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Nevada State Juvenile Justice Oversight Commission
Youth Committee
February 22, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Roll Call:

Attendees: Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta, Commissioner Ricardo Villalobos, Commissioner Kiera Bracken, Commissioner Emmanuel Torres, Commissioner Judge Egan Walker, Commissioner Joey Orduna Hastings, Commissioner Jackie Pierrott

Public: Katie Brubaker, Emily Tiehm, John Munoz

Public Comment: None

Katie Brubaker: The Agenda listed meeting minutes from January 8, 2018, the minutes themselves said January 1st, 2018. The minutes need to be changed to January 8th, 2018.

Motion: Approve the Youth Committee meeting minutes from January 8, 2018 with proposed date change.

By: Commissioner Kierra Bracken

Second: Commissioner Jackie Pierrott

Vote: Passed

Motion: Approve the Youth Committee meeting minutes from June 6th, 2018.

By: Commissioner Jackie Pierrott

Second: Commissioner Kierra Bracken

Vote: Passed

Meeting Minutes:

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: The reason we called this mandatory meeting is because the Youth Sub-committee hasn't been able to make quorum in the last four meetings. It's critically important that they make sure that they're on task and that the tasks that I and Commissioner Joey Orduna Hastings have given to the Youth Sub-committee are appropriate to the Committee and doable and so that's why we want to make sure everyone was present at this meeting.

Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta: Since we are all together, we should discuss a good time we can agree upon for the future.

Katie Brubaker: Discussed Open Meeting Law reminders.

Katie Brubaker: We have three assigned goals from the Full Commission. 1) Review and revise goals on the work plan. 2) Compose and present a report to the Full Commission regarding facility tours and 3) What the needs of girls in the Juvenile Justice System in Nevada are and how we can address those needs. Goal 1 is the development of the youth group and that section is 100 percent complete under Strategy Number 1. Strategy Number 2 says a process for continued participation and the things that were identified early on in the committee's formation was to develop a strategy to incentivize youth for participation and to determine if there are any budgetary needs or if a stipend was available to increase participation. Those would be the next two items on the actual work plan for them to have some conversation around or make some decisions.

Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta: John Munoz and I are both concerned about how far behind we have fallen in our assignments due to our attendance and quorum issues.

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: I suggest you tackle the facility visit assignments first because those might be the easiest to expedite.

John Munoz: I agree. We have already visited the Bernadini Detention Facility, the Jan Evans Detention Facility, the Caliente Youth Center Facility, the Summit View Youth Center Facility and the Clark County Detention Center in Las Vegas.

Katie Brubaker: Please look at the document in your packet titled "Questions to Consider for the Youth Committee Facilities Tour report." I suggest that every Youth Committee Member who has participated, no matter if it was one visit to one facility or if they've been to all of them, that each youth committee member answer those six questions and any additional information they'd like to share, and then Emily Tiehm and I can work together to put it into one nice document.

Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta: I think this is a great idea. The questions are well suited for the youth facilities physically and they will be extraordinarily helpful for the policy considerations that we want to make moving forward. I suggest a two-week due date.

Motion: Youth Committee Members will complete six facility tour questions for each facility they visited by March 8th.

By: Commissioner Jackie Pierrott

Second: Commissioner Kiera Bracken

Vote: Passed

Katie Brubaker: Agenda Item 6; what the needs are of girls in the Juvenile Justice System in Nevada and how to address those.

John Munoz: Is this just in the facilities or just overall?

Katie Brubaker: It would mean all of their female youth in Nevada who are touched by any piece of the Juvenile Justice System.

Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta: If it is not that permissive in the language, I would like them to consider it as in complete overview because quite candidly I would like to work from this committee on the female

population out of detention. I'd like to make it a broad overview of the females in the system. We are going to have to look at all the entry points that occur in the system.

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: I agree 100% and then some. I invite Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta to give me any assignments you would like my help with. One idea I have is to build a survey to send out to NAJJA and to all Juvenile Justice stakeholders to invite them to tell them what they think the choke points are and where the limitations and resources for girls in particular are. And it might be useful to then take the results of that survey and try and collate them for purposes of identifying goals and areas of attack.

Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta: I love that idea. Katie Brubaker is Commissioner Scott Shick a member of the JJOC Full Commission?

Katie Brubaker: Yes

Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta: What does everybody think of us reaching out to Commissioner Scott Shick for direction?

John Munoz: Of course, we can reach out to anyone to provide clarity, but I would prefer it be opened up to the Youth Committee members too, based on what we saw at the different facilities that they visited. This would be a good opportunity for us to share our thoughts initially with Members so that we have a starting point. It would give us ownership as well.

Commissioner Kiera Bracken: I suggest having the same due date as the facilities questions due date. We could all turn in our own questions related to the needs of girls in the Juvenile Justice System in Nevada. It might be helpful to maybe ask our own questions from our own observations and then we could discuss it at the next meeting.

Katie Brubaker: I think this is a fantastic idea for the Youth Committee members to be able to get some more information about what this even means and some questions they have about female youth in Nevada before the Committee reaches out to stakeholders so that they can have a more robust discussion amongst themselves in terms of understanding and some things that they're particularly interested in looking into before we move forward with reaching out through NAJJA. It might also help us come up with questions we want to ask NAJJA members as well.

Motion: Youth Committee Members will compile questions we have about the needs of girls in the Juvenile Justice System in Nevada and how to address those needs by March 8th.

By: Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta:

Second: Commissioner Jackie Pierrott

Vote: Passed

Katie Brubaker: We still have to finish out Agenda Item 6A, Review and Revise Goals on the Work Plan. Something to add to the work plan would be to address an item about what the needs of girls in the Juvenile Justice System are in Nevada and how to address those needs.

Motion: Add a section to the work plan about the needs of girls in the Juvenile Justice System in Nevada and how to address those needs

By: Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta

Second: Commissioner Kierra Bracken

Vote: Passed

Katie Brubaker: Regarding Strategy Number 2 on the work plan, about a process for continue participation. Do we need to have this on the work plan or did we just need to have a discussion?

Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta: I think we can have a discussion. How could we better engage young people, keep them there, make them a meaningful part of the committee and bring other similarly situated folks on?

Commissioner Kierra Bracken: For me, I want a little bit more direction. In the meetings we are not really sure how we can be of help.

Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta: If what we did today, by giving specific assignments, asking what matters, is that the type of direction your talking about?

Commissioner Kierra Bracken: Yes, that type of direction is very helpful because we all have our own ideas and thoughts, and we just didn't know what to do with them. This is very helpful for us to put it into something constructive that we can present to the Full Commission. This was a step in the right direction.

Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta: With my Co-Chair's permission, we will make a point of providing in subcommittee meetings that type of outline and direction from this point on.

Katie Brubaker: Another thing that might be helpful is some education for members in topics like girls in Nevada in the Juvenile Justice System and having our Co-Chairs be the teachers for members.

Commissioner Kierra Bracken: I agree. I think any information that members could get would be helpful.

Commissioner Emmanuel Torres: I'd like to see more veteran members with Juvenile Justice System experience mentoring younger members and sharing their experiences.

Commissioner Joey Orduna Hastings: I wonder if we could orchestrate a presentation where we bring the youth in or, maybe even at one of the facilities tours, we can speak to a panel of youth rather than just seeing the facility itself?

Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta: I heard youth members say they needed more leadership from me and John Munoz in terms of a format of what we are really trying to do. John Munoz and I will put together a presentation to give to the youth, a short 15-minute presentation for the next meeting that talks about the Juvenile Justice System as we see the Commission engaging with that system, improving that system, providing reform. That's number one. Number two, we set up either a return trip to a facility or in other upcoming tours that we work with the appropriate officials at that facility and we set up a youth panel to speak, those who are actually in the system.

Commissioner Joey Orduna Hastings: I'm wondering if Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta can drop in some of the information from the reports of the facility tours that already happened, so that we may make that a little bit more interactive and make it come to life, at least for the rest of the Commission or committee not in attendance.

Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta: That makes perfect sense and that way the youth members hear the importance of their input. What we would be doing is highlighting their views, their observations, their input, marrying it with insight from a youth who is unfortunately attached to the system and then making that presentation. It's a meaningful way to approach this.

Commissioner Joey Orduna Hastings: How can we engage the Youth Committee in informing and contributing to the evidence-based resource center and the materials that are featured on that website. Maybe there could be a video that's done that is put on that website about feedback from the youth that we serve, just to maybe give a creative opportunity to enhance that website? It kind of goes back to that "don't talk about us without us" kind of mentality. And so maybe there's a more creative project that this committee could do, too.

John Munoz: Clarified what he heard and asked for a motion.

Motion: Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta and John Munoz will create a 15-minute presentation about the Juvenile Justice System, there will be a return trip to the facilities to set up a panel discussion between the youth and the Youth Committee Members and finally, Youth Committee Members will possibly create a video to post on the evidence-based resource center website.

By: Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta.

Second: Commissioner Kierra Bracken.

Vote: Passed

Katie Brubaker: There was an offer for the Youth Committee members to possibly tour the Rite of Passage facility, but I don't know if we needed to see another facility at this time or if we should just focus on our current tasks and table this and come back to it at a later date.

Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta: I would prefer that we table another visit until we have compiled the needed information from the facilities that we already have.

Katie Brubaker: The idea behind assigning Youth Committee Members to other JJOC committees was so that youth members would be involved and have a better understanding of what's happening in each committee. There was a discussion and it was decided that this should not be a formal placement. It's just a great educational opportunity to take advantage of where Members can be exposed more to the system and the decisions that are made and how those decisions are made moving forward.

Motion: Youth Committee Members will review and identify another subcommittee of the JJOC that they would like to participate in by March 8th

By: Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta

Second: Commissioner Jackie Pierrott

Vote: Passed

Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta: It is Juvenile Justice Day in March of 2019. Typically, during a legislative session in order to get the ear of those folks of various special interest committee people, advocacy groups try to set up a special day where they are designated by both houses. Oftentimes those days center around a specific interest. I think we could set up a Juvenile Justice Day breakfast because if you feed them, they will come. Discussed dates, times, formats, logistics, and availabilities. The bottom line ended up being that Emily Tiehm and Katie Brubaker will check the Legislative calendar of events against the JJOC Commissioner's calendars and see if they can hitch onto an existing event or create our own.

Katie Brubaker: We will move quickly to make this happen.

Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta: We completed the first part of the next steps for possible action, assigning tasks to Members. The second part of this agenda item was specifying agenda items for the next meeting. Those items will be: Survey about where females are getting stuck in the system, 15-20 minute presentation on Juvenile Justice System by Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta and John Munoz. Facility Tour Report Update. Subcommittee assignments.

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: I will make an offer to the Youth Committee Members. If you'd like to come follow me for a day in court, I will cover a Juvenile Justice Docket and teach them about the issues from a judicial perspective, but then also from a perspective of any of the other stakeholders. So, they can call it a day in court or whatever else, but only if that would be useful to the youth committee members. I think some of their challenges are they're shooting in the dark in terms of trying to figure out what are all these things the Committee keeps talking about that are needs and challenges without seeing it and touching it. I have a Project One Calendar that involves youth in the deep end of the system, every Tuesday morning from 8:30 to noon.

Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta: I am on board with this and will invite Youth Committee Members to observe at Jan Evans facility when she's there. I am sure the folks who are there every single day would be open to any of our Committee Members sitting in on their calendars.

John Munoz: If everyone was extending offers, I have one too. If anyone is interested in volunteering at one of the youth parole offices either up at Reno or in Las Vegas, please let me know. It would be an opportunity to talk to some female parolees and get that first-hand feedback that they're perhaps looking for.

Katie Brubaker: Two Full Commissions from now, so the May 10th meeting for the Full Commission is actually at the legislature. It starts at 1:30. I will send out an email for some input to see if we can do something else that as well. I will also be sending out a Doodle Poll to establish availability for the next meeting.

Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta: Commissioner Judge Egan Walker can you please make this a mandatory meeting.

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: Yes

Motion: Adjourn

By: Commissioner Kierra Bracken

Second: Commissioner Jackie Pierrott

Vote: Unanimous