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

**MINUTES**

**March 26, 2014**

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**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Martin at 2:04 p.m.

**Roll Call – Alice Mueller**

Members Present by Phone: Kirby Burgess, John Martin, Lisa Morris Hibbler, Ivet Santiago

Statewide Task Force Members Present by Phone: Cheri Ely, Pat Schrieber, Craig Tippens

Members Absent: Noah Jennings, Dawn Lozano, Raymond McKay, Paula Smith, Egan Walker, Lonnie Wright

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

**Public Comment and Discussion**

There was no public comment.

**Review of Official Minutes from February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Meeting.**

Since there was not a quorum, the minutes from February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 in addition to the previous minutes presented for approval, were tabled until the next meeting.

**Comments from the new Co-Chairman – Jack Martin**

Co-Chairman Jack Martin thanked newly elected Chairman Kirby Burgess for this opportunity to Co-Chair the Minority and Gender Committee. Chairman Burgess expressed how pleased he was to have both Commissioners Martin and Hibbler to take over the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) subcommittee. Commissioner Martin has a background in directing the largest juvenile justice agency in the state of Nevada and is a leader in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). Commissioner Hibbler has a long history of working in DMC and Gender issues. He hoped that they would be able to activate more folks to participate in the committee. Co-Chair Martin credited Chairman Burgess with doing a lot of hard work over the last Twenty years. Chairman Burgess compared it to running a marathon, he may have started out, but Co-Chair Martin would be the anchor. Chairman Burgess also mentioned that he wished to visit all of the subcommittees in order to keep apprised of the good work they are doing.

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### **Discussion of Technical Assistance Planning, UNR Contacts – Pauline Salla**

Specialist Salla was requested to give an outline on where we were with the Technical Assistance. She explained that there had just been a conference call with Ann Fromknecht and Melissa Sickmund who are with the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ). The NCJJ is a subset of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) who are creating an outline with all the requirements on what is needed to do the DMC assessment. Judge Walker had arranged with them to assist with the completion of the State assessment which is required for the Formula Grant application. They were invited to participate in the April Minority and Gender meeting.

The Three Year Plan which is submitted to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) contains a section on DMC information and planning. This section was submitted to Ms. Fromknecht and Dr. Sickmund in addition to a letter from OJJDP where it stated we were in compliance with the DMC core requirements and identified areas where we needed to add information and/or complete assessment in order to remain in compliance. She also provided them with the 2011 and 2012 Relative Rate Index from each county in Nevada. They were able to confer with Andrea Coleman, who is the DMC and gender coordinator from OJJDP, to determine what was really wanted in order to remain in compliance. We need to make a better connection with our county data to specific programming which addresses disparate treatment. Statewide data needs to be drilled down similar to what is currently being done in Clark and Washoe counties thru their JDAI programs.

They will be completing the Technical Assistance request and then send it to Specialist Salla to ensure that it fits what we're looking for. At the April DMC meeting, they will assist in planning for the Technical Assistance and review the goals before it is submitted. OJJDP is aware that they are working with us, so it is hoped that this will help the approval process proceed more quickly. After it is approved, they will then assist with drilling the data. This will provide a lot of support and actual data analysis which is needed to meet the DMC requirements.

Co-Chair Martin is grateful for their assistance, but speaking as a chief/director, was interested in receiving an outline of what data previous jurisdictions had used to get the outcomes that OJJDP is looking for. Specialist Salla stated that Dr. Sickmund was working on the outline with the Technical Assistance request which is supposed to be available Friday. When completed, it would be sent to the committee members for review and input and then submitted to the State Training and Technical Assistance Center (STTAC) which is the OJJDP technical assistance provider.

Once approved, it can begin to be worked on in conjunction with the Supreme Court subcommittee on data. There are currently attempts to find a data system that can be used statewide. The counties would be able to interface with it and only have to input their data once. Any reports could then be generated from the data base, eliminating the need to constantly ask counties for information. There are efforts being made to identify other states which have a bifurcated system implemented for their data coordination. Co-Chair Martin spoke on Arizona's youth based program which is one of these bifurcated systems. He pointing out that as a taxpayer financed system it was available for use, however there would be programming costs associated with individualizing it to Nevada. He mentioned that he knew the director and would do what was needed to get Nevada a data system which would work for everybody while not being overly labor intensive.

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Co-Chair Martin then brought up the possibility of looking at the School to Prison Pipeline when collecting this data. Specialist Salla pointed out that one of the elements that were probably going to be included in the new Formula Grant application was just that topic. Since that is something that the state is interested in researching, it should be included in the Technical Assistance request to NCJJ. This will be included in April's agenda with discussions about putting it in the Three Year Plan.

### **Relative Rate Index – Pauline Salla**

Co-Chair Martin, requested that Specialist Salla clarify what the Relative Rate Index was. It is a data element that OJJDP utilizes to identify if there is disparate treatment at different points of contact in the juvenile justice system. Information is tracked in relation to ethnic categories in arrests, referrals, diversion court, petitioned cases, delinquency findings, adjudication, placement in state facilities and certification to adult status. The counties provide the numbers which are then put into the DMC data base thru OJJDP. A formula then identifies relative rate indices which are greater than 0.1 which is indicative of disparate treatment at the point of contact. So the relative rate index is just a beginning; the most basic data element in identifying disparate treatment. What needs to be done is to dig deeper into the index in order to make data driven decisions. What is being done right now is meeting the bare minimum requirements of the data.

Co-Chair Martin agreed that data driven decisions are the crux, but was concerned about being the middle man between the courts and the police. He was also sympathetic to the smaller jurisdictions that do not have access to robust data collection systems. Specialist Salla explained that we are obtaining data from each county thru the SB232 report, which is the DMC data report. This documents information at each point of contact resulting in an extensive spreadsheet for each county in addition to one covering statewide DMC. Data highlighted in red on the spreadsheet, indicates disparate treatment.

The duplication of county efforts to create this spreadsheet, without a centralized system, is where the concern is. If that data could be put in once, more efforts could be used in drilling down the data rather than just doing the minimum. A statewide system would ease the burden on both the counties and the juvenile justice programs office. Co-Chair Martin was concerned about the amount of work involved in drilling down into the individual points of contact to determine why the disparate treatment was occurring. Specialist Salla explained that the counties would not have to do the drilling down; rather a technical assistance provider with the juvenile justice programs office would do that. Co-Chair Martin emphasized that it was not that he did not want to collect the data; rather he was concerned that data was being collected simply for the sake of data collecting. He wondered if this data would provide pin point accuracy to help build solutions and alleviate disparate treatment.

### **The Three Year Plan – Pauline Salla**

In the past the Three Year Plan was due on March 31<sup>st</sup>. This year however, the Request for Application (RFA) has yet to be sent out. The reasons for this delay have not been given, however one perhaps has to do with the fact that the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) will no longer be available. Additional money for JABG programing is supposed to be provided in the Formula Grant, which is in the Three Year Plan. There are also extra funds expected for PREA compliance.

At the National Juvenile Justice Specialist Conference call, a request was made to OJJDP to extend the regular 30 day turn around period, in order to accommodate for the many expected changes in the application. They were informed that they would have 60 days from receipt to

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complete it. If it is received in April, this will result in it being due in June, with the typical awarding process beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup>. This puts Nevada in a precarious position with the Three Year Plan, which is the Federal Fiscal Year 2014 Formula Grant. As a result of the many new requirements, it is very important that the Technical Assistance with NCJJ take place. It is essential to make sure that the requirements are met so that we are not out of compliance with any of the four core requirements, which would result in a loss of funding.

Co-Chair Martin remarked on the possible new section of the Three Year Plan dealing with the School to Prison Pipeline. He suggested that perhaps something could be sent out to the commissioners. This could be an initial finding from Clark County to show disparate treatment in numbers. Specialist Salla suggested that we just be prepared since there was no way to know what the request would actually look like. This is after all the Three Year Plan which addresses every aspect of not just DMC but of the entire juvenile justice system. The DMC portion is reviewed by the Minority and Gender Committee with the entire application being reviewed and approved by the Planning and Development Committee. As soon as the application arrives, she will let everybody in both committees know.

### **New Business**

The School to Prison Pipeline was discussed as being a new item at the April meeting. Another topic of discussion would be ways to increase participation in the subcommittee. With an eye to increasing attendance, Alice was requested to survey the committee members and stakeholders on alternate times in addition to interest in continuing with the committee. Specialist Salla suggested that the April meeting be earlier in the month so that the Technical Assistance could move forward more quickly.

### **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 April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 2:00 pm. This will be a phone conference.

#### **Agenda:**

Technical Assistance Planning with the NCJJ call in  
2013 Relative Rate Index  
Three Year Plan to OJJDP with discussion on the RFA  
School to Prison Pipeline  
Minority and Gender Committee possible changes

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 p.m. by Chairman Burgess.