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NEVADA STATE JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
MINORITY/GENDER COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
September 14, 2016

**DRAFT**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman John Martin at 5:01 p.m.

**Roll Call – Alice Mueller**

Members Present by Phone: Kirby Burgess, Kallie Laity, Dawn Lozano, John Martin, Lis Morris Hibbler, Mayra Rodriguez-Galindo, Paula Smith, Egan Walker, Lonnie Wright

Staff Present by Phone: J. Alice Mueller

Members of the Public Present by Phone: Ryan Felix, Lynette Gust

**Public Comment and Discussion**

There was no public comment at this time. Chairman Martin congratulated Commissioner Smith on being nominated to the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice. He noted that it had been a rough period for Nevada, and so requested that she represent us well and thanked her for taking the challenge.

**Review of Official Minutes from March 9, and June 1, 2016 Meeting**

Commissioner Walker moved that the July 13, 2016 minutes be approved with a second from Commissioner Smith. The minutes were approved by the Committee.

**Specific Strategies for DMC of African American Youth – Jack Martin**

There has been a lot of discussion on this topic in relation to southern Nevada. Chairman Burgess requested that the committee involve the rural counties more with what they are doing to keep kids of color out of the juvenile justice system. Ryan Felix, of the Carson City Juvenile Justice Center was asked specifically to talk about their programs.

Mr. Felix noted that Carson City's minority population was fairly small, so all they had were the standard programs such as drug and alcohol counseling, and restitution programs. They do have a fire setter program where youth are placed who have special needs in dealing with those concerns. None of the placements are made based on a youth's race.

## DRAFT

A lot of discussion has been around the proposed Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Summit, especially with the next legislative session coming up. Assemblymen Tyrone Thompson, Jason Frierson and Lawrence Weekly have been approached to host a meeting which would provide the opportunity for a frank and open discussion with the community and stakeholders about specific strategies and recommendations to send to the legislatures. It is important to get this out in time for the legislature to move forward on this topic. What is determined at such a summit, will be presented throughout the state. This would help establish the best evidence based practices.

Commissioner Walker noted that at the next Quarterly Full Juvenile Justice Commission meeting, he had requested there be an active agenda item about requesting funds to help provide for a DMC Summit. This could be a statewide or west coast summit. National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) Chief Executive Director Joey Orduna Hastings has been contacted about partnering with the Nevada Governor's Juvenile Justice Commission in conducting a summit. She was very enthusiastic about the prospect.

It would be ideal, if someone like James Bell of the Haywood Burns Institute, could be one of the speakers. He is a well-respected lawyer from Oakland, California who has specialized in DMC issues at the national level. The Commission could perhaps help fund some of his speaker fees. Commissioner Hibbler, who is the Deputy Director of the Las Vegas Office of Community Services, said that she was willing to commit some funding to the summit. Commissioner Walker suggested that the Commission consider having this as an ongoing topic on the Quarterly agendas, with the summit perhaps being an ongoing budget item. That way, there would be money to act, and less time spent trying to locate funds.

Chairman Martin wondered if he should reach out to Mr. Bell to get an idea of what the cost would be. That is, what the speaker fee would be, or if he would agree to speak if his traveling costs were covered. Commissioner Wright cautioned that Mr. Bell was an industry expert, and as such, his expertise was being requested in many different venues. If he is really wanted for the summit, the Commission should be prepared to pay for speaker's fees. Chairman Burgess felt that Chairman Martin needed to go ahead and find out the necessary information from Mr. Bell. At the same time, other funds should be sought so that the full weight of the conference would not be shouldered by the Juvenile Justice Commission.

Along with Dr. Hibbler, Chairman Martin agreed to look within his own budget and request that Frank Cervantes from Washoe County see if they had any funds available. The National Association of Juvenile Justice Administrators (NAJJA) was suggested as a source of funding. Commissioner Walker, a member of NCJFCJ felt that with they might also be partners. They may know of many inventive ways to locate funds for this summit. Especially since they have access to the press and other ways to notify people.

Several minority team members have gotten together to start work on building a first point of contact training. The constructed framework could be taken outside the agency and used in conversations about existing barriers. This would be very specific, local training which could be carried throughout the state.

### **School to Prison Pipeline Update – Jack Martin**

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Morris Hibbler is scheduled to speak about the Las Vegas assessment center and DMC issues that it will address. There have been discussions about this for the last two years, however now Clark County School District has finally agreed to be a partner in getting answers. It is hoped that now improvement will be seen on reducing the number of African American males and other youth of color in the system.

## **DRAFT**

Information on two hundred “uniquely identified” youth under the age of 18, with multiple referrals, have been sent to the Clark County School District. They will be back tracked to see what kind of issues, interventions, and knowledge is available about them. This is to ascertain where the system potentially failed, or possibly where more could have been done. What culturally sensitive or specific programming may have been helpful in interrupting the school to prison pipeline for these individuals.

A soft opening of the assessment center will be on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Since there have been some issues about location, it will be opening at the detention center. The memorandums of understanding (MOU) have been written and commitments have been made. Policy and processes are being finalized with everyone looking forward to the opening. The hope is for 2,000 referrals the first year, which would actually mean that there would be 2,000 fewer referrals into juvenile detention and probation.

### **Data Policy Grant Proposal – Leslie Bittleston**

Although Chief Bittleston was not present, Alice notified the Committee that the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, was not awarded the Data Policy Grant Proposal.

### **New Business**

The Juvenile Justice Programs Office is about ready to hire a Program Officer 1. They should be ready to start on September 26, 2016. There have also been three new commissioners added to the Juvenile Justice Commission. They are Esther Brown from Las Vegas, Cynthia Gustafson from Reno and Jeremy Setters from Boulder City.

Lynette Gust noted that Mr. Setters comes up to Ely and assists Tom Metscher with providing mental health services to the rural youth. If it is an issue that can't be handled locally, a therapist in Las Vegas is located and a referral made. He is very pro-active and has really helped a lot of youth.

### **Comments from Public**

There were no comments from the public at this time.

### **Set Time, Date and Agenda for Next Meeting**

The next Committee Meeting will be on October 12, 2016 at 5:00 pm and will be a teleconference.

Agenda:

Specific Strategies to address DMC in African American Youth, emphasis on training.

DMC summit plans and ideas.

School to Prison Pipeline

### **Adjourn**

Co-Chair Martin moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:46 p.m.