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## NEVADA COALITION TO PREVENT THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** September 22, 2020, 10:00 am

**LOCATION:** This meeting will be conducted via teleconference, in accordance with Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006, Subsection 1; The requirement contained in NRS 241.023 (1) (b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate is suspended. Directive 006 was extended with Directive 29, Section 4.

**TELECONFERENCE ACCESS:** Join the meeting: <https://call.lifesizecloud.com/5019414>; Call in number: 1 (312) 584-2401; Meeting extension: 5019414#

### 1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Ross Armstrong.

**Members present:** Ross Armstrong, Eileen Hough, Brigid Duffy, Nicole O'Banion, Janice Wolf, Brennan Paterson, Amy Ayoub, Jessica Halling, Eboni Washington, Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno

**Members absent:** Justice Nancy Saitta, Melissa Holland, Pauline Salla-Smith, Dan Musgrove

**Staff members present:** Kathryn Roose, Dr. Megan Freeman, Esther Rodriguez-Brown, Elvira Saldana

**Guests:** Elynne Greene, Cara Paoli, Abbie Frierson, Jimmy Lau, Katie Ryan, Samantha Summers-Rivas

### 2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### 3. For Discussion Only: Review of Governor's Letter

Ross Armstrong stated the original Coalition under Governor Sandoval's Executive Order required for a Strategic Plan to be created. Governor Sisolak recognized the great work completed and directed DCFS to establish a statewide Coalition going forward. The focus will be to have strong regional task forces and making sure there are folks to respond and support the multidisciplinary teams. According to the Strategic Plan there are three groups it envisions. The first one is the Statewide Coalition which provides statewide coordination guidance and advocacy for resources. The second are the regional task forces which adapt, coordinate and oversee implementation of the protocol to meet the regional needs. The third group are the multidisciplinary teams which coordinate individualized services for each Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Child (CSEC).

Ross Armstrong asked members if there were any questions regarding the Governor's directive of the Coalition.

There were no questions.

#### **4. For Discussion Only: Review Strategic Plan**

Esther Rodriguez-Brown provided the progress of the Strategic Plan. Objectives 1a and 1b under Goal 1, Increase coordination and collaboration identifying and serving CSEC, are completed. Goal 2, Expand access to services for CSEC and their families, objectives 2a and 2b are completed. Goal 3, Improve outcomes for CSEC through increased expertise and data-driven services, the objectives are in process except for objective 3c. Objective 3c, the recommendations for SB 293 have been completed.

Ross Armstrong informed last session, the legislature passed and created Nevada Revised Statute 432C specifically for this system.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown stated another goal was to increase the awareness of CSEC in Nevada through public awareness campaigns which has been completed except for the objectives relating to substance abuse, those are partially completed. Goal 5, Sustain the effort to coordinate and improve services for CSEC, objectives 5a, 5c and 5d are completed.

Amy Ayoub asked for more details regarding who will be certifying the certified trainers and what kind of training it will be. Amy Ayoub commented training is an area where she sees a lack of survivor input.

Kathryn Roose informed the recommendations will be covered in the SB293 report. If there are any gaps or concerns, they will be addressed.

Ross Armstrong commented survivor voice is what made the previous Coalition.

#### **5. For Discussion Only: Review Model Coordinated Response and Toolkit**

Ross Armstrong stated one of the key parts included in the document is the coordinated response. The Coalition will need to be aware of the status of the regional task forces. Representatives from the task forces were invited to discuss the status and which communities they think do not have them and need to. Ross Armstrong asked for information relating to the task forces.

Nicole O'Banion stated there is a Northern Nevada Human Trafficking Task Force. The person to invite to provide an update would be Jill Tolles.

Ross Armstrong asked Elyne Greene if there is one in Southern Nevada.

Elyne Greene replied there is, and they are working with the Heat Team out of Reno Police Department. It encompasses some of the service providers there. One of the goals is to get a statewide perspective. They are also working with Phoenix to create a more expansive, regional task force to share ideas and resources.

Ross Armstrong asked if both task forces are focused on general human trafficking.

Elyne Greene replied the Southern Nevada one is not focused on CSEC however they would not be opposed to creating a CSEC committee within the task force.

Nicole O'Banion stated the same would apply for the North. It is currently a general human trafficking task force and they would be more than happy to have a subcommittee specific to CSEC.

Elynn Greene added they have Nye County represented on their task force.

#### **6. For Possible Action: Structure of the Coalition**

Ross Armstrong stated a list of potential subcommittee structures was provided for the Coalition to consider. The first option would focus on the function the committees would be working on. The second option is the target entity model which would focus on the committees having a target they are going after to enact change. The Coalition may choose a subcommittee structure not listed. Ross Armstrong asked for thoughts or feedback.

Amy Ayoub asked whoever came up with the models, if there is a model they prefer.

Ross Armstrong replied he created the model and he could go either way. Option B supports the local taskforces.

Brigid Duffy asked if in option B, a subcommittee of the group will break off and work to support local task force with their policy development, training, technical assistance and communication.

Ross Armstrong stated the committee would be a support to the local entities and bring back feedback.

Amy Ayoub asked if in option B the training falls under the local task force support.

Ross Armstrong the intensive training for the providers would.

Jessica Halling commented if the Coalition wants to get a picture of what CSEC looks like in the state, there needs to be guidelines of what data is collected.

Ross stated it would make sense to link the data team with the funding and sustainability piece to drive the funding decisions.

Eileen Hough stated she appreciates Jessica Halling's comment.

Nicole O'Banion stated in reviewing both plans, the subcommittees and the mission of the Northern Nevada Human Trafficking Task Force is doing, she could see both plans being combined into one.

**Action:** A motion was made by Amy Ayoub to adopt option B with the amendment to add Data to Funding and Sustainability; seconded by Elynn Greene; the motion passed.

#### **7. For Discussion: Legislative Update- SB 293**

Esther Rodriguez-Brown reported SB 293 establishes a position within the Division of Child and Family Services to develop a plan to identify infrastructure to provide treatment, housing, and services to CSEC by October 1, 2020. A report has been completed and will be submitted by October 1, 2020. The bill outlines the parameters of planning including a requirement to come to the 2021 session with a system to be evaluated acted upon the Legislature. The bill establishes a July 1, 2022 deadline for removing the reliance on the juvenile justice system for these cases. The bill decriminalizes CSEC and they are now placed under the care of child welfare. They are no longer seen as a delinquent. There is

emphasis to create System of Care, in residential and mental health. There were several recommendations made, however the main one was to create a safe and secured 24/7 CSEC Receiving Center with specially trained staff where CSEC can be referred by child welfare, law enforcement, and other agencies to be evaluated and referred to the appropriate long-term housing options and services. Other recommendations include creation of Specialized Foster Care Homes with specialized CSEC training and programming for children with active 432B and 432C cases, a model which mirrors Nevada Revised Statute 433A, admissions by law enforcement or a child welfare agency, training standards, DCFS's Mental Health Authority to review, approve, train, and certify agencies wanting to serve CSEC, and the use of evidence based treatment modalities for CSEC.

Kathryn Roose asked Amy Ayoub if her previous concerns regarding training were addressed.

Amy Ayoub stated she would like to know the survivors will not be brought in after all the trainings are done.

Kathryn Roose stated everything is in the recommendation phase and would like to have as much contact and input from survivors.

Amy Ayoub commented there has been training, which is misleading, hurtful and not helpful.

Jessica Halling asked if it could be aligned to require agencies to take endorsed training to be eligible for funding.

Ross Armstrong stated if legislative authority is obtained to create the training and the standards then the appropriate training requirements can be applied.

Elynn Greene commented there is a need for standardized training across the state for human trafficking.

Nicole O'Banion stated this is a great foundation for the Northern and Southern Task Forces to develop into also addressing the adults.

Jessica Halling asked if there is any talk on implementing preventive programming in the state.

Ross Armstrong replied he has not heard of it; however, it is something the external engagement committee could work on. The formal SB 293 report is due to the Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice by October 1<sup>st</sup> and once transmitted, it will be provided to the Coalition members.

#### **8. Set next meeting date/time**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

#### **9. Public Comment**

Samantha Summers-Rivas, Founder and President of RubiesLV, asked if the Department of Family Services (DFS) has talked about putting anything together as far as family members that have been identified as sexually exploited and/or trafficked that have had their children removed.

Ross Armstrong replied there has not been a policy adopted at the state level. Abbie Frierson would be the contact at DFS to see if something has been developed.

#### **10. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Amy Ayoub to adjourn, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.