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NEVADA STATE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION**

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

**MINUTES**

**July 23, 2014**

**DRAFT**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Martin at 5:34 p.m.

**Roll Call – Alice Mueller**

Members Present by Phone: John Martin, Lisa Morris Hibbler, Noah Jennings, Paula Smith, Egan Walker, Lonnie Wright

Statewide Task Force Members Present by Phone: Ali Banister, Ben Bianchi, Steve Compan, Fritz Reese, Thomas Stockard, Craig Tippens

Members Excused: Dawn Lozano, Ivet Santiago,

Members Absent: Raymond McKay,

Staff Present by Phone: Ross Armstrong from the A.G. office, Pauline Salla, J. Alice Mueller

**Public Comment and Discussion**

There was no public comment.

**Review of Official Minutes from June 18, 2014 Meeting**

Commissioner Smith moved that the minutes from the June 18, 2014 meeting be approved as written. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the Committee.

**Technical Assistance Planning – Pauline Salla**

Specialist Salla has been working with the National Council of Juvenile Family Court Judges on the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Statewide Technical Assistance assessment. This was submitted to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) on June 2, 2014 as part of the DMC core requirement in the Federal Fiscal Year 2014 Formula Grant Application. Once reviewed, they will let us know of any changes or additional information required. If all is satisfactory, we can move forward with the Technical Assistance Request which will involve going deeper into the Relative Rate Index and identifying where services or programming are lacking.

## DRAFT

Co-Chairman Martin wanted to know if the Technical Assistance would be just data assistance or would it generate real strategies which have worked in other jurisdictions and actually been proven capable of reducing disparate treatment. Specialist Salla said that both would be forthcoming. Other than Clark and Washoe Counties, many of the other counties have not adequately accessed their Relative Rate Index data. Part of the Technical Assistance request involves training the rural jurisdictions in this process. Once the data has been evaluated, strategies can be implemented.

An example of the Relative Rate Index data directing strategy is in arrests. Nearly all of the jurisdictions indicate disparate treatment in arrests. The Effective Police Interactions with Youth Technical Assistance Request specializes in training on that one point of contact.

Co-Chairman Martin then asked if the data system which had recently been reviewed in Arizona would help the rurals with their Relative Rate Index data. Specialist Salla thought it would and then briefly discussed the two day trip to Phoenix, Arizona. The system reviewed was at the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections. It is now possible to complete a business plan about what works along with the next steps to be taken. This will be submitted to the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) administration and the Supreme Court Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform.

If this data system is implemented, then the counties can upload or input their data into the statewide system directly. Tailored reports could be run without having the jurisdictions complete specialized templates. It would also be available for the DMC coordinator to assist counties in working with their data. Co-Chairman Martin hoped things would start moving forward since good decisions require good data. In addition to good data he also would like some real strategies to reduce DMC in all the jurisdictions. Specialist Salla agreed, she mentioned that the specialists all have requested ideas on what works to decrease disparate treatment. So far, they have not received anything specific or any proven strategies.

Finally, the committee was requested to review the Effective Police Interactions with Youth Technical Assistance application. It needs to be submitted by July 30, 2014 and she would like to receive letters of support from school resource officers and school police departments. There needs to be law enforcement agencies that are willing to participate. Committee members who may have contacts in the various jurisdictions were requested to pass on a draft letter to be returned the week of July 30. If successful, the training may occur in either northern or southern Nevada, depending on where the majority of the participants are located. There is a possibility that both areas could have the training.

### **School to Prison Pipeline – Dr. Morris Hibbler**

Co-Chairman Hibbler recently returned from training in Washington D.C. where the school to prison pipeline issue was discussed. The Clark County School District needs to become involved as it is the fifth largest in the nation. It has over 315,000 students and is so large, that there may be five or six different individuals who each has information about different parts and functions in the school district. In the end, what is needed, is to find out what they are willing to do long term. The strategies implemented need to become part of their philosophy and not be solely grant activated. So far the co-chairs have not been able to sit down with Superintendent Skorkowsky or his staff to really talk about the school districts plans. It is hoped that they can be impressed with the importance of addressing this issue, set up realistic goals and be willing to do realistic actions.

## **DRAFT**

While arrests have gone down in the last four to five years, there has not been a comparable decrease among minorities, particularly African American males. They are still being referred in disproportionate numbers, receive harsher sentences and generally go further into the juvenile justice system. Assessment Centers could do a lot to address these issues. The National League of Cities has implemented assessment centers in about ten cities. They are places where law enforcement or parole agencies can bring a child to learn what wrap around resources are available. Co-Chairman Hibbler is currently working on a white paper about assessment centers which will look into how much they cost, who are potential partners, along with what some of the services and resources would be.

Cultural Competency training would be another step in the right direction. Recently there has been a push to treat children more like little adults without acknowledging adolescent behaviors. Co-Chairman Hibbler has been looking through the National League of Cities to find training opportunities for law enforcement and others in the Juvenile Justice System. Co-Chairman Martin has applied for some grants for the Clark County School District which would work with the front end youth at Canyon Springs, a high risk, predominantly minority school. This grant would put mediators at the school, to help youth be assessed earlier and could provide valuable data on how early intervention may actually work.

### **Minority and Gender Membership – John Martin**

Co-Chairman Martin, referencing the Juvenile Justice Commissions bylaws, led a discussion on the best way to trim stakeholders who have missed several meetings of the Minority and Gender committee. It was pointed out, that the Juvenile Justice Commission Chairman elects or dismisses the members who are Juvenile Justice Commissioners. Both Ross Armstrong and Judge Walker felt it was best to send out a list of the stakeholders along with the agenda for the next meeting and make sure it is in the public notices. There would be a more specific item in the agenda, which would refer to these names and that there would be a vote on their possible removal.

A couple of months ago, an email was sent out requesting responses from committee members on how to increase attendance. One of the suggestions was a later time for the meeting. This was implemented and participation has grown. Unfortunately, many did not respond to the email. It is important to replace people who are not making the time or are willing to give their energy and ideas. Those considered for replacement would be stakeholders who had missed the last three meetings.

Commissioner Walker made a motion seconded by Co-Chairman Hibbler, to post and place on the next meeting's agenda, a list of stakeholders whose place on the committee will be voted on. This is to ensure that nobody's due process is violated. The motion was passed by the committee members.

### **Election Season and DMC Discussions – Pauline Salla**

At a previous committee meeting, there was some discussion on how to present DMC matters to elected officials. Specialist Salla clarified what could be done and still remain within the Juvenile Justice Commission's guidelines. The members may provide data and facts, but they may not lobby. If they are making contacts not involving the commission, a statement must be made that they are not representing the Juvenile Justice Commission.

Co-Chairman Martin mentioned he and Co-Chairman Hibbler had discussed facilitating a round table of southern Nevada elected officials. They would discuss DMC strategies in addition to looking at legislation. Some of the school district laws dealing with discretion might also be highlighted.

## **DRAFT**

Specialist Salla explained that great care must be taken with the lobbying prohibition. She has to sign off on the grants and has had numerous discussions with OJJDP in addition to testifying in the legislative sessions. As long as the conversation has facts to back up what is being said, and the commissioner is discussing those facts, along with best practices and evidence based programming, everything is fine. If the commissioner is going out to dinner and talking about issues, then there is a chance of crossing the line into lobbying. Ross Armstrong agreed. Discussions about facts and strategies would be appropriate. Linking those to difficulties in crime legislation, or proposals for new legislation would likely cross the line into lobbying.

### **New Business**

Stakeholder, Hearing Master Steve Compan told the committee that their Diversion Court had been accepted for Certification Training, with a focus on DMC. A panel of nine individuals from law enforcement and community partners, will be going to Washington D.C. in October to receive that training. The core reason they have diversion court, is to try and take kids that are pre-entry to the system and divert them out. They will be learning best practices and eventually will give a presentation to the commission.

### **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 August 13, 2014 at 5:30 pm. This will be a phone conference.

Agenda:

Technical Assistance Planning  
School to Prison Pipeline  
Minority and Gender Committee membership  
Election season discussions on DMC

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. by Chairman Martin.