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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
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
April 24, 2014**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Coppa at 10:02 a.m.

Roll Call – Dan Coppa

Members Present: Dan Coppa, Michael Beam, Elizabeth Florez, Steve McBride, Paula Smith

Members Present by Phone: John Martin

Members Excused: Kirby, Burgess, Lisa Morris Hibbler, Fernando Serrano

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

Others Present by Phone: Vanessa Spinazola with the ACLU

Public Comment and Discussion

There was no public comment.

Review of Official Minutes from March 20, 2014

Commissioner Florez moved to approve the March 20, 2014 minutes, with a second from Commissioner Beam. The motion was passed by the Committee.

PREA Templates– Pauline Salla

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) work group took longer than expected to revise the PREA Templates, so they were not offered for review today, but will be available for the next meeting. The revised date has been put down as April 2014. The revisions were fairly minor with the most substantial portion being the addition of the Definitions Section. This unit may continue to be expanded as training progresses and items requiring definitions are identified. It was decided not to take the VERA Institutes suggestion on uniform word use, since the facilities have been told that they can make the templates specific to their centers, which includes terminology for youth and staff.

Arizona has provided the Spanish language versions of the PREA posters. The same business that worked on the English language version, is working on these new ones. A lot of cleanup is needed on these as the pixels are quite large. Also, this is the campaign season, and the business is fairly busy. The final posters could be ready in the next seven to ten days. Chairman Coppa requested that Commissioner Florez review the text on these posters so that the Juvenile Justice Commission would have no concerns about the translation. Commissioner Florez agreed to look them over.

The new PREA Zero Tolerance Demonstration Grant has been submitted. If awarded, it will focus on the three state facilities. The amount requested was \$250,000 which would be used for an extensive and comprehensive youth education and training initiative (YETI). This would satisfy the PREA youth education requirements with an evidence based curriculum. A new assessment would be piloted at the Nevada Youth Training Center (NYTC) and would help identify issues of substance abuse, mental health, and criminogenic behaviors along with identifying those vulnerable to victimization and those with a propensity to victimize. There will be a full time coordinator for the state who would train the facility staff in the curriculum. They would also be the hub for the collection of data and its evaluation.

This is a highly competitive grant, but obtaining the first round will make succeeding rounds more probable. The second round will be for local units of government such as county facilities, while the third round will be for community based programs like half way houses or work release programs. Commissioner McBride wished to go on the record about the tremendous amount of work Specialist Salla has done with submitting this grant. Even if the grant does not work out, the YETI program is still something to work towards.

The PREA 101 and then some slide presentation was emailed to all the members of the committee although not all were able to access it. A hard copy was mailed out to them after the meeting. The four hour training itself is quite intensive and extensive. It addresses the standards of PREA compliance in addition to addressing the cultural changes a facility needs to make. NYTC, Northeastern Juvenile Detention Center and Leighton Hall have all had the training, with Red Rock Academy scheduled for the last part of April. Caliente staff will receive training in May and Churchill County has requested training in August. China Springs and Aurora Pines have been contacted, and may be partnered with Douglas County for their training sometime in the future.

So far, the feedback on the training has been positive. There have been some tough discussions which have turned into robust dialogue. This training which counts towards 4 hours of the PREA requirement has been offered to every state and county facility and detention centers. Copies of the slide presentation are available to those who request it.

Commissioner Florez asked about the annual training requirement which would occur once the initial training is completed. Specialist Salla explained that this would be much less intense and would be a two hour refresher which would review PREA policies along with introduction of any new interventions or activities. At this point it has not been strictly identified with the main push being on the initial training. Other locations have seen an audit of up to 70% of the staff. They are questioned on their understanding of PREA standards with an automatic failure if knowledge is lacking. That is the reason for the very intensive initial training.

Although not utilized at the first training, all subsequent training has included a pre and post-test on the subject matter. This test is from the National PREA Resource Center. Specialist Salla is currently conducting all the training but would like to offer a train the trainer module in the

future. The current feedback is that many of the PREA coordinators are not sufficiently comfortable with the material to accept the training position. Specialist Salla admitted that she had done a lot of research and reading before she was able to really get excited about PREA.

In the middle of April, Deputy Administrator McBride, Unit Manager Laity and Specialist Salla did a PREA vulnerability assessment at NYTC. It took a day and a half to go thru the entire facility using a template to assure that all was covered and everything identified. This will also be performed at the other two state facilities to ensure that all are prepared for the audit. In addition to establishing a baseline, it provides information on PREA hot spots where video monitoring would be beneficial not only for supervision, but also as protection with PREA allegations. This study also helps to make sure that policies match practices for each of the standards.

Chairman Coppa requested a brief overview of the training be presented at the Quarterly Full Juvenile Justice Commission Meeting on May 22, 2014. This would be without the slide presentation which may be too lengthy for the meeting.

Compliance Auditor Investigator Job Description– Pauline Salla

The paper work has been completed; the applicant has signed up with Manpower and has undergone the mandatory state training. She is currently working with personnel on some final points to the six month renewable contract. Unfortunately a family situation has occurred and some items have yet to be completed. The hope is to have everything in order for the contract to begin in time for her to attend compliance training in Washington D.C. this June. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has held open for her, the registered position originally assigned to Specialist Salla.

Chairman Coppa was concerned about who, other than personnel, had reviewed the contract. After personnel has confirmed its completion, the contract will be forwarded to Steve McBride and then on to Amber Howell.

SB107 Room Confinement– Pauline Salla

Vanessa Spinazola with the ACLU and Specialist Salla have been working on the 2014 first quarter SB107 Room Confinement report. For both the Juvenile Detention Centers and State Youth Correctional Facilities, January was the lowest month for confinements. There was a statewide uptick in February and another in March. At the three state facilities, there was an uptick in February and then a slight decrease in March. Ms. Spinazola has provided feedback on what would be beneficial to include on future forms. Every month ways to improve them are implemented as incoming data makes adjustments apparent. Completed reports are sent to Sandra McGuirk with the Legislative Council Bureau and Vanessa Spinazola.

Chairman Coppa requested Ms. Spinazola give an overview on the SB107 report. She noted that it would be easier to analyze the data if it could be determined if there was one youth having repeated incidents or several youth having problems. The uptick after January was of concern indicating further work is needed.

A few changes were noted on the report with a request to include a note about how the public could obtain backup information about Attachment A. This is currently sent to Ms. Spinazola, Ms. McGuirk, Mr. McBride, and Mr. Armstrong. It documents attempts to return youth to general programming when confinements exceed 72 hours.

Joseph Tomassone, the Chief of Treatment Services for the State of New York's Office of Children and Family Services, has recently written back that his administration has approved the request for him to provide technical assistance. Now plans will be made on what his site visits to the state facilities will look like. The system's operations will be reviewed with discussions about goals and appropriate training for alternatives to room confinement.

He has over 25 years of experience working with youth and has been instrumental in Juvenile Justice reform in New York, where Trauma-Informed Responsive Programing is used along with consideration of mental health programing. Both reform and implementation of programs are needed for success to occur. A timeline will be forthcoming along with projected costs and necessary projected paperwork. It will take about a week for him to become acquainted with our system from visiting the three state facilities.

Commissioner McBride added that in February, Performance based Standards partnered in training with both Caliente and NYTC. Red Rock Academy will receive training in 2015. One of the items covered was plans for reducing room confinement. The facility layout, policies and practices were examined with the first data pull just beginning. This will set up a foundation from which initial recommendations for facility improvement can be made. Another one addressing room reduction and isolations practices will occur in the future. With the addition of technical assistance, much can be accomplished.

Discussion of Three Year Plan and Priority Program Areas– Pauline Salla

All concerned individuals and non-profits have been appraised about the delay with the Formula Three Year Plan. Efforts have been made to send the Request for Proposals (RFP) out to all interested parties so they could be worked on while the Requests for Application (RFA) was being completed. Usually the Formula Three Year Plan is due March 31. This year however there was a delay in getting it out, in addition to changes being made to the application. The new submission date is June 2, 2014.

Changes to the Three Year Plan usually occur the first year of the three year submission, so the changes were unexpected. PREA has been added as has the School to Prison Pipeline along with a request for information on how different programing can address it. There is also more needed for the DMC core requirement. Another change is where portions are submitted. The DMC compliance plan now goes to the audit committee. The actual Three Year Plan with the program narrative, juvenile justice crime data, program goals, outcomes and objectives is going to the state representative with OJJDP. The compliance monitoring will be sent to the audit section of OJJDP. This has caused some confusion with the addition of new requirements.

There was hope that with the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant gone, there would be additional funding in the Formula Three Year Plan along with extra founding for PREA compliance activities. The instructions however, were to apply for the same baseline grant of \$400,000.00 as had been requested last year. There was no explanation given about the anticipated extra funds and it does not look like there will be a return to the previous \$600,000.00 amount. Starting with the Federal Fiscal Year 2015, there will also be a 5% decrease in the Formula Grant for not being in compliance with PREA. This decrease in funding has encouraged Specialist Salla to look for additional grant opportunities.

Commissioner Martin was commended for assisting in getting more program area surveys returned. Responses went from 39 to 126 providing a better sampling. These surveys showed five top program areas; Mental Health Services, Aftercare and Re-entry, Delinquency Prevention, Alternatives to Detention and Substance Abuse. Specialist Salla explained that when an RFP is sent out to the potential sub-grantee applicants, they could have those five areas in addition to the four core requirements, to apply to for funding. The four core requirements are Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC), Jail Removal, Sight and Sound Separation and Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO). If their program description and/or report on mandatory measures do not fit into one of those, the Grant Review Committee will not accept their application.

There was discussion on whether all or some of the five should be incorporated into the RFP. Commissioner McBride noted that there was precedence in having the top five rather than just the top three. Previously the total amount of funding had to represent a percentage of the program areas. Now this is not required, so the areas can be identified as priorities without diluting the potential funding for other areas. It was agreed, that with this change, the more options available the better. Commissioner Beam also reminded the committee members that at the February Quarterly Full Juvenile Justice Commission Meeting, it was agreed that if five areas were desired, that would be fine. A question about the response numbers between Job Training and Alternatives to Detention was brought up. Upon checking, it was determined that Alternatives to Detention had actually received 32 votes. With that cleared up, Commissioner McBride moved to accept the top five program areas with a second from Commissioner Beam. The voting in favor of accepting the top five program areas was unanimous.

Specialist Salla then brought the committee up to date on what the Minority and Gender Committee was doing with DMC. Dr. Melissa Sickmund has been assisting with the Technical Assistance request for the state DMC compliance requirement part of the Three Year Plan. Her office is working with the data collection to make sure that DMC requirements are met this year. She has had direct conversations with Andrea Coleman the DMC coordinator from OJJDP, to discern what exactly is required.

Methods of Administration for Civil Rights– Pauline Salla

In 2010 the Juvenile Justice Programs Office had a Civil Rights Audit. The last item needed to close that audit has been completed. This has also incorporated a new requirement from OJJDP which is necessary to continue receiving funds. What they wanted was to have methods of administration in regards to civil rights. Deborah Murphy from the Office of Civil Rights has worked closely with Specialist Salla to make sure the sub-grantees are in compliance with the Civil Rights Law.

Each sub-grantee will need to have an identified Civil Rights Liaison within their facility or program. Their responsibility will be to make sure that if there are allegations or violations of civil rights, the information will be forwarded to the Juvenile Justice Programs Office. They will also educate and train their staff on the civil rights requirements and ensure proper information is provided to individuals involved with the programs. Information has been added for the sub-grantees to certify that they have a liaison and that online training thru the Office of Civil Rights has been completed. A breakdown checklist will now be part of the audit to make sure that civil rights are being addressed. Deborah Murphy has reviewed everything and made assurances that if the checklist is followed, things will be fine.

New Business– Dan Coppa

Clark County will have training in June for public defenders who represent juveniles in the juvenile justice system. Susan Rosky has requested financial help in setting up scholarships for individuals from the rural parts of Nevada. This will need to go in front of the full Juvenile Justice Commission for a vote. Ms. Rosky was asked if this was too late to assist with the June training and she said that it still might be able to help some people.

Chairman Coppa requested that Specialist Salla put together a brief email summary for the Planning and Development Committee so that they could discuss it and then provide input at the May Quarterly Full Commission Meeting. Specifically, information on how much money, how many scholarships and the origin of the funds would be sufficient. This would make a concise package that could easily be voted on.

There was brief discussion on different ways to provide scholarship funds. The initial amount requested per attendee was \$400.00 which was earmarked for travel, lodging and per diem. There is apparently no registration fee. The recipients are to be public defenders of juveniles from rural northern Nevada.

Comments from Public

There were no public comments.

Set Time, Date and Agenda for Next Meeting

The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday June 2, 2014 at 10:00 am. This will be a Teleconference with only one item on the agenda.

Agenda:

Approve the Formula Three Year Plan

There will also be another Committee Meeting in June; Thursday June 26, 2014 at 10:00 am. This will be a videoconference with the following agenda.

Agenda:

PREA: Templates, Spanish posters, Grant

SB107 Room Confinement: Review of quarterly report, Technical Assistance

Three Year Plan update

2013 Governor's Report

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. by Chairman Coppa.