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MINUTES

of the

Executive Committee to Review the Death of Children Meeting

held on

November 18, 2020

via teleconference

Lifesize Software

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/477087413>

Call-in number: 1 (872) 240-3212; Extension: 477-087-413

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Introductions

Stephanie Herrera called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

Executive Committee members present:

- Margarita De Santos, SNHD
- Megan Freeman, DCFS
- Stephanie Herrera, DPBH - Vital Records
- Vicki Ives, DPBH - MCH
- Kathie McKenna, Pioneer Territory CASA
- Christine Eckles, Washoe County JJ
- Lisa Sherych, DPBH
- Sharon Benson, Office of AG
- Misty Vaughn Allen, DPBH - Suicide Prevention
- Michelle Sandoval, DPBH - Rural Clinics
- Tim Burch, Clark County DFS
- Ross Armstrong, DCFS
- Desiree Mattice, Department of Public Safety
- Jessica Rogers, Las Vegas Metro Police Department
- Linda Kalekas, CCSD

Executive Committee members absent:

- Nick Czegledi, Elko County Sheriff's Office
- Beth Handler, HHS Director's Office
- Amber Howell, Washoe County HSA
- Breanna Jenkins, Renown
- Nancy Saitta, Retired

Staff and guests:

- Dena Corritore, Washoe Human Services Agency
- Dawn Davidson, UNLV
- Jessica Freeman, DCFS
- Elizabeth Holka, UNLV
- Andrea Valenzuela, Carson DCFS
- Nicole Reilly, Nevada Office of the Attorney General
- Beverly Mason, DCFS
- David Valenta, LVMPD Special Victims Section
- Kathryn Roose, DCFS
- Leann McAllister, Nevada Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
- Sydney Banks, Nevada Psychiatric Association
- Valene Balen, Nevada Psychiatric Association

2. Initial Public Comment

No comments.

3. For Possible Action: Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 26, 2020

- Approval of August 26, 2020

No discussion or comments.

MOTION: Made by Margarita De Santos, seconded by Desiree Mattice, to approve the August 26, 2020 meeting minutes.

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

4. For Possible Action: Adoption of Bylaws

No discussion or comments.

MOTION: Made by Vickie Ives, seconded by Misty Allen, to approve the bylaws.

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

5. For Discussion: Citizen's Review Panel

The following information was presented in a PowerPoint presentation by Beverly Mason, who is a CPS specialist at the Division of Child and Family Services family program's office. Beverly stated that the mission of the Citizen Review Panels (CRPs) as defined by The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) is to improve child protective services at state and local levels [The Executive Committee functions as a CRP, which is why the following information was presented during this meeting]. These panels assist the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and local county agencies to continually assess the services provided to Nevada children and families. Panels are required to review the state's progress in achieving its CAPTA plan goals. They also have the opportunity to review various aspects of the child protection system in their own communities. Panels have the flexibility in determining how to proceed, identifying projects or activities that interest and best support each panel's areas of expertise.

Beverly stated that CRPs are to be comprised of volunteer members who are broadly representative of the community, including members who have expertise in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. CAPTA encourages the States to give special attention to the qualifications of the panelists to review complex cases of child maltreatment, which includes a balance of children's attorneys, child advocates, and CASA volunteers who are familiar with the difficulties of the child protection system. Citizen review panels must meet quarterly at a minimum. Panels are to examine the policies, procedures, and practices of state and local child protection agencies. Panels are to review specific cases when appropriate. In addition, consistent with section 106(c)(4)(A)(iii) of CAPTA, panels are to examine other criteria that it considers to be important to ensure the protection of children, including the extent to which the state and local CPS system are coordinated with the title IV-E foster care and adoption

assistance programs of the Social Security Act. This provision also authorizes the panels to review the child fatalities and near fatalities in the State.

Beverly went on to state that CRPs must prepare and submit an annual written report that contains a summary of the activities of the panel and recommendations to improve the child protection services system. The DCFS provides each panel with an annual report format, which requests a brief summary of the panel's activities and recommendations. Within six months of receipt of the CRP annual report, the DCFS must respond to each panel's annual report and describe whether or how the state will incorporate the recommendations of the panel. Beverly stated that she would be coordinating with Jessica Freeman to ensure that this process would run efficiently for any of the established CRPs. Beverly asked if there were any questions. None were raised.

6. For Discussion: Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS)/Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy (NICRP) Child Death Review (CDR) updates

- Western Region and National CDR Updates
- Activities of the Attorney General's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

Before beginning, Nicole Reilly clarified that she was recently married and so her name has changed from Nicole O'Banion to Nicole Reilly. Upon request from Nicole, Stephanie Herrera clarified that the Executive Committee was currently discussing updates from the Western Region, National CDR, and activities of the Attorney General's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team.

Prior to the meeting, Kathryn Roose submitted a list of questions to Nicole Reilly regarding the statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. Nicole proceeded to state and answer each of the questions for the group. The first question inquired about the process that the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team uses to review a case in addition to how cases are selected. Nicole stated that the first step in reviewing a case is that the team ensures that the case meets the requirements to be reviewed, which includes making sure that the case has been fully adjudicated. This means that the case has to either be a homicide, suicide, or that conviction for the case has to be past the appeals process. Once the team has identified a case that meets its criteria, the team then reaches out to the district attorney's office to get an idea of how much system contact the case might have had prior to the death occurring. If the case doesn't have much or any previous contact, the team will then determine that it can't review that particular case since there isn't much information to work with. The question of why there wasn't previous contact could be posed, however, Nicole stated that type of investigation is outside of the scope of the team. Cases eligible for review would be those that are fully adjudicated, in the rural regions, and have significant system contact. Nicole stated that significant system contact is important because it allows the team to identify areas in which interventions could have been made. Nicole stated that the reason that this particular team only reviews cases in rural regions is because, statutorily, the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team is required to only review cases in areas where there isn't already an existing fatality review team. Both Washoe and Clark County have existing fatality review teams. Nicole stated that over the past year, the Attorney General's Office, Clark County, and Washoe County have been looking into a high-risk team model, which would be much more proactive in working to intervene in high risk cases before a case has reached the fatality state. Nicole stated that

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there has been a significant national reduction in homicides as a result of domestic violence for jurisdictions that have implemented the high-risk team model. Nicole stated that the specific jurisdictions that have implemented a high-risk model no longer conduct a fatality review. This is because they have been doing so for so many years that any recommendations produced are very similar to previous ones. Additionally, there have not been any solutions to the “gaps” that the recommendations have been finding through the fatality review teams. Jurisdictions that implement a high-risk team model use a quick 11 question assessment conducted by officers that arrive to the scene of a case that produces a score. If the score is within a certain range, the domestic violence call is automatically referred to a high-risk team facilitator who, within 24-48 hours, sets the team in action. Prior to this action, the facilitator contacts any possible agency or service provider that may intersect with the case’s needs that could help provide services and safety plans for both adults and children. Agreements with these agencies have been previously set up so that when the high-risk team receives any domestic violence calls they are more easily able to utilize systems that are relevant to a case. Nicole explained that she provided the above details because Washoe and Clark County are currently shifting to high-risk team models. She stated that another reason the Attorney General’s Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team works in rural areas as opposed to Washoe or Clark County is because these regions tend to have fewer resources available. Nicole stated that the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team works with the Attorney General’s Office in order to facilitate discovery of case information. Once the team has completed discovery for a case, which can include anything from body cam footage of the crime scene to information about prosecution, specific members of the team are appointed to conduct the case review. The team members will travel to the county of the cases they intend to review and invite local partners to help conduct the review. Local partners can include the local district attorney’s office, sheriff’s office, police department, service providers, a DCFS manager and case workers if a child is involved in the case, and any other professionals that might be relevant to the case review. The case discovery typically takes about two days, after which the team will hold really robust discussions with any local partners that were involved in the case. Once that is completed, the team will bring in experts from the field around the state in order to identify any gaps in services that could be corrected in order to prevent death and harm for similar cases.

Nicole Reilly continued to the next question which was: In the team’s review, how often are children involved in cases? Additionally, the question asked: Of those cases, how often was there either current or past child welfare involvement? Nicole confirmed that there are cases in which children are involved. She stated that, in the past four years, the team has only seen one case with child involvement, and that DCFS had indeed been invited to the review of that case. Nicole stated that DCFS did participate in the review of that case and that they had been involved during the lifetime of that case. Nicole stated that the local partners really benefitted from the review of this case as it provided them with an opportunity to bolster communication between each other.

Nicole Reilly proceeded with the next question which was: Until the team evolves, should DCFS and the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team consider some sort of collaboration? Nicole stated that two were already collaborating and that the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team regularly invites DCFS to participate in case reviews.

Nicole Reilly stated that the next question asked if she thought it would be helpful for a representative from the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team to sit in on regular regional CDR meetings. Nicole stated that the Executive Committee would need to decide if input from either the Attorney General’s Office or Ombudsman for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking at the Attorney General’s Office (Nicole’s position) would be helpful. Nicole said that, because the Domestic Violence

Fatality Review Team is statewide, they are constantly in communication with each jurisdiction around the state, which helps disseminate information about any challenges or successes individual jurisdictions face throughout the state. So, in that sense, a team representative from the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team could be helpful.

Ross Armstrong thanked Nicole and asked if Nicole could send a sample of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team's reports to Stephanie Herrera and Jessica Freeman for the Executive Committee. Ross stated that the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team's reports seemed to be very clear and robust, specifically its recommendations, and that regional teams could benefit from adopting the level of detail in these reports. Nicole stated that there is a link on a website to the reports, as the team is required to post all of the reports on the Attorney General's website. Nicole said that there are several years' worth of reports on the Attorney General's website that are available to look through in order to examine the different recommendations and different identified issues.

Vicki Ives from Division of Public and Behavioral Health offered information to Nicole Reilly regarding the office of analytics as a possible resource for the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. Vicki stated that the office of analytics has an MCI system that identifies multiple touchpoints, including SNAP and WIC, which could be a possible resource for the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. This resource is also utilized by the Maternal Mortality Review team. Vicki stated that the system is fairly new, but could facilitate with detail discovery in case reviews. Nicole stated that she thought that resource would be very helpful and requested Vicki to forward information regarding that resource to her.

Stephanie Herrera inquired if there were any additional questions; none were raised.

7. For Discussion: Update on Sudden Death of the Young (SDY) Program

Stephanie Herrera inquired if there were any updates of the SDY program. Jessica Freeman quickly interjected to say that there were also no additional updates on the Western Region or National CDR. Additionally, Jessica said that Candace did not provide any updates for the SDY Program and that the Executive Committee could move on from this agenda item.

8. For Possible Action: Review the action updates for current in-process recommendations to determine if these items are to remain open for further discussion, ready for formal recommendation, or the item can be considered closed.

- 2017 Quarter 4 – Mandated reporter training. The Family Programs Office (FPO) is currently exploring options to distribute the training and is inviting 1-2 people from this committee to participate in the statewide workgroup. Email Jessica Freeman by December 4, 2020 to be included.
- 2018 Quarter 2 – Policy development by Dr. Andy Eisen with the Clark County area hospitals to develop a standardized set of tests to

be able to identify abusive injuries. Last update stated that Dr. Eisen was still working on the hospital protocol.

- 2019 Quarter 4– Washoe recommended adding dresser straps to their home safety kits.

Jessica Freeman stated that the 2017 Quarter 4 recommendation has been a standing item since the previous year and that FPO is moving forward with this training. She stated that a training has already been developed and that DCFS was collaborating with potential agencies that could help create a platform for this training. Jessica stated that there is an agency from California they are considering collaborating with that already has a mandated reporter training developed, which includes a platform. This training is free for anyone to take and includes a general four-hour training on mandated reporting in addition to an additional one to two hour training that would pertain to the profession of the individual taking the training. Jessica stated that this additional training would help individuals identify signs of abuse and neglect specific to their field. Jessica stated that DCFS is in the process of negotiating how much a similar platform would cost and that the California team has provided an estimate. Jessica stated that the cost of a three-year period for this platform was estimated to cost a large amount. She requested that the committee revisit this agenda item as it moves forward and consider possible funding sources that could be utilized for this purpose. Jessica stated that DCFS would presently like to start a statewide group and requested one to two volunteers from the Executive Committee to participate in this group in order to develop the mandated reporter training. Jessica requested that anyone interested respond to her by December 4th. Jessica also requested that if any members knew someone from their agency that would be interested in participating in the statewide group, they should let her know so that those individuals could be included in the group. Jessica stated that this item should remain on the agenda until it could be finalized. There were no additional questions.

Jessica Freeman stated that the 2018 Quarter 2 recommendation has also been a longstanding agenda item. She said that, according to Dr. Andy Eisen, there has been no movement on this agenda item, especially due to the current pandemic. Jessica stated that one of the responsibilities of the Executive Committee is to respond to the regional teams, in writing, regarding their recommendations. Jessica said that the required written responses for current recommendations were attached to the meeting invite and pulled them up in order for committee members to review. Jessica asked if there were any questions or comments on how the response was written so that the recommendation could be closed since it had remained stagnant. Once the recommendation is closed, the Executive Committee can then request that the regional Clark County CDR team submit the recommendation to the Bureau of Healthcare Quality and Compliance (HCQC) for their consideration to implement the recommendation in their policy. Jessica asked again for any questions or comments.

Lisa Sherych from DBPH requested further clarification about how HCQC would move forward with a recommendation brought to them by a regional team. Jessica Freeman stated that, since the 2018 Quarter 2 recommendation is a request to establish standardized testing to determine abuse or neglect, the regional team would need to further solidify the recommendation with additional details. Jessica stated that she reached out to Dr. Andy Eisen about additional, more specific details of the recommendation and wasn't able to get any further information. Lisa then offered to touch base with another Dr. Eisen who works for DBPH, but it was clarified that the Clark County CDR Dr. Eisen does not work for DBPH and is instead a private physician.

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Ross Armstrong stated that the Executive Committee has a limited timeline per the committee's statutes in which they are supposed to provide a written response for regional teams' recommendations and that there is need for improvement. He suggested that a log could possibly be helpful in keeping track of these recommendations so that the committee could provide written responses in a timelier manner. Ross stated that for this particular recommendation, since the Clark CDR Team would submit the recommendation to HCQC, any new requirements created by this recommendation would apply statewide since HCQC would communicate with all hospitals and healthcare facilities throughout the state. Therefore, Ross stated, it might be better received by HCQC from the Executive Committee rather than a regional team. Ross noted that this could be a future regulatory adoption, as it seemed that the statute currently stated that the Executive Committee had to forward the written response to the regional team in order to have it sent to HCQC. It was clarified that the Executive Committee has to respond within 90 days to a recommendation from a regional team.

Vicki Ives inquired whether it would be helpful to include Outreach to the Nevada Hospital Association in addition to HCQC to implement the 2018 Quarter 2 recommendation. Vicki recalled a previous recommendation that included a physician who had specialized training in detecting abuse and neglect that had not received funding.

Jessica Freeman asked if there were any additional questions or comments regarding the 2018 Quarter 2 recommendation. She stated that the response for this recommendation to HCQC would be forwarded by the Executive Committee instead of the Clark County regional team.

Jessica Freeman stated that the next item for review was the 2019 Quarter 4 recommendation regarding adding dresser straps to home safety kits. Jessica presented the letter to the team for their input. Dawn Davidson inquired if this was the most recent version of the letter, as some changes had been made.

Ross Armstrong asked how the Executive Committee could identify best practices to implement statewide from the recommendations provided to them by regional teams to Tim Burch. Tim stated that a conduit of best practices of child safety protocols that could be accessible to regional teams could be helpful in implementing them statewide. Tim stated that one region's practices could help improve another and vice versa, giving an example pertaining to the 2018 Quarter 2 recommendation. Tim stated that relying on a single person for their expertise in each jurisdiction was not efficient and that information dissemination could help fix this. Jessica stated that she could begin to structure a best practices guide in addition to additional resources that could be available to regional teams.

Dawn Davidson stated that she found the revised version of the 2019 Quarter 4 in which the third paragraph was different. Dawn stated that the revised version explains that the Washoe County CDR Team was able to obtain funding to make 150 safety kits and include dresser straps in each of them, which was the reason for removal from the Executive Committee agenda. Dawn stated that this recommendation was able to be closed because Washoe County had been able to receive funding.

Jessica asked if anyone had any additional comments or questions regarding any of the letter for the listed recommendations. Lisa Sherych asked if there has been any discussion within the schools of medicine to create a program for medical professionals to detect abuse and neglect. Tim Burch stated that such a conversation has just begun within the schools of medicine in the past 60 days, however, most schools are currently consumed with their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Tim stated that he is meeting with the UNLV School of Medicine in order to discuss what an abuse and neglect detection training might look like. Tim stated that he has not yet reached out to NSHE at large or UNR. Ross

Armstrong stated that the rural regional teams were in a similar situation, but that he had not yet reached out to any schools of medicine on developing an abuse and neglect detection program. Tim Burch stated that he would like to call a meeting with the chancellor heads of the schools of medicine and that he would be happy to attend this meeting along with his DA. Tim stated that this meeting could help facilitate a statewide approach to developing a medical training for identifying abuse and neglect in the near future. Jessica stated that incorporating mandated reported training in medical training is a good first step in preventing child abuse and neglect.

Stephanie Herrera requested a motion be made to keep the recommendation for 2017 Quarter 4 on the agenda.

MOTION: Made by Misty Allen, seconded by Margarita DeSantos, to keep item 2017 Quarter 4 on the agenda.

UNANIMOUS VOICE ROLL CALL VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Stephanie Herrera asked the committee if they would like to close and remove the 2018 Quarter 2 and 2019 Quarter 4 recommendations from the agenda. Sharon Benson stated that she was not sure that the response letters were complete and that they would have to be revised and brought back in the next Executive Committee meeting. Sharon Benson stated that since the letters regarding the 2018 Quarter 2 and 2019 Quarter 4 recommendations were not yet approved to go out, no motion needed to be made at this time.

NO MOTION MADE.

9. For Possible Action: Review and respond to 2020 Quarter 3 summaries of regional CDR team statistics and recommendations and determine if these items need further discussion, ready for formal recommendation, or the item can be considered closed.

- 2020 Quarter 3– No recommendations from the regional teams.

Stephanie Herrera asked Jessica Freeman to confirm that there were no current recommendations from the regional teams. Jessica confirmed this. Ross Armstrong agreed that no motion needed to be made if there were no recommendations and asked if the regional teams made any recommendations in the Year 2020. Jessica stated that there were some recommendations from 2020, however it was unclear if the recommendations were to be addressed at the regional level or if they were being submitted to the Executive Committee. Jessica stated that Dawn Davidson and herself had reached out to the regional teams for further clarification, however, did not receive any. Jessica stated that they are continuing to work on this matter and that they will bring this matter back to the committee once they have updates. Jessica stated that they are also in the process of revising the CDR Manual to include a form that the regional teams could fill out to clarify if recommendations generated by the regional CDR teams are meant to remain in that specific region or if they could apply statewide. This form would also be intended to help regional teams develop more thorough recommendations. Jessica stated that there will be more discussion regarding this agenda item in the next Executive Committee meeting when they have additional details to provide the committee with.

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Stephanie Herrera asked if there were any additional questions or comments. Sharon Benson clarified that no motion or vote is necessary unless there is a specific action that needs to be taken.

NO MOTION WAS MADE.

10. For Discussion: Revision of CDR Operating Manual.

- A sub-committee will convene to begin manual revisions. If you would like to volunteer to be on this committee, please email Jessica Freeman by December 4, 2020.

Stephanie Herrera stated that the next item up for discussion was the revision of the CDR operating manual. Stephanie stated that this is a big project that requires the formation of a subcommittee. Stephanie requested that if any committee members were interested in volunteering to participate in the subcommittee they should email Jessica Freeman by December 4, 2020. Stephanie inquired about any comments or questions. Jessica stated that the manual was attached to the meeting invite and stated that the last revisions made to the manual were made in 2016 and that it was past time to make revisions again. Jessica requested committee members to also invite individuals from regional teams to this subcommittee if they were interested in participating, as their input would be valuable. Sharon Benson agreed, as regional teams would be familiar in how CDR teams operate.

11. For Discussion: Top four manners/causes of death of children in Nevada.

- Unsafe Sleep
- Suicide
- Drowning
- Homicide

Stephanie Herrera stated that the Executive Committee had been recently examining the top four manners and causes of death for children in Nevada. Stephanie stated that 2017 and 2018 data were accurate and that 2019 and 2020 were still preliminary. Stephanie Herrera asked if Misty Allen had any information she'd like to present, as she knew that suicide has recently become a larger concern. Ross Armstrong stated that there has been recent media coverage regarding the recent rise in youth suicide, particularly in Clark County. Ross Armstrong stated that Misty's office, the office of Suicide Prevention, has been vigilant in addressing this. Ross stated that Vicki Ives master index had conducted some reviews in youth suicide and were examining which systems decedents were in contact with prior to suicide. Ross stated that, upon examining the data currently available to him, there appeared to be a disproportionate rise of youth suicide in the Hispanic community in Clark County. Ross stated that he knew that Misty's team as well as Dr. Freeman were present in this meeting.

At this time, the platform experienced an interruption from 11:06am to 11:10am.

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Stephanie Herrera took a quick roll call to ensure that everyone on the call was able to reconnect to the platform.

Audio was difficult to understand. Ross Armstrong continued to say that he thought it was helpful for discussion to continue regarding this uptick in youth suicide for the next several months in order to make progress and address this urgent need. Ross requested that this topic remain on the agenda. Misty Allen began speaking, Jessica requested that she try to make her audio clearer as it was still very difficult to understand. Dr. Megan Freeman stated she would also update the team about how DCFS was responding to the recent rise in youth suicide. Dr. Freeman stated that DCFS is stepping up their outreach with Children's Global Response in addition to working with Nevada Broadcasting Association on a public awareness campaign. Dr. Freeman stated that DCFS was also working to acquire funding to broadcast public awareness campaigns in January that would include television and radio announcements. These campaigns will target both caregivers and youth. DCFS has also been partnering with CCSD in order to distribute emotional wellness information to parents via email. This includes information about how to get connected with mobile crisis. DCFS is meeting with CCSD weekly about behavioral health needs in addition to the mobile crisis team and the office of suicide prevention. DCFS has been offering psychological first aid trainings in schools. Dr. Freeman stated that the Office of Suicide Prevention is also offering a psychological first aid training that Misty Allen could offer information about. Dr. Freeman stated that she has been working closely with Public and Behavioral Health and Medicaid to send out messaging to all Medicaid providers to offer education on the behavioral health effects of the pandemic on children and families. Dr. Freeman stated that she was making sure that Medicaid knows that they can bill for mental health screenings, providing specific recommendations on screening for behavioral health, suicide, and access to lethal means. Dr. Freeman stated that the state and a doctor at DBPBH Health have ample resources for these providers to take immediate steps as soon as they receive concerning information. Dr. Freeman stated that CCSD had considered moving on to hybrid schooling and away from virtual schooling; however, this discussion has been tabled due to the spike in COVID-19 cases. Dr. Freeman stated that the mental health issues that are being presented now are strongly related to the stress of virtual schooling and DCFS is submitting public comments to school boards that children should be allowed to return to school as soon as it is safe to do so.

Misty Allen stated that she wanted to comment about access to firearms and isolation being a big concern. Misty stated that in the 2017 CDR Report, school issues seemed to be the biggest risk factor in those particular deaths. Misty stated that her agency is also working on a public awareness campaign in order to raise awareness of access to lethal means that target parents and caregivers. Reduction in means to firearms and other access to lethal means could go a long way in prevention of suicide. Misty stated that these campaigns would be in both English and Spanish with Nevada Broadcasters. Misty recalled an instance of an effective suicide prevention campaign in Utah that her agency in the past had tried to receive funding for. Misty stated that her agency is also developing postcards with similar messaging that are going to be sent out through their social services organization and resource centers to also try and reach caregivers that way. Misty stated that her agency is also implementing a lot of training. She stated that state employees are doing Nevada Gatekeeper Training that is available for free, though there is a waitlist for it at the moment. Misty stated that her agency is collaborating with Zero Suicide coordinators to develop training for clinical staff to detect risks for suicidality. Misty also stated that her agency has safeTALK and ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) materials, in addition to two new trainings due to the virtual schooling circumstances. These new trainings include a base leader training, which is a six hour course, and a suicide start training, which is a ninety minute training that helps detect risks for suicidality. In order to reduce access to lethal means, Misty stated

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that her agency has purchased gun locks and medication safes that will mostly be distributed to local crisis response teams since they have immediate access to individuals with suicide ideations or attempts. Misty stated that another important matter that she started working on before the COVID-19 pandemic was the emergency regulation for suicide reporting. Specifically, there were discussions to mandate the reporting of suicidal ideation and attempts which had been tabled since the COVID-19 pandemic. However, due to the recent spike of youth suicide, it is now designated an emergency directive. Misty said that major hospitals and acute care facilities would be required to report any suicide ideation or attempts to acquire data. Misty stated that hospitals would be provided a two-hour training that would educate healthcare workers on how to report suicidal ideation and attempts. Vicki Ives asked if, during the interim, syndromic surveillance would be useful in connecting faster to cases. Misty stated that her agency has used this, but it wasn't as reliable as her proposed system for reporting suicidal ideation and attempts would be. Misty stated that there was another agency project Aware Brand, funded through the department of education, and for the next five years, they would be working in Washoe County in Tier III prevention, Carson City on Tier II prevention, and the charter school authorities on Tier I prevention.

Kathie McKenna asked if Misty Allen's program would report the breakdown for suicidal ideation and attempt data from each county. Misty reported that they would be able to determine data from each county. Misty stated at the moment her agency and mobile crisis has a delayed response, but are working hard to reach out to families immediately after suicidal ideation or attempts and that this program would help increase the post-vention work. Misty remarked that Clark County was doing worse than Washoe, and stated that a mix of in person and virtual schooling was their goal in order to reconnect kids with their support systems. Misty said that her agency was discussing how to convene a town hall by the end of the year in order to further address this matter.

Tim Burch asked who was responsible for reaching out to families in crisis and if the Crisis Now teams were operational in Clark County in regard to a grant application. Misty Allen stated that the grant application was submitted in April in addition to a few other emergency grants and at that time Clark County was not in a position to be part of that grant application. Tim asked who Misty's agency reached out to in Clark County to determine how Clark County was not able to become part of the grant application for Crisis Now teams. Misty stated that her agency reached out to Clark County schools and the department of education. She said she had a feeling that everyone was overwhelmed at the timing of the application due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Misty stated that her agency would delegate some of their staff to make up for this and that Clark County would still experience the benefits provided by this grant. Misty stated that Clark County would not be ignored. Tim stated that he was thankful for that clarification but wanted to take this matter back to his commissioner because it was concerning that the school district had not responded to the grant application. Misty added that her agency has a great partnership with the Clark County School District and that they would continue to work together and make up for this error in creative ways to ensure that Clark County was still able to receive the help it needed. Dr. Megan Freeman stated that Clark County School District and the Department of Education had just reached out to DCFS/HHS about a pilot program with respect to mental health that would start in eleven schools. This program would look at different ways of detecting individuals in need of mental health services and work with nonprofits and government agencies to get these individuals connected with the services they need. This program is at a very early stage but could be an additional way that Clark County youth could get more access to mental health services. It was appreciated that the rural areas of Nevada were not being forgotten by this grant, as they do not have as much access to hospitals as Clark County does. Misty stated that the Project Aware Grant was awarded in 2014 to rural regions, though they could not reapply. Ross Armstrong asked how the Executive Committee would like to

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proceed with the committee's role in addressing the recent spike in youth suicide. Lisa Sherych from DBPH stated that frequent updates would make sense. Christine Eckles agreed that the committee should also be kept up to date in addition to informed on whatever it can do to assist in addressing this crisis. Vicki Ives suggested that a regular quarterly review of the top four causes of death using preliminary data to examine how responses could be improved and implemented in real time would be helpful. Christine Eckles stated that the committee should prioritize actions that could be taken sooner than later, because they could be important in preventing suicidal ideation from becoming a suicide. Dr. Megan Freeman stated that any letter from a group such as the Executive Committee is needed. She stated that she was able to sit in on a CCSD board meeting and there was a lot of public comment regarding the safety in returning to school and what CCSD's plans were regarding the logistics. She also stated the concerns for mental health seemed to be smaller and that an information campaign could help bring more attention to the current mental health concerns for youth. Dr. Freeman stated that this issue is difficult because it causes a challenge in addressing the public health emergency response to COVID-19, behavioral health and safety, and the recent rise in youth suicide. Dr. Freeman stated that this is difficult to address and that there isn't a right answer, however, any information that could be provided could help inform better decision. Margarita DeSantos stated that the community is indeed in the middle of a horrible spike in cases and, though she acknowledged the parental concern for behavioral and mental health, there were other states and communities that saw spikes in COVID-19 cases as a consequence of returning to school. Margarita stated that a lot of the recent suicide victims were probably already at risk of suicide, and that they were further stressed by the economic, housing, or financial struggles their families began experiencing after the start of quarantine. Under continued isolation, Margarita suggested finding alternative ways to continue to support families with mental health resources as the pandemic continues which could possibly include financial aid. Desiree Mattice stated that another consideration that needed to be taken is the fact that there are students who are struggling with the homeschool sector without any connection to the school and therefore don't have any access to resources that could have been provided. Dr. Freeman stated that CCSD is sending out social workers to reach out to these families in order to address the loss of resources from students who have withdrawn from the school district. Jessica Freeman stated that Misty Allen pointed out that CCSD uses the platform GoGuardian for school issued software that will flag words, phrases, or searches when students are using school issued devices or if students are logged into the school portal on their private devices. Desiree Mattice confirmed that Clark County School District is using GoGuardian and BeaconAlert and also stated that there are additional programs being utilized in different school districts, though she did not think that every county has opted for a similar program. Desiree stated that there are operators monitoring these notifications 24 hours to ensure that students get the resources they need. Ross Armstrong stated that there seemed to be a consensus in that the committee should continue to receive updates on the progress of addressing these concerns and suggested that subcommittees be formed if any of these concerns became elevated.

Stephanie Herrera asked if there were any additional comments or concerns. Jessica Freeman said that she wanted to share some positive news. Jessica reported that her DCFS got notification from Hope Means Nevada, which is an agency funded through the Executive Committee's financial grants in the past year. Hope Means Nevada wrote in an email that they were grateful for the committee's sponsorship of their mental health festival and wanted to share a recent success. They stated that, because of the committee's sponsorship, they were able to register 600 people and were able to provide four mental health wellness grants. The grant to Beacon Academy will provide 22 staff members with SafeTalk and ASIST training and they will be able to renew their Mindwise Kit to continue implementing Signs of Suicide. They stated that they will renew their kit to continue to implement the signs of suicide. The grant to Mission High School will be used to create a Serenity Room. The other two

grants will provide students with trauma informed services and help fund the Good Grief Program in two schools in Washoe County. They will also be planning a second Rising Hope Festival about which they will keep the committee updated.

12. For Possible Action: Review and Approve 2021 Meeting Dates

- February 17,2021
- May 19, 2021
- August 18, 2021
- November 17, 2021

Stephanie Herrera asked if committee members had any concerns regarding the proposed 2021 meeting dates. Sharon Benson stated that she may not be able to attend the February 17th meeting, but that she did check with Jennifer Spencer who stated she could cover for Sharon. The committee decided that it would be preferable to allow Jennifer to substitute for Sharon rather than to move the date of the meeting. Stephanie requested a motion to approve the above listed meeting dates.

MOTION: Made by Misty Allen, seconded by Vicki Ives, to approve the meeting dates of February 17, May 19, August 18, and November 17 in 2021.

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Sharon Benson stated the Executive Committee does not necessarily have to approve the meeting times.

Jessica Freeman stated that Tim Burch reported that Clark County was investing \$20,000 in the Ask5 initiative.

Ross Armstrong stated that he would like to take a moment to remember Yvette Wintermute, who was an Executive Committee member from CCSD and had recently passed away. Ross stated that if anyone wanted any information regarding her passing, they could contact Jessica Freeman. Ross requested that everyone take a moment to acknowledge the valuable contributions she made to this committee before the meeting closed.

13. Final Public Comment

No comments.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 AM.