

STATE OF NEVADA

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

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**NEVADA STATE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION
MINORITY/GENDER COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
January 20, 2016**

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Call to Order

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

Roll Call – Alice Mueller

Members Present by Phone: Lisa Morris Hibbler, Dawn Lozano, John Martin, Ivet Santiago, Paula Smith

Members Present by Phone, Late: Egan Walker, Lonnie Wright

Members Excused: Noah Jennings, Raymond McKay

Staff Present by Phone: Sharon Benson (Deputy Attorney General), Leslie Bittleston, J. Alice Mueller

Members of the Public Present by Phone: Ali Banister, Holly Welborn (ACLUNV)

General Discussion

Sharron Benson let the committee know that although members from the Attorney General's Office had been well represented at our meetings in the past, until a new Deputy Attorney General is appointed, that may not be the case. She noted that if there was something specific which would require their input, or any basic questions, we could email, or contact her by phone.

Initially, there wasn't quorum so Co-Chair Martin suggested that some of those in attendance share strategies being employed by their jurisdictions. He was interested in hearing how the rural counties were handling disproportionate minority contact (DMC). Since no one volunteered, he discussed some of the positive occurrence in Clark County.

This was the first time in 30 years that Clark County referrals were below 13,000. Five years previous, there had been 27,000 referrals. This shows headway being made with community projects and local law enforcement partners. The Evening Reporting Center is now open and should assist in using community programming to avoid incarceration. This has been successfully used in some of the rural counties.

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The proposed assessment center is a multi-agency collaboration with the City of Las Vegas, Clark County Social Services, Department of Family Services (DFS), Juvenile Justice, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and the Clark County School District, along with many different entities that have been working together for the last nine months. Memorandums of understanding (MOU) have been drafted and the center is significantly closer to opening. Youth of all ages up to 18 years old, will be able find appropriate services before becoming involved with the juvenile justice system.

A Colorado project which has been functioning for the last twenty years will also be reviewed. It is hoped that several ideas will come from them. DFS is often the first responders for low level offenders, but often lacks the resources to assist if there isn't a formal adjudication. If youth and families can receive services without escalation into the juvenile system, disproportionality in the system could be positively impacted.

Public Comment and Discussion

Holly Welborn introduced herself as the new policy director with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). She is replacing Vanessa Spinazzola and will be attending the various Juvenile Justice Commission meetings. Ms. Welborn was welcomed by the Committee.

Review of Official Minutes from October 15, 2015 Meeting and previous meetings

Commissioner Lozano moved that the minutes of October 15, 2015 be approved as submitted with a second from Commissioner Smith. The motion was passed by the Committee.

Technical Assistance – Leslie Bittleston

Chief Bittleston had spoken with Deborah Reyes of the LVMPD about the Effective Police Interactions training which had occurred over the summer. Ms. Reyes wished to contact Co-Chair Martin prior to organizing a work group which would create a Nevada specific curriculum. The curriculum would address specific problems of both the rural and urban portions of the state. There would be training for new officers in addition to refresher courses for long standing officers. This training would ideally be cutting edge and include data driven interventions. A work group should be getting underway the first part of 2016. Basic curriculum which deals with cultural diversity already exists and just needs to be reformulated to reflect Nevada's objectives.

School to Prison Pipeline Update – Lisa Morris Hibbler

Co-Chair Hibbler was invited to add to the information on the School to Prison Pipeline which had already been partially discussed earlier in the meeting. She noted that the Clark County School District has a new committee in the Educational Services Department. Their goal is to reduce suspensions and expulsions. There is a push for positive behavioral interventions using support services at the K-5 levels. Several alternative models have been discussed including those that work on increasing engagement with local schools rather than just relocating youth with disciplinary issues. Part of this includes ways to have officers more integrated into the community. Superintendent Pat Skorkowsky is to be commended for taking an active role in addressing many of these changes.

DMC Brochure Update – Leslie Bittleston

Copies of the updated DMC brochure had been sent out to members of the committee. Contact information had been changed, but other changes were noted. These included updating information about the current Co-Chairs of the committee. Commissioner Lozano moved to have these changes implemented on the DMC brochure so that it could be presented at the Quarterly Full Juvenile Justice Commission meeting in February. This was seconded by Commissioner Smith and approved by the committee.

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New Business

No new business was presented at this time.

Comments from Public

Sharron Benson complemented the committee on running a nice fast meeting. Co-Chair Martin congratulated Co-Chair Hibbler on her appointment by the Las Vegas Council as the Director of Youth Development and Social Innovation. The Committee joined him in congratulating her on her new directorship.

Set Time, Date and Agenda for Next Meeting

The next Committee Meeting will be on March 9, 2016 and will remain at 5:30 pm. This will be a phone conference.

Agenda:

Technical Assistance Update

School to Prison Pipeline

DMC report update

Adjourn

Commissioner Lozano moved to adjourn the meeting with a second from Commissioner Smith. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m. by Chairman Hibbler.