

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Richard Whitley
Director

Child Welfare Services

Division of Child and Family Services

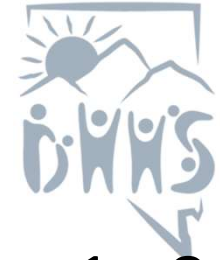
Marla McDade Williams, Administrator

June 10, 2024



Department of Health and Human Services

Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Agenda

1. Overview of child welfare services provided by the State of Nevada
2. Discussion of challenges



Child Welfare Services in Nevada

- DCFS is responsible for child welfare services, including Child Protective Services (CPS), foster care and adoption and is the recipient of the Federal Title IV-E matching funds from the Children's Bureau, Administration of Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Nevada has a bifurcated system wherein Clark and Washoe counties manage their own child welfare system and DCFS manages the child welfare system for the remaining 15 counties.
- The 15 counties pay a CPS assessment for the costs of providing CPS in the county.



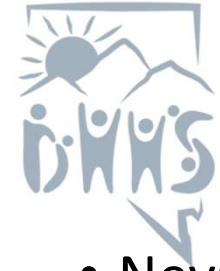
Child Welfare Services in Nevada, continued

- It's a state-supervised, county-administered structure for the management of child welfare services. Clark and Washoe receive a block grant that is then reconciled for payment of authorized services under the federal funding.
- DCFS has state oversight for county-administered child protective and child welfare services delivery providing technical assistance, fiscal oversight for federal monies, and quality improvement activities.
- Another allocation is made that will estimate each biennium the cost attributed to the projected caseload growth for the adoption assistance program to ensure adoptions are continuously reinforced and each Legislative session the funding can be determined based on historical adoption growth.



Services

- Child welfare agencies provide a continuum of services.
- The foundation for case planning is the assessment and comprehensive case management services that support the child, the parents, and the caregivers.
- The continuum includes emergency shelter care, CPS, foster family care (including relative placements), group home care, therapeutic foster care, respite care, residential treatment care both in and out-of-state, kinship guardianship, adoptions, and independent living services.
- Additional services to support the child and family include in-home counseling (family preservation/intensive family services), early childhood services, and other outpatient services.



Performance Improvement

- Nevada Revised Statutes [\(NRS\) 432B.216-.218](#) encourage and support performance improvement in Nevada's child welfare agencies.
- [NRS 432B.216](#) requires agencies which provide child welfare services to submit a Biennial Agency Improvement Plan (AIP) and annual progress reports.
- AIPs must include specific performance targets for improving the safety, permanency, and well-being of the children in the care of the child welfare agency.
- The AIPs also include the approach, and the specific strategies the agency will take to achieve the specific identified performance targets.



Data

- The Office of Analytics keeps a dashboard of key child welfare information:
[DHHS.nv.gov/analytics](https://dhhs.nv.gov/analytics)
- Information for child welfare services is under the link titled “Child Protective Services (CPS) Dashboard”



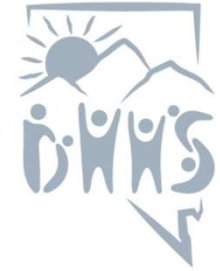
Challenges

- Expectations of what constitutes neglect
- Lack of foster homes
- Families that are resource poor
 - No affordable housing
 - Child care access
- Vacancies and staff who are still gaining experience
- Inability of families to care for kids with significant behavioral, developmental and psychiatric needs
- Lack of legal representation for Rural Child Welfare
- Lack of Medicaid providers in rural areas (dental, medical, psychiatric)
- Lack of domestic violence treatment services for batterers

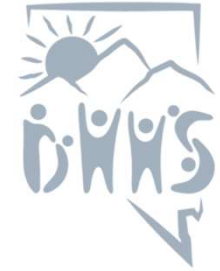


Challenges, continued

- Lack of providers
 - Fetal alcohol syndrome
 - Autism evaluators and providers
 - Substance abuse treatment
 - Home health visiting nurses
 - Array of services, including lower levels of care
- Impact of secondary trauma amongst the workforce



Questions?

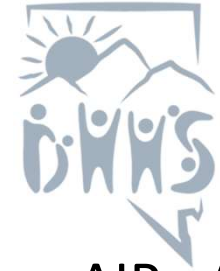


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Acronyms

AIP: Agency Improvement Plan

CPS: Child Protective Services

DCFS: Division of Child and Family Services

NRS: Nevada Revised Statutes