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**NEVADA STATE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
MINORITY/GENDER COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

May 7, 2014

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Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Martin at 5:37 p.m.

Roll Call – Alice Mueller

Members Present by Phone: Kirby Burgess, John Martin, Lisa Morris Hibbler, Dawn Lozano, Ivet Santiago, Paula Smith, Egan Walker, Lonnie Wright,
Statewide Task Force Members Present by Phone: Ali Banister, Cheri Ely, Thomas Stockard, Lynette Gust, Pat Schreiber

Members Absent: Noah Jennings, Raymond McKay

Staff Present by Phone: Sharon Benson from the A.G. office, J. Alice Mueller

Others Present by Phone: Ben Bianchi, Fritz Reese,

Public Comment and Discussion

There was no public comment.

Review of Official Minutes from April 16th, 2014 Meeting and Previous Minutes.

In addition to the April 16, 2014 minutes, the previous minutes from March 13, 2013, April 17, 2013, July 24, 2013, September 11, 2013, October 9th, 2013, February 5, 2014 and March 26, 2014 were brought forward for review. Stakeholder Judge Stockard moved that the minutes from April 16, 2014 and all previous minutes reviewed at this meeting be approved as written. Commissioner Lozano seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the Committee.

Specialist Salla was not present at this meeting. It was determined to pass on those portions of the agenda on which she needed to report and continue onto the later sections where the commissioners could have discussion.

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School to Prison Pipeline – Dr. Morris Hibbler

Co-Chair Morris Hibbler led a discussion on the School to Prison Pipeline. She stated that the committee needs to identify action items that could be addressed. This has become a large enough issue that it is being deliberated not only here, but also across the country. Research has shown that people don't understand Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) terminology or how DMC impacts them or their community. Both Co-Chairs will be attending the National League of Cities in Washington D.C. in June where best practices will be discussed. It is hoped that some clear action steps will be determined in ways to help break the school to prison pipeline.

One of the items discussed previously was getting engaged with the school districts. At a recent State of Education, Superintendent Skorkowsky noted disproportionality in the school district and he made addressing it, one of his priorities. He was asked for a contact person so that the committee could discuss common plans, but has not sent the information back. It is also important to assess what training is available to all school district employees.

Commissioner Wright referenced research and study on the first diversity training at the MGM. There is correlation between culture clashes as the catalyst to problems. These issues need to be brought to the front and individuals made more accountable. The training of people in a multicultural professional work environment is very important.

In order to start having a community dialogue, Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson who is a member of a consortium of 19 black elected officials was contacted. Congressman Steven Horsford was also called. He is making a big push with President Obama's initiative, My Brother's Keeper. Co-Chair Martin has been attending many of those meetings, pointing out the natural nexus between what they are doing with our own work. There is a need to have all interested parties at the table. Although this committee does not deal with legislative changes, we need to be part of the dialogue.

Negative actions which occur in the schools can put youth on a trajectory where they begin to commit bigger crimes. Not only does this use tax dollars, but the youth would be better served by being redirected to other resources. An Assessment Center modeled after one used with the homeless population could be most useful. Using coordinated intake, a person can be assessed and their needs determined. They can then be appropriately referred to resources. This could reduce much of the frustration from going in circles looking for the right services.

Commissioner Lozano pointed out that many youth who have not yet entered the system would benefit from direction on where to obtain services. Clearly an assessment center could help more than just low level offenders. A one stop shop which could direct individuals to resources would do the community well.

Chairman Burgess was consulted on where to go with the three action items which had been discussed. He suggested that they be brought before the Full Juvenile Justice Commission at the Quarterly Meeting on May 22, 2014. There it can be voted on for approval, and once endorsed the committee can move forward on them. Commissioner Wright moved to have these three action items presented to the Full Commission with a second from Commissioner Smith. The motion was passed by the committee.

Minority and Gender Membership – John Martin

The Co-Chairs reached out to Chairman Burgess to discuss how to strengthen this committee. One of the changes made was to move the time of the meeting from 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm. The Co-Chairs also had a letter sent to all the committee members explaining their plans for the

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Minority and Gender Committee. The time change resulted in having seventeen individuals on the line.

There was a discussion on the best way to remove people from membership who had missed attendance for a while. A list of the current stakeholders along with their area of expertise was requested. It was determined that someone from the Clark and Washoe County School Districts in addition to some of the smaller school districts would be helpful. Commissioner Wright felt that it was imperative to get the school districts involved since many issues begin in the schools. Commissioner Smith suggested contacting Commissioner Shick since he was been doing a lot of work with the schools. There will be an opportunity to speak with him at the full commission meeting on May 22, 2014.

Commissioner Lozano suggested that the Juvenile Justice Commission rules and bylaws be reviewed to see what action can be taken for those who have not been attending. She recalled that what was required was that after three misses in a row, a letter and email would notify them that they might be replaced. Others who are on the list but who have not been in attendance might be approached about whether they wish to continue or if they are too busy at the present time. Several of the commissioners had colleagues on the list who were not attending. It was suggested that they reengage them and see what it would take to bring them back. Among these were Pedro Martinez, Stavan Corbett and a new individual, Dr. Linda Young. All of these are involved with the school boards or state board of education.

New Business

Chairman Burgess noted that this is election season, and as such, it would be a good time to talk with the individuals who are running to see where they stand on DMC and if they are aware of its effects on the community and children. Co-Chairs Hibbler and Martin have already had discussions with potential candidates and encouraged the others on the committee to reach out to candidates. There is even a current bill draft on this topic so it is an important subject for this election year.

Co-Chair Martin emphasized that DMC and the School to Prison Pipeline is not just a black or brown issue and should not be framed as such when discussing with individuals. This is a human issue, a poverty issue. Conversations should be about solutions not just about race. Everyone should feel they have something to contribute.

Comments from Public

No members of the public were present, and there was no public comment.

Set Time, Date and Agenda for Next Meeting

The next Committee Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday June 18th, 2014 at 5:30 pm. This will be a phone conference.

Agenda:

- Technical Assistance Planning
- 2013 Relative Rate Index
- Three Year Plan to OJJDP with discussion on the RFA
- School to Prison Pipeline
- Minority and Gender Committee membership
- Election season discussions on DMC

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m. by Chairman Martin.