June 2022

Nevada COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

SELF-ASSESSMENT & STRATEGIC PLAN



Supreme Court of Nevada ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

OMB Control No: 0970-0307

Expiration Date: 11/30/2022

Strategic Plan Template

State Name: Nevada

Date Strategic Plan Submitted: June 30, 2022

Timeframe Covered by Strategic Plan: October 1, 2021-September 30, 2026

Overall Goal/Mission of CIP: The CIP enables the courts and agencies involved in the child welfare system to develop transformational systemic statewide changes to significantly improve the processing of dependency cases while ensuring compliance with state and federal laws regarding child dependency and child welfare matters.

Priority Area #1: Data

Outcome #1: CIP will work with the Department of Health and Human Services to establish data sharing capabilities between the Child Welfare Agencies and the Courts. Both currently track valuable information on children, youth, and families, but the data elements being collected is typically different between the two parties. By providing bidirectional data exchanges between the two parties, information that was previously unknown will be made available, allowing for better informed decision-making.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: How do you know this is a need in your state? The differences between the data being collected by the child welfare agencies and the courts creates a discrepancy in the information being received. The Courts currently rely on the Department of Children and Family Services to provide CFS775 "timeliness" reports to each of the jurisdictions in Nevada. This report is disseminated on a quarterly basis, creating lag time in decision-making.

Theory of Change: By providing a bidirectional flow of information between the Child Welfare Agencies and the Courts, the two can review information in real-time, allowing for proactive decision-making, versus reactive decisions.

Reminder: please note if priority area will be supported by Division X supplement with a 'COVID' tag.

Goals of Activity (short Plans for **Activity or Project** Collaborative and/or Long-term) **Evaluating Activity Anticipated Outputs of Timeframe Resources Needed** Description **Partners** Where relevant and Where relevant, Proposed Where relevant Activity Specific actions or project Responsible parties practical, provide specific, how will you What the CIP intends to completion identify the that will be completed to and partners projected change in data measure or produce, provide or date or, if resources needed involved in produce specific outputs the CIP intends to achieve. monitor change? accomplish through the to complete the appropriate, and demonstrate progress implementation of Goals should be "ongoing". activity. activity. toward the outcome. the activity. measurable. **Progress toward Outcome**

Establish and implement agreement between the child welfare agencies and the courts, allowing for the bidirectional flow of information between the two agencies. This will allow for the dissemination of relevant information regarding children in the child welfare system, in real-time.

Action Step 1 – Establish a	CIP	Flow of bidirectional	Real time data, allowing for	<mark>September</mark>	Data Sharing	Improved well-
data sharing agreement	DHHS/DCFS	information between Child	proactive responses versus	<mark>2022</mark>	Agreement	being, timely
between Child Welfare		Welfare Agency and	reactive.		between DCFS and	<mark>permanency</mark>
Agency and Courts		Courts.			Courts.	<mark>outcomes,</mark>
						<mark>disparate</mark>
						timelines, and
						outcomes for
						children & families
Action Step 2 – Identify data	CIP	A deeper dive into data	Identify areas needing	Ongoing		[tab to add rows]
elements needed for report	DHHS/DCFS	<mark>reports</mark>	improvement or maximizing			
and access	Data Savvy					
	Consultants					

Priority Area #2: Disparity/Disproportionality

Outcome #1: Reduce the overrepresentation of certain racial and ethnic groups in the child welfare system relative to their representation in the general population.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: How do you know this is a need in your state? Research has observed the overrepresentation of children of color in the child welfare system for more than 50 years and overrepresentation of Black children is more significant. National data shows that 23 percent of children in foster care are black although they represent only 14 percent of children in the general population. While the national dialogue has focused largely on Black children, racial disproportionality has also been observed for Native American and Latin X children, although to a lesser degree and with variation by state (Dettlaff & Boyd, 2020).

In 2020 Nevada started analyzing the child welfare system's demographic data. Nevada identified that Black children are overrepresented by nearly 3 times and are being screened in at a rate nearly 5 times that of white children. Nevada sees Black children in care at a rate nearly double the national average. National American Indian/Alaska Native children enter care at the highest rate and remain in care at the highest rate, nearly 3 times that of white children. Children of color have lower permanency rates and stay in state care longer than white children. Data sources include AFCARS and NCANDS files.

Theory of Change: By bringing awareness and by better educating stakeholder's (e.g. behavior changes, improved knowledge, culture awareness & shifts, improve service accessibility) involved with 432B cases regarding the overrepresentation of children of color in Nevada's child welfare system is expected to create transformational system change to decrease overrepresentation of children and families of color in the child welfare system. In turn, this will most likely decrease racial disproportionality in the welfare system and provide equity and inclusion for this target population upon initial contact and throughout the life of the target population's case.

Activity or Project Description Specific actions or project that will be completed to produce specific outputs and demonstrate progress toward the outcome.	Collaborative Partners Responsible parties and partners involved in implementation of the activity.	Anticipated Outputs of Activity What the CIP intends to produce, provide or accomplish through the activity.	Goals of Activity (short and/or Long-term) Where relevant and practical, provide specific, projected change in data the CIP intends to achieve. Goals should be measurable. Progress toward Outcome	Timeframe Proposed completion date or, if appropriate, "ongoing".	Resources Needed Where relevant identify the resources needed to complete the activity.	Plans for Evaluating Activity Where relevant, how will you measure or monitor change?
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Bring awareness to and educ	ate stakeholders about	racial disparity and disproport	ionality to assist with reducing	the overrepresen	tation of certain racial a	nd ethnic groups in
the child welfare system.						
Action Step 1 – Identify reasons for entering system by county/Jurisdiction	CIP Court Stakeholder's Child Welfare Agency Law Enforcement Foster Youth Parents Service Providers Alicia Summers, Ph.D. Sophie Gatowski, Ph.D.	Focus/learning groups to research and evaluate information/data needs, identify needs, barriers and services for professional stakeholders and target population. Tokenism training to avoid token efforts and appointments		Ongoing	Access to data	
	ICWA court stakeholders/reps					
Action Step 2 – Quality of representation for parents & children	CIP Court Stakeholder's Child Welfare Agency Law Enforcement Foster Youth Parents Service Providers Alicia Summers, Ph.D. Sophie Gatowski, Ph.D. ICWA court stakeholders/reps	Learning groups Improved services Recommendations	Equal access to representation. Equity and inclusion throughout the court process.	Ongoing	Baseline data surveys (parent surveys) Analysis Focus groups Reasonable Efforts Study	Depth of representation efforts
Action Step 3 – Socioeconomic statuses of target population (poverty vs. neglect)	CIP Court Stakeholder's Child Welfare Agency Law Enforcement Foster Youth Parents Service Providers Alicia Summers, Ph.D.	Learning groups Improved services Recommendations Transformational system change	Economic and cultural awareness/responsiveness for professional stakeholders. Appropriate services for target population.	Ongoing	Baseline data surveys Analysis Focus groups Experts/Scholars working on this topic	Increase use of tailored services for target population. Reduce rate of lower income families entering the system.

Sophie Gatowski,		
Ph.D.		
ICWA court		
stakeholders/reps		

Priority Area #3: Quality Court Hearings

Outcome #1: Enhanced high quality court proceedings that safeguard due process, encourage child and family involvement, and ensure accountability within and throughout the child dependency system.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: How do you know this is a need in your state? The statewide Remote Hearing Study accompanied by the Virtual Hearings in Child Welfare Cases: Perspectives from the Field, and the Juvenile Dependency Mediation Program (JDMP) study by Data Savvy Consulting.

Theory of Change: The theory is that by continuing to provide the judiciary and their CICs' data to help them identify areas needing improvement and information about evidence-based and best practices, the judiciary and stakeholders will have increased knowledge of what constitutes a quality hearing, and judges will have a better understanding of what constitutes reasonable efforts which will lead to an increase in depth of information brought to court by all parties because stakeholders will better understand the information needed by the court. The data and training provided will lead to increased identification of barriers and creation of action steps to improve outcomes. This will in turn, lead to long term outcomes such as improved time to permanency and overall timeliness of cases.

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of dependency cases as its m the courts and their CICs data guidance, the courts make sy	eans of continuously months to help them identify a stemic changes to impro	onitoring and improving the quareas needing improvement ar ove hearing quality. Because e	Councils (CIC) as they impleme uality of dependency court proon in information about empiricall each judicial district is unique, the key stakeholders and cons	ceedings including or y-supported and borne specific local act	court hearings and reviest practices, with CIP ivities and intervention	ews. By providing support and
Action Step 1 – Develop	CIP	Online "permanency"	Ensure consistency across	Implemented,		
Permanency training for	DCFS	training to address	the state.	on-going		
judges, masters, and court	Chief Deputy DA's	Concurrent Planning,				
stakeholders		Reasonable Efforts, and				
		KinGAP for court				
		stakeholders				

Action Step 2 – Support CIC's development and implementation of annual action plans.	CIP CICs Child Welfare ICWA court stakeholders/reps	CIP collects, assesses, analyzes, and distribute permanency and timeliness data regularly. CIC's follow through on action plans created at the annual CIC Summit. CIP works with stakeholders to develop and disseminate training and resources for the judiciary and CIC's.	Improve court functioning, build capacity, decrease time to permanency, and improve timeliness.	On-going		CIC meeting activities and annual report. Improved time to permanency and overall case timeliness; improved reunification rate as reflected in DCFS UNITY data reports (CFS775) and Centralized Case Index.
Action Step 3 — Conduct "remote" hearing quality study.	CIP CICs Alicia Summers, Ph.D. Sophie Gatowski, Ph.D.	Child welfare court and agency professionals' survey. Parent survey.	Increase knowledge regarding the use of virtual hearings during COVID-19.	On going	In person & Virtual hearing study.	Implemented, evaluating, on- going.
Action Step 4 – Monitor the quality of hearings.	CIP CICs	CIP encourages CICs to create meaningful agendas and take and distribute minutes.	CIP attends and supports CIC meetings. CIP holds statewide CIC Summit.	On-going		CIC agendas and meeting minutes focusing on steps to improve hearing quality.
Action Step 5 – Develop& Update statewide court order templates	CIP Court Stakeholders Child Welfare	Standardized court order templates	Provide consistency across the state.	Approved (ADKT 0581), implemented and ongoing		Evaluate timeliness outcomes
Action Step 6 – Update NRS 432B	CIP Court Stakeholders Child Welfare	Make various language changes to NRS 432B.	Increase protection of children in the child welfare system.	Ongoing		
Action Step 7 – CIP continues to actively align its work with that of the Child Welfare Agencies.	CIP CICs Child Welfare CBCC	CIP continues to provide input into attaining PIP and IV-E, CFSP/APSR, and CFSR goals. Child Welfare actively participates in the	CICs continue their successful endeavors as outlined in their action plans. Hearing and court order quality improve.	On-going		Success of court hearing quality improvement efforts, project implementation, PIP development and

development of the CIP			implementation,
Strategic Plan and its	Relevant statistical evidence		and CICs.
implementation.	(AFCARS, NCANDS,		
•	timeliness, permanency,		
CIP and Child Welfare	and reunification)		
share data, program	demonstrates continued		
assessments results, etc.	improvement.		
Regular meetings take	CIP and Child Welfare		
place with Child Welfare	Agency reports and		
managers & supervisors,	documents reflect active		
SQIC Committee, and CIP.	and joint participation.		
Child Welfare is fully			
represented and active on			
the CIP Select Committee.			
CIP and Judiciary			
participate in the			
development and			
implementation of the PIP.			

Priority Area #4: Quality Legal Representation

Outcome #1: Improved quality of legal representation in dependency cases so that parents, children, and the State of Nevada experience high quality court hearings.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: How do you know this is a need in your state? The Quality of Legal Representation in Dependency Cases in Nevada study conducted by Data Savvy.

Theory of Change: By better educating attorneys regarding federal and state mandates, the quality of legal representation is likely to improve; thereby, increasing the likelihood of adhering to AFSA timelines and achieving permanency more quickly, increasing the engagement of parents and, hence, reunification rates, the well-being of children and ensure their best interests. By educating CICs on the positive impacts of legal representation, increased legal representation is likely to occur.

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Educate all attorneys, DA's DAG's, Parents and Children's Attorneys about federal and state laws and regulations governing child dependency cases (NRS 432B). Open appropriate trainings to Child Welfare staff and CASA/GAL's as well.

Action Step 1 – Update the Online Dependency Training to reflect updated practice changes, policies, culture shifts and legislative changes.	CIP Court Stakeholders Child Welfare	Announcements to courts and CICs that online attorney training is available and provide instructions on how to register.	50% of attorneys practicing in dependency court will complete course.	Start FF2023		Review percentage of attorneys who have completed course.
Action Step 2 —The Supreme Court creates a training requirement for the state.	CIP Courts Attorneys CIC Leads Dependency Judges	Significant proportion of attorneys in each JD complete course. Attorneys understand that dependency cases are different from criminal cases. Attorneys' have improved understanding of state and federal law applying to dependency cases	Update practices and federal directives, improve knowledge and skills of attorneys. Attorneys better understand the needs of their clients and the services available to them. Parties are more engaged. Improved court timeliness data. Improved child permanency timeliness and reunification data as reflected in DCFS UNITY data reports (CFS775), AFCARS, and Centralized Case Index.		Innovated training strategies for effective outcomes	Satisfaction is measured upon completion. Knowledge gains are measured through pre and post-tests during the course of the training.
Action Step 3 – Identify list of performance measures that can be used in future evaluations of the effectiveness of parents' and children's representation in dependency cases.	CIP CIC Child Welfare Alicia Summers, Ph.D. Sophie Gatowski, Ph.D. ICWA court stakeholders/reps	Study that provides baseline data about parents' and children's attorneys' performance that can be used in future evaluation efforts assessing interventions, trainings, or other practice	Future evaluation opportunities.	Implemented, on-going.		Use current study to compare against future data.

improvements, aimed at
enhancing parent and child
representation.

Priority Area #5: Timeliness/Permanency

Outcome #1: Identify barriers creating delays in timeliness to permanency for children in the child welfare system.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: How do you know this is a need in your state? The 2019 Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) identified a number of practices related to the termination of parental rights (TPR) as areas of concern to achieving timely permanency.

Theory of Change: By understanding what practices are creating these delays, CIP, Court Stakeholders, and Child Welfare staff can make significant changes to current processes to remove these barriers, ultimately resulting in achieving timely permanency.

Activity or Project Description Specific actions or project that will be completed to produce specific outputs and demonstrate progress toward the outcome.	Collaborative Partners Responsible parties and partners involved in implementation of the activity.	Anticipated Outputs of Activity What the CIP intends to produce, provide or accomplish through the activity.	Goals of Activity (short and/or Long-term) Where relevant and practical, provide specific, projected change in data the CIP intends to achieve. Goals should be measurable. Progress toward Outcome	Timeframe Proposed completion date or, if appropriate, "ongoing".	Resources Needed Where relevant identify the resources needed to complete the activity.	Plans for Evaluating Activity Where relevant, how will you measure or monitor change?
PIP 3.4.1 Workgroup created	to further review and a	nalyze data associated with ac	chieving timely permanency this	s led to the TPR foc	<mark>us groups</mark>	
Action Step 1 – Establish TPR Workgroup	CIP Child Welfare DA's AG's Alicia Summers, Ph.D. Sophie Gatowski, Ph.D.	Make process improvements.	Reduce/eliminate barriers to TPR.	On-going		Use current Termination of Parental Rights study to use as a benchmark to evaluate further studies. Monitor timeliness (CFS775) reports.
Action Step 2 – Create Focus group for broader multidisciplinary perspectives	CIP Child Welfare Data Savvy Consultants Parent Attorneys Child Attorneys AGs	Breadth and depth engagement from stakeholders that were identified by a snowball sampling method	Identify consistent barriers in jurisdictions and the state in order to identify possible solutions	July 2022		

Action Step 3- Analyze focus	<mark>CIP</mark>	Assist CIC teams in	<mark>September</mark>	<mark>30,</mark>	Qualitive approach
group findings and provide	Child Welfare	developing plans for	<mark>2022(Sumr</mark>	<mark>nary)</mark>	via CIC meetings
<mark>summary to CICs and</mark>	<mark>Data Savvy</mark>	improving timeliness	& ongoing		and practice
<mark>stakeholders</mark>	Consultants	<mark>process</mark>			<mark>change</mark>
	Parent Attorneys				
	Child Attorneys				Monitor timeliness
	AGs				(CFS775) reports.

Priority Area #6: Well-Being

Outcome #1: Improve the behavioral health and well-being of youth in foster care, with a focus on addressing educational needs.

Need Driving Activities & Data Source: How do you know this is a need in your state? The COVID-19 global pandemic left everyone impacted. From increased behavioral issues to a decline in school attendance, as provided by the Washoe County School District, we have seen a significant decline in these areas.

Theory of Change: By focusing on the identified behavioral health issues and educational needs of youth in foster care who meet the criteria for intervention services, there will most likely be a decline in substance dependency, a decline in absenteeism, and an increase in their educational achievements.

Activity or Project Description Specific actions or project that will be completed to produce specific outputs and demonstrate progress toward the outcome. Implement programs and pro	Collaborative Partners Responsible parties and partners involved in implementation of the activity.	Anticipated Outputs of Activity What the CIP intends to produce, provide or accomplish through the activity. vioral health issues and focus	Goals of Activity (short and/or Long-term) Where relevant and practical, provide specific, projected change in data the CIP intends to achieve. Goals should be measurable. Progress toward Outcome on educational needs for youth	Timeframe Proposed completion date or, if appropriate, "ongoing".	Resources Needed Where relevant identify the resources needed to complete the activity.	Plans for Evaluating Activity Where relevant, how will you measure or monitor change?
Action Step 1 – Ignite Teen Treatment	CIP DDA DFS – Clark County Ignite Teen Treatment Facility Youth with lived experience	Provide inpatient drug treatment to foster youth who are experiencing increased mental health issues as a result of the isolation and fear around the COVID-19 pandemic.	Reduce anxiety, depression, and PTSD, which have resulting in youth turning to drugs to "treat" their symptoms.	September 30, 2022		Review reports provided by the facility and/or DFS – Clark County.
Action Step 2 – Boosted Diplomas	CIP WCSD WCHSA Cooper Richardson, V.P.	Provide tutoring and/or a peer navigator to foster youth who have been identified as being	Increase attendance and improve overall grades and test scores of these youth.	September 30, 2022		Review reports provided by Boosted Diplomas. 'COVID'

	ronically absent during		
the	e 2020-2021 school year.		

Child and Family Services Review / Program Improvement Plan (CFSR/PIP) - Overall Infrastructure & Supports

For states that will be participating in round 4 of the CFSR and PIP in your state this reporting year, please briefly describe overall infrastructure or similar supports for the CFSR/PIP process that may have been needed based on your Self-Assessment. As described in the PI, this may include engaging a broad representation of legal and judicial stakeholders, working with other leadership, collaborating with other partners, use of data in the process, staging, and feedback loops. For CFSR/PIP related efforts that are farther along and have focused data or outcomes identified, those can be completed on the usual project template above. Copy and paste the portion below the blue line if there are additional CFSR/PIP overall infrastructure and support items.

CFSR/PIP Outcome #1: The change the CIP seeks to support for the CFSR/PIP process

Activity Description Specific actions that will be completed to produce specific outputs and demonstrate progress toward the outcome. Briefly describe the overall ac	Collaborative Partners Responsible parties and partners involved in implementation of the activity.	Anticipated Outputs of Activity What the CIP intends to produce, provide or accomplish through the activity. ead to the outcome identified	Goals of Activity (short and/or Long-term) Where relevant and practical, provide specific, projected measurable change the CIP intends to achieve. Progress toward Outcome above.	Timeframe Proposed completion date or, if appropriate, "ongoing".	Resources Needed Where relevant identify the resources needed to complete the activity.	Plans for Evaluating Activity Where relevant, how will you measure or monitor change?
Action Step 1 – Briefly identify the activities/action steps needed to implement activity 1						
Action Step 2 -						[tab to add rows]