

Nevada State Juvenile Justice Commission

Minority & Gender Subcommittee

August 21, 2014

National League of Cities Juvenile Justice Reform Leadership Academy

In response to an application submitted by Commissioners Jack Martin and Lisa Morris Hibbler, the National League of Cities (NLC) selected the City of Las Vegas to join thirty local leaders from across the country committed to lead juvenile justice reform in their cities. City of Las Vegas Councilman Ricki Barlow served as the Elected Official sponsor and also attended training.

The 2-day training held on June 11-13, 2014, in Washington, DC, focused on community-based services for low-level and status offenders, building racial and ethnic equity and improving collaboration. Experts from across the country informed local leaders about best practices that have been vetted through a decade of juvenile justice reform.

The academy helped cities develop action plans to accomplish data-driven and meaningful change in our respective communities. The City Team focused on developing an assessment and engagement center and eliminating disproportionate minority contact.

Juvenile Assessment and Service Center

Clark County has been exploring an early intervention collaborative model. The plan is to create a centralized assessment center that would consist of a partnership between the Clark County departments of Family Services, Social Services, Juvenile Justice and service providers that come into contact with children, teens and young adults in crisis.

The members of the DMC committee have been researching similar Juvenile Assessment and Service Center models across the country to further define a plan that would work best for Clark County. The goal is to serve the needs of low level and status offenders and keep youth who are crossing the threshold of the juvenile justice system from further involvement in the system.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/politics/government/clark-county-explores-assessment-center-serve-troubled-youth>

Youth Reengagement Centers

With the average graduation rate in Nevada around 60%, thousands of kids and young adults between the ages of 14-21 are not enrolled in school or have not finished their high school education. Cities across the country are identifying innovative strategies that provide multiple routes to graduation including establishing “one-stop” centers for high school dropouts. Reengagement centers offer a range of services such as individual academic assessments, opportunities to explore different options and referrals to appropriate schools or other credential programs. Offering an effective “Second Chance System” provides out-of-school youth a pathway to become educated and productive members of society and reduces their likelihood of continued contact with the criminal justice system.

Disproportionate Minority Contact

In Clark County, racial and ethnic disparity continues to be a persistent problem. The DMC has set forth a strategic goal to address “the school to prison pipeline” in which kids who commit status offenses are funneled to the juvenile detention center which can often place them on a trajectory to get deeper into the criminal justice system. Combating this issue requires a collaborative effort with law enforcement and school officials, as the problem typically begins with “zero tolerance” policies and police interactions and arrests.

Commissioners Martin and Morris Hibbler met with the Clark County School District about grant opportunities to address disproportionality and officer training. More than six Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs grants have been submitted collaboratively. A “Community Summit” with local leaders is also being discussed. Additionally, Pauline Salla submitted a statewide application for technical assistance for *Effective Police Interactions with Youth- Tactics that Work*.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Lisa Morris-Hibbler & John M. Martin