

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA

AMBER HOWELL
Administrator

MICHAEL J. WILLDEN
Director
Department of Health and Human Services



STEVE MCBRIDE
Deputy Administrator

PAULINE SALLA
Juvenile Justice Programs Chief

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

4126 Technology Way, 3rd Floor

Carson City, Nevada 89706

Telephone: (775) 684-4429 • Fax: (775) 684-4455

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
NEVADA STATE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
MINUTES
February 20, 2014**

February 20, 2014 Call to Order

This meeting was called to order on February 20, 2014 at 10:02 a.m. by Chairman John Hambrick.

Roll Call – Pauline Salla

Members Present: Michael Beam, Kirby Burgess, Frank Cervantes, Dan Coppa, Liz Florez, John Hambrick, Lisa Morris Hibbler, Amber Howell, John Martin, Steve McBride, Fernando Serrano, Scott Shick, Paula Smith, MariaJose Taibo, Honorable Egan Walker, Honorable Kimberly Wanker, Lonnie Wright.

Members Present by Phone: Dawn Lozano, Ivet Santiago

Members Absent: Niah Anson, Danny Gonzales, David Humke, Noah Jennings, Raymond McKay

Staff Present: Ross Armstrong (Deputy Attorney General), Pauline Salla, J. Alice Mueller

Public Present: Vanessa Spinazola, ACLU of Nevada

Public Comment and Discussion

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2013 Meeting

Commissioner Cervantes made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2013 meeting as corrected, with a second from Commissioner Burgess. The motion was passed by the Commission.

Treasurer's Report – Kirby Burgess and Pauline Salla

Commissioner Burgess stated that our fiscal affairs were in order and all was running smoothly. Specialist Salla explained that some money was still being used from the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2012 budget. The dues payable to the Coalition of Juvenile Justice for 2014 were made

early, which allowed for a 5% savings. In addition to this, there was some commissioner travel which was still pending at the time this report was entered. With these items factored in, the FFY 2012 commission portion will be spent out and closed. The FFY 2013 commission portion was shown in error as \$30,000.00. It should have read as \$20,000.00, and is only now beginning to be used.

The Medicaid Room and Board disbursements were itemized. The majority of the jurisdictions have requested their full amount with Clark and Churchill counties requesting their second quarter funds. Once the commission finishes with its small portion of \$1,000.00, the FFY 2011 Formula Grant will be totally paid out and the closeout packet submitted to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

The Federal Fiscal Year 2013 Formula grant is the current grant that is being operated on for sub-grantees. There was an additional award of \$5,210.00 which will be available to sub-grant out for private non-profits or local government use. It was decided to send this out with the FFY 2014 Request for Proposals (RFP) and to account for it separately as FFY 2013 funds. The Grant Review committee will be meeting in May and the grant period runs for three years so this will still be in the appropriate time frame.

Commissioner Lozano made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report with a second from Commissioner Wright. This motion was passed by the Commission.

Staff Report – Pauline Salla

Progress is being made at becoming more compliant with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). The National Institute for Corrections (NIC) has made six different trainings available. Topics range from Conducting Investigations, End Confinement Settings, and Behavioral Mental Health Services. Many of these take six hours to complete and include an exam at the end. Currently only one is mandatory for individuals working in juvenile facilities. This is the class dealing with their role in responding to sexual misconduct and is a great PREA 101.

The facilities have been participating in this training for the last year and a half. Although the PREA 101 is done annually for new hires, there is a different training for the refresher classes in succeeding years. The training is free and flexible on when it can be taken. If the juvenile facilities don't have a contract with a law enforcement agency to come in and do PREA investigations, the team conducting the investigations must have this specific training before conducting PREA investigations and confinement studies.

It looks like the FFY 2014 funding streams from OJJDP for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) will be going away. This is unfortunate as it focuses on the graduated sanctions and accountability based programming. Twenty percent of JABG is used by the state correctional facilities to train staff in evidence based curriculum, purchasing this curriculum, and to train youth parole officers in best practice and evidence based procedures.

There have been discussions that the Formula Grant will be increased and return to \$600,000.00. The hope is that there will be additional money attached for PREA activities and perhaps for program area two of the JABG grant which is with the correctional facilities. There is current work on a blended learning and funding for state facilities. This is a working partnership with the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Inspector General's Office for PREA funding to educate youth or youthful offenders who may be in the state prison systems

who are under 18 but certified as adults. Other additional funding sources are being examined since JABG is going and Title V money is earmarked and not available.

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) is also not being funded anymore, there is however some funding which has been carried over. This has allowed for continued work with law enforcement agencies. There has been a citation program where they go into casinos or bars with youth who are under 21 but over 18 to see if they are served alcohol. Those who serve them get fined but can decrease the amount of the fine by attending Beverage Server Training. There has been about \$32,000.00 raised in the last couple of years thru this program. The money raised helps to purchase intoxilizers for the juvenile probation departments. This allows youth not to be taken into adult facilities to be tested. Portable PBT's have also been purchased for law enforcement, probation officers, and school resource officers. These can be passed over a cup to determine if alcohol is in it. They can be used at dances, football games and other activities. Scholarships have been provided to individuals who would like to attend the Beverage Server Training but lack funds to cover travel expenses. Other EUDL activities like shoulder taps, and check points can also continue thru the use of these funds.

In January, there was a statewide training on suicide prevention in correctional and juvenile detention facilities. It is called Shield of Care and was created and taught by two individuals from Tennessee. About 26 participated in the training which was held at Summit View. There was 2 ½ days of training with a third day spent determining how this would be implemented in other facilities. Many requests have been received to teach this in statewide facilities. Those who have been certified as train the trainers are available to do the requested training. Extra binders containing the curriculum were made available to the commission.

OJJDP requested that Specialist Salla participate with two other specialists in rewriting the National Juvenile Justice Specialist Manual. They will redo the entire manual so that it will be available to new specialists, Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Coordinators and compliance monitors. They will have about three months to complete the task. This will be good publicity for Nevada.

Medicaid Room and Board – Pauline Salla

There were two reports discussed, State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2013 and SFY 2014. The reason that SFY 2013 needed to be addressed was because there were jurisdictions that had not utilized their full awarded amount. They have the ability to continue to utilize the money however the reported amounts need to be kept with the appropriate SFY's. This is the last report for SFY 2013.

In SFY 2013 there were 486 youth served with the funds which are distributed based on juvenile population. The jurisdictions may utilize the money when they place youth in approved Medicaid placement. This is used for the per diem piece, which are the night time costs of having kids in the program. If there is no funds used in this manner, they can be put to use in community based programming that keep kids out of state commitment. As long as the jurisdiction can report on the majority of performance measures, they have flexibility on how the money is used. Some of the community programs are juvenile sex offender evaluations, substance abuse, mental health counseling, and psychological assessment.

SFY 2014 began July 1, 2013 and is currently in the second quarter. Some jurisdictions were still using SFY 2013 funds, so they do not show a draw down. It should be noted that at the

time of this report, Mineral County had not yet reported their use of Medicaid Room and Board funds. By the second quarter of SFY 2014, 296 youth have been served by this program. Clark County is working on compiling the number of youth with co-occurring diagnosis; that is both substance abuse and mental health issues.

Commissioner Walker commented on one of the community programs that he had attended, Washoe Counties Pueblo Project. This is generally for bi-lingual speakers who go to a series of parenting classes that show how Latino family values correlate with U.S. Constitutional values. It provides parents with tools to instill those values in their homes. Although an experienced parent with six children, he learned a remarkable amount of information. Both Commissioner Walker and other commissioners praised Frank Lemus who worked for many years to put this project together.

DCFS Update – Steve McBride

There was a presentation by Lawrence Howell the Executive Director of Rite of Passage, about the Red Rock Academy at Summit View. Before his presentation, Commissioner McBride gave some background on what had transpired at Summit View.

Thirteen youth entered the program on December 4, 2013. Nine were transferred from the Nevada Youth Training Center (NYTC), two from Caliente Youth Center (CYC), and two from Washoe County who were on parole but had it revoked. Since then, there have been eleven new commitments, mostly from Clark County with three more from CYC added the morning of this meeting resulting in a total of 24 youth.

Determination of who would enter the program was based on offense, average length of stay, amenability to the program, challenges, mental health needs, delinquency history, progress towards streaming goals and educational goals. One of the things to which a lot of attention has been focused, was not to transfer those who might find the move disruptive to their programming. A change in placement can be very traumatic and was to be minimized as much as possible. In the spirit of regionalization, those who would benefit from being closer to their home community were examined to see who would best fit the initial seeding program. Since then, it has been a matter of assessing who would be best for the blend of regionalization concepts and continuum of care.

Historically, Summit View was the highest most secure placement, with CYC being at the lower end of the continuum and NYTC falling into the middle ground. With the regionalization concept implemented over the last two years, this paradigm has been challenged and shifted. Placement should not be based on geography alone, needs based upon what is available in the continuum of care must be examined. Options should be available in placement so that a facility which meets most of the youth's needs can be selected. This can be reassessed if the youth is not progressing or may be more productive at another location.

Red Rock Academy Update – Lawrence Howell

Lawrence Howell then made his presentation. He began by noting that Summit View had initially opened in 2000 and had been opened and closed twice. This final reopening was accomplished by a collaborative partnership between several organizations. They are operating with a number of Supreme Court tenants on effective treatment models for recruiting and hiring qualified staff and bringing Nevada youth closer to home. From the first RFP in March 2013 to the December 5, 2014 opening the work was accomplished in record time. The facility had been dormant for the past three years and had a lot of failed systems. It was neces-

-sary to develop correctional and administrative practices, recruit staff, create a manual, put together a steering committee, find an educational partner and establish a community partnership. The next step was seeding the youth, and bringing the youth into the program. What resulted was a mix of youth who were failing their programs along with some youth assigned directly from court.

Security is paramount along with effective programming. A new phone system has been installed, there are 97 cameras and nearly every door has been re-keyed. Every major system from sewer to power has been evaluated and upgraded.

The academic and vocational education was a big question until the Clark County School District joined the partnership. They provided furniture, fixtures and equipment for the classroom along with four academic teachers for English, Math, Science and Social Studies. There is a part-time Special Education instructor, along with a part-time registrar. Intake days are on Thursday with educational and psychological testing conducted on Friday. All in all there are currently nine educators for twenty four youth.

Thru Rite of Passage, there are two vocational instructors. One is in culinary arts with another in landscaping. A partnership was developed with Hotel International to provide certified culinary instruction. Although there is no guaranteed employment, they currently enjoy 100% job placement rate in culinary jobs.

There are five tracks available. Track one is for aggravated and violent offenders. Track two is for special need and mental health. Track three addresses sex offender behavior. This is an educational program rather than a full blown treatment plan. On January 17th the University of Cincinnati School of Justice Institute contacted Red Rock about conducting a pilot cognitive based sex offender treatment program. This is being negotiated and has a good chance of starting in the summer. Track four is for parole violators. It is to be a wake up program for youth who may need to return for 30 to 90 days as a result of violating parole. The last track is a transition track for youth coming back from other programs. They may stay up to 30 days or longer while housing or jobs are confirmed.

At intake, the individual is assessed in a personal interview to determine where they are and where they should be assigned as far as room and classes are concerned. Within 30 days of the youth's arrival the entire team is assembled to determine (with the youth) the treatment plan, graduation plan and what is needed to assist the youth in moving on with their life. Mentors are assigned for those lacking strong families. These mentors range from the Latin Chamber of Commerce, Richard Steele to various spiritual groups. One group, Creative Tech International provides transitional packs for those who depart Summit View on a positive note. The packs contain interview clothes, fast food gift cards, pens, papers and bus passes. These are items which will assist them in their transition to independent living.

The Steering Committee will have its first meeting in April. The accreditation process with the American Corrections Association (ACA) will begin shortly after. They are currently an official member of ACA and have been communicating back and forth about the process.

Due to the start-up process, the Red Rock Academy is currently over-staffed. There is one staff per four youth during the day with one per six youth during the evening. The superintendent is from Hawaii's only secure juvenile facility while the assistant superintendent comes from Indiana where he ran an 82 bed secure juvenile facility. They bring with them several different ideas on how to accomplish things. This should result in determining the best solution for challenges.

The physical plan has been updated and remodeled. It is currently prepared for 24 youth but will be able to handle 49 by June or July. There has been an attempt to have a campus like atmosphere by bringing in a number of typical high school items such as giant murals, positive saying on the walls and a school mascot. Parents are encouraged to participate on a regular basis thru trips or video conferences. The overall goal is not to be a secure prison, but a secure program to help turn a life around.

The discussion following the presentation covered many topics. Commissioner Santiago applauded the effort and encouraged them to become involved with the Go to College Nevada initiative. Commissioner Walker commended Mr. Howell on an upbeat presentation but wished to know the downsides in the program. The lack of mental health resources for young adults in Nevada was mentioned as being a considerable challenge. There are currently only seven pediatric psychiatrists in Clark County for a population of about two million people. The other challenge was the actual physical aspect of the facility which was noted as being a hard bunker like place. Making it appear more campus like while retaining a secure setting has been difficult.

Commissioner Serrano wished to comment about the staff. He recalled that in interviewing Jack Martin for a position several years ago, Commissioner Martin had mentioned his mentor from Hawaii, Al Carpenter. This mentor was hired for the Red Rock Academy. Clark County may have Jack Martin, but Red Rock has his mentor. Commissioner Martin noted that the experience brought by Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Anderson and Mr. Howell brings a blend of best practices from many differing cultures which will result in a program which continues to evolve. Commissioner Burgess pointed out that it was good to see how far the initial concept had come. He has seen positive changes like referring to the youth as students rather than inmates. It is becoming a very therapeutic environment, and Mr. Howell was to be complemented on helping kids to improve their quality of life and providing a level playing field for them to succeed. Chairman Hambrick thanked Mr. Howell for his presentation and hoped that the Juvenile Justice Commission would be able to take an official tour and perhaps have it host one of the quarterly meetings in the near future.

DCFS Update, continued – Steve McBride

Commissioner McBride then continued with his DCFS update. NYTC has been phased down from 101 to 60 beds. With the recent reopening of Summit View, NYTC has once more become the middle range in the continuum of care. It is for those youth who are not quite able to function at CYC but may not need the more secure program at Red Rock Academy. Previous to that opening, they held 67 youth but are currently operating at 58. Clark and Washoe County each have twenty two youth with the rural counties contributing 14 youth.

CYC is operating a 140 bed facility with 100 beds for males and 40 for females. The female commitments have been running very close to capacity which mirrors other facilities at China Springs and Aurora Pines. These differing patterns of commitments will continue to be studied.

The state has 321 community supervision cases on parole. This has dropped by about 100 over the last year. It would be assumed that this would reflect a dropping in commitment, but that has not been what has been seen. With the many community programs which are available, the youth entering the system are older so there is a shorter time to work with them. The last legislative session also allowed for closing restitution cases. The probation cases

which had previously been left open for collections can now be closed. Parole has also made a concerted effort to transition cases more efficiently which is reflected in the community supervision case load.

Performance based Standards are one of the areas also being worked on. There is a continuous quality improvement model which uses a number of different resources that include data collection and a facility improvement plan. This program is being implemented at both CYC and NYTC beginning next week. Red Rock Academy will begin next year once they have measurable performance measures and indicators.

Report from the Policy Legislation Committee – Scott Shick

The Adam Walsh Law is back due to a contest in Clark County. Once more we are operating under existing juvenile statutes in respect to sex offenders. Everyone has been collaborating on modifying the juvenile piece of the Adam Walsh Act. Commissioner Shick did not believe that we should pursue this further until things are settled in the courts.

Specialist Salla gave an update on the latest Juvenile Sex Offender (JSO) taskforce meeting. There is a thirty day injunction. March 14th is when the response is due and then they have until March 31 to respond to that. Each jurisdiction is going to ask their district attorney who is handling the juvenile cases, as well as the judge or juvenile court master (whoever is overseeing the juvenile cases) to attend the meeting along with the members of the task force. They need to start having a robust dialogue about using research evidence based practices on community notification. This meeting is scheduled to be on March 20th, at 1:30pm. Since the court answer will occur at the end of March, it is essential to have a unified front in case AB579 should go back into effect.

Commissioner Shick pointed out the wisdom of getting sex offenders, the Task Force Legislative Committee, child welfare, juvenile justice, the Nevada Association of Juvenile Justice Administrators (NAJJA) and the Juvenile Justice Reform Commission to the table together. They need to be aligned on what would be reasonable in shaping the juvenile piece of AB579. There is nothing new here, and it will keep being brought back.

Commissioner Walker noted that he was aware of youth who may be subject to this law, who had considered harming themselves. It could get bad very quickly if change is not effected in the system. Commissioner Shick pointed out the need to make sure that people are listening when it is explained that sex offender reporting of juveniles does not really make a whole lot of sense unless sever offenses are involved.

Planning and Development Committee – Dan Coppa

The Planning and Development Committee dealt with three issues this quarter. The first was SB107, corrective room restriction of a child detained in a state or regional facility. A template was created with data from October thru December of 2013. January 2014 was not included as the information was not available when this form was reviewed by the Planning and Development Committee. The Juvenile Programs Office had been assigned the duty of collecting the data but they are not a compliance arm. The data in this template has been collected and presented in an informative and useful manner. On the first page it was broken down by juvenile detention centers and state facilities. Succeeding pages further break this data down within the facilities. Since reporting is mandatory, if no individual is held, a zero is noted on the form. Commissioner Coppa than thanked the attorney general's office for their guidance in creating the template.

Commissioner Shick asked Commissioners Cervantes and Martin about the impact on their facilities of compiling this report. Commissioner Martin noted that he had started tracking confinement information three years previous. Although this report was more detailed, he did not see that it had much effect on Clark County's Department of Juvenile Justice Services. They are going to continue to work the time down and try to reduce isolation to as little as humanly possible. The one case noted in Clark County, where isolation was over 70 hours resulted in discipline up thru the entire chain of command.

Specialist Salla pointed out that once the information began to be collected, the time in isolation began decreasing. What she felt has been most beneficial however has been the tracking of attempts to return the individuals to the general population if they have been held for 72 hours or more. At the last NAJJA meeting, they discussed requesting technical assistance in bringing in trainers for best practices on this topic. Commissioner Martin pointed out that Mr. Carpenter at the Red Rock Academy had extensive experience in reducing corrective room restriction at both Arizona and Hawaii. He may be able to assist in developing some kind of training.

Commissioner Cervantes brought up some problems with the 72 hour rule. He was concerned about those individuals who may be articulating a legitimate threat to staff or youth. Do you reintroduce them to the general population if you know someone may be impacted? Commissioner Howell drew a parallel between this and a similar situation involving youth in congregate care. What happens when you know that you may have to break the law? There needs to be a way to report why you violated the law; the reasons for the action. She felt that this was a good time to take a look at allowing some flexibility in a situation where you are not going to be able, as a matter of safety, to follow the law. Commissioner Cervantes wanted to explore other alternatives to being placed back in the general group where risk may be enhanced. They may be able to come out of corrective room restriction, just not back to group activities.

Commissioner Coppa then brought to the commission's attention the Three Year Plan which will be submitted to the Office of Juvenile Justice at the end of March. Several organizations were surveyed to identify Formula Grant Program Areas. In the past, three to five areas were identified with five areas being used if merited. Three areas were highlighted from this survey. They are Mental Health Services, Aftercare/Re-Entry and Substance Abuse Programs. In previous years, there had been up to 100 responses to the survey, while this year yielded only 39. The best response rate so far has been from the community coalitions. While the Three Year Plans are typically due March 31st, a recent phone call indicated that the RFP would be coming out soon and there would be 60 days to complete it. This would put it after the March 31st deadline. Specialist Salla felt the need to have more than 39 responses and encouraged any on the commission to fill out their surveys now. There was a suggestion to perhaps re-send out the survey.

The Commission discussed how best to get more survey responses in light of the fact that the Full Commission would not be meeting until May, while the latest response would be needed by April. A motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Walker to delegate authority to allow the resending out of the survey and the subsequent selection of three to five subject areas. This was delegated to the Planning and Development Committee. This committee would then report back to the entire commission at the next Full Commission Meeting.

The final topic discussed by the Planning and Development Committee was the National Standards for the Care of Youth Charged with Status Offenses. The Coalition for Juvenile

Justice, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the National Center for Juvenile Justice, the Vera Institute of Justice, along with the Public Welfare Foundation formulated National Standards relative to the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders. The standards are for endorsement by states and territories. This project has been in the works for many years and was finally brought forth in May of 2013. It was officially brought to the Planning and Development Committee in November and December of 2013.

Although some members of the committee expressed amazement that some entities still treat status offenders in a more delinquent fashion, Nevada seems to be doing better. The purpose for bringing this before the Full Commission was to request their endorsement of these National Standards. The Committee was assigned sections of the report and requested to summarize them for the Commission.

Commissioner Smith covered the key principals of status offenses. It is important to have appropriate services in a timely manner for both the youth and their families. All parties, law enforcement, courts, judges, probation officers, social service, school professionals and families need to help promote shared leadership and responsibility in the community. Youth should not be placed in secure detention. The key point however is to have shared responsibility of all staff that work with the status offenders and families.

Commissioner Florez addressed principals for responding to status offenders. These are principals which everyone should be aware of. They are having consideration regarding DMC, the Lesbian/Gay/Bi/Transgender/Questioning (LGBTQ) population, children with disabilities, gender responsiveness, matters involving trauma, positive youth development, consideration of adolescent development, youth having a voice, and family having a voice. Nevada is very sensitive to these issues while other jurisdictions across the country still have status offenders in custody for extraordinary amounts of time. She saw no issue with the commission supporting this section.

Commissioner Martin reviewed efforts to avoid court involvement. This was a rather extensive section so he just touched the highlights. Status offenders are more likely to re-enter the juvenile justice system when they are involved with the system. Low level delinquency center diversion programs have a more positive effect than court involvement. Unfortunately the high caseloads for most probation officers do not allow for the intensive work necessary to adequately assist youth and families in obtaining the limited resources. First responders, such as the law enforcement officers, must seek to understand the situation that is driving the youth's decisions. They need to also be familiar with the community resources that can be requested. The judges and judicial officers need to make sure and hold the probation officers accountable for exhausting all community resources before falling back on detention for the status offenders or even low level delinquents. Juvenile courts should be the choice of last resort.

Commissioner Serrano spoke on efforts to limit court involvement. His section was divided into judiciary, attorneys, probation staff and those providing case management. They need to ensure that reasonable efforts have been provided to the youth before petitioning. Personally he felt that the best way to limit court involvement was not to have it in the first place. As far as placement, it is best to avoid out of home placement whenever possible. If necessary, the placement should be as home-like as possible with secure detention avoided. Due process should be assured with rights protected and secure detainment advocated against. Parents often do not know what community resources are available. Linking these families to what is available is crucial.

Commissioner Morris Hibbler covered recommendations for policy and legislative implementation. This was to assist policy makers in implementing the recommended laws and policy changes which would divert youth who engage in behaviors ruled to be status offenses. Communication between the multiple boards is paramount to ensure that they are all on the same page. It is important to know who is out there and the best way to establish communication between them. She then covered some of the highlights of her section. This included eliminating juvenile court penalties and sanctions for behavior labeled as status offenses. Juvenile court intervention should be avoided or limited for status offenses. We should encourage state and local policy makers to establish a continuum of care which is separated from the courts. It is important to know the available community based, child and family service resources that would assist in helping youth to avoid the juvenile court system. Policy makers need to develop policies which provide direct links between youth with their families and family experts in the child/family welfare, mental health educational system. Problems need to be reported to ensure that court mechanisms are in place which allows the appropriate court division to effectively serve the youth and family needs without inappropriate risk of punitive outcomes for the child and family. Status offense cases should not be treated as delinquency matters.

One of the other main issues brought up was the use of courts as a first recourse. Last year there were about 9,000 referrals from the Clark County School District to the Department of Juvenile Justice Services. Cases should not be opened until it has first been proved that all reasonable efforts to avoid court involvement by accessing the varied community services have occurred. The family needs to meaningfully engage in non-judicial intervention. Resources need to be promoted and public funding streams created to seamlessly provide comprehensive community based treatment care for youth and family. Laws also need to be enacted to ensure the right to counsel for youth who come into contact with the juvenile court for status offenses. Youth should not be allowed to waive the right to counsel. They should only be allowed the waiver if it is on the record of the court, along with full inquiries into the child's capacity, along with their consultation with an attorney. Finally, there should be mandates on meaningful efforts to engage youth and family in all aspects of case planning, service delivery, and court proceedings.

Commissioner Beam briefly reviewed the definition section. He specifically pointed out the alternatives to dispute resolution section. He recommended the definition section and agreed that the entire document was most impressive.

The Commission then discussed the document as a whole. Specialist Salla pointed out that often times what starts as a status offense escalates into bench warrants or valid court orders because a child fails to appear for community service. There is a need to focus on having appropriate programs available. Commissioner Martin said that it is really disheartening to know that juvenile justice is the path of least resistance for the school districts. School administrators need to address their truancy problems within the framework of their schools.

Commissioner Coppa made a motion that the Nevada Juvenile Justice Commission endorse the National Standards for the Care of Youth Charged with Status Offenses. Notification is to be made by the chairman to the Coalition for Juvenile Justice in Washington, D.C. Commissioner Burgess seconded the motion. The commission voted to accept the motion.

Report from Minority/Gender Committee – Kirby Burgess

Commissioner Burgess began his section by pointing out the DMC brochures which had been considered in previous meetings and were now printed up and available. There is a need dis-

-tributed them to the various community coalition partners and chambers. They highlight that we have come a long way in recognizing DMC as a challenge to children of color in the juvenile justice system. There are still challenges ahead and a need to focus and educate individuals on how to address these issues rather than sending the youth down to the juvenile justice system. Distribution of the brochures was discussed with Commissioner Burgess planning on visiting various locations throughout the state to talk about DMC.

Commissioner Burgess then discussed developments in attaining technical assistance. Commissioner Walker and Specialist Salla have identified people who can help us with this goal. They come highly recommended and should bring slightly different perspectives. Melissa Sickmund is with the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJN) and works with juvenile crime data. Andrea Coleman is OJJDP's minority DMC coordinator. Together they are helping to assess and review the Three Year Plan to help guide us in the right direction.

Update on Nevada Supreme Court Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform – Scott Shick

Since 2011 the Nevada Supreme Court Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform has continued to work with various subcommittees such as the data subcommittee, truancy and discipline policy subcommittee, regional facility plan, and the juvenile competency subcommittee. In addition to assisting with the opening of Red Rock Academy, they have also aided in getting the various groups to the table. There is a strong recommendation right now for a capital improvement project in Carson City, Nevada. The concept is a collocated facility for certified and committed juveniles. That is certified juveniles under the age of 18 in a separate secure facility that will be transferred into the prison system when they turn 18. Alongside would be a regional commitment facility for the northern region of the state.

In addition to discussions concerning the fiscal impact of the facilities, there have been thoughts on regionalization. Do all Clark County youth belong in Red Rock and all Washoe County youth in Elko? The regionalization model is related to the Missouri Model in that it aspires to get the committed youth closer to home and local resources. Carson City is seen as having better access to mental health and educational services. It may mean closing another facility and the planners are trying to be sensitive to existing staff. The process has been discussed along with policies and statutes involved. The question centers on what is best for the youth and the state.

Commissioner Martin commended Commissioner Shick for his part in the data subcommittee and the difficulty involved with determining the definitions. The role of data in keeping youth in schools and out of the system was mentioned. The data dictionary is nearly complete and on the last draft. Once completed, it will be sent electronically to the commissioners. With good concrete data, better decisions regarding policy, programs and services can be provided.

Chair Report – John Hambrick

Chairman Hambrick began his section by introducing Ross Armstrong the new Deputy Attorney General. He then mentioned a Southern Nevada Legislative Coalition which has become involved with the mental health issue. He urged the commissioners to contact their representatives and speak with them about juvenile mental health. There seems to be a definite north/south attitude which should raise concerns. Certain things will probably be moved to the south in line with populations, redistricting and reapportionment. What happens with the adults will affect juveniles.

Commissioner Shick pointed out that 50% of the youth in the system have mental health issues. Hard work has allowed services that promote mental health to be introduced in various jurisdictions. There is a need to insure that those services are available all over the state. Commissioner Martin spoke about a Child Adolescent Psychiatry (CAP) fellowship that they had with the University of Nevada, School of Medicine. It is modeled on a successful Washoe

County program that resulted in three to four child psychiatrists remaining in the area. There will be a full time fellow scheduled for six month increments during the next two years. Commissioner Martin emphasized that juvenile mental health issues do not go away at 18.

Specialist Salla reminded the commissioners that they can testify, along with providing data and evidence based research. She wished to caution them that because federal money supports the commission, they cannot lobby. You can make suggestions, as long as it is made clear that they are not representing the Juvenile Justice Commission at the time.

Chairman Hambrick then thanked everyone and said he was looking forward to not being the chair. He wished to just sit back and enjoy the meetings. There were discussions on how to proceed with the election of new officers. The nominating committee consisted of Frank Cervantes, Elizabeth Flores and Danny Gonzales. Nominations were open on the floor, but it was decided that since each position on the ballot had only one individual listed, that the ballot would be done by acclamation. Ross Armstrong was consulted and he agreed that it would be permissible. The ballots were to be signed and given to Specialist Salla to retain. Commissioner Shick moved that a vote for the officers that are presented on the ballot, to be signed off so verification could be made. Commissioner Coppa seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the commission. The slate as presented became official. Kirby Burgess is the new chairman. Vice chair south is Lisa Morris Hibbler. Vice chair north is Michael Beam. Treasurer is Dawn Lozano and Secretary is Elizabeth Florez.

Commissioner Shick wished to recognize Michael Beam who is retiring from law enforcement and has served in various capacities for thirty years. He has been in county investigations and the sheriff's department along with China Springs and Aurora Pines. His finishing work is with alternative sentencing in the justice courts and district courts. This is a bench mark for him and he is to be congratulated. The Commission applauded his accomplishments.

New Business

No new business was mentioned at this time.

Comments from the Public-

There were no comments from the public.

Set Time, Date and Agenda for Next Meeting: TBA

The next meeting is to be announced, but will be on Thursday May 22th, 2014.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.