

**BRIAN SANDOVAL**  
*Governor*

**STATE OF NEVADA**

**AMBER HOWELL**  
*Administrator*

**RICHARD WHITLEY**  
*Interim Director*  
*Department of Health and Human Services*



**STEVE MCBRIDE**  
*Deputy Administrator*

**PAULINE SALLA**  
*Juvenile Justice Programs Chief*

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES  
NEVADA STATE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION**

**4126 Technology Way, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**Carson City, NV 89706**

**Telephone: (775) 684-4437 • Fax: (775) 684-4455**

**NEVADA STATE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
MINORITY/GENDER COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**April 8, 2015**

**DRAFT**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Hibbler at 4:00 p.m.

**Roll Call – Pauline Salla**

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

Statewide Task Force Members Present by Phone: Ali Banister, Cheri Ely, Lynette Gust, Thomas Stockard, Craig Tippens

Members Excused: Noah Jennings, Raymond McKay, Ivet Santiago, Paula Smith

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

**Public Comment and Discussion**

There was no public comment.

**Review of Official Minutes from May 7, 2014 and July 23, 2014 Meetings**

Commissioner Walker moved that the minutes from the May 7, 2014 and July 23, 2014 meetings be approved as written. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the Committee.

**Technical Assistance Planning – Pauline Salla**

Effective Police Interactions Training will occur in either August or September of this year. Chairman Burgess suggested that things proceed forward with all deliberate speed. As a member of the 100 Committed Men in Las Vegas, he recently attended a forum dealing with community policing. He noted that this was a great time and opportunity to get everybody moving forward on discussing these issues along with those of inclusiveness and community protection. He encouraged Specialist Salla to nail down a specific date in September.

## **DRAFT**

Specialist Salla mentioned that there was a programmatic visit coming up which might include Andrea Coleman. Since she does the Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) portion of the compliance, it is hoped that this visit could be scheduled to coincide with the training.

### **School to Prison Pipeline – Dr. Morris Hibbler**

Co-Chairman Hibbler spoke about the work that she and Chairman Martin had been doing with the National League of Cities on Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) and the disproportionality of minority youth, particularly African American youth. They participated with five other cities, namely Gresham, Oregon, Little Rock, Arkansas, Minneapolis, Minnesota, New Orleans, Louisiana, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and will be working with them for the next fifteen months. They had the opportunity to brief Las Vegas Mayor Carolyn Goodman, School Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky, Metro Deputy Chief James Owen and many others about the team's focus for the upcoming year.

Their first strategy is developing agreements and processes across data systems. There is a need to have aggregated and trackable data across multiple systems which would include social services, school districts, law enforcement and juvenile justice systems. This aggregated data would assist in understanding youth who are represented in these multiple systems. Some communities are already doing this and seeing significant benefits in how they triage youth and their families.

The next strategy would be utilization of a referral based divergent program; a partnership with Trial by Peers. While there are diversion courts with Trial by Peers and Juvenile Justice Services, this court differs in that the youth have not been in the system. Youth will be referred who are exhibiting certain behaviors, such as Status Offenses. The idea is to curtail this behavior so that they do not end up in the juvenile justice system. Needed services will be provided with the hope that they will be prevented from entering detention centers.

Finally, there would be focus on continued work with the development of a comprehensive community based juvenile assessment center. Although work has been going on for a couple of years, pieces are starting to pull together. There is beginning to be wide support among various agencies at all levels, with more coming to the table.

Co-Chairman Martin then requested feedback from the rest of those in attendance concerning risk assessment instruments in detention, specifically with the intake hallway. His concern is that although a good deal of effort has gone into building a colorblind system at the front door of detention, many kids of color might be infiltrating the system for lesser crimes. This is because there currently is not a standardized screening process or referral process for the intake hallway. As it runs now, if a youth gets a citation, a lot depends on the subjectivity of the officer they are referred to. Without a screening tool, this is really not a color blind process.

Clark County is currently working with the Arizona Risk Needs Assessment (ARNA) and has done 150 test cases. There are ten fairly quick and simple questions which are based on risk to the community, and risk to self. A low score can result in release with a warning, a middle score could lead to further assessments to determine needs, and a high score would lead to the use of several probation tools so as to protect the community. The hope is that this or another type of tool will bring increased subjectivity when detaining or diverting one youth over another.

Specialist Salla agreed to send out a request for information from DMC coordinators in other states to see how they are handling this situation. Commissioner Walker further requested that she ask them about how youth enter their systems. His concern was in how children end up

## **DRAFT**

being referred into the system. If DMC training could begin earlier or farther out, perhaps the number of minority youth referred would decrease. That first point of contact whether it begins with law enforcement or before, is very important.

The Center for Coordinated Assistance to States (CCAS) was mentioned as providing a DMC certificate program. A team may be sent to do the certification process, where they can be assisted in identifying issues. Information on this will be sent out to the members.

Co-Chairman Martin thanked everyone and pointed out that this is what the assessment center is about. A place where teachers, parents, and the school district come together along with the Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services (BJJS) and the Department of Family Services (DFS) to help stem the tide not only into the juvenile justice system, but also into a lifetime of dependency, welfare and homelessness. Commissioner Walker added that if we wait for the kids to come to us, the battle is already lost. Diverting them earlier, before they enter the system is the best way to win.

### **Minority and Gender Membership – John Martin**

The main concern here is maintaining quorum, since this is an important committee which needs to be able to conduct business. Letters had been sent out to the stakeholders, with very little feedback, on who would like to continue attending. There was discussion about removing the names of those who had missed three meetings, which would leave those who wished to serve. Commissioner Lozano noted that this has occurred before and that the bylaws specified that the chair was equipped to send out a letter saying that due to non-attendance, they would no longer be on the committee. No motion is required to have the names removed. Specialist Salla agreed, citing the bylaws which give Chairman Burgess the ability to appoint and unappoint on the committees.

Ross Armstrong emphasized that before any action is taken, the public must have a chance to comment on the action and that the opportunity be recorded on record. The action to remove anyone should be done in accordance with the bylaws. It appears that the bylaws do not require any sort of notice to go out, or even a vote of the committee; it is all controlled by the chair. The attendance records can be resent out by the Co-Chairs and then Chairman Burgess can take it from there.

Co-Chairman Hibbler opened it up for public comment once more. At that time there was no public comment.

### **2014 DMC Relative Rate Index Data – Pauline Salla**

The Relative Rate Index data was sent out to the committee in two different formats. Both Line and bar charts covered the period from 2011 to 2014, and were formulated to show the first of the three year plan update. They were a three year comparison of the Relative Rate Data from each county and statewide. A narrative section to accompany the charts is still being prepared. These charts can be amended or revised if additional information becomes available. Commissioner Martin noted that he found the bar graphs easier to read than the line graphs.

### **New Business**

Co-Chairman Hibbler requested feedback from those present, on anything else they would like to see this committee working on. It is important that this committee remains relevant and important issues be placed on the agenda for discussion and action. Many of the stakeholders spoke up and stated that they found it very informative to listen in on what was being discussed. They were thanked and requested to contribute as well as listen.

## **DRAFT**

### **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 May 13, 2015 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 4:37 p.m. by Chairman Martin.