems including Attorneys and Judges
- Mental and Physical Health
- Education
- Public Health

A list of each panel's members and their affiliations are provided in [Appendix B](#).

Nevada has designated five (5) standing committees to serve as Citizen Review Panels. All Nevada Citizen Review Panels meet at least quarterly, and meetings are open to the public. Panels may make recommendations for training, policy or system improvements. They include the Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children, Children's Justice Act Task Force (CJA), Clark County Department of Family Services Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), Differential Response (DR) Steering Committee, and the Nevada Coalition for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC).

Panel Purpose and Activities

Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children

Purpose

The Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children is established through NRS 432B.406. It is a statewide group which provides coordination and oversight of local child death review teams. The Executive Committee meets quarterly, adopts statewide protocols for the review of child deaths, adopts regulations and complies and distributes a statewide annual report that includes statistics and recommendations to prevent child deaths as well as regulatory and policy changes. The multidisciplinary team is comprised of representations from local Child Death Review teams, law enforcement, mental health, child welfare, vital statistics and the office of the attorney general. The Executive Committee also provides funding for prevention activities statewide. In 2003, a law was passed in Nevada that places a one-dollar tax on death certificates. The money is used to fund child fatality review. This fee revenue sources fluctuates annually, but provides approximately \$117,000 per year for prevention activities.

Activities

- **Safe Sleep Awareness and Prevention Efforts.** A public awareness campaign was launched and included seminars and public outreach. One effort was an advertisement run statewide on grocery carts in stores. The advertisement had information regarding safe sleep practices and resources.
- **Crisis Call Center.** Text4life campaign has allowed the ability for clients to text the crisis call center, especially youth, who are more comfortable texting than talking on the phone.
- **The Nevada Reducing Access to Lethal Means Program.** The goals of this public awareness program will include expanding education to parents, public, gun shops, gun ranges, gun distributors, gun retailers, attendees of gun shows and all individuals who are gun-owners. Awareness and education efforts will include:
 - Understanding the risk of accidents and suicide associated with gun ownership and medications;
 - Accessibility to guns and medications by those faced with a crisis can be deadly;
 - The importance of making medications/guns inoperable and inaccessible to young people struggling with mental illness and/or going through a crisis;
 - Increasing knowledge on what to look for and how to help someone at risk for suicide.
- **Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in Nye County Schools for Upstream Suicide Prevention.** A collaboration has been formed between multiple community providers and state agencies to bring the Camp Make-Believe (CMB) Kids SEL program to

elementary schools in Nye County. Facilitated by the Nevada Office for Suicide Prevention and the Nevada Coalition for Suicide Prevention, this collaboration has designed an implementation and rigorous evaluation strategy that will help to increase evidence for the effectiveness of CMB Kids. This collaboration will provide the CMB Kids curriculum and training to four (4) elementary schools in Pahrump, measure social emotional competencies using validated instruments, and establish a plan for sustainable program implementation and expansion in future years.

Children’s Justice Act Task Force (CJA)

Purpose

The Nevada Children’s Justice Act (CJA) Task Force was established in 1994 as a requirement of Section 107(a) of the Child Abuse and Treatment Act (P.L. 111-320) to receive an annual grant to improve child protection services in the State. The CJA Task Force is a multidisciplinary team with 14 unique disciplines represented.

The CJA Task Force is charged with developing, establishing, and operating programs designed to improve the assessment and investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect cases with a special emphasis on sexual abuse and exploitation, child fatalities, and cases involving children with disabilities or serious health-related problems who are suspected victims of child abuse or neglect. It is also charged with investigation and prosecution of cases and child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse/exploitation involving a potential combination of jurisdictions such as: intrastate, interstate, Federal-State, and State-Tribal. The CJA grant funds multidisciplinary training, policy development, and pilot programs.

Activities

- **Support the Development of a Model Coordinated Response Toolkit.** The CJA Task Force provided funding for the Nevada Coalition for the Prevention of the Commercial Exploitation of Children to begin developing a Model Coordinated Response Toolkit. The toolkit will assist jurisdictions in developing multidisciplinary teams and task forces to respond to child victims of sex trafficking.
- **Forensic Interview Training.** A four (4) day training on basic Forensic Interviewing was provided by CornerHouse, in the Rural Region, to tribal, law enforcement and child welfare professionals representing 18 agencies and tribes.
- **Training for Mediators.** Collaborated with the Court Improvement Program to provide funding for a 40-hour training for Dependency Mediators and an 8-hour training on domestic violence.

Clark County Department of Family Services Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Purpose

The Citizen Advisory Committee was established in 2002 through Ordinance 2782§2 to serve as a liaison between the community and the Clark County Department of Family Services (DFS). The purpose of the Citizens Advisory Committee is to identify and communicate to DFS important social service issues and service requirements regarding client services. This committee offers perspective on services provided and how to best meet the needs of families that utilize Family Service Resources. The Advisory Committee examines areas of focus along the full continuum of child welfare and initiates recommendations forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners.

Activities

- **Prevention & Family Preservation.** The Citizens Advisory Committee initiatives called for a collaboration with DFS and other community stakeholders in strengthening family and community engagement.
- **Mental Health Services.** The Citizens Advisory Committee initiatives included strengthening mental health services for children and families.
- **Childhood Education.** In order to advocate for and collaborate with DFS as a voice for children in the educational system, the Citizens Advisory Committee established an educational liaison/point of contact with the Clark County School District.

Differential Response (DR) Steering Committee

Purpose

The Differential Response (DR) Steering Committee is a collaboration between child welfare agencies and community based service providers to oversee the differential response programs throughout the State. Differential Response (DR) provides an alternate response to screened-in reports of child abuse and neglect where there are no identified safety issues and services can be provided in the community. DR is housed within Family Resource Centers (FRC) statewide. The DR Steering Committee is committed to the improvement of DR practices and policies.

Activities

- **Safety and Nevada Child Welfare Training.** The DR Steering Committee confirmed that all DR supervisors and staff have received the safety training provided by Action for Child Protection. The Nevada Child Welfare Training Academy remains the standard for workers with child welfare and DR agencies. DR agencies and CPS coordinate ongoing trainings.

- **Technical Assistance from Capacity Building Center for States.** The Center produced a report based on contacts with DR and CPS and made recommendations. A pilot was suggested based on this technical assistance.
- **Child and Family Services Review.** Differential Response is now included in the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). As a result, DR providers were given an overview of the CFSR, and provided training on how to improve documentation. A “Case Review Preparation Check List” has been developed for the DR agencies. It was discovered during this training that while the agencies were developing case plans, the families were not being given a copy for their own records.

Nevada Coalition for the Prevention of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

Purpose

Nevada Coalition to Prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC Coalition) was established in May 2016 via Executive Order to prepare a comprehensive Statewide Strategic Plan and recommendations on how to address the Sex Trafficking Provisions of Public Law 113-183, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, including but not limited to, the following:

- Aligning efforts by promoting strategic and coordinated services for victims at the state, county, local and tribal levels.
- Improving understanding by expanding and coordinating child sex trafficking-related research and evaluations to support evidence-based victim services.
- Expanding access to services by providing outreach, training and technical assistance to increase victim identification and expand the availability of services.
- Improving outcomes by promoting effective, culturally-appropriate, trauma-informed services that improve the short and long-term health, safety and well-being of child victims.
- Developing public awareness campaigns to better inform communities across Nevada about the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Activities

- **Strategic Plan.** The CSEC Coalition approved the goals and objectives of its strategic plan which includes development and implementation of a Model Coordinated Response Protocol (MCRP) Toolkit to be used by agencies and jurisdictions to respond to the needs of child victims of sex trafficking. Subcommittees are each working on components of the MCRP.
- **Guiding Principles.** Expanded guiding principles have been drafted and approved by CSEC to reinforce the Executive Order creating the CSEC Coalition.

- **Annual Report.** The CSEC Coalition submitted its first [CSEC Annual Report](#) to the governor in October 2017. The report outlines the CSEC Coalition's strategic plan and the work of its subcommittees.
- **Prevention Guide.** The Prevention Subcommittee which is comprised of faith-based, non-government agencies, community providers, and State and local agencies worked on a comprehensive prevention guide that will provide strategies and resources for communities, churches, parents, schools, youth, and businesses to conduct prevention activities.

CRP Recommendations

Recommendation 1: It is recommended DCFS develop a plan to implement the Model Coordinated Response Protocol (MCRP) being developed by the Nevada Coalition to Prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children to respond to child victims of sex trafficking.

Recommendation 2: It is recommended that the Infant Mortality COIIN's full safe sleep change package which includes a collection of evidenced based strategies to improve safe sleep practices be reviewed to provide input into safe sleep prevention activities in Nevada.

Recommendation 3: It is recommended DCFS collaborate with Division of Public and Behavioral Health to implement the CSEC prevention guide.

APPENDIX A: OVERVIEW OF NEVADA CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS

Federal Requirements

As outlined in Public Law 104-235, Title I, Section 106, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) provides for a state grant program for the support and improvement of state child protective services (CPS) systems. This law sets forth a variety of eligibility requirements, including the establishment of citizen review panels. The purpose of the panels is “to provide new opportunities for citizens to play an integral role in ensuring that states are meeting their goals of protecting children from abuse and neglect.”

The citizen review panel (CRP) system within a given state must meet certain operational requirements and meet a scope of responsibilities within the function of the panel. These are outlined as follows:

Scope of Responsibilities

Each CRP is required to review the compliance of State and local CPS agencies in the fulfillment of their responsibilities with respect to the following:

- Work in accordance with the CAPTA State Plan;
- Examine State and local policies and procedures;
- Review specific cases, when appropriate; and
- Review other criteria the panel determines important to the protection of children, including the extent to which State CPS system is coordinated with the Title IV-E foster care and adoption assistance programs and the review of child fatalities and near fatalities.

State Requirements

As Part of the CAPTA requirements, states are required to codify CRPs through state law. In Nevada, this was completed with the passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 158 during the 1999 legislative session. During 2001, NRS 432B.369 was amended as a result of AB 248 to establish civil sanctions for violations of confidentiality on the part of the CRP members. This amendment includes additional language highlighted in subsection two as follows:

1. *Establish a panel comprise of volunteer members to evaluate the extent to which agencies which provide child welfare services are effectively discharging their responsibilities for the protection of children.*
2. *Adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of subsection 1 which must include, without limitation, the imposition of appropriate restrictions on the disclosure of information obtained by the panel and civil sanctions for the violation of those restrictions. The civil sanctions may provide for the imposition in appropriate cases of a civil penalty of not*

more than \$500. The Division may bring an action to recover any civil penalty imposed and shall deposit any money recovered with the State Treasurer for credit to the State General Fund.

APPENDIX B: PANEL MEMBERS

Child Death Review Executive Committee

MEMBER NAME	AFFLIATION
Michelle Sandoval	Division of Public and Behavioral Health
Misty Allen	OSP
Sharon Benson	State Attorney General's Office
Melissa Cunning-Faul	Division of Child and Family Services
Natalie Guesman	Clark County Department of Family Services
Lt Andy Rasor	Nevada Highway Patrol
Andrea Rivers	Division of Public and Behavioral Health
Michael Cason	Division of Child and Family Services
Kelli Weishaupt	Division of Child and Family Services
Sherri Cline	Washoe County Human Services Agency
Tammi Williamson	Washoe County Human Services Agency
Sherry Connell	Division of Public and Behavioral Health
Brandy Holbrook	Division of Child and Family Services
Jill Marano	Clark County Department of Family Services
Reesha Powell	Division of Child and Family Services
Jeanne Marsh	Washoe County Human Services Agency

Children's Justice Act Task Force

MEMBER NAME	MEMBERSHIP DESIGNATION
Eric Ramos	Law Enforcement
Mike Montero	Criminal Court Judge
Karen Sabo	Civil Court Judge
Sharon Benson	Prosecuting Attorney
Jennifer Rains	Defense Attorney
Janice Wolf	Child Advocate/Attorney for Children
Sheila Parks	Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
Jan Houk	Health Professional
Jennifer McCoombs	Mental Health Professional
Betsey Crumrine	Child Protective Services
Fran Maldonado	Individual Experienced in Working with Children with Disabilities
Char Frost	Parent/Representative of Parent Group
Salli Kerr	Individual Experienced in Working with Homeless Children and Youth

Clark County Citizens Advisory Committee

MEMBER NAME	AFFLIATION
Rabbi Craig Rosenstein	Foster and Adoptive Parents
Susan Sernoe	Clark County School District
Patrice Tew	Child Welfare Advocates
Matthew Cox	Child Welfare Advocates
Andre Bailey	General Public
Judge Frank Sullivan	Local Juvenile Probation Services
Dashun Jackson (Chair)	Youth with Foster Care Experience
Crystal Bomar	General Public
Sheila Parks	Court Appointed Special Advocate
Dr. Lisa Morris-Hibbler (Deputy Chair)	Parent Advocates
Dr. Bree Marie Mullin (Vice Chair)	Private Providers of Mental Health

Differential Response

MEMBER NAME	AFFLIATION
Alma Spears	Boys & Girls Club of Southern Nevada
Anna Coons	Lyon County Human Services
John Bryant	Washoe County Human Services Agency
Wylie Evanson	Washoe County School District FRC
Hayley Jarolimek	Division of Child and Family Services
Jessica Barris	East Valley Family Services FRC
Jolie Courtney	Clark County Department of Family Services
Joyce Buckingham	Ron Wood FRCE
Kristen Monibi	Washoe County Human Services Agency
Kristin Patterson	HopeLink FRC
Laura Steeps	Olive Crest
Patrick White	Children's Cabinet
Salli Kerr	Nevada Outreach Training Organization

Nevada Coalition to Prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

MEMBER NAME	MEMBERSHIP DESIGNATION
Hon. Justice Nancy Saitta(Ret.)	Chair of CSEC Coalition
Kelly Wooldridge	Co-Chair of CSEC Coalition
John Munoz	Deputy Administrator of DCFS Juvenile Services
Katherine Malzahn-Bass	Coordinator of the Court Improvement Program
Hon. William Voy	Judge of dependency courts, juvenile courts and/or rural district courts

MEMBER NAME	MEMBERSHIP DESIGNATION
Hon. Egan Walker	Judge of dependency courts, juvenile courts and/or rural district courts
Hon. Nathan Young	Judge of dependency courts, juvenile courts and/or rural district courts
Linda Anderson	Office of Nevada Attorney General
Sharon Benson	Office of Nevada Attorney General
Nicole O'Banion	Office of Nevada Attorney General
Hon. Teresa Benitez-Thompson	Nevada State Assembly
Hon. Patricia Farley	Nevada State Senate
Peter Craanen	State and federal law enforcement agencies including the FBI and Nevada Department of Public Safety
Elynnne Greene	State and federal law enforcement agencies including the FBI and Nevada Department of Public Safety
Jim Wright	State and federal law enforcement agencies including the FBI and Nevada Department of Public Safety
Brigid Duffy	County District Attorney
Jeff Martin	County District Attorney
Gianna Verness	County District and State Public Defenders Office
Paula Hammack	Local Departments of Social Services
Alice LeDesma	Local Departments of Social Services
Reesha Powell	Local Departments of Social Services
Kim Yaeger	Nevada Trucking Association
Janice Wolf	Non-Profit Legal Aid Center
Amber Reid	Nevada Department of Education
Paula Smith	Nevada Indian Tribe
Lawrence Howell	Community-based organization that provides services to child sex trafficking victims
Dr. Alexis Kennedy	Nevada System of Higher Education
Kathleen Teipner Sandoval	Mental Health Service Providers
Amy Ayoub	Victims and Survivors and/or family members of victims and survivors of child sex trafficking
John "Jack" Martin	Local Department of Juvenile Justice Services
Frank Cervantes	Local Department of Juvenile Justice Services