

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

August 20, 2014
Nevada Youth Training Center
Elko 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

The recent activity of the sub-committee included a trip to Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections Secure facility to learn about the information and data management systems.

The team identified the following as next steps:

- 1) Identify current state infrastructure within Information Management System
- 2) Set meeting with DoIT to discuss requirements of current system

- 3) Complete a Business Plan identifying next steps and requirements
- 4) Once Business Plan is developed and submitted- Identify required documents and reports.
- 5) Review and revise Nevada's current hierarchy of offenses listed in NAC 62 H

The Collection of accurate timely digestible data is essential to the Nevada Model of Juvenile Justice. Key decisions are being made based on aggregated data collection state wide. The Completion of these recommendations will solidify the data delivery systems of the juvenile programs office.

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.

Recent activity is the review of:

Expulsion and Suspension Information

SARB Pilot Program in Clark County School District

See attachments; Restoring Faith in Our Schools, Shared Indicators, Project Aware

Using the results driven restorative justice model in the school arena has produced positive outcomes for school administrators and resource officers. Keeping at risk kids in mainstream school is one of the primary protective factors against further truancy, delinquent behaviors, and other risk behaviors. The restorative justice model builds a support system with the student rather than a punitive approach to resolving school based problems.

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. The July 24, 2014 meeting of the Commission reviewed the Screening and Assessment instruments used to evaluate sexual risk **see attachments: Sexual Recidivism Risk, and Assessment Tools Scales and Content**, in addition to the Administrative Office of the Courts Brief on Sexual Recidivism Risk in the Juvenile population. Also included is the attachment of the breakdown of some states modifications to the Life Time Mandatory juvenile sex offenders registrations law.

5. Regional Facilities Planning Sub Committee

This sub-committee met on July 28 and made significant recommendations to get back on track with the Nevada Model for Juvenile Justice Reform and that the discussions had been sidetracked by the inclusion of the adult certified juvenile population into the discussion.

Taking into consideration the following:

1. Red Rock Academy is up and running and producing successful outcomes on numerous fronts. The importance of this facility is the public and private partnership which has been fostered since the opening. The model for treatment is implemented and adjusting to the response of the students and the staff. The state and ROP are providing a comprehensive, productive, safe treatment approach for deep end offenders in the juvenile justice system.
2. Since the certified offenders have been taken out of the equation for now the focus whether to close or not to close NYTC ELKO and the reallocation of resources to a new Northern Region Facility has been put back into perspective. This meeting today was intentionally recommended to give juvenile justice stake holders a chance to evaluate the facility and objectively look at what is best for the Nevada Juvenile Justice System in the next 25 years.
3. The numerous options made to the subcommittee have been vetted and the unanimous recommendation to continue to evaluate the location of a new juvenile commitment facility in Carson City or Washoe County leaving the existing facilities in China Spring, Jan Evans out of the equation to function as the program they were designed to do. In addition to evaluating the NYTC ELKO Facility for feasibility to continue to function as the commitment facility for the Northern Region. The common theme continues to be treating youth close to their homes produces successful transitions into their home, their schools and their communities. The rural juvenile justice administrators are in unanimous support of this Northern Region Model in addition to the Washoe County and Clark County Juvenile Program Directors standing in favor of this model for the Northern Nevada Region.

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.”
See attached draft competency legislation

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. **See attached memo** from Supreme Court to Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice

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