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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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NEVADA STATE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION**

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

MINUTES

April 16, 2014

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Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Martin at 2:01 p.m.

Roll Call – Pauline Salla

Members Present by Phone: John Martin, Lisa Morris Hibbler, Dawn Lozano, Paula Smith
Statewide Task Force Members Present by Phone: Ali Banister, Cheri Ely, Thomas Stockard,
Lynette Gust

Members Absent: Noah Jennings, Raymond McKay, Ivet Santiago, Egan Walker, Lonnie
Wright

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

Others Present by Phone: Staci Pratt from Nevada ACLU, Melissa Sickmund from NCJFCJ

Public Comment and Discussion

There was no public comment.

Review of Official Minutes from March 26th, 2014 Meeting.

Since there was not a quorum, the minutes from March 26th, 2014 in addition to the previous minutes presented for approval, were tabled until the next meeting.

Technical Assistance Planning – Pauline Salla

Dr. Melissa Sickmund from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) was invited to speak with the Minority and Gender Committee. She is from the research division located in Pittsburg and is assisting in formulating the Technical Assistance request to help determine what the scope of work would look like in addition to helping generate a time line so that this could be approved and moved forward.

After reviewing the Determination Letter from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and conversing with Andrea Coleman, the OJJDP Disparate Minority Contact (DMC) coordinator, it was decided that a better plan was needed and then develop a logic model about the things described in the plan.

DRAFT

The data so far collected is good, containing all the nine decision points. Our Relative Rate Index (RRI) has a little red indicating DMC but is not overly bad. Tying the data to the plan is what is really needed. That is, to make sure that there is a closer alignment between what the plan proposes in relation to the data. Since this is never a completed process, a template would make periodic updates to the plan easier. Currently, data from the counties is sent monthly to the Juvenile Court Data Archives where it is compiled into a more useful form and sent back. This information then needs to be disseminated back to the counties.

Ultimately there needs to be a plan for the plan to conduct the assessment. Most imagine that the assessment must look at everything in depth, which is far too costly and scary. It might be better to begin by knowing Nevada, its areas and their differences. Hypothesis could be made, then examine the data to see if they are valid. The Burns Institute had previously sent state plans for Washington State, Maryland and Minnesota. Andrea Coleman and Dr. Sickmund have recently sent out and recommended North Dakota, Colorado, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. Reviewing these can give ideas on structure, such as presentation, organization, incorporating data, showing what has been done, what they plan to do, programs, training, strategies for reducing DMC and whether the work is having any impact.

Commissioner Morris Hibbler brought up the need to bring people's attention around by creating tangible actions. The simpler we can make this the better. Jargon should be avoided in preference to discussions on having a juvenile justice system which treats everyone fairly. This may help to reduce apathy on the topic of DMC.

Cheri Ely was consulted about using Shawn Marsh for training or presentations on implicit bias. In order to keep costs down, this could be in a webinar format or an Adobe connect version. Both the general public and law enforcement needs to be engaged.

Commissioner Martin referenced the work done in Las Vegas with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and the Clark County School District Police. In the past three years, referrals have been reduced by almost 25%. Although this may be attributed to a national decrease in crime, some can be attributed to innovative solutions and giving officers more options in terms of dealing with at risk youth. Several officers are sitting in the DMC and Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiatives (JDAI) committees. They have been a driving force behind community policing. A large portion of the minority community has also become more outspoken. We are seeing success, just not fast enough.

There was then a discussion on some of the rural issues. With 27 Indian tribes in the state, and many counties bordering large reservations, attention to Native Americans concerns needs to be examined. Commissioner Smith, a member of the Inter-Tribal Council said that there was fairly good cooperation between the tribes and the counties. Oftentimes, a child on probation with the county would be kept on probation there, since they had more resources available. No statistics are currently kept on the youth's tribal affiliation, but could perhaps be considered in the future.

Also discussed were problems inherent in tourist destinations like Las Vegas. Co-Chair Martin explained that in researching this, they found that most of the referrals came from three socioeconomically depressed neighborhoods. Although at one time they thought victimized youth were being brought into the area, they discovered that 75% of them were local.

Problems inherent to mining boom and bust economies in the rurals were also brought up. When gold, silver, copper or tungsten are strong, there is a large influx of outsiders. This could result in quick referrals and sending youth to detention as a reaction to cultural clashes.

DRAFT

Dr. Sickmund will be loosely overseeing this work with a member of her staff Teri Deal and a research assist Lauren Vessels. Specialist Salla has their contact information if there are any further questions.

Relative Rate Index – Pauline Salla

Information from the counties has all been received although there have been some difficulties with a couple of the juvenile population break downs. There are also still a few errors indicated on the OJJDP data base. Once there has been an opportunity for review, the statewide Relative Rate Index will be sent out.

The Three Year Plan – Pauline Salla

The OJJDP Request for Application (RFA) came out last week, about a month later than usual. There have been several changes so the new submission date is June 2, 2014. This puts everyone including the Grant Review Committee, counties and sub-grantees behind. The RFP to the counties and sub-grantees will try to be out by April 18, 2014. The whole commission and the National Association of Juvenile Justice Administrators (NAJJA) were sent the actual RFA from OJJDP so that they can review the DMC portion.

Technical Assistance from OJJDP will help complete the DMC portion of the Three Year Plan. As each section is completed, it will be brought to this committee for review and feedback. This will be the focus until it is submitted on June 2nd, 2014.

School to Prison Pipeline – Dr. Morris Hibbler

Las Vegas was selected to participate in the Municipal Leadership of Juvenile Justice Reform Leadership Academy in Washington D.C. this June. It will be one of ten cities who will partake in the two day workshop and both Commissioners Martin and Morris Hibbler will attend. This academy will use the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Model for Change initiative. The areas of concern are reform areas for; after care, dual status youth, juvenile indigent defense, racial ethnic fairness, community based alternatives evidence based practices, mental health and status offense reform in addition to addressing the School to Prison Pipeline.

Clark County School District Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky has already been looking into the School to Prison Pipeline situation and the role that officers may play in it. Commissioner Martin hopes to be able to set some goals and start mobilizing a support mechanism for his efforts in bringing about cultural awareness and training. The school district recently had a big push to go door to door and get youth who were no longer in school to return. Unfortunately other youth are being pushed into the juvenile justice system for issues that would be better handled in other ways. Specialist Salla was glad to hear what was being done in Las Vegas, as this has become a part of Formula RFP.

Minority and Gender Membership – Pauline Salla

Many emails were sent to the commissioners and stakeholders requesting feedback on how to re-engage members of the Minority and Gender Committee. Of those who answered, the time of the meeting seemed to be the greatest problem. Different times were discussed with it being decided to try 5:30 pm for the May 2014 meeting. There is great concern to have quorum as this is tracked by OJJDP; the Minority and Gender subcommittee being a state advisory group.

In order to get individuals who are really committed to participating, Juvenile Justice Commission Chair Burgess and the Co-Chair Commissioners Martin and Morris Hibbler are

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planning on meeting to discuss possible members and stakeholders. This is not subject to open meeting law, but is a responsibility outlined by the commission's by-laws. The intent is to not only select participating Juvenile Justice Commissioners, but also determine stakeholders for areas where representation is needed.

New Business

Discussion was held in the subcommittee about the Georgetown DMC conference. There is great interest in participating in this certificate program, but since the application process is quite extensive, attendance this year may not be possible. A team made up of commissioners and taskforce members would need to apply and get accepted. Participation would include intensive projects, homework, group activities, and further assignments upon return to the state. It involves an extensive time commitment

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 May 7th, 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 update

Adjourn

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