

*Nevada State Juvenile Justice Commission  
Policy/Legislation Committee Report*

May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014  
Red Rock Academy  
Las Vegas Nevada



The policy and legislative committee has been monitoring the following commissions and committees on a monthly basis.

1. The Supreme Court Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform
2. The Standardized Juvenile Justice Data Collection Sub Committee
3. The School Attendance and Disturbance Sub Committee
4. The Facilities Planning Sub-Committee
5. The Advisory Committee to Study Laws Concerning Sex Offender Registration
6. The Nevada Association of Juvenile Justice Administrators
7. Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice

1. **Supreme Court Commission of Juvenile Justice Reform:** This Commission continues to monitor the major reforms of the Nevada Juvenile Justice System specifically the recommendations to reform funding for deep end commitments. Discussion regarding progress and future plans.
2. **The Standardized Juvenile Justice Data Collection Sub Committee:** To study all aspects of data collection and dissemination for the juvenile justice system, including, but not limited to:
  - a) Federal and State statutes and regulations and the Uniform System for Judicial Records;
  - b) Identification of data needed or necessary to achieve the objection of the juvenile justice system;
  - c) Examination of fiscal costs and technology limitations for data collection.
  - d) A review of benefits derived and plans needed to implement a sharing of data among the various stakeholders discussion regarding progress and future plans
3. **School Attendance and Disturbance Sub Committee:** Mission is to study and make recommendations to amend statutes to facilitate a better balance between attendance patterns and school disturbances issues within the state of Nevada. The sub-committee will clearly identify responsibilities, best practices and current school models for dealing

with these issues on a state and national level. Discussion regarding Clark County Pilot Programs, and direction of this subcommittee.

Ms. Brigit Duffy researched best practices for school discipline policies and procedures and found there is a clear association between exclusionary discipline, such as expulsions and suspensions, and poor outcomes of delinquency (e.g., drug use, dropout rates, etc.). Ms. Duffy provided three articles on restorative justice including an article on West Philadelphia's model, which had a 50% decrease in suspension rates. Programs promoting social and emotional cognitive problem solving in schools are making a difference in reducing school violence issues.

The Subcommittee discussed implementing a pilot restorative justice program in schools in Clark, Washoe, and a rural county. It was noted Nevada has taken a good first step with collaboration between juvenile justice programs and the school districts, which is an important part of implementing and maintaining a restorative justice program.

Mr. Jeff Wells noted the working group discussed possible amendments to statutory language in school disturbance statutes. The group focused on NRS 392.910 and NRS 392.466, and provided proposed amendments. The group recommends eliminating section 1 of NRS 392.910, which states, "...it is unlawful for any person to disturb the peace of any public school by using vile or indecent language...would be charged with a misdemeanor." The group noted this is adequately covered in current statute. The group also recommends adding references to the statute definitions for assault and malice. Assault and malice would be defined the same under the school statute as it is in the general statute (NRS 200.471). The group recommends amending NRS 392.466, adding similar language in sections 1(b) and 3(b) as is already included in section 2(b), which would allow the superintendent discretion to modify an expulsion requirement. The statute allows for this discretion for students found in possession of a firearm, or dangerous weapon but does not allow for that same discretion if a student commits battery or sells or distributes any controlled substance while on school grounds. The amended language would remove the zero tolerance expulsion requirements for battery and the sale redistribution of a controlled substance.

4. **Advisory Commission to study Laws Concerning Sex Offender Registration:** The committee established in 2007 to monitor Nevada compliance with the Adam Walsh Act AB 579. Current Compliance with the ACT, Discussion Regarding Sex Offender Procedures after AB 579. Juvenile Probation Jurisdiction's responsibility to compliance. Impediments to compliance. Modifications to AB 579 impacting the juvenile requirements. Current activity in the commission to recommend legislation that keeps juveniles off the public web site. In addition to researching the standardized sex offender testing for juveniles.

**5. Regional Facilities Planning Sub Committee**

The regional facilities planning subcommittee continues to research the feasibility of housing certified juveniles in a secure juvenile facility. Potentially on the Red Rock Academy Campus or, in south Carson City adjacent to a new commitment facility for the Northern Region. China Springs has also been suggested for a northern regional facility for commitment youth.

**6. Juvenile Competency Sub Committee**

**Proposed statute changes**

“A child may not be adjudicated a delinquent child, placed on a supervision and consent decree pursuant to NRS 62C.230, or adjudicated a child in need of supervision while incompetent. If doubt arises as to the competence of the child, the court shall suspend adjudicatory proceedings until the question of competence is determined.”

**7. Nevada Association of Juvenile Justice Administrators:** The juvenile services chiefs and directors continue to meet and review the above fore mentioned committees and commissions making recommendations and supporting statewide juvenile justice reform. Discussion regarding current reform measures and jurisdictional support and concerns regarding forth coming measures.

**1. Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice:** This is a legislative interim committee 2013-14 waiting to be commissioned to review child welfare and juvenile justice policy, and statute.

**Summary:**

The state of Nevada is in the middle of strategic juvenile justice reforms. Evident through the whole process is that all parties have been at the table. There have been significant efforts to bring all disciplines into the conversations in order to get it right. The discussion has been vigorous and strategic. We have kept the clients and their families in the middle of the discussion. This will continue as we accomplish the recommendations and guidelines agreed upon by this state partnership. We need to continue to breakdown apprehension and speculation and replace it with data and mutual discussion to further change for the better.

Scott Shick Chief JPO

Chair Policy and Legislative Committee