

STATE OF NEVADA

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NEVADA STATE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION**

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**NEVADA STATE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
MINORITY/GENDER COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
October 15, 2015**

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Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Morris Hibbler at 5:36 p.m.

Roll Call – Alice Mueller

Members Present by Phone: Kirby Burgess, Lisa Morris Hibbler, Dawn Lozano, Paula Smith, Egan Walker, Lonnie Wright

Members Excused: John Martin, Raymond McKay, Ivet Santiago

Staff Present by Phone: Ross Armstrong (Deputy Attorney General), Leslie Bittleston

Members of the Public Present by Phone: Ben Challinor (ACLUNV) Pat Schreiber, Craig Tippens

Public Comment and Discussion

There was no public comment at this time.

Review of Official Minutes from September 9, 2015 Meeting and previous meetings

Commissioner Lozano moved that the minutes of September 9, 2015 be approved as corrected with a second from Commissioner Walker. The motion was passed by the Committee.

Technical Assistance Planning – Leslie Bittleston

There was no new information on the Effective Police Interactions technical assistance program. This is the program that Deborah Reyes and many individuals who had attended the August Effective Police Interactions training were working on. It is to be specifically tailored for use in Nevada.

School to Prison Pipeline Update – Lisa Morris Hibbler

The National League of Cities was in Las Vegas, October 14 and 15, 2015. Their visit was based on a fifteen month technical assistance project to help reduce disproportionate minority contact (DMC). The goal of this project was to prevent youth from going deeper in to the system. They were also to assist in developing a juvenile assessment center.

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Originally DMC data was reported in percentages which showed that African Americans were 34% of the juvenile justice system's youth in Las Vegas. Actually they represent only about 10% of the community youth population. For Latino youth, it is about 38% in the system and 43% in the youth population. When these statistics were converted into a statement, it was realized that one in every seven African American males were having contact with the juvenile justice system compared to one in Twenty two Latinos and one in thirty three Caucasian youth.

Efforts have been made to determine points of entry and points of contact. Which point of contact can be of use in diverting youth and what are the alternatives? A day and a half was spent with community partners such as law enforcement, Clark County School District (CCSD) police, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police (LVMPD), and school district representatives to determine how to provide support and curtail the number of youth entering the system.

Previously referrals were only taken when youth were already in the juvenile justice system. For the past ten months they have started to take referrals before the youth enters the system. This is seen as a major win and have affected 15 youth of color who have been involved with larceny, truancy, etc. The data on how these youth are getting into trouble is providing information for use with the juvenile assessment center.

Another challenge has been obtaining information. Although SB58 was passed in this legislative session, CCSD is not comfortable with giving aggregated data on things related to decisions on expulsions and other disciplinary data. This includes unidentifiable information such as population levels. For the past two years Jack Martin has been trying to obtain this data so that the juvenile justice system can make informed decisions. The CCSD legal counsel is still expressing discomfort with sharing information.

Commissioner Lozano explained what public information is. LVMPD already is providing some data which they track and drop off with juvenile justice services. The information the CCSD is hesitant to provide deals with where are the problem schools who have the highest number of suspensions and expulsions. What is going on in those schools and the factors in the cases; what are the youth being charged with.

A review of the escalating factors such as early warning signs is needed so that early intervention can occur. This would help to pinpoint some of the challenges. That is the type of data that would be important to obtain. It is not that there is no data, they just are not wanting to provide it. The superintendent says he is supportive but the legal counsel is not willing to share.

Chairman Burgess suggested approaching the school board. Get them involved, understanding of the issues and they will help out. Several people have been approached, but it may have something to do with the Department of Justice. Ultimately a subpoena could work, but it might be best to work through elected officials and the school board first. Let them know why the data is important and why the juvenile justice system needs it. Rather than the information being used against the school system, it could actually bring about solutions.

Judge Voy was suggested as a communication ally. SB58 redefines juvenile justice information as information files kept by a variety of agencies which includes public and private schools. He can assist in making individual cases available but also has information available as part of a recidivism study.

Chairman Burgess thanked Commissioners Hibbler and Martin for putting this conference together and getting the National League of Cities involved. He had been able to attend the executive briefing and luncheon where important policy makers were present including the

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mayor, city council members, county commissioners and administrators. This represents a great beginning. Although referrals are down, far too many of them are for African American youth. It is hoped that this project along with the assessment center will serve as a template for other jurisdictions in Nevada.

Minority and Gender Membership – Lisa Morris Hibbler

Chairman Burgess had given permission for both Commissioners Martin and Hibbler to approve new names for committee membership. So far no new recommendations had been forthcoming.

New Business

Leslie Bittleston the new Juvenile Justice Specialist introduced herself to the members of the committee. Starting on September 28, 2015, she had been on the job about three weeks. She has worked with the state for over sixteen years and most recently worked for Medicaid where she was an operational and compliance manager over seven Medicaid programs. A Native Nevadan, she is also a veteran of the U.S. army and a graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno. Leslie was welcomed by the members of the committee.

Comments from Public

There was no public comment at this time.

Set Time, Date and Agenda for Next Meeting

The next Committee Meeting was not scheduled at this time, but was to remain at 5:30 pm. This will be a phone conference.

Agenda:

Technical Assistance Update

School to Prison Pipeline

Minority and Gender Committee membership

Adjourn

Commissioner Lozano moved to adjourn the meeting with a second from Commissioner Smith. The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m. by Chairman Hibbler.