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# Legislative Committee on Children, Youth and Families



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**BULLETIN 03-15**

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON  
CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES**

*Nevada Revised Statutes 218.53723*

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**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

## **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **NEVADA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES (Nevada Revised Statutes 218.5372 – 218.53727)**

This summary presents the recommendations approved by the Legislative Committee on Children, Youth and Families. The Committee submits the following proposals for consideration by the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Nevada Legislature. Bill draft requests will be provided in this report under Appendix I.

#### **FUTURE FUNDING OF THE PROVISION OF CHILD WELFARE SERVICES**

1. Draft legislation necessary to implement the plan for funding the provision of child welfare services in this state in counties whose populations are 100,000 or more. The plan will address the fiscal responsibility of the state and each county for such services, including any increases in the costs of providing the services. The plan includes a "swap" between the state and Clark and Washoe Counties of child welfare costs and Medicaid long-term care county match costs. ( -- BDR 687)

#### **MODIFICATIONS TO THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM**

2. Draft legislation authorizing a court to grant a permanent guardianship in a proceeding held pursuant to Chapter 432B of NRS (Protection of Children from Abuse and Neglect). ( -- BDR 688)
3. Draft legislation to amend NRS 432B.430 to provide that once a petition is filed proceedings are open to the general public unless the judge or master determines that the hearing should be closed in the best interest of the child. ( -- BDR 689)

#### **ASSISTANCE TO YOUTH "AGING OUT" OF FOSTER CARE**

4. Draft legislation to allow DCFS to continue to provide services to foster care children up to and including age 21 under certain circumstances. ( -- BDR 690)
5. Draft legislation requiring the Director of the Department of Human Resources to include in the State Plan for Medicaid a provision that specifies young people between the ages of 18 and 21 years who were in foster care on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday are eligible for Medicaid coverage, to the extent authorized pursuant to federal law. ( -- BDR 691)

### **CHILD WELFARE INVESTIGATIONS**

6. Draft legislation to require agencies that provide child welfare services to ensure that children under three years of age who are reported as possible victims of child abuse or neglect are examined by a medical professional who is trained in diagnosing child abuse and neglect. ( -- BDR 692)
7. Send a letter to the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) urging the division to develop regulations and hold related hearings on the issue of requiring that all child protective services employees and employees of agencies that provide child welfare services and their supervisors receive mandatory training and demonstrate competence in using standardized safety assessment protocol. Ask that a written report on the progress of modifying the regulations be provided to the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Facilities, the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Legislative Committee on Children, Youth and Families prior to the 2003 Legislative Session.

### **MENTAL HEALTH CONSORTIA RECOMMENDATIONS**

8. Include a statement in the final report urging the Administrator of DCFS to include a representative of the Welfare Division on the mental health consortia.
9. Draft legislation amending NRS 433B.335 to change the deadline for each consortium to submit the annual plan to the Committee on Children, Youth and Families from January 15 to August 15. ( -- BDR 693)
10. Include a statement in the report expressing the Committee's support of the recommendation from the three mental health consortia to maintain funding for services to severely emotionally disturbed children in the child welfare system, which was provided under Assembly Bill 1 (Chapter 1, *Statutes of Nevada, Seventeenth Special Session, 2001*), contingent upon a review of the amount of funding necessary to provide these services. Include in the statement the Committee's support for expanding mental health service accessibility by allowing master's level professionals to become Medicaid providers.
11. Include a statement in the report expressing support for expanding the funding of mental health services to additional children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems identified as underserved, contingent upon a review of the amount of funding necessary to provide these services.
12. Include a statement in the report generally supporting the work of the three Mental Health Consortia and the recommendations presented in their first annual plans.