

KENNY GUINN
Governor

Michael J Willden
Director
Department of Human
Resources

STATE OF NEVADA



Jone M. Bosworth
Administrator

Sand Springs Station
Fax (775) 684-4455

FISCAL
Friday Station
Fax (775) 684-4458

Buckland Station
Fax (775) 684-4995

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

711 E. Fifth Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5092

Division News Flash

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Contact: Chrystal C. Main (775) 684-4453
Social Services Chief
Systems Advocate

Federal Reviewers Report Significant Improvements
At Nevada Youth Training Center

Carson City, Nevada - The Department of Justice's (DOJ) first quarterly review at the Nevada Youth Training Center July 5-7, 2004 found that the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) has made significant improvements toward reaching the goals outlined in a February 2004 Memorandum of Understanding. The quarterly review process monitors and documents changes being made at NYTC to ensure compliance with specific issues of concern identified in 2002.

Jone Bosworth, DCFS Administrator, reports that an exit conference with the DOJ on July 7 detailed the numerous improvements in policy, procedure and training the Memorandum of Understanding was established with the Department of Justice in February, 2004. Bosworth noted that "we are on our way to meeting our goals and we can all be proud, particularly the management and staff at NYTC, of the incredible progress."

Improvements were a shared DCFS effort to help NYTC achieve and maintain safe conditions and enhance outcomes for the kids. A multidisciplinary DCFS team and an external consultant conducted a "baseline" quality review in accordance with American Correctional Association standards prior to the DOJ's site visit. During the DOJ visit, federal reviewers interviewed both staff and youth, confirming the success of the improvement plan that also included infusing training into the facility. According to the federal review team, a "remarkable" cultural change has taken place at NYTC. Reviewers stated that they could see "amazing" improvements in many areas.

The date for the next formal evaluation by the team that conducted the review has not been established. The DOJ will be submitting a letter to the State of Nevada Attorney General's Office detailing findings and recommending additional resources be provided in the areas of physical plan upgrades, a training coordinator, and quality assurance officer. It is anticipated that quarterly reviews will continue to be conducted in order to determine if the changes implemented at the facility have are meeting goals.