

CITIZENS REVIEW PANEL ANNUAL REPORT

Calendar Year 2018

Submitted by

Child Death Review Executive Committee

Children's Justice Act Task Force

*Clark County Department of Family Services
Citizens Advisory 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 are to review various aspects of the child protection system at the state and local levels and make recommendations for improvements. (See Appendix A).

Panels include members with expertise in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect and 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 four (4) standing committees to serve as CRP's. All Nevada CRP's meet at least quarterly and meetings adhere to Open Meeting Law. Panels may make recommendations for training, policy or system improvements. Nevada CRPs include the:

- Child Death Review Executive Committee (CDR) which provides coordination and oversight of local child death review teams;
- Children's Justice Act Task Force (CJA), which is charged with developing, establishing, and operating programs designed to improve the assessment, investigation and prosecution of suspected child abuse and neglect;
- Clark County Department of Family Services Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) which identifies and communicates perspectives on services provided and how to best meet the needs of families that utilize the Clark County Department of Family Services; and
- Nevada Coalition for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) which fosters collaboration and coordination among agencies to improve the capacity to identify and provide services to commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC).

Panel Purpose and Activities

Child Death Review Executive Committee (CDR)

Purpose

Nevada makes every effort to reduce the number of preventable child fatalities and near fatalities through prevention messaging, training and other initiatives. Nevada's child fatality review process includes local multi-disciplinary teams reviewing all deaths of children, ages 0-17 years of age, within their own communities and making recommendations to the Child Death Review Executive Committee (CDR). The CDR is established through NRS 432B.408 It is a multidisciplinary team, which provides coordination and oversight of local child death review teams. The CDR meets quarterly, adopts statewide protocols for the review of child deaths 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 representatives from local CDR teams, law enforcement, mental health, child welfare, vital statistics and the office of the attorney general. In 2003, Nevada passed a law placing a one-dollar tax on death certificates, which is used to fund child death reviews. Revenue accrued from this fee fluctuates annually but provides approximately \$117,000 per year.

Activities

- **Babies Bounty: Safe Sleep and Baby Basics Seminars**

This program provided safe sleep classes along with cribs and safe sleep survival kits. Classes were offered in multiple locations in Clark County as well as bus passes to encourage participation for a total of 71 classes with 248 participants. A video of the class was produced and placed on the Cribs4Kids website. Safe sleep education was introduced into nursing programs at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) School of Nursing, Roseman University of Health Sciences and Nevada State College.

Statistics for 3-month follow up for the program:

- 91.2% of clients were still using the pack-and-play cribs.
- 91.2% were placing babies on their backs to sleep.
- 87.3% kept the crib empty while the baby slept.
- 97.1% were not leaving their infant alone on a sofa or bed.
- 100% of clients were not allowing people to smoke around babies.
- 83.1% of clients have discussed safe sleep practices with childcare providers.

Statistics for 12-month follow-up:

- 85.7% of clients were still using the pack-and-play cribs.
- 95% were placing babies on their backs to sleep.
- 84.2% kept the crib empty while the baby slept.
- 100% were not leaving their infant alone on a sofa or bed.
- 100% of clients were not allowing people to smoke around babies.
- 93.3% of clients have discussed safe sleep practices with childcare providers.

- **Crisis Call Center**

The Text4life campaign has allows clients to text the crisis call center. This is especially helpful to youth who are more comfortable texting than talking on the phone. In nine months, 1,091 Nevada youth contacts were made. Of those, 117 were ages 12 and under while 974 were ages 13 – 17 years old. All 1,091 contacts called about multiple issues; there were no calls with single issues. The average number of issues per call was 1.8. Crisis issues included the following:

- Suicide: 435
- Reported abuse: 276
- Basic needs: 86
- Physical and mental health: 480
- Relationships: 597
- Substance use and addiction: 94

Of the 1,091 calls, Crisis Call was able to de-escalate 746 calls while 334 showed no change. Escalation continued in 11 of the calls resulting in follow-up care referrals. Calls were generated regionally as follows: 53% from Clark County, 37% from Washoe County, and 10% from the Rural counties.

- **Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association Program: safeTALK**

The goal of safeTALK is to provide kits and training to 1,000 law enforcement agency (LEA) staff and first responders. Training was provided to 400 first responders and approximately 100 LEA professionals. The program produced videos for Living Works International in collaboration with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD). These videos consist of eight vignettes illustrating specific scenarios related to firearm safety, and suicide prevention. These videos will be part of international training provided through Living Works International.

- **Desert Rose Counseling**

Desert Rose Counseling partnered with Integrated Telehealth Solutions to provide emergency mental health services, including crisis intervention for children and adults. The program targets high-risk populations including youth discharged from hospitals, jails, and shelters. In 2017, the program served just under 1,000 clients with 100% success rate of suicide prevention, 80% of which had no subsequent attempts within the following year. The objective of the program includes providing mobile transitional services with prompt assessment of situational risk. The program aims to leverage technology to increase program impact and reduce gaps in services between urban and rural communities. Lack of youth engagement with mental health treatment as well as lack of providers in the state are issues that are being addressed.

- **NICRP/PCA Nevada**

The Nevada Institute for Children’s Research and Policy (NICRP), in partnership with the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (CAN Prevention) and other community organizations, received funding to organize a statewide conference to raise awareness regarding maltreatment prevention and safety activities.

- **Renown Children’s Health Initiative/SAFE Kids**

This program serves as the SAFE KIDS lead agency in Washoe County. The goal is to increase partnerships and efforts to address teen problems including bullying, suicide, distracted driving, and substance abuse. Through a partnership with the Washoe County Health District (WCHD) a community health improvement plan was developed. Primary areas of focus include mental health and substance abuse. In particular, the program is focused on the rising rates of suicide, especially among Latino populations. The development of culturally competent materials and training is a priority. Last year, contact was made with 27,000 children and 24,000 were served in the pediatric emergency room.

- **Immunize Nevada- Healthy Young Nevada**

Based on stakeholder feedback that centralized resource information was needed for Nevada youth (tweens, teens and young adults) related to health and other issues in a one-stop, easy-to-access location, the Healthy Young NV website <https://healthyyoungnv.org/> was established. Last year’s project included social media marketing campaigns to promote awareness and use of the website. In the five-month period that the website was complete and operational, it demonstrated a 70% increase in site users. Top page visits included information on tobacco, safe sex, suicide, coming out, homelessness, and birth control, and guidance to accessing health care. Interns operate the website blog to address trending topics. Partnerships are being developed to create co-branding social media posts.

Children’s Justice Act Task Force (CJA)

Purpose

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

The CJA 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. The CJA grant funds multidisciplinary training, policy development, and pilot programs.

Activities

- **Completed the three-year assessment.**

Every three years the CJA Task Force is required to undertake a comprehensive review and evaluation of the investigative, administrative and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect and make recommendations of areas to be addressed. The recommendations made for 2018-2021 are:

- Improve the investigative, legal and judicial handling of child maltreatment through the provision of “front end” specialty, discipline specific and advanced trainings.
- Improve the coordinated response by child welfare jurisdictions to child and adolescent victims of sex trafficking.
- Support the establishment of new Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) and increase the capacity of existing Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs).
- Improve the investigation, assessment and prosecution of child and abuse neglect through use of the latest technology.
- Improve the investigative, legal and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect cases through the identification of any new or needed revisions to policy, regulation and/or legislation.

- **Development of a Policy on Child Sex Trafficking for Child Welfare agencies**

The CJA supported the development of a statewide child welfare policy to identify and response to child victims of sex trafficking based on best practices identified in the Model Coordinated Response Protocol.

- **Supported the Nevada Coalition to Prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation’s Development of a Model Coordinated Response Protocol and Toolkit**

The CJA supported consultants to assist in research and writing a Model Coordinated Response Toolkit. Nevada’s CSEC Protocol was developed to serve as a guiding standard for timely, responsive and effective services. It provides guidance for implementing a coordinated response to identifying and serving child victims of sex trafficking.

- **Supported development of a bill draft to meet Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act requirements.**

A bill draft was developed and sponsored by the Interim Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Legislative Committee during the 2019 Legislative session.

- **Sub grant award process.**

Modeled after other States’ CJA Task Forces a sub award process and procedures were developed. Sub awards will be approved and monitored by the CJA.

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

Purpose

The Citizen Advisory Committee serves as a liaison between the community and Clark County Department of Family Services (DFS). The purpose of the Citizens Advisory Committee is to identify and communicate to the 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 the DFS. The Advisory Committee examines areas of focus along the full continuum of child welfare and initiates recommendations forwarded to DFS Administration.

Activities

- **Prevention**

The CAC identified Prevention as one of its initiatives, especially as it relates to the new federal Families First Prevention Services Act. The CAC further expressed interest in extending foster care for youth to the age of 21, allowing 'aged out' youth to continue receiving support and services to avoid homelessness.

- **Intervention and Accountability**

The CAC identified Intervention and Accountability as it relates to improved communication within DFS as another initiative. The CAC assesses DFS's internal and external communication strategies so as to ensure that the DFS is open, inclusive and transparent. The Clark County Ombudsman has presented to the CAC and provides its monthly reports to the CAC for review and discussion. The CAC expressed particular interest in how DFS is making the Ombudsman accessible as a resource for former and current foster youth.

- **Transitional and Aging Out Youth (TAY) Supports**

The CAC identified TAY supports as an initiative especially as it relates to what DFS is doing to support youth transitioning out of care. An education campaign was recommended to be developed to ensure youth and staff were aware of a Tuition Waiver for youth who had been in care since the age of 14.

- **Policies and Procedures**

The CAC recently identified DFS Policies & Procedures as another area of interest, especially as it relates to DFS interaction with families and service providers.

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

Purpose

The Nevada Coalition to Prevent the Commercial Exploitation of Children (CSEC Coalition) was established on May 31, 2016 by Executive Order 2016-14. The CSEC Coalition's mandate was to develop a comprehensive strategic plan that fostered collaboration and coordination among agencies to improve the capacity to identify commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) and provide safety and services for them and their families and caregivers, as appropriate, as they work to end their exploitation; and to hold their exploiters accountable.

Activities

- **Development of a Strategic Plan**

The Strategic Plan to Address the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Nevada (CSEC Strategic Plan) is the culmination of more than two years of effort by a broad cross-section of individuals representing child welfare, juvenile justice, the courts, service providers, advocates and other entities that work to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The CSEC Coalition identified goals and objectives for the CSEC Strategic Plan and merged the efforts of its' subcommittees into the CSEC Model Coordinated Response Protocol and Toolkit (CSEC Protocol) and the CSEC Prevention Resource Guide (CSEC Prevention Guide).

The CSEC Protocol and Prevention Guide provide the foundation upon which the Strategic Plan is built. The goals of the Strategic Plan are:

- Increase coordination and collaboration in identifying and serving CSEC.
- Expand access to services for CSEC and their families.
- Improve outcomes for CSEC through increased expertise and data-driven services.
- Increase awareness of CSEC in Nevada through public awareness campaigns
- Sustain the effort to coordinate and improve services for CSEC.

- **Development of a CSEC Protocol**

The CSEC Protocol provides guidance for implementing a coordinated response to identify and serve child victims of sex trafficking based on promising practices.

- **Development of a CSEC Prevention Guide**

The CSEC Prevention Guide provides a public health approach to combating child sex trafficking, with strategies and resources to reduce demand and increase CSEC awareness in the general community and with at-risk populations. The Strategic Plan, CSEC-Protocol and CSEC-Prevention Guide can be retrieved from: <http://dcfs.nv.gov/Programs/CWS/CSEC/CSEC/>

- **Annual Report**

The Coalition submitted its second CSEC Annual Report to the governor in October 2018. The report outlines the development of the Coalition's strategic plan and the work of its subcommittees.

CRP Recommendations

1. It is recommended that DCFS develop an action plan to implement the Nevada Coalition to Prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation's (CSEC) Strategic Plan.
2. It is recommended that the DCFS identify areas in which the Children's Justice Act Task Force (CJA) can support activities of the Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Program Improvement Plan (PIP).
3. It is recommended that DCFS support multidisciplinary on-line training for Sex Trafficking Awareness, Mandated Reporting and the requirements of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) and CARA Plan of Care.

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 the 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:

- 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.
- Adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of subsection1, 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 Vaughan Allen	Office of Suicide Prevention
Sharon Benson	State Attorney General's Office
Melissa Cunning-Faul	Division of Child and Family Services
Natalie Guesman, Co-chair	Clark County Department of Family Services
Lt Andrew Rasor	Nevada Highway Patrol
Vacant	DBPH Vital Records
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
Vickie Ives, Co-chair	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
Ryan Gustafson	Washoe County Human Services Agency

Children's Justice Act Task Force

MEMBER NAME	MEMBERSHIP DESIGNATION
Desiree Mattice	Law Enforcement
Gabrielle Carr, Chair	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
Mari Parlade	Child Protective Services
Fran Maldonado	Individual Experienced in Working with Children with Disabilities
Char Frost	Parent/Representative of Parent Group
Kimberly Mull	Adult Former Victim of Child Abuse and Neglect
Salli Kerr	Individual Experienced in Working with Homeless Children and Youth

Clark County Citizens Advisory Committee

MEMBER NAME	AFFLIATION
Donna Smith, Deputy Chair	Foster and Adoptive Parents
Dr. Tammy Malich	Clark County School District
Denise Tanata	Child Welfare Advocates
Matthew Cox	Child Welfare Advocates
Andre Bailey	General Public
Judge Frank Sullivan	Local Juvenile Probation Services
Dashun Jackson	Youth with Foster Care Experience
Crystal Bomar	General Public
Sheila Parks (Chair)	Court Appointed Special Advocate
Dr. Lisa Morris-Hibbler (Co- Chair)	Parent Advocates
Carly Aldis	Private Providers of Mental Health

Nevada Coalition to Prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

MEMBER NAME	MEMBERSHIP DESIGNATION
Hon. Justice Nancy Saitta (ret.)	Chair of CSEC Coalition
Ross Armstrong	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
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
Brian Fagan	State and federal law enforcement agencies including the FBI and Nevada Department of Public Safety
Elynn Green	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

MEMBER NAME	MEMBERSHIP DESIGNATION
Kathleen Teipner	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
Derek Jones	Reno Police Department