

NMSCAC



Substitute Care Advisory Council (Council)

**Courts, Corrections & Justice Committee
2 December 2020**

Authority

State:

- Citizen Substitute Care Review Act (Act), §§32A-8-1 et seq.
- 9-1-7 NMSA 1978.
- NMAC 8.26.7

Federal:

- Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act (CAPTA), 42 U.S.C. §5101 et seq.

Purpose

Provide a permanent system for independent and objective monitoring of children placed in the custody of the CYFD by examining the policies, procedures and practices of CYFD and, where appropriate, specific cases to evaluate the extent to which CYFD is effectively discharging its child protection responsibilities.



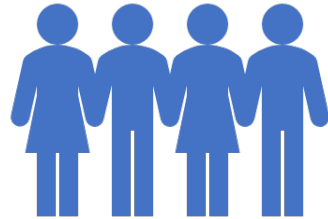
Meet the requirement of CAPTA to establish volunteer citizen panels to examine policies, procedures and practices to evaluate how state and local child protection systems are effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities and are in compliance with the CAPTA state plan, child protection standards and any other criteria considered important.



Provide public outreach to assess the impact of current procedures and practices upon children and families in the community.

Council

9
Members



Public Members appointed by the Governor for 3 year terms.

- Cabinet Secretary or designee of:
 - DFA
 - HSD
 - DOH
 - PED
- 5 appointed by Governor:
 - 2 public w/CW expertise.
 - 2 public ages 18—30 w/substitute care experience.
 - 1 children's court judge.

Council Members

(August 2020)

ANGIE K. SCHNEIDER, J.D., Chair

Children's Court Judge, Twelfth Judicial District

LAURA HENRY, Vice-Chair, **Public Education Dept**

State Coordinator Migrant Education and
Foster Care Education Point of Contact

THOMAS MASSARO, M.D., Ph.D., **Dept of Health**

Chief Medical Officer/School Health Officer

ANGELA MEDRANO, **Human Services Dept**

Deputy Cabinet Secretary

RENEE M. WARD, MHA, **Dept of Finance & Administration**

Deputy Cabinet Secretary

(Public member appointments by Governor pending)

Council Staff

Name	Position	Email	Phone
Shelly A. Bucher, LMSW	Director	shelly.bucher@state.nm.us	505.469.4781
Kimberly Anguiano, BSW	Coordinator	kimberly.anguiano@state.nm.us	505.231-5327
Mary Younger	Coordinator	mary.younger@state.nm.us	505.469.6830
Ray Villegas	Admin Assistant	raymundo.villegas@state.nm.us	833-272-2255

General Contact Information

Email	Phone	Mailing
nm.crb@state.nm.us	833-272-2255	PO Box 3204 Mesilla Park, NM 88047



Shelly A. Bucher
LMSW

- ✓ 31 years child welfare experience; 19 years in NM.
- ✓ Master of Social Work Administration, University of Kansas.
- ✓ BSW & BS Human Development & Family Studies, Kansas State University.
- ✓ Instructor: Dona Ana Community College.
- ✓ Past positions include:
 - *Director, Southwest Region National Child Protection Center at NMSU.*
 - *Interim Director NMSU School of Social Work (3 years).*
 - *General Inspection Specialist, European Command Headquarters, Stuttgart Germany.*
 - *Relocation Readiness Program Manager, Army Community Services, Stuttgart Germany.*
 - *Settlement Administrator, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS).*
 - *Director Child Development Center, Saudi Arabia.*
 - *Social Worker (Investigations/Foster Care), KS SRS.*

Mary Younger

- Based in Carlsbad, NM.
- 12 years child welfare experience.
- Past positions:
 - Volunteer Coordinator-CASA Eddy County Fifth Judicial District.
 - Eddy County Detention Center Detention Officer.

Ray Villegas

- Based in Las Cruces, NM.
- Retired Postmaster.
- Bilingual (Spanish).

Kimberly Anguiano, BSW

- Based in Las Cruces, NM.
- 3 years child welfare experience.
- BSW Honors Graduate NMSU with minors:
 - Counseling and Educational Psychology.
 - Gender and Sexuality Studies.
- Bilingual (Spanish).
- Past volunteer at Big Brothers/Big Sisters, elementary school and literacy summer programs.

AFFILIATIONS

- Children's Court Improvement Commission.
- New Mexico Child Fatality Review Board.
- New Mexico Children's Law Institute.
- National Citizen Review Advisory Panel.

Citizen Participation

- Federal and New Mexico state legislation require citizen involvement.
- Citizen participation is important because it:
 - Educates citizens regarding child protection system responses;
 - Promotes community-based services; and
 - Prevents an agency from becoming a 'system unto itself'.
- In New Mexico, citizens who meet eligibility requirements are known as SCAC Members.

Case Reviews

- At least one 'case' reviewed per Judicial District each FY Quarter. A case may include one or more children/youth.
- FY 20: Council adopted the Quality Services Review (QSR) Model for case reviews.
- Review:
 - Policy & Procedures;
 - Best Practices;
 - Documents;
 - Individual Input (confidential): legal representation, youth, service providers, CASA.
- Per the Act, for every child/youth reviewed a written report is provided to the court (presiding judge and all known Interested Parties). Standard report format, typically 4 pages.

- Case-based review process which:
 - examines delivery of services;
 - adherence to practice expectations;
 - provides a framework for talking about practice; and,
 - creates opportunities for shared problem solving.
- Utilized in some form in 20 states, including Washington D.C.
- *‘The rigorous QSR process is an integral part of continuous quality improvement efforts and should be used to inform system practice changes’.*

(Center for Study of Social Policy)



QSR

PRIORITY FACTORS IN CASE REVIEW SELECTION

Placement in
institutions or
congregate care

Number of changes
in placements

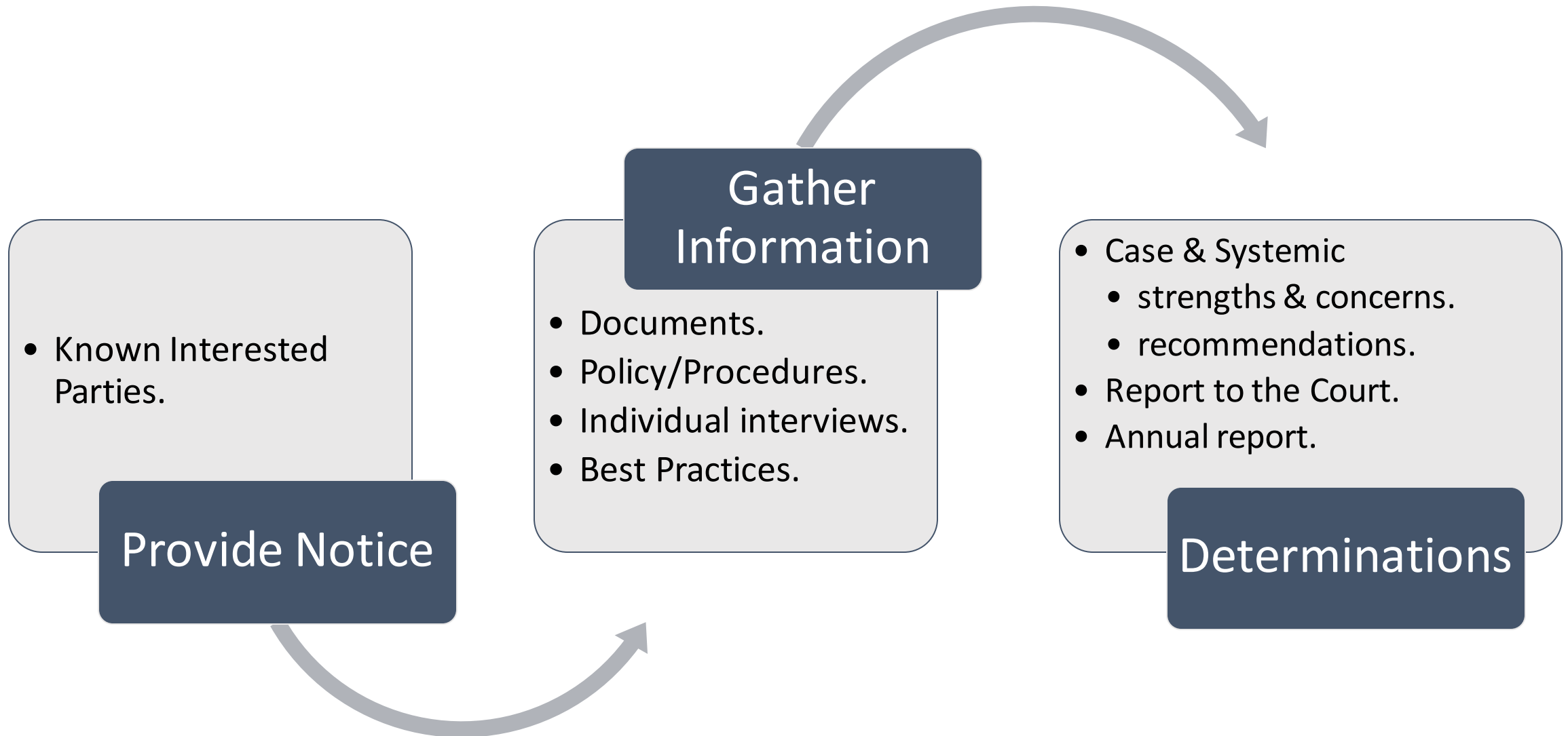
Youth aged 13 -18

Sibling
groups/sibling splits

Specifically
requested by an
Interested Party or
community member

Follow up to past
reviews

Case Review Process





Substitute Care Advisory Council
Substitute Care Review Board (SCRB)

PO Box 3204, Mesilla Park, New Mexico 88047
 (833) CRB-CALL • nm.crb@state.nm.us

Pursuant to the NMSA 1978, Section 32A-8-1 et seq., Citizen Substitute Care Act, the following report is provided.

*Report to the Court
 following a case review...*

Captures:

- Demographics.
- Strengths.
- Concerns.
- Recommendations.

CASE INFORMATION: (JQ #)			
Judicial District		Judge	
Last Hearing Date		SCRB Previous Review Date	
Next Hearing Date		SCRB Review Date	

CHILD/YOUTH INFORMATION (REVIEW DATE)							
Names(s)	Gender	Race/ Ethnicity	Date of Birth	Custody Date	Percent of Life in Care	Permanency Plan	Prior CYFD Involvement ¹

PLACEMENT INFORMATION (REVIEW DATE)					
Names(s)	Number of Placements ²	Placement Type	Placement Location	Concurrent	Placed with Siblings

EDUCATION & PSYCHOTROPIC MEDICATION INFORMATION (REVIEW DATE)				
Names(s)	Number of School Changes ³	EDM Appointed ⁴	Psychotropic Medications	
			Prescribed	CYFD Oversight in Accordance with Policy/Procedure ⁵

FAMILY INFORMATION AT TIME (REVIEW DATE)			
Name(s)	Relationship	Location	Status

CYFD CASE WORKER INFORMATION ⁶ (REVIEW DATE)				
Number of Previous PPWs	Current PPW Within Last 12 months	Current PPW Number of Cases	Current PPW Number of Children	Current Other Worker(s) for Child/Youth

Annual Report

ACT

Due on or before 1 November to CYFD, Courts and appropriate interim legislative committees.

CAPTA
Annually

CYFD Response

Required by CAPTA within 6 months of submission of report.

Address recommendations.

FY 20 Annual Report

Concern

Council Functionality

- No requirement of response to recommendations in court report;
- CYFD response to the annual report is 6 months and has not met federal standards;
- Sharing of information;
- Ongoing dialogue with CYFD for systemic improvement;
- Funding stability from interagency transfer of funds from CYFD.

FY 20 Annual Report

Recommendations

Statutory Changes to Improve Council Functionality

- Clarify purpose.
- Administratively attach Council to Office of State Auditor.
- Expand the composition of the Council from 9 to 11 members and designate voting rights of members.
- Remove limitation on citizen eligibility to participate in Council activities.
- Replace the 6-member advisory committee with workgroups comprised of eligible citizens and other stakeholders.
- Provide periodic reports in addition to the annual report.
- Require CYFD to provide written responses and meet within a designed timeframe to reconcile differences.
- Include sections on access to, and confidentiality of, information.
- Reinstate line-item in HB 2 for state general funds appropriation and specify an interagency of transfer of funds from CYFD.

FY 20 Annual Report Recommendations CYFD

- Establish a workgroup to revise standard reports to the court; members of the workgroup should at a minimum include representatives of Council Staff, CYFD Quality Assurance Unit, CYFD direct staff, youth and legal representatives.
- In collaboration with the Public Education Department, co-lead a workgroup to develop protocols to ensure changes in school settings meet state and federal requirements.
- Review data reporting to ensure data provided is accurate.
- In collaboration with Council Staff, update policy and procedure regarding the Council.

Defining and reporting child maltreatment.

Did you know that New Mexico requires anyone with knowledge of suspected child abuse or neglect to report such to authorities and that failure to do so could result in a misdemeanor?

[Read More →](#)



What is Substitute Care?

The legal definition of substitute care 'refers to any kind of custodial or residential care for a child that is ordered or otherwise sanctioned by the court, and in which a child does not continue to live with either of the birth parents'.

[Read More →](#)

Featured Forums

Website: www.nmscac.org



Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Research shows a strong correlation between childhood experiences and adult health and well-being.

[Learn More](#)



"Everyone's Business: Protecting Our Children"

Protecting children is the responsibility of everyone, not just social workers or law enforcement.

[Learn More](#)



New Mexico By the Numbers

New Mexico ranks 50th in the nation for overall child well-being.

[Learn More](#)