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**Nevada State Juvenile Justice Oversight Commission  
Risk Assessment Committee Meeting 11/30/17**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Co-Chair Jo Lee Wickes called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

**Roll Call:**

**Via Phone:** Darin Imlay, Jack Martin, Jo Lee Wickes, Kelly Wooldridge, Pauline Salla-Smith, Paula Smith, Scott Shick, Dr. Joe Haas- Washoe County, Alexis Tucey- Department of Health and Human Services, Ross Armstrong, Kelly Nesto- Planning and Evaluation with Children's Mental Health and Summit View, Cheryl Wright- Clark County

**Absent:** none

**Public Comment:** none

**Review of AB 472**

Co-Chair Wickes emphasized the very short timeframe given to this committee to complete tasks such as researching options for the Risk and Needs Assessment and Mental Health Screening tools that will be used statewide. The goal is to have these tools selected and presented for a vote by the December 15<sup>th</sup> Full Commission meeting.

**Factors to Consider When Selecting a Tool**

The matrix created, and included in the meeting materials, by Mr. Armstrong is a helpful way to break down the pros and cons of each tool the committee is reviewing. The matrix identifies whether instruments include single or multiple tools, the cost structure, whether it has been validated, if it allows for input from different sources, and other notes.

Ms. Wooldridge provided information risk and needs assessments tools currently utilized statewide. There are seven counties using or moving towards the YLS Risk Assessment tool, three counties using Model 5 Juvenile Sanctions tool model, and six counties using internal tools that are not necessarily evidence-based or validated.

Ms. Wooldridge provided information on Mental Health Screening tools. There are seven counties using MAYSI (2), three using the Model 5 Juvenile Sanctions model, and the rest are internal tools or not using anything at all.

Pauline Salla-Smith shared that the MAYSI and MAYSI 2 are used for detained youth in Humboldt County.

Dr. Joe Haas explained that the MAYSI system is not just specific to detained youth. It is required by statute for detained youth, but is still applicable to those who are not in detention. A big advantage of the MAYSI is that it is used by professional staff and doesn't require clinical interpretation. Policy will need to be developed to protect the youth's right to not self-incriminate especially concerning anger, aggression, and substance abuse.

Ms. Wooldridge verified that whichever companies are selected, that company will provide staff to help train and implement consistency across the board, in efforts to further validate the tool. There are three tools that were presented to the DCFS by the Counsel of State Governments (CSG) for Risk Assessment; the YLS, the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) and the PACT. Of those, only the PACT included a Mental Health Screening tool. The OYAS is currently being used in the adult system as a pre-trial Risk Assessment tool, and may be useful or helpful to bring to the youth side of the system.

### **Discussion of a Validated Risk Assessment Tool**

Co-Chair Martin introduced his Clinical Director, Cheryl Wright, to share information on the Risk Assessment tools Clark County reviewed in their selection process of a risk and needs assessment tool. Ms. Wright stated that she reviewed the SAVRY, YLS, and YASI. Ms. Wright stated the SAVRY may not be the best to use, as it is currently used in clinical services and may not be comprehensive enough to capture the information accurately. Further, the SAVRY is more expensive to administer. Clark County selected the YLS.

Ms. Wooldridge asked Ms. Wright's opinion on the OYAS.

Ms. Wright shared that she would need to do further research before giving an educated answer.

Dr. Haas inquired if the YLS has specific multiple assessments for each level of the system like the OYAS does. He would like to know if there is the same scale for each time, whether there are demerits for things like reentry, diversion, probation, etc.

Ms. Salla-Smith stated the YLS tool uses information that is gathered collaterally and during interviews to help the system create a supervision level of recommendation for the county/facility to use as a starting point. There is also a re-evaluation component to it that can be used as needed.

It does have a section for in-custody residential (at a facility) so it can be used for a youth transitioning from community to facility care.

Co-chair Wickes believes it is best to narrow the options of the Assessment tool, in efforts to help with the selection process. The matrix, created and presented by Mr. Armstrong, has been helpful for the committee to visualize the pros and cons of each prospective tool. Co-chair Wickes suggested a narrower focus on the OYAS and YLS tools.

Ms. Salla-Smith made a motion to narrow the selection of the OYAS and YLS tools. The committee agreed that these two options were best for the state.

Mr. Shick shared that Douglas County is ready and onboard with the YLS tool. There are multiple counties in the state that currently use this tool, and can share information and training opportunities for remaining counties.

Dr. Haas from Washoe County recommended that this committee looks at the empirical support provided by each tool, the consumable data collected from each tool, and how the device performs with recommending supervision levels and case management.

Ms. Salla-Smith suggested developers of the tools be present at the next committee meeting to share more in-depth information and opinions, along with members from Council of State Governments (CSG).

### **Selection of a Mental Health Screening Tool**

Co-Chairs Wickes and Imlay believe that the MAYSI is a viable option for the Mental Health Screening tool. CSG supports the use of the MAYSI and says it is verifiable through all necessary parameters. The MAYSI is further viable because a clinician does not have to administer the tool.

Ms. Salla-Smith believes that counties should be able to select additional tools at their discretion to capture more detailed information to best assist the youth by connecting them with necessary services, prior to reaching the “deep end” of the juvenile justice system. Ms. Salla-Smith verified that counties can use tools in addition to those selected by the committee, to screen and/or assess the youth in said county. The committee agreed, that if the selected statewide tool (MAYSI) is used, others can be used in addition, to bring further clarification to the forefront.

Mr. Shick made a motion to have the MAYSI system selected as the main Mental Health Screening tool, with the jurisdictions given the option to use additional tools as they deem necessary. Jack Martin seconded this motion, all committee members agreed with no opposition.

**New Business** None

**Next Steps:** The next meeting will be held via teleconference on Wednesday, December 6 at 2:00pm.

**Public Comment:** none

**Adjourned:** by Co-Chair Jo Lee Wickes at 11:12am, moved by committee members.