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**NEVADA STATE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
MINORITY/GENDER COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
June 18, 2014**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Martin at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call – Alice Mueller

Members Present by Phone: John Martin, Noah Jennings, Egan Walker

Statewide Task Force Members Present by Phone: Ali Banister, Cheri Ely, Lynette Gust

Members Absent: Lisa Morris Hibbler, Dawn Lozano, Raymond McKay, Ivet Santiago, Paula Smith, Lonnie Wright.

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

Others Present by Phone: Fritz Reese

Public Comment and Discussion

There was no public comment.

Review of Official Minutes from May 7, 2014 Meeting

A quorum was not present, so the minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

Technical Assistance Planning – Pauline Salla

A copy of the Nevada: Plan for Compliance with the DMC Core Requirement 2015 was sent to the members of the Minority and Gender Committee. The National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ) built it around data sent by Specialist Salla and it shows what the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) would like to see in the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) plans for the 2015 Formula Grant. This is the first draft, with areas in red showing where information is needed. The 2013 Relative Rate Index (RRI) information will be included in this plan. The purposes in sending this preliminary version out to the committee, was to show what progress has been made.

Commissioner Walker noticed that some of the demographic numbers added up to 130% rather than 100%. It was explained that the state demographers had broken the racial groups down

into Caucasian, African American, Asian etc. and then had further broken down the Hispanic category into Caucasian-Hispanic, African-American-Hispanic, Asian-Hispanic etc. This results in numbers often over 100% as the individuals can be counted in two groups. He suggested that a foot note addressing this be added to the report. Co-Chairman Martin was glad to see the Technical Assistance moving ahead.

Specialist Salla appreciated NCJJ's work with the DMC plan since it is really highlighting what is needed. Once the 2013 data has been added and the analysis completed, then the scope of work for the Technical Assistance can be identified. It may even be started in August or September of 2014. For the first time, she is really feeling confident about the DMC plan.

2013 Relative Rate Index – Pauline Salla

The Relative Rate Index identifies disparate treatment at nine different points of contact in the Juvenile Justice system. The committee members received information on this data; Statewide, Carson City, Clark and Washoe Counties. Previously Carson City was used to represent the rural counties in Nevada but in the future several of these counties will be combined. There will also be focus on Native American Youth in the 2015 plan.

Specialist Salla explained that anything in red on the spreadsheet indicated disparate treatment. The Focal Group indicates the racial set being compared to the Caucasians with the last column showing the RRI. The compilation chart is located after all the focal groups. In the Statewide report, six areas of disparate treatment out of nine are indicated. That is, there is disparate treatment in arrests, cases diverted, cases involving secure detention, cases petitioned, cases resulting in probation placement and cases resulting in secure confinement. There are no findings of disparity in delinquency findings or referrals to juvenile court. In Cases resulting in probation placement, there are indications of disparity in all minority groups.

Co-Chairman Martin asked if probation placement referred to physical placement or landing on formal probation. Specialist Salla answered that this was landing on formal probation. Co-Chairman Martin then asked, what would be an acceptable number, that is, how far out of compliance do these numbers indicate. In simple terms, for every one white youth arrested, there are about five black youth arrested. Based on population percentages, to be acceptable, the inverse would be expected. That is, for every black youth arrested, there would be five white youth arrested.

The Technical Assistance will dig deeper into these numbers and look at the type of crime being committed by minority youth. Are they committing more felonies, or more violent types of crime? Accurate comparisons of types of offenses may show if true disparity exists. At this time, the data base is unable to do such analysis.

The spreadsheet does show important data on youth involved with the juvenile justice system. All of the chiefs and directors from the various counties are aware that this information is available upon request. It has already been submitted to OJJDP with the June 2, 2014 Formula Grant application.

Co-Chairman Martin expressed the hope that Technical Assistance will allow for a deeper understanding of the data, resulting in formulation of strategies to alleviate disparities. Commissioner Walker agreed, and felt the RRI could be used to start DMC discussions in the jurisdictions and school districts. All agreed that there were many excuses which could be presented, but the numbers clearly show that there are indications of biases and/or prejudice occurring. There were further questions on whether states of similar size were also struggling with their RRI and what might it be for adults. Specialist Salla pointed out the charts at the back

of the reports which compare the RRI nationally. These charts were consulted and their results discussed. As with the earlier data, this was not positive information.

Three Year Plan to OJJDP – Pauline Salla

The Three Year Plan was submitted to OJJDP on June 2, 2014. Along with the plan, the current Relative Rate Index and the Technical Assistance Timeline, which discusses when the statewide assessment will be completed, were included. As soon as the draft for the DMC plan is finalized, that also will be sent in. This was supposed to be an update, but in actuality a lot of new requirements such as the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), Emergency Evacuation Plans, and the Juvenile Crime Data Analysis were requested.

Specialist Salla also reminded the committee members that if Nevada is deemed out of compliance with this core requirement, it would lose 25% of funding that has already been decreased to \$400,000.00. Being out of compliance would affect the Federal Fiscal Year 2015 award by losing 25%, with 50% of the remaining having to be used to bring the state back into compliance. Almost all the sub-grantees requesting funding in other areas would find funds no longer available. A lot of community based programs could be lost.

School to Prison Pipeline – Dr. Morris Hibbler

Co-Chairmen Martin and Hibbler were supposed to attend a special School to Prison Pipeline meeting in Washington D.C. but at the last minute, Co-Chairman Martin was unable to attend. With Co-Chairman Hibbler not in attendance, it was thought best to save this discussion until the next meeting.

Minority and Gender Membership – John Martin

At the last Minority and Gender meeting, Commissioner Lozano had pointed out that the Juvenile Justice Commission had Bylaws that could be referenced in regard to meeting attendance. Juvenile Justice Chairman Burgess has the discretion of appointing or canceling the appointment of commissioners to any given subcommittee. If an individual misses a couple of meetings in a row, the chairman may cancel their appointment to that committee.

Specialist Salla added that during an OJJDP audit, one of the items examined is roll attendance. They have issues with members who are consistently not showing up for meetings. This is a correct concern in that it is difficult to get work done without adequate attendance at meetings.

Co-Chairman Martin concurred with this; he was unable to make a motion on attendance without quorum. At the next meeting with quorum, he intended to make a motion to remove many members who have not been present for a great length of time. He felt this should be cleared up before any new members were assessed. To assist with this, he requested that a record of the current membership's attendance for the past year be sent out in time for the next meeting. It is important to be able to see where coverage is needed, and then filling it with active individuals.

Election season and DMC discussions – Dr. Morris Hibbler

Co-Chairman Hibbler has been trying to get a discussion in Clark County with the Black Caucuses which represent black elected officials. She has scheduled a meeting between herself, Jack Martin and Assemblyman Thompson about some bills that he may carry for the Juvenile Justice Commission. More information on possible DMC discussions will be covered at the next meeting by Co-Chairman Hibbler.

New Business

Co-Chairman Martin recommended that the committee members read Michelle Alexander's book, *The New Jim Crow* which characterizes what is happening in the modern juvenile justice system and adult criminal justice system.

Commissioner Walker once more thanked the committee to moving the meeting time to 5:30 pm. Those in attendance were encouraged to get the other members to become more active. There is a lot of important work to do which needs to move forward.

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 July 23, 2014 at 5:30 pm. This will be a phone conference.

Agenda:

Technical Assistance Planning

School to Prison Pipeline

Minority and Gender Committee membership

Election season discussions on DMC

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m. by Chairman Martin.