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

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
NEVADA STATE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
STANDARDS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 13, 2016**

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January 13, 2016 Call to Order

This meeting was called to order on January 13, 2016 at 5:31 pm by Chairman Martin.

Roll Call – Alice Mueller

Members Present by Phone: Michael Beam, Scott Davis, Elizabeth Florez, Jack Martin, Egan Walker

Members Excused: David Humke, Lisa Morris Hibbler, Dawn Lozano, Lonnie Wright

Staff Present by Phone: Ross Armstrong, Leslie Bittleston, Alice Mueller

Public Present by Phone: Michael Whelihan

Public Comment and Discussion

There was no public comment.

Review of Official Minutes from November 18, 2015

Commissioner Walker moved that the minutes of November 18, 2015 be accepted with a second from Commissioner Beam. The motion was passed by the Committee.

Review of NAJJA Standards

At the last Quarterly Full Juvenile Justice Commission meeting, it was decided to look at other states and see what they offered in terms of standards for detention facilities. Commissioner Florez reviewed policies from Florida, Arizona, Arkansas, Washington (state), New Mexico, Montana and Idaho. All but one had their standards in the administrative rules or codes. The one exception had begun working with the standards but not finished the process. Placing standards in the Nevada Revised Statutes would still be viewed as quite a difficult move.

Two commissioners who are currently with the state assembly and senate have suggested using a subchapter to chapter 169. This deals with guardianship and might prove to be an easier way to work with the Nevada Administrative Code.

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Under NRS 62B 250 the juvenile justice organization has to train their staff on four or five different things. There is a provision which allows the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) to establish additional training requirements. If one was looking at adopting standards without going through legislative action, this could be the quickest route, since there is already a Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) that allows for adopting administrative code relating to staff training at facilities. Standards training could get in the back door as required training.

Ideally, the standards would be broad like swim lanes. Within these broad parameters, differing facets of juvenile justice could work, such as administration, management, facilities etc. Each facility would develop its own standards, policies and procedures. These standards could live by administrative regulation in the Nevada Administrative Code or perhaps be adopted as aspirational by the Nevada Supreme Court.

Aside from being overly concerned about where the standards live, it might be best to just assume that best practice is best practice. Design the standards, as a comfortable, simple, high quality product, which represents the diverse nature of the state. After that, decide where they should reside. Many of the Chiefs are concerned about these standards. They have budgets to conform to and so are apprehensive about anything that may impact these budgets.

The important thing is to begin. Get together a set of solid standards which all can agree with that will be broad enough to encompass both small and large facilities. Once established they can at least point to best practice. The chiefs/administrators/commissioners would then not be left empty handed when incidents occur.

The Nevada Association of Juvenile Justice Administrators (NAJJA) had that intent when they started with standards based on those held by the American Correctional Association (ACA). The other states reviewed also started with ACA standards which were broad enough to encompass the entire country. Although not everything was reviewed and compared, some things like use of force, restraints were very similar. The focus could be narrowed on a couple of key areas.

The individual sections may be easier to present for legislative actions than a whole set of standards. If all believe a certain action should be absolutely forbidden, then use the legislative approach on it rather than the whole process, which can be unpredictable.

Mr. Armstrong agreed to start very broad, and then different juvenile justice communities such as NAJJA or the Nevada Supreme Court could adapt specific standards such as use of force or restraints. They could be more specific on those areas. The more generalized areas are not quite as important. Once broad areas are determined, specific parts of them can be worked on. These specific standards can even be codified. Although a whole chapter can be presented, a narrow issue is probably easier to get through the legislature.

There are three or four areas which draw media attention. They are use of isolation, use of restraints, use of force and restraints in the courtroom. These are the ones that should be focused on. Hobbles or that type of restraint is something that should never be used. In the broad parameter of restraints and use of force, this could be mentioned specifically.

It was suggested that although the chapters had been assigned previously, they should be reassigned, this time with attention to the reviewer's expertise in regards to a chapter. Commissioner Martin agreed to go back and review chapter one, with chapters two and three

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already thoroughly covered. Chapter four has not yet been discussed in any way. Commissioner Florez agreed to handle chapter four as her detention manager and division director over detention has completed a lot of work on this chapter and has already established a framework. The other commissioners will have editorial rights over that chapter. This is based on the Silver State Standards, worked on by the NAJJA. They are very similar and broad by design.

Chapter four will be sent out before the next meeting with the idea that much of this work can be done before the next quarterly meeting. To facilitate this, the next meeting would be held the first week of February.

New Business

There was no new business.

Comments from the Public

There were no statements from the public.

Set Time, Date and Agenda for Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held in Wednesday February 3, 2016 at 5:30 pm. This will be a teleconference.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 pm.