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**Nevada State Juvenile Justice Oversight Commission  
and the  
Advisory Committee of the Nevada Oversight Commission  
March 8, 2019**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Commissioner Judge Egan Walker called the meeting to order on Friday, March 8, 2019 at 1:00 pm.

**Roll Call:**

In Person: Commissioner Judge Egan Walker, Commissioner Jo Lee Wickes, Commissioner Dr. Lisa Morris Hibbler, Commissioner Pauline Salla-Smith, Commissioner Rebekah Graham, Commissioner Ross Armstrong, Commissioner Scott Shick, Commissioner Chief Shawn Anderson, Senator James Ohrenschall, Commissioner Judge William Voy.

On the phone:

Public: Katie Brubaker, John Munoz, Leslie Bittleston, Emily Tiehm, Jennifer Spencer, Dr. Melissa Sickmund, Andrew Wachter, Kimberly Palma-Ortega.

**Public Comment:**

Ms. Palma Ortega: I have concerns about communications between PO's and youth. There isn't clear communication unless parents reach out and even then, there are issues that need to be addressed.

Senator Ohrenschall: Would like to pay tribute to former Attorney General, Former Nevada Supreme Court Justice, Charles Springer. He served as a Washoe County Juvenile Hearing Master for many years, contributed greatly through his decisions on the Nevada Supreme Court. He died in February just about a week shy of his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday, and I just wanted the Commission to recognize him because he made some great contributions to laws affecting juveniles and children in Nevada.

**Motion:** Approve meeting minutes from 11/9/18 and 12/14/18  
**By:** Commissioner Judge Egan Walker

**Second:** Commissioner Scott Shick  
**Vote:** Unanimous

### **Meeting Minutes:**

Katie Brubaker: The first webinar about Nevada's definition for evidence-based practices and programming is on their resource center website (<http://ncjji.ncjj.org/>). I want to thank Andrew Wachter and Commissioner Pauline Salla-Smith for their help and would like everyone to check it out. They're still looking for volunteers to help with the second online training, and that's how to implement evidence-based practice or programs, so if you have not already reached out, please do so. Funding for the resource center continues to be an issue and at this point they have not been successful outside the formula grant in sustaining any kind of funding, and so I would appreciate any leads or information on grant information or information on private donors. This is an important piece of legislation and juvenile justice reform and implementing evidence-based programs and practices.

Commission Judge Egan Walker: I had an idea to reach out to Joe Asher, a gaming executive in Clark County who is also on the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, to see if he can make a specific request toward the NCJJI.

Commissioner Ross Armstrong: It may be helpful for Ms. Brubaker and the center itself to think about are there chunks of the website that a particular industry or individual may want to have a piece in. That may be an easier ask. If there's a specific thing that the Commission wants out of the center and they can provide in that hub of resources, that may make it easier to think about who a good person would be to ask or an organization to ask and to approach.

Dr Melissa Sickmund: I talked with Leslie Bittleston about the possibility of having some engagement with the state's Statistical Analysis Center to perhaps conduct some data analysis or make a request because they can seek funding from the Bureau of Justice Statistics each year. It should be coming out in the next month or so. So that might be something to either for the Data Committee or the Commission as a whole to think are there sort of data analysis type questions that could be useful either through the Innovation Center or outside of that. Those grants from BJS can also support some data infrastructure things. BJS funds may be 45 or 47 small grants. They're not huge, but that's pretty good odds of getting one since not every state has a Statistical Analysis Center, and those that do don't always request funds.

Commissioner Judge William Voy: Although it was not reflected in their meeting notes, it was brought to his attention there may be some change in the way and manner OC Spray is used in the three state institutions. He had requested from Mr. Whitley on February 4<sup>th</sup> a copy of the policy and procedures for use of force including use of OC Spray and hasn't received an answer. There were allegations of misuse of the OC Spray that concerned me greatly and I would like some backup as to what the institutions are doing in that regard. In addition, they raised the issue of whether or not they have a process in place for the use of any OC Spray as to whether it was done within the policies and procedures that they may have in the state institutions, or not. And then whether they have a procedure in place to take appropriate disciplinary action.

Katie Brubaker: I was able to collect those policies and procedures for Commissioner Judge Voy and will send them his way ASAP.

Commissioner Judge William Voy: The first issue that was raised was getting direction from the full Commission, cause they are struggling first of all to get quorum, but more importantly to get those other folks that are part of the Commission involved in the sub-committee if they're going to be doing some of this work that's set forth in the report and other items that they haven't even been given direction to look at, which they hopefully will have in the future. Given the current makeup of that sub-committee, I don't feel comfortable

coming up with recommendations without the voices of other members of the full board on the Commission that could really help in shaping their recommendations that currently are participating in the sub-committee. He said he was throwing it back to Commissioner Judge Egan Walker as to where they go next. But the way it's working now, it's not really working too well.

Commissioner Frank Cervantes: I suggest looking at the list of available Commissioners for sub-committees and outside the Commission again to see if they can't re-up the Strategic Implementation Committee.

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: I want to be responsive first to the requests, and I heard a request for help or feedback from the Commission Co-Chairs, and it's my obligation to respond to that. I committed to Commissioner Judge Voy that Joey and I will reach out to the Commission and to the Advisory Committee as a whole to make sure that anybody who wants to be on the Strategic Implementation Subcommittee is and to assign people even if they don't necessarily volunteer to be on it, so that there's a broad representative sample. I also heard about the use of OC Spray and I think that falls squarely into Strategic Implementation Committee Focus Area G, to vet and present a list of priorities and future issues. So, for example, one priority could be what are the use of force policies in the DCFS placements, and how is documentation of use of force, for example, consistent with or inconsistent with those policies. IT could be the Sub-Committee who says regionalization is one priority or one priority discussion point. Use of force within the facilities is another priority or discussion point.

Commissioner Judge Voy: The Sub-Committee needs to have a broader input from more people to help them make better informed and more holistic recommendations to the full Commission if they have enough voices.

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: My inclination might be to call a Commission meeting sooner rather than the next quarter and call it a working meeting so that they would essentially meet with all of the sub-committees in some way, with the entire Commission there to talk about the work of each sub-committee and what they want the priorities to be. They'll talk about the Strategic Implementation Sub -Committee, it's seven sub-goals, what everybody thinks should be the focus within the goals and those priorities, and then I can ask who wants to be on the sub-committee. I may just tell some people who's going to be on the sub-committee as well, so that they have diversity for vetting purposes.

Everyone was on board with this idea.

**Motion:** Approve report of Strategic Implementation Committee  
**By:** Commissioner Jo Lee Wickes  
**Second:** Commission Judge Egan Walker  
**Vote:** Unanimous

Commissioner Brigid Duffy: The Data Performance and Measurement Sub-Committee's main task revolved around Caseload Pro. At the time of that assignment, Caseload Pro was still a mystery to all. Since then, they had the state help them set up a great meeting online where they watched a thorough demonstrating about all of services that they would be able to do. Now they have that foundation. The next step will be to develop a dashboard for reporting purposes. They have to create some timelines to validate the data and then determine entities responsible for that.

**Motion:** Approve report of Data Performance and Measurement Committee  
**By:** Unidentified speaker  
**Second:** Commissioner Jo Lee Wickes  
**Vote:** Unanimous

Commissioner Jo Lee Wickes: The Risk Assessment Committee did file a report. There are two items in the risk assessment area that still need to be tackled: Developing a quality improvement process with the vendor for the YLS and determining what kind of qualify assurance report they'll give back to the full JJOC. I don't think either will be happening right away because more people need to be using the YLS for a period of time before it makes sense to try to tackle quality improvement process and what kind of reporting should go back to the JJOC. The other items we need to tackle are with regard to the Mental Health screening, also known as MAYSI-2. There are several items listed there. Despite the fact that they haven't had another meeting since November 5<sup>th</sup>, they have reached out to NAAJA and the Silver State Detention Association to help them draft some policies for the administration of the MAYSI. We did that with the belief that across the state the detention centers have been using MAYSI-1 for a period of time and that they would really need to rely upon their expertise in developing some policies around that. Katie Brubaker will help them schedule the next meeting the last week of March.

Commissioner Pauline Salla-Smith: Updated the Commission members on the MAYSI part. Everyone across the state and all the jurisdictions are working on the detention policy right now for MAYSI and all of the detention centers have submitted their MAYSI policies for feedback. We actually just finished that up and will schedule one more meeting to go over everything. Jurisdictions have changed their policies to include most of the feedback that they received and so now they will now set up one more meeting just to finalize the detention side.

Commissioner Scott Shick: The pilot counties have completed the majority of their YLS training and second case scenarios that they've been evaluating. His staff found this tool to be extremely useful in calibrating what they've been doing for many, many years putting it in a different perspective, and instinct tells you it's going to be better for the kids and families that they serve. It's going to give continuity to the case planning process. The state and the jurisdictions met last week in respect to the case plan. Dr Vincent from NISAP distributed an "anchor" case plan; It's comprehensive and user-friendly. It's going to be strategic and families can understand it as well. Case plan training will start in late April or May and should go a bit quicker than the YLS training. The Nevada Association of Juvenile Justice Administrators have approved the use of some funding to potentially bring Dr. Vincent and Mr. Kelly Clement back out to do training for the rest of the jurisdictions that have not received training directly from them.

Commissioner Jo Le Wickes: I wanted to say, for the record that Darin Imlay was appointed to be the Clark County Public Defender in late November, so he's no longer a member of their Sub-Committee.

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: I very much appreciated being a member of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Commission and remains an ally if they can use his resource in his current position.

**Motion:** Approve report of Risk Assessment Committee  
**By:** Commissioner Pauline Salla-Smith  
**Second:** Commissioner Scott Shick  
**Vote:** Unanimous

John Munoz: Commissioner Justice Nancy Saitta and I put together a 15-minute Juvenile Justice presentation for the Youth Committee members to help guide and provide general juvenile justice knowledge. Youth members are going to research Juvenile Justice resource information for girls in Nevada. We sent the Youth Committee members on a number of tours to a number of facilities, and they are going to provide reports back to us so that they can compile a report for the Commission. Youth will review other sub-committee of the JJOC to decide which committees they would like to be a part of and attend and gain more knowledge and insight on how decisions are made. They're possibly going to set up a met and greet with a panel of youth from facilities or even on parole or probation, so they can actually get some first-hand contact with some of the youth that are currently in the system. Commissioner Nancy Saitta invited the Youth Committee members

to join her at Jan Evans when she was going to be sitting in on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of February. Also, Commissioner Judge Egan Walker is doing sit-ins for court hearings every Tuesday at 8:30 and opened the door for Youth Committee members to come in and sit and observe.

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: Commissioner Judge Voy would you be open to have interested public members or youth go listen to your court sessions as well?

Commissioner Judge Voy: Absolutely, yes.

John Munoz: One of the big tasks the Youth Committee is working on for the Commission is what to do with youth girls in the Juvenile Justice System in Nevada. It's a very broad goal, but they're going to look into it and hopefully provide some good insight and feedback.

Commissioner Rebekah Graham: I can offer the Youth Committee evidence-based gender specific training around issues in treating girls in care based on the peer reviewed academic research and my own experiences in probation and the residential treatment. I have that already prepared if the Youth Committee would be interested.

John Munoz: We will definitely take you up on that offer.

Dr Melissa Sickmund: I can probably connect them with information that the Crittenton Foundation has put together. They have had a project for several years funded by the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention on girls programming both residential and non-residential.

**Motion:** Approve report of Youth Committee  
**By:** Commissioner Frank Cervantes  
**Second:** Commissioner Pauline Salla-Smith  
**Vote:** Unanimous

Commission Pauline Salla-Smith: We have reviewed and approved the Correctional Program Checklist, which is the CPC Action Plan Template, and Katie Brubaker gave us a little training on it so we could really understand it. We also approved tracking of legislation bills. For historical information, the previous Commission had a policy in Legislation Committee that tracked all the legislation that could potentially touch the Juvenile Justice System, and that was really helpful, especially for the NAJA and Silver State and the Commission members. So, we discussed having the SAG Committee do that this session also, and we've already shared this with NAJA and Sliver State. It's the initial tracking system for that.

One of the tasks that was assigned to us was to identify all the evidence-based and evidence-informed programming that was currently occurring in jurisdictions, so committee members completed that task, and we have a nice summary broken down by jurisdictions of the programs that are provided there that fit into the category of evidence-based or evidence-informed. It's really going to blend nicely with the YLS. We assigned committee members to take certain evidence-based programs and identify what we need to do to ensure that we are keeping with the fidelity of the program because w know if we don't stick with the fidelity, then we're really not evidence-based or evidence-informed. So that's the next task, to identify fidelity requirements.

We continued to talk about SB107, which is the room confinement numbers for detention facilities and state correctional facilities, and to break down some of the data elements to see if we can identify maybe the basis for the increase in those numbers and if we can do some training to address that. I want to move the CPC Program Checklist Template to the full Commission for approval. This is the correctional program checklist or template that the CPC team will use when they go out to facilities to do quality assurance.

Commissioner Ross Armstrong: I want to make sure that when this goes out to the facilities there's good instructions on how to fill it out and then how to submit it. That way it's clear.

Commissioner Scott Shick: I agree and even more important is the individuals that are visiting the facilities have reasonable background and knowledge of residential treatment and care and the system itself to make this accurate and keep fidelity with the checklist. It just makes more sense that they have a working knowledge of what it takes to raise youth in a residential environment and all those things that go along with it so that they have those eyes and ears when they tick these checklists and begin to walk through a facility and look for things that are working, look for things that are challenges and be able to document that in a way that the facility can respond to it and improve themselves.

**Motion:** Approve CPC Program Checklist  
**By:** Commissioner Judge Egan Walker  
**Second:** Commissioner Ross Armstrong  
**Vote:** Unanimous

**Motion:** Approve report of State Advisory Group Planning Committee  
**By:** Commissioner Judge Egan Walker  
**Second:** Commissioner Scott Shick  
**Vote:** Unanimous

Katie Brubaker: Highlighted the CPC report for Summit View, China Spring and Spring Mountain. The CPC is divided into two basic areas, content and capacity. The capacity area is designed to measure whether a correctional program has the capability to deliver evidence-based interventions and services for offenders or youth. There are three domains in the capacity area including program leadership and development, staff characteristics and quality assurance. The content area includes the offender assessment and treatment, characteristics, domains and focuses on the extent to which the program meets, certain principles of effective interventions, namely the risk, need and responsivity principles. There are 73 indicators total on the CPC worth up to a total of 79 points. It should be noted that all five domains are not given equal weight, and some items may be considered not applicable to the evaluation process.

Here's how they collect information for the CPC. They set up re-interviews and go through the process. They collect staff interviews from every single staff member working in the program. They also conduct interviews with the Program Director, Manager, and Clinical Supervisor. They observe groups. They observe interactions. They talk to youth and direct service providers as well. Then they meet as a group and score everything. They have a scoring guide that talks about what it means to meet a particular measure. If it's a partial meet, how to address that, or if it's something that doesn't exist at all in a particular program. And so, there's some pretty robust discussion that happens.

The group is going in teams of four or five to make sure as they're learning this process and working with the vendor that they're capturing everything possible for this program. If they have questions, they go back and forth looking at policies. It's important to make sure they're getting accurate information.

After everything is scored, then pieces of the report are put together. Each person is responsible for writing a particular section. Again, highlighting strengths where the program is doing well and excelling at and some need areas. Those need areas are followed by recommendations as well. It's not enough to just say your program is not doing X, Y and Z. It's these are some recommendations that you could use to bump your score up to be more in compliance with evidence-based programming.

In terms of program leadership and development, research has shown that programs with program directors who have a degree in a helping profession and experience working in correctional treatment demonstrate improved outcomes. This was something that each facility for this report excelled at.

Each program also felt that they had significant support from the Juvenile Justice community stakeholders as well as community support outside of the Juvenile Justice System. Staff characteristics/strengths, each facility felt that their staff members had the ability to provide input into their respective programs, and each facility also had established ethical guidelines including boundaries and interactions with youth, which was extremely important.

Regarding offender assessments, strengths were that each program admits appropriate youth determined by their facility. This doesn't have anything to do with the YLS at this point. This is based on what's currently written in their policies they are following, that and in terms of admitting youth to their programs.

For treatment characteristics, each facility is targeting more than 50 percent of their efforts on criminogenic needs areas so those are things like antisocial behaviors and thinking, attitudes, values, antisocial peers, emotional regulation skills, anger management. So, each facility is doing a great job with that.

There's also consistent use of some evidence-based interventions in each program including aggression replacement training, thinking for a change, forward thinking, functional behavioral therapy and social skills that are happening in each group and in individual sessions.

An important piece is that youth at each facility are in their respective programs an average of three to nine months. This falls within the range of time identified and the correctional treatment literature which indicates that the programs have a structure in place to deliver treatment and a timeframe that is effective and that allows youth to move forward. Additionally, youth spend at least 40 percent of their time per week in structured tasks, so there's not a lot of down time.

Some things that each facility needs to work on or consider is having Program Directors having a clear role in providing some training for all new staff delivering services and interventions as well as having a clear role in providing supervision to those individuals, doing direct service delivery as well.

It is important that programs are based on effective correctional treatment literature and that all staff members have a thorough understanding of this research. One of the recommendations for each of these facilities was the Program Director should conduct regular reviews of literature and ensure that effective program models are implemented consistently throughout all components of the facility, and that each staff should regularly receive research articles about what's effective and what works best. It shouldn't be something that you're just emailing your staff or handing out. It should be used in a training opportunity, in a staff meeting or an annual training, something that has a little bit more substance and that people are more likely to read.

Research also indicates that effective programs deserve a formal pilot period prior to implementing modifications.

For staff characteristics, all staff should be assessed at least annually on service delivery skills. Each facility that they went to does do annual evaluations for staff, but doesn't necessarily include things like communication skills, modeling of new behaviors, assessment skills and interpretation of results and behavioral reinforcers, so that's something that they have recommended to each site at this time.

Additionally, the CPC requires that at least 40 hours of annual training for all direct service delivery staff with the majority of that related to delivering effective services and targeting criminogenic needs. Most facilities are meeting 40 hours of annual training however they are not related to direct service delivery, the majority of them. So that's why this area was considered a need.

Offender assessment was probably a big one and each program should ensure the use of a validated risk and needs assessment tool. Programs that we reviewed and will be reviewing in this time are not going to meet this. The good news is that when they go back in next year to review these facilities, everyone will be using the YLS and scores will go up.

In terms of treatment characteristics, each youth should have a case plan that is individualized, updated regularly with details, so it's not enough to just say that progress is ongoing or that progress is being made or no progress is being made, but to give details. Soon there will be a statewide case plan that will be informed by the YLS and again, all scores will rise.

Another important piece for treatment characteristics is running treatment groups with fidelity to evidence-based programming. There were dialectical behavioral therapy groups happening, but when you look at the fidelity measures to DBT they were not being followed. The state wants to make sure that if they're doing something that's evidence-based they're following it to fidelity.

With respect to quality assurance: Most programs are not tracking their own recidivism. It is strongly recommended that each facility track recidivism.

Overall: China Spring is above average in program leadership and development. All three facilities fell below in offender assessment, all below the average score. County camps are above average in using appropriate treatment characteristics. And all fell below in quality assurance. But overall, Summit View had a low adherence to evidence-based programs and practices. Spring Mountain was moderate adherence, which is the average. China Spring was low, but they were off by one point, so it was pretty close there.

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: I have been in the Juvenile Justice business for 17 years and it's about time there's a tool being used for quality assurance that's going to make them better at what they do and serve their communities and the jurisdictions, and most importantly, the kids, better. I'm am out at China Spring every week and I see the effort that's made in difficult circumstances. Keeping staff is always a challenge and anything that will improve their efforts is needed and long overdue.

Commissioner Ross Armstrong: With the facility improvement plans, the template they approved today, will those be pursuant to the AB 472 changes and will they be submitted to this committee for review as well?

Katie Brubaker: That is correct. In the meeting packet I included an additional copy of the CPC Facility Improvement Plan, but a filled-out one to use as an example. So, when they are giving them to facilities, they're not just shooting in the dark about what to put on them. When I send out the improvement plans, I will make sure that in the instructions every facility knows that the request is to list every recommendation in a response. Even if the response is that it's something that's outside of their control that they are addressing it. Again, that's coming back to the full Commission. Those are going into reports for the Governor and LCB, so it's important that they've got everything documented.

Dr Melissa Sickmund: Relating to the comments about the program's facilities capturing recidivism information, what is the data sharing that will allow them to know when you've come back to early components of the system or even to adjudication? What is the definition of recidivism? My recommendation would not be to put that burden on the programs, that that should be coming either from the court perhaps in each county or from the state agency that should be responsible for all the data.

Commissioner Scott Shick: I concur. Programs can graduate kids and they've succeeded in getting them through the residential program and transitioning back into the community, but it's the Probation Department and the court that are going to finish working with that child, and that's where those numbers as far as recidivism are going to lie. They are being required to take a look at recidivism as well, so to push that burden

onto the program, they're going to tell you how many kids Graduated, how many kids failed. Is that a true measure of recidivism as the state has defined it: I don't believe so.

Dr Melissa Sickmund: They're not going to get consistent data if they're making all the programs do it themselves, and they just don't have the capacity to do that. That may not be something that has been currently anticipated or budgeted for the state agency, so in the interim it may be that the courts would have to provide that.

Katie Brubaker: Let me clarify on this particular piece about facilities and county camps tracking their own rates of recidivism—you can earn a point for this one by simply knowing what your recidivism rates are if you're getting it from other sources.

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: I want to remind everyone AB472 requires the Commission to report on rates of recidivism.

Commissioner Judge Voy: It's no easy task. I am still working on the raw data on my GSO Risk Assessment Recidivism Study that started about 6 ½ years ago, utilizing NCIC for the recidivism issues. It's a very complicated process so I suggest that one of the items that they need to take up is to get moving on how they're going to define recidivism. This lies at the fee of the Commission per statute this is one of the primary issues that they're supposed to be doing as the Commission.

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: They did have a definition that the Commission approved. It was intentionally broad.

Commissioner Judge Voy: Yes, it was broad, but he thought the mechanics of it haven't been worked out yet. I thought everyone was waiting for Caseload Pro to finally come on board throughout the entire state, work out the kinks in it and then be able to utilize that to do the recidivism studies for different populations. Everything seems to be on hold.

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: In the scheme of things, I was excited about where Nevada landed in the overall CPC scores. They landed in the middle. There is much work to do, but they are not in dire straits. They don't have reason to believe their kids are unsafe. His message in terms of strategic implementation is if you take the data and you look again at evidence-based practices B of the seven focus areas in the work plan, strengthen evidence-based practices to improve outcomes, you have data to apply to strategic planning for that. When you discuss building, vetting and presenting a list of priorities, you can choose or the Commission can choose priorities from among these areas of weakness, for example, offender assessment.

Commissioner Jo Lee Wickes: I thought there may be some statutory tension between the need to track recidivism and the definition under 628025 of Juvenile Justice Information and where it's supposed to be shared. There may be a need to wade into really looking at the statutory provisions and see if some changes in the next session need to be made that will assist in implementing this. It creates some uneasiness when there's a very, very broad definition of Juvenile Justice information which is currently defined as, "any information maintained by the Director of Juvenile Services or Chief of Youth Parole or his or her designee directly related to a child who is in need of supervision or delinquent or any other child who's otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of Juvenile Court." So "any information" is extremely broad, and I think that there may be some statutory tension, so it's probably one of those things that should be put in a parking lot list of things to look at.

**Motion:** Acknowledge CPC Benchmark Report Results

**By:** Commissioner Scott Shick

**Second:** Commissioner Judge Egan Walker

**Vote:** Unanimous

## **New Business**

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: This item includes legislative updates, Commission collaboration and parking lot items. The legislature is in full swing.

Commissioner Ross Armstrong: In regard to the legislature from my perspective there were a number of initiatives last session, obviously AB472 was a big one. In this session I haven't seen as much Juvenile Justice topics, but the ones that are out there tend to relate to the process for certification. There's one related to individuals who it's been determined that there is sex trafficking that has the potential to ping-pong the person between the adult and juvenile system.

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: They don't have a formalized legislative update, but I certainly thank my colleagues at NAJA. Commissioner Cervantes do you and/or your staff have a significant presence at the legislature?

Commissioner Frank Cervantes: It does bring up that subject about blended sentencing and really regionalization can fit in nicely to that conversation.

Dr. Melissa Sickmund: When I look at age boundaries, I would say lower age over place where you can make some progress of setting a lower age where kids younger than that don't come to court for delinquency.

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: That discussion has been a very robust dialogue in Nevada, but I see real opportunity to move the ball. They're just too late for this legislative session.

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: The next step should be planning that extra afternoon meeting as discussed earlier. The subcommittees would essentially meet as a part of the whole Commission. They'd sort of recalibrate goals, tasks and agendas and make sure that they were honoring Judge Voy's request that it be a plural voice and not just any one voice for those items on strategic implementation. I propose Friday April 5<sup>th</sup>, emphasizing the importance of quorum.

Most everyone was unavailable on Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>; however, Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> was a better fit for more people.

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: I will set a work session meeting for April 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. He said that meant to his stakeholders locally that they'd push the Project One meeting back a little later. It's going to be a Work Session Agenda where among other things, each of the subcommittees will, with the input of the entire Commission, have a work session to recalibrate the makeup of the committee, the work of the committee and the priorities of the committee.

## **Public Comment and Discussion**

Commissioner Judge Voy: As I see it, this Commission was established as an Oversight Commission. Regardless of anything else they do, anything they've already done, it's all meaningless unless their primary goal is to ensure the health and safety of the kids that are in their care and custody. The only way to ensure that they have proper oversight is to have an independent investigator, serving at the pleasure of this Commission and o other body, to be able to actually go to the institutions to investigate when appropriate to ensure that the institutions are doing what they say they are doing. Because it's easy to just say you're doing something and in reality, you're not, especially some of the institutions that are situated in geographical areas that don't lend themselves to a lot of other scrutiny by folks involved in the Juvenile Justice system just because

of the inability to get there easily. It should be their goal to ensure the health and welfare and safety of the kids that are under their jurisdiction. I suggest that be an Agenda item to be considered. I think it's desperately needed. If this Commission is going to have the kind of effectiveness that it really needs to have, he thinks they need to have that element as part of their resources. I would like to see a discussion and invite the folks that are in charge of DRC at the state level and have them give a presentation as to what qualifies, how a kid gets qualified and get a representation on the record as to what that standard is and how it's done, because quite frankly there is no standard in place. What's on paper and what's actually happening are not the same. I'm very concerned about that and think that's just another item that the Commission should take a look at. Lastly, I was incensed about the Armargosa Valley situation with the Northwest Academy. My experience goes back 16 years with this location. There is a co-located entity on that campus called "Never Give Up" who's running an RTC. They were asked to go through vetting last spring with the Department of Juvenile Services Clinical Division but that never happened. I've been asked to send kids there and I will not until they figure out how to get arsenic out of their water. I will not send a kid to a place where he wouldn't send my own kid.

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: Commissioner Judge Voy brought up acute and, in some ways, discerning needs for discussion. The good news is from where he's sitting the discussion areas are already agendized, and here's what I mean. That letter G under the Strategic Implementation Committee Focus Areas, build, vet, and present a list of priorities is exactly those kinds of things. It's already there as a work item. I look forward to some discussion about those concerns and how to prioritize those concerns when they have the work session for the Strategic Implementation Committee on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Judge Voy is exactly right about the oversight issue and they can even talk as a Commission whether or not it's the will of the Commission to have an independent investigator.

Discussion about a DCFS quality assurance person to fill Commissioner Judge Voy's request., and Commissioner Judge Voy made it clear that it needs to be someone who's totally independent of any other state, county or Federal agency.

Commissioner Judge Voy: In addition, it also needs to be someone that knows what they're looking at. There's a lot of folks I've dealt with over the last 16 years that have so-called investigated certain things but unfortunately, their experience level when it comes to what they're looking at, is not appropriate. You have to have someone who's truly independent and also has knowledge enough to know what they're looking at.

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: I was wondering if they could ask the Caseload Pro vendor, which is Tyler Industries, to attend the April meeting or a May meeting to give some update from the vendor's perspective.

Commissioner Scott Shick: I agree with that thought.

Katie Brubaker: I can reach out to the Caseload Pro folks, but in the meantime, I want to let everybody know that DCFS is holding weekly check-in meetings with them starting today so they will have some continued real time updates for everybody going forward. If there are any kind of issues that are coming up with Caseload Pro, please reach out to me and let me know. This is something that they're all working towards and it hasn't been an easy road.

Commissioner Judge Egan Walker: I didn't think this was A DCFS issue. If there was an issue; it's a vendor issue. I would rather just hear it from the horse's mouth and have some accountability in a public setting.

Commissioner Ross Armstrong: We've had some changes in the DCFS leadership team and structure, and in Carson City they have Kathryn Roose who has come on board as Deputy Administrator for Quality and Oversight, Mr. Munoz will be taking the helm as Deputy Administrator for Community Services, so in the JJ world that means the Youth Parole Bureau. They have Susie Miller from the DVFS Children's Mental Health

world who has accepted the position to be the new Deputy Administrator over all of residential programming. And so, for the DCFS world, that means the three Juvenile Justice facilities. The leadership focus will be on service delivery versus system to where the particular youth came in on, so they're excited about some of those changes and moving forward.

Commissioner Egan Walker: I want to make one final announcement. Several Commission members will be presenting at the National Conference on Juvenile Justice next week. Feel free to come and be an audience.

**Motion:** Adjourn  
**By:** Commissioner Judge Egan Walker  
**Second:** Commissioner Scott Shick  
**Vote:** Unanimous