



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2023-020

TRANSFORMING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES, AND THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department (“CYFD”) was created to advocate for and protect our State’s families and children;

WHEREAS, child and family well-being has been one of my priorities as Governor;

WHEREAS, my administration has ushered in transformational change for the children of New Mexico, including increased pre- and post-natal care services, universal pre-k, extended learning hours, and free college for New Mexico residents;

WHEREAS, as part of the effort to make sure all New Mexicans get the services they need, on August 11, 2021, I appointed the Honorable Barbara J. Vigil, an esteemed retired Justice of the New Mexico Supreme Court and advocate for children and families, to lead the New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department (“CYFD”);

WHEREAS, during her time as Cabinet Secretary, Justice Vigil has had the opportunity to undertake a system-wide review of CYFD and make recommendations for improvement;

WHEREAS, I am empowered to merge, abolish, or create divisions within CYFD by executive order in the interest of efficiency and economy pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 9-2A-4; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to transform and reorganize CYFD to address the issues identified by Justice Vigil and ensure that CYFD best serves the interests of our State’s children and families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby **ORDER** and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. CYFD’s organizational chart shall be reorganized to elevate personnel in charge of protective services, behavioral health, and juvenile justice.

2. The Emergency Health and Behavioral Services Division shall ensure that a robust, statewide system exists for children and families in need of immediate services.

3. The Protective Services Division shall encompass child intake, foster care, placement services, and Fostering Connections. The Division shall work closely with the Emergency Health and Behavioral Services Division to ensure that our most at-risk children receive the services they need as soon as they need them.

4. The Juvenile Justice Division shall focus on prevention, rehabilitation, resilience, and recovery.

5. The Policy Advisory Council (the “Council”) is hereby established. The Council shall consist of seven members, including at least one representative from each of the following groups: service providers, foster care representatives, youth advocacy representatives, lawyers, behavioral health providers, and family members with experience with the CYFD system. The members of the Council shall reflect New Mexico’s cultural and geographic diversity. The members of the Council shall be confirmed by the New Mexico Senate. Members will serve staggered, three-year terms and will be subject to reappointment.

6. There shall be an Office of Innovation dedicated to researching best practices for better outcomes for children receiving services from CYFD.

7. CYFD shall establish a grievance system to allow families to engage in meaningful dialogue with CYFD and ensure that all clients are receiving the care they need.

8. CYFD shall be subject to an annual services audit from an out-of-state, independent consulting firm.

I FURTHER ORDER and DIRECT as follows:

1. This Order supersedes any previous orders, proclamations, or directives to the extent they are in conflict.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until renewed, modified, or rescinded.

ATTEST:


MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 16TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO


MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

