

**NEVADA COALITION TO PREVENT THE  
COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN**

**February 16, 2018**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Location:**

McCarran Airport, Terminal 1, Level 2, rooms 4 & 5,  
5757 Wayne Newton Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89119

Go-To- Meeting: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/842221757>

Phone: 1 (786) 535-3211

Access Code: **842-221-757**

**Members Present:**

Chair: Justice Nancy Saitta (Ret.), Nevada Supreme Court

Co-Chair: Kelly Wooldridge, NV Div. of Child & Family Svcs.

Linda Anderson, Office of Nevada Attorney General

Amy Ayoub, The Zen Speaker

Brigid Duffy, Clark County District Attorney's Office

Elynn Greene, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

Lawrence Howell, Rite of Passage (by phone)

Dr. Alexis Kennedy, UNLV

Alice LeDesma, Washoe County Human Services Agency (by phone)

Katherine Malzahn-Bass, Court Improvement (by phone)

Jeff Martin, Washoe County Chief Deputy District Attorney (by phone)

Nicole O'Banion, Domestic Violence Ombudsman, AG's Office

Reesha Powell, DCFS

Kathleen Sandoval, NV Center for Children and Youth (by phone)

Paula Smith, Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

Judge William Voy, Clark County District Court A

Judge Egan Walker, Washoe County Court Department 2

Kim Yaeger, Nevada Trucking Association

Judge Nathan Tod Young, Douglas County, Department 1

Derek Jones, Reno Police Department, Street Enforcement

**Members Absent:**

Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson, NV Assembly

Sharon Benson, Office of Nevada Attorney General

Frank Cervantes, Washoe County Juvenile Justice Services

Senator Patricia Farley, Nevada Senate

Paula Hammack, Clark County Dept. of Family Services

Jack Martin, Clark County Juvenile Justice Services

John Munoz, DCFS Juvenile Services

Jim Wright, Nevada Department of Public Safety

Amber Reid, Nevada Department of Education

Peter Craanen, FBI

Gianna Verness, Washoe County Public Defender

Janice Wolf, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada

**Staff:**

Theresa Anderson, Sierra Mountain Behavior Consulting

Sonya Giroux, Sierra Mountain Behavior Consulting

Dr. Joy Salmon, Sierra Mountain Behavior Consulting

**Guests:**

Dr. Megan Freeman, DCFS (Co-Chair Data Subcommittee)

Melissa Holland, Awaken (Co-Chair Care Coordination Subcommittee)

Shannon McCoy, WCHS (Co-Chair Engagement Subcommittee)

Mari Parlade, CC DFS (Co-Chair Prevention Subcommittee)

Jen Robinson, Awaken (Co-Chair Prevention Subcommittee)

Dr. Halleh Seddighzadeh, ARMAN (Co-Chair Engagement Subcommittee)

Shauna Brennan, Brennan Legal Counsel Group

Chaplain Barry Mainardi, Chaplaincy Nevada

Pastor Kay Landwehr, House of the Rising Sun

Sgt. Sheri Silva for Jim Wright

Christina Vela, St. Jude's Ranch for Children

Rachael Richardson, Stars CDC (by phone)

## 1. Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions

Justice Saitta welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 9:45 am. Roll call was taken and a quorum established.

## 2. Initial Public Comment (*Discussion only: Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for action at a later meeting.*)

Shauna Brennan of Brennan Legal Counsel gave public comment as a member of the Prevention Subcommittee. She called for a moment of silence in honor of the Parkland, Florida shooting victims and their families. She then thanked the Coalition, the Subcommittees, and Sierra Mountain Behavior Consulting for their dedication and commitment to this issue, and recommended that the Hotel Lodging Association, the Restaurant Association, unions, business owners and other affected sectors be invited to participate at some level for more balanced consideration of many of the issues regarding prevention and enforcement. She also expressed her concerns with the lack of funds available for the toolkits and other recommendations that will come from the model protocol.

## 3. For possible action – Approve December 6, 2017 CSEC Coalition meeting minutes

**Motion:** Judge Walker introduced a motion to accept the minutes as presented; second by Judge Young; the motion passed.

## 4. For possible action: Approve proposed Strategic Plan goals and outline

Joy Salmon introduced the draft strategic plan, reviewing the sources and the proposed goals and objectives.

Changes were made to Objective 3d – “Partner with Nevada universities to evaluate the impact of training and services” was shortened to read, “Evaluate the impact of training and services.” Objective 4c was amended to read “identify *and secure* funding for statewide prevention efforts.”

Discussion followed on strengthening laws and whether there is a general deterrence to the punishment for certain crimes, particularly without provisions to secure the testimony of child early on to be used later. Melissa Holland noted that Nevada is considered a low-risk state for CSEC offenders since laws are not enforced.

Justice Saitta noted that she and Kelley Wooldridge want the Coalition to be proactive – it can make a recommendation with teeth, in support of new legislation.

Judge Walker noted that there are other avenues to prosecution and suggested a subset of Coalition should speak at the DA conference in Nevada to put more pressure for stronger enforcement.

**Motion:** Judge Walker introduced a motion to approve the Strategic Plan as amended; Dr. Alexis Kennedy seconded the motion; the motion passed.

5. **For possible action: Approve recommendations for First Quarter Deliverables**

- **Prevention**  
**Strategy 1d: Existing Interventions Gaps, needed funding Strategy 2e: Best Practices, hotline, social media, faith-based**

Mari Parlade and Jen Robinson, Co-Chairs of the Prevention Subcommittee, presented the Prevention deliverables, also announcing that Subcommittee members, Chaplain Barry Mainardi, Pastor Kay Landeweher, and Shauna Brennan, were in attendance. Mari noted that this is the largest subcommittee with 28 members and a diverse membership of NGOs, faith-based groups, law enforcement, etc.

Mari noted that the subcommittee identified Existing CSEC Prevention Interventions through a survey, with the goal to identify what exists and what is needed. She outlined the three types of interventions – primary (general awareness), secondary (for at-risk youth), and tertiary (for confirmed victims).

Amy inquired if any survivors were a part of the conversation and what follow-up was done with the survey to get more voices. Mari concurred that there were not enough responses to the survey and that was the biggest struggle in compiling the list. Jen added that although no personal phone calls had been done to follow up, that is the next step. Kelley Wooldridge noted that the CSEC survey will be added to DCFS website.

Mari noted that the Prevention subcommittee is working to integrate primary intervention strategies into Nevada's school curriculum. She emphasized the many local leaders in the community and recognized the depth and diversity of the subcommittee members who have met monthly with great dedication. Jen Robinson presented the section on funding strategies and emphasized that it is a start and research is ongoing.

Mari shared that the Strategy 2d level of funding recommended is 1% of the funding spent on criminal/juvenile justice and social services for "after-the- fact" services, and she would like that to be a Coalition recommendation. She suggested having the Legal Subcommittee work on legislation to fund CSEC in this manner to move our efforts forward.

Mari emphasized the need to use a public health approach. Amy queried why the tools are different for communities of faith and general resources. Mari noted that faith communities tend to be more protective of their messaging.

Kim Yaeger noted that Truckers Against Trafficking is working in every state.

Theresa expressed the intent of building a guide so that any small community can start a credible education campaign anywhere in Nevada utilizing the tools gathered.

Judge Voy inquired if there was any data on an increase in use of the hotline number due to being posted in airport bathrooms. Elynne Greene noted that it is starting to be tracked but the data is not available yet.

- **Engagement and Care Coordination Strategies 4c: Safety Plan, and Engagement Strategy 3g: Runaway Interview Protocol**

Shannon McCoy presented the report from the Engagement Subcommittee, noting that they have focused on two separate deliverables during the past few months – the safety plan and interview protocol for chronic/frequent runaways.

Justice Saitta noted the importance of linking Systems of Care, and that a national group may provide mechanisms for crossover. She suggests collaborating with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ).

- **Data Strategy 1c: Current Data Systems**

Drs. Kennedy and Freeman presented the gaps analysis, noting that there are many silos of information. Nevada does a deeper analysis than other states, but most of it is hand-coded. Discussion followed on how far we can go with UNITY, which is the most used tool. The Data Subcommittee looked at the different systems and they vary from county to county.

Theresa was encouraged by the institution of CaseLoadPro state-wide for Juvenile Justice. Dr. Kennedy noted that CaseLoadPro does not capture at-risk-youth or foster kids.

Dr. Freeman inquired about aggregating the data in Unity or aggregating it after the fact. Kelley responded that this will depend on the change in law. Dr. Freeman stated that we may have to utilize a Plan A or Plan B depending on which way the law goes.

Kelley Wooldridge suggested a possible budget request for funding so that UNITY can talk to other systems. Judge Walker inquired if funding might be available through the Court Improvement Program for this purpose. Judge Voy suggested getting rid of UNITY and dumping the data into CaseLoadPro.

**Motion:** Judge Young introduced a motion to approve all of the deliverables as presented; Judge Walker seconded the motion; the motion passed.

**[A fifteen-minute break was taken]**

**6. For possible action – Receive presentation on CSEC housing challenges and promising practices, and a proposal for a staff secure facility**

Justice Saitta introduced Theresa Anderson and Judge Voy for this agenda item. Theresa explained how SMBC is shifting its role to assist the subcommittees more with research and writing.

Beginning her PowerPoint presentation, Theresa noted that all states are struggling with assisting CSEC. Probably 5,000 youth in Nevada have been sex trafficked, as estimated by Dr. Kennedy. She reviewed laws that have been implemented in Nevada and across the country, including safe harbor laws, increased screening requirements, etc., but emphasized that

legislation is not enough. Additionally, there are challenges to sustaining awareness on this issue. As more youth are identified nationwide, the demand on existing services increases. She also noted that states are struggling with maintaining task forces and providing data.

Theresa reviewed CSEC trauma and why it is different – trauma bonding, coercion and learning to coerce, unequal power dynamics, chronic elopement, etc. She stated that currently there are no evidence-based models for CSEC, but other mental health providers offer some ideas, such as Stages of Change. She emphasized the importance of survivors as advocates.

Theresa moved to descriptions of specific placement options, noting that different placement options include drop-in centers, harm reduction models, specialized group homes, specialized residential treatments, etc., and detailing some of the unique challenges to implementing placement options for CSEC, such as the economic pull, NIMBY, flight risks.

Amy cautioned avoiding victim blaming, such as when we say “they run away,” or “are challenging.” She emphasized the need to reframe language and focus on being respectful, or even more respectful, as necessary. Discussion followed on addressing runaways and how to prevent or minimize elopement.

Melissa asked, what does it look like to not accept failure for CSEC, to not be satisfied with running away seven times before success? She noted a theory that adrenaline is often misattributed to attraction, and she detailed Awaken’s new strategy of using physiology to create programs that allow that adrenaline/attraction moment to happen with safe people, such as by bungee jumping, rock climbing, etc.

Amy noted that we can’t keep doing what we’re doing -- we need to think outside the box and also ask, “why do I want to run away from you?”

Elynn suggested looking at the GEMS model where girls are commended for coming back with no judgment -- it needs to be seen simply as behavior, not negative behavior.

Commenting on Theresa’s note that the average length of stay in a staff-secure placement facility is 12-18 months, Judge Young inquired about the evidence that a longer stay helps.

Judge Voy noted that there is none, and that the most recent research shows that anything more than 6 months is actually counterproductive.

Justice Saitta cautioned that the Coalition must be careful when using data in the model protocol – it must be cited, even if it’s anecdotal. She suggests not citing anything unless it has authority and support.

Discussion followed on the merits of anecdotal evidence in such a low-research population and, alternately, the need to have data supporting programs that the Coalition recommends.

## **Break for lunch**

Theresa wrapped up the conversation about promising practices, reviewing homogenous populations placements, urban vs. rural placements, survivor mentors, voluntary vs. mandatory placement, security considerations, and legal advocacy for survivors.

Judge Voy then presented his model for a staff-secure therapeutic environment safe house. He noted that he has been working on this since 2005. In an effort to get kids out of detention and into treatment, and noting that very few kids meet the RTC acute medical requirement for mandated placement, he proposed that this staff-secure therapeutic facility could serve as a hub for treatment and additional placement options. 24/7 supervision would be provided through a probation officer. The model for the presentation he discussed was developed in 2007, and at that time Clark County's cost was estimated at \$800K year. Fundraising efforts through a local non-profit in Las Vegas failed. He noted that this would be helpful for many of the kids that he sees, but he only sees a fraction of the affected kids. He also noted that this model was promoted by Shared Hope. Judge Voy shared that the older girls from his court who go to Caliente find it life-changing; they feel safe, and are able to focus on themselves, etc. He stressed that there needs to be a broad-spectrum service array to address the needs of the kids. He further emphasized that a child who is under a material hold is not a good witness, but a therapeutic environment will provide a more willing participant. He concluded by noting that Clark County is on board to provide services, but the funding is needed, and if you rely on the medical model to get them services, it won't be appropriate for many of the kids.

Justice Saitta inquired about the average length of stay for this model, and Judge Voy responded that it could vary between a couple of days to several months, but it is meant to be flexible according to needs. He added that, unfortunately, in order to get services, some kids have to admit to solicitation in open court.

Amy asked what can we do differently -- law enforcement wants to get the bad guy, but to help the victim become a survivor locking them up as a material witness is not the answer.

Justice Saitta inquired if this model is adaptable to other components - could it have a prevention wing? She noted that Children of the Night has a voluntary place.

Judge Voy responded that it should be two different programs. He hopes this will be one of many recommendations from the Coalition.

Justice Saitta inquired how to move this idea forward. Linda Anderson suggested the Coalition can submit the idea to a subcommittee to look at it further. Judge Voy noted that he would like to work with the Care Coordination subcommittee to build up his presentation to become something more appropriate, program-wise, and current.

Discussion followed on the Canadian model. Dr. Kennedy noted that Canada has a mental health model, rather than a delinquency hold, with a 72-hour hold for assessment and then a hold for up to 30 days. Canada has due process for minors though, and they don't arrest children for prostitution. She further noted that there is not as much of a stigma in Canada around mental health.

Justice Saitta noted that there was an invitation to Judge Voy, which he accepted, to work with the Care Coordination subcommittee to discuss his Safe House Proposal and to see if it can be updated, based on promising practices that have been identified since its first conception in 2007. She thanked him for his unwavering commitment.

## **7. For Possible Action – Approve Legal Subcommittee Charter and Report from first meeting**

Linda Anderson presented the Charter for the Legal Subcommittee, describing topics to include CAPTA provisions, Safe Harbor laws, and templates for MOUs. She asked the Coalition to consider approval.

**Motion:** [Inaudible male voice] introduced a motion to accept the Legal Subcommittee charter as presented; second by Judge Voy; the motion passed.

**8. For Possible Action– Brainstorming for the 2019 Legislative Session**

- **Bill draft requests**
- **Funding requests**

Justice Saitta introduced this agenda item, stating that there were some samples of legislation from Florida and Minnesota in the meeting packet. She also noted an expansion and redefinition of CHNS, including expanding the age limit, but stressed that fiscal notes need to be considered. She further emphasized the need to start now to have a coordinated effort to pass any legislation.

Melissa noted the perception of Nevada as a sex tourism state as a consequence of having brothels – global research shows that legalizing prostitution can have the effect of increasing illegal acts as well. She noted that NCMEC showed that 41% of missing kids are found to have trafficked. Unpublished data she has seen shows that, on average, 5,016 individuals per month are being sold on BackPage.com in Nevada, which is higher than any other state. There are more non-legal transactions than legal, she stated, and suggested Nevada should consider removing brothels.

Amy shared that there is a common misunderstanding that legal brothels eliminate or reduce violence.

Elynne noted that many women working on the streets also work in brothels.

Judge Walker offered a strategic suggestion that the Coalition adopt findings for policy statements, to effect of “there is data showing that having this many strip clubs in a certain area increases use of BackPage.com” etc.

Justice Saitta concurred, stating that she believes the Coalition is compelled to do so, noting that if we know there is a direct correlation and we don’t include it, then “shame on us.” She restated that group’s discussion, noting that we intend to be present at the legislature for outreach and education, and the Coalition can build credibility by being open and honest. It can go through the legal subcommittee, she commented, but now is the time!

Justice Saitta inquired if the Legal Subcommittee charter allowed for drafting of bills, and Linda responded that we are introducing the concept of the legislation we would support, and suggested including language such as “these are BDRs we can support...”

**Motion:** Judge Voy introduced a motion to require a Justice of the Peace or any other judge to preserve the testimony of minors during a preliminary hearing, and to revisit the mandatory preservation of minor testimony; second by Derek Jones; the motion passed.

Brigid recommended trying to see if the Chair of the interim committee on child welfare would receive a presentation.

**Motion:** Judge Voy introduced a motion to offer a CSEC presentation to the Interim Committee on Child Welfare presenting the legislative needs for CSEC for their consideration; second by Judge Walker; approved.

Justice Saitta asked for written submissions to the Legal Subcommittee for bill draft requests (BDRs). She suggested the Coalition ask the Legal Subcommittee to tackle funding requests as well.

Discussion followed on other topics for funding requests, including possibly requesting a fee to marriage licenses as a steady stream of funding, a brothel tax, and/or a tourism industry (room) tax, Uber/limousines, taxis, etc.

Justice Saitta inquired about the proper language to use when discussing survivors/victims. Dr. Seddighzadeh noted that generally children are referred to as “victims” while adult women are referred to as “survivors.” Melissa added that there is language we use as providers of services that we never use with clients. She noted that they simply use their names.

#### **9. For Possible Action – Approve proposed standing agenda item: Coordinating with other initiatives**

Justice Saitta suggested that every child-serving agency, task force, commission etc. should be housed under one umbrella to coordinate efforts and resources and reduce the number of meetings.

Judge Walker stated that the Coalition should suggest to the executive branch that we would like to belong somewhere, perhaps we roll CSEC Coalition into the Children’s Commission.

#### **10. Announcements**

Elynn Greene noted that the Southern Nevada Human Trafficking Task Force is partnering with I-Empathize on some events in March. They are hosting a training for first responders and a film showing on Monday the 12th, “Be Relentless” at Smith Center. Elynn noted that the sponsors are on board to assist with other fundraisers. She will send information to Sonya to send to the Coalition for distribution to professional agencies.

#### **11. Review 2018 Coalition Meeting Schedule**

It was noted that the Children’s Commission meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month, which would present a conflict for many Coalition members.

#### **12. Final Public Comment (*Discussion only: Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for action at a later meeting.*)**

Pastor Kay Landwehr encouraged the Coalition to keep up the good work and keep fighting – please don’t give up on the kids!

#### **13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:24 pm