



**Nevada Children's Commission
Full Commission Meeting
Minutes**

DATE: Friday, January 10, 2020

TIME: 10:30 AM

LOCATIONS:

Division of Child and Family Services
4126 Technology Way, 3rd Floor Conference Room
Carson City, Nevada 89706

Division of Child and Family Services, Youth Parole Bureau
6171 W. Charleston Blvd., Building 15
Las Vegas, Nevada 89146

1. Call to order- Justice Nancy Saitta, Justice Elissa Cadish, Ross Armstrong

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m. by Ross Armstrong.

2. Welcome and Introductions (Roll Call)- DCFS Staff

Members Present: Justice Nancy Saitta, Justice Elissa Cadish, Ross Armstrong, Margaret Crowley, Senator Marilyn Dondero-Loop, Brigid Duffy, Dr. Joe Haas, Amber Howell, John McCormick, Megan Miller, Judge Michael Montero, Kimberly Palma Ortega, Shelia Parks, Judge William Voy, Judge Egan Walker, Janice Wolf

Members Absent: Nancy Brune, Valerie Fujii, Tim Burch, Judge Cynthia Lu, Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Tina Moreno, Senator Keith Pickard, Judge Frank P. Sullivan, Denise Tanata, Assemblyman Steve Yeager

DCFS Staff: Kathryn Roose, Elvira Saldana, Sharon Anderson, Patrick Mendez, Susie Miller

Roll call was taken and it was determined a quorum of the Nevada Children's Commission was present.

3. Public Comment and Discussion:

There was no public comment.

4. For Possible Action: Meeting Minutes from October 11, 2019

Justice Saitta asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Shelia Parks requested the spelling of her name be corrected.

Action: A motion was made by Brigid Duffy to approve the minutes with the suggested correction, seconded by Senator Marilyn Dondero-Loop and carried to approve the minutes of October 11, 2019.

5. For Information: Inspire Presentation

Judge Egan Walker provided an overview of INSPIRES. From the court perspective it is an evidence-based program. The National Council has proselytized the judges to coordinate services for children and families across the court system. Judge Egan Walker provided an explanation of complicated family trees from the presentation provided. Washoe County has established a Project One Program which was built out of a crossover youth project. INSPIRES is about putting children and families at the center. Approximately 3 years ago the Court Administrator and Assistant Court Administrator went to a court technology conference where they connected with IBM. IBM has a computer program called Watson. The IBM Watson Care Manager places the individuals served at the center of services. There is a vision to improve the lives of juveniles and their families in both systems. The dream is through Watson Care Manager, everyone can work from a common data set on the same multi-disciplinary team for a child. The goal is to push this out across the state.

Justice Saitta asked what the cost was for Inspires.

Judge Egan Walker replied \$1,000,000.00.

Justice Saitta asked Commission members if they knew of INSPIRES prior to the presentation.

Judge Montero replied they have met with IBM a few times and are very interested.

Justice Saitta asked if everyone has the same access to the same information.

Judge Egan Walker replied no.

Judge Egan Walker informed they built a matrix of the juvenile justice, child welfare, Chapter 125A-C statutes, and the logic trees. Judge Egan Walker will forward matrix.

Justice Saitta asked for further discussion about the INSPIRES program as it relates to state efforts to coordinate for child welfare dependency and juvenile justice system be placed on the next agenda. Justice Saitta requested Elvira Saldana to add a report back session to the next agenda on further consideration of INSPIRES issues.

Justice Cadish asked how long it has been operational and used.

Judge Egan Walker replied Inspires has been operational since December.

A member asked what the expectation of is of the Commission members.

Justice Saitta stated a request to and through the respective chain of command if they would consider having an INSPIRES presentation.

Judge Voy stated he would take the lead and schedule a presentation to take place.

6. For Information: Legislative Affairs

Ross Armstrong reported the first Interim Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice took place in December. The Committee heard from the Division on bills passed in the last session. There are studies the legislature must conduct and studies and action plans the Division must complete. The next meeting is February 14th. One of the more relevant studies to this Commission is Assembly Bill 111. The bill requires the Legislative Counsel Bureau to study the child welfare systems ability to maximize federal funding for its activities. An appropriation was received during the session and there is a request for proposal out at this time for a firm or contractor to complete the study. At the February meeting, the Division anticipates the approval of the contractor. There will also be studies on commercially sexually exploited children. Once the agenda is available, it will be provided to the Commission. The Chair for the Interim Committee is Senator Ohrenschall and Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno is the Vice-Chair.

7. For Information: DCFS Budget Overview

Ross Armstrong informed the handouts provided were from the budget presentations for the last session. The first handout is the Division's organizational chart which reflects the organization of the programs and their budget accounts. The second sheet reflects the budget accounts in order by budget account number, what activity occurs, and breakdown of revenue by general fund, federal funds, and other. The highlighted sections are not relevant. The budget presentations were split into two meetings therefore the highlighted ones were the ones reviewed at that meeting. One of the items approved last session for the Commission to be aware of, was a technology investment request that will allow the UNITY system to have secure by directional data exchanges. It is anticipated to be setup this summer. The other item approved was the increase of 12 beds at Desert Willow Treatment Center.

Janice Wolf asked if the Transition from Foster Care relates to children who are aging out of foster care at age 18.

Ross clarified it is independent living services for youth who are aging out.

Dr. Haas stated there was legislation requiring the reporting of out of state placements for youth. Dr. Haas inquired if it is being projected in future budget, if it will be part of the oversight committee's work or if it should be part of the behavioral health work.

Ross stated there was a bill requiring annual reporting of the youth placed out of state. The report will help determine if there is a big enough capacity or trend of a particular need of youth out of state and if we should build infrastructure in-state and try to build the service or have a community provider build the service and keep the youth here.

Judge Voy expressed concern when youth do need to be placed out of state, they are being rejected due to the expansion of Medicaid and beds being full. The Medicaid rates for residential treatment centers are not competitive.

8. For Possible Action: Updates from Committees

Justice Saitta stated each of the committees were designed to have a demographic. Justice Saitta asked the Committee Chairs to convene a meeting. Justice Saitta stated the committees must identify the committee

demographic, what data is needed, what data the committee has, where they go to obtain the data and identify if there is a crossover.

Dr. Haas stated the data, in many ways, has been accomplished by the System of Care grant. Dr. Haas asked if it would be ok to meet with System of Care and then convene a meeting between the child welfare, juvenile justice and behavioral health committees to review the plan and consortia plans, if needed, to come up with priorities. Dr. Haas stated he would like to avoid identifying the same issues and solutions. Dr. Haas asked if it made sense from DCFS' perspective and from the Chairs giving permission to do that.

Ross Armstrong replied it makes sense and the delicate part, regarding Open Meeting Law is if those 3 committees made up a quorum of the entire Commission then there would be an issue. Elvira can help schedule and reserve rooms. The Division is currently in process of finalizing a part-time contracted position to serve this Commission and all the committees. In the next couple of weeks, a dedicated staff member will be available to help accomplish the goals set out by the Co-Chairs.

Elvira Saldana reminded the Commission the committee meetings must comply with Open Meeting Law.

Brigid stated in the last meeting, it was discussed having the crossover for the child welfare committee to have someone with expertise/knowledge of juvenile justice, education, mental health and a crossover into child welfare. Brigid had suggested to look at individuals who can identify barriers they have in doing their job. Brigid asked where they start to get nominations for the committees.

Justice Saitta replied the mandate to operate the committees remain as discussed.

Brigid commented it was her understanding the committee members can bring in others.

Ross stated for Open Meeting Law purposes, only the Commission members are permitted to serve as voting members of the committee. If outside folks are brought in, they can be a designated stakeholder. Justice Saitta and Justice Cadish have some flexibility in the ADKT to appoint members to the Commission. Ross reminded Commission members as they are working with the committees, the members can vote on official recommendations and the others can be designated as stakeholders for participation.

9. For Possible Action: Discuss and approve the letter with funding priorities to the Department of Health and Human Services

Ross stated at the last meeting it was discussed for the full Commission to submit a letter of priorities to Director Whitley relating to funding priorities. A survey was conducted about the dependency system primarily to help educate the letter. It appears there are some budget priorities the committees want to spearhead. The Commission may decide to not submit a letter as a full Commission, however have the Co-Chairs submit one. Early March is the deadline for Divisions to submit budget concept papers. For the Committee Chairs who want to submit a committee letter or as an individual, Ross suggested not going past February 14th in submitting.

Justice Saitta stated once the Committee Chairs have met, the Co-Chairs of the Commission should be informed and advised of any identified budgetary asks to draft a letter.

Ross stated the Open Meeting Law requirement for meeting agenda posting is 3 working days.

Dr. Haas commented the data presented reflects the top 3 out of the 4 systems looked at in order of importance for funding involve children's mental health, adult mental health, and disability or developmental disability.

Ross stated the Division has their initial budget meeting with the Director in 2 weeks. If the Commission members have a specific budget item the Division should be considering, Ross suggested an email to be sent to him.

10. For Possible Action: Discuss and Decide Upon Next Steps

- Assign Tasks to the Committee Members (if needed)
- Specify Agenda Items for the Next Meeting
 1. Presentations from child serving oversight committees (Juvenile Justice Oversight Commission, State Children's Mental Health Consortium, Court Improvement Project, Nevada Coalition to Prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children)
 2. Workplan progress and update if needed
 3. Update on Committees to be a standing agenda item.
- Confirm Next Meeting Date/Time
The next meeting date for the Children's Commission will be Friday, March 6, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

11. Public Comment and Discussion:

Jane Saint stated for the record, she is in attendance.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega commented she is very honored to be part of the Commission. Kimberly looks forward to working with everyone. As a parent, Kimberly is grateful for what the Commission is doing.

Ross Armstrong thanked Dr. Wade. Ross recognized Dr. Wade for her leadership which comes with heart skills and a vision of where we can take a publicly funded and operated hospital to serve kids, which is a huge asset to everyone on the Commission.

Judge Voy suggested to think of a way to increase the level of pay for the prospective employee to staff the 12 beds.

12. Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn, seconded by Shelia Parks, and carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.