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**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
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Ross Armstrong
Administrator

Date: 06/03/2021

To: Statewide Citizen Review Panels (CRP)

From: Ross E. Armstrong, Administrator

Re: Response to the Citizens Review Panel(s) 2020 Recommendations

The Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) has the following responses to the recommendations made by the Citizens Review Panel(s) for Calendar Year 2020.

Recommendation 1: It is recommended that the DCFS identify ways in which wraparound services can be provided to families who have a youth that may have suicidal ideation. Additionally, best practice would be to refer a family, and the services started as soon as possible to prevent more youth from dying by suicide.

Response: *DCFS accepts this recommendation and will partner with other agencies, develop a list of providers, and recommend the local child welfare jurisdictions establish procedures when a youth may have suicidal ideation to ensure the youth's safety and that the youth is referred to services in a timely manner. DCFS child welfare will:*

- *Partner with DCFS Mobile Crisis Response Team {MCRT} to learn about their process for referring families to service providers;*
- *Partner with Wraparound in Nevada to learn more about what the program offers and if they can be a service provider for families with youth with suicidal ideation;*
- *Develop a list of providers who are able to provide services to families on an emergency basis;*
and
- *Request the child welfare agencies develop procedures for child welfare staff to follow when a youth may have suicidal ideation.*

Recommendation 2: It is recommended that the DCFS partner with sister agencies to provide education to parents/caregivers on how to look for signs of suicidal ideation and keep their child safe once suicidal ideation/signs have been identified. This includes, but is not limited to, appropriate firearm safety/storage, medication safety/storage, and other potential means.

Response: *DCFS accepts this recommendation. DCFS will continue to partner with sister agencies to provide education for parents/caregivers. DCFS has already partnered with the Office of Suicide Prevention and Children's Behavioral Health who have produced a packet of resources to distribute to local agencies. DCFS will continue this partnership which will allow any new and/or relevant information to be distributed when appropriate. Clark County's Child Death Review Team has previously reached out to gun shop owners within Clark County to provide brochures about proper gun storage and training. Through the Executive Committee to review the death of children, DCFS will monitor the progress of this activity and consider implementation statewide. DCFS will explore the ability for child welfare agencies to provide gun safety locks, gun safes, and/or medication lockboxes to distribute to families that may need them.*

Recommendation 3: It is recommended that the DCFS partner with sister agencies and other community providers as appropriate to increase evidence based public awareness around Safe Sleep and Water Safety in an effort to prevent unsafe sleep and drowning deaths.

Response: *DCFS accepts this recommendation. DCFS will continue to partner with sister agencies. DCFS intends to explore development of public service announcements to increase the education around Safe Sleep environments and Water Safety. DCFS through Executive Committee to review the death of children will:*

- Award funding to agencies that prioritize Safe Sleep;
- Partner with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)'s Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health to promote the National Safe Sleep Awareness in October which could include public awareness campaigns and educational resources;
- Partner with Cribs for Kids to ensure all hospitals in the state have a Safe Sleep educational program; and
- Explore how to increase public awareness regarding water safety and water competency and/or form partnerships with relevant agencies that can assist with this goal

Recommendation 4: It is recommended that the DCFS continue to prioritize training that will improve the investigative process of handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, including, but not limited to child protection model assessments, domestic violence, mandatory reporting, and trauma-informed practices.

Response: DCFS accepts this recommendation. The Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force continues to prioritize funding for various trainings. The CJA recently approved funding for child welfare staff and stakeholders to attend the following trainings:

- the Child Welfare League of America Conference;
- Child Abuse and Family Summit;
- Forensic Interview training provided by the National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC); and
- Domestic violence training that will address the risk and protective factors for families.

Additionally, the Child Welfare/ Human Services Training workgroup on domestic violence recommended trauma-informed training, instruction on proper completion or interpretation of intimate partner violence and domestic violence assessments and understanding model protocols for identifying and responding to high lethality risk domestic violence situations for child welfare staff. Nevada recognizes the need for further training and education about domestic violence. Child Welfare agencies need a program or model that can be integrated with Nevada's current child welfare practice model. Nevada is going to send out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a domestic violence model that can be integrated with Nevada's current child welfare practices. DCFS is also exploring the establishment of a mandatory reporter training platform that would standardize mandated reporting in Nevada, improve reporting of and prevent child abuse and neglect.