



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



PUBLIC NOTICE

NEVADA COALITION TO PREVENT THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

DATE: Tuesday, December 20, 2022

TIME: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm (or until adjournment)

VIDEO CONFERENCE: [Click here to join meeting](#)

TELECONFERENCE: 1-775-321-6111 CONFERENCE ID:

458372762#

Supporting materials may be obtained online at

<https://dcfs.nv.gov/Programs/CWS/CSEC/2022MeetingsAndAgendas/>

Members of the public may hear and observe the meeting, and participate in the meeting by video, phone or in person. Members of the public may also provide live public comment during the public comment sections of the agenda. If members of the public desire to provide a pre-recorded public comment for a meeting, it must first be authorized before the meeting by the public body.

Reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that all attendees/public can hear or observe the members of the body, so it is recommended that members keep their cameras on through the meeting, unless there are technical difficulties, or a member can only appear by phone during the meeting.

- *Items may be taken out of order, may be combined for consideration by the public body, and/or may be pulled or removed from the agenda at any time to accomplish business in the most efficient manner.*
- *“For Information” items are informal in nature and may include discussion and ideas*
- *“For Possible Action” items may be voted on or approved by members of the commission.*

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order, Roll Call, Establish Quorum-** Dr. Cindy Pitlock and Esther Rodriguez-Brown

Esther Rodriguez-Brown called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Dr. Cindy Pitlock, Esther Rodriguez-Brown, Ali Banister, Brigid Duffy, Nicole Reilly, Sarah Stephan, Pauline Salla-Smith, Cara Paoli, Kelly-Jo Shebeck, Greg Flores, Laurie Jackson, Makaya Swain, Ashley Martinez, Brittany Hopballe, Eboni Washington

Members Absent: Jessica Halling, DaShun Jackson, Andre Wade, Andrea Davis, Abigail Frierson, Michael Barton, Chelsea Huntsman, Fran Maldonado, Christina Vela

Roll call was taken and quorum was established.

2. Public Comment and Discussion (*Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for a later meeting*)- Dr. Cindy Pitlock

There was no public comment.

3. For Possible Action: Approval of September 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes- Dr. Cindy Pitlock

Action: A motion was made by Brigid Duffy to approve the September 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes, Laurie Jackson seconded the motion. No objections. Motion carries.

No further discussion on this item.

4. For Information Only: Overview of VICE Unit Work in Clark County- Sgt. Greg Flores (LVMPD)

Sergeant Greg Flores provided the Coalition with his contact information should anyone need it and began his discussion by noting that whenever a VICE class is given, attendees are always asked to read the disclaimer, which notes that anything taught in the class is taken directly from case notes and legal studies. Sergeant Flores noted that the videos that he would be sharing do depict some violence but indicated that they would not be too violent. Sergeant Flores discussed the mission and goals of VICE, including: a victim-centered approach of advocating for and helping those being trafficked rather than prosecuting them; a 24-7 response to any situation involving a potential victim of trafficking; contacting RISE partners to immediately send advocates for victims; tracking the information on traffickers and sending that information to proactive teams. Sergeant Flores shared videos of actual cases on which VICE is working with the Coalition. Sergeant Flores further noted that there are four sergeants, including himself, 26 detectives, the Adult Trafficking Task Force, the Juvenile Trafficking Task Force, and the Southern Nevada Human Trafficking Task Force that is a partnership with the FBI and focuses on both children and adults. Sergeant Flores further noted that there is now a full-time school police officer assigned to the Child Exploitation Task Force able to provide all necessary resources. Sergeant Flores next discussed the types of investigations done by VICE, including: sex trafficking of children and adults; pandering; VICE related kidnappings; sexual assaults; child luring; shootings; battery with deadly weapons; domestic battery; extortion; death investigations; and many types of theft investigations. Sergeant Flores discussed the importance of citizens reporting suspicious activities without risking their own safety. Sergeant Flores indicated that many of the investigations come from things like police reports, security reports, domestic violence calls, sexual assault calls, and non-governmental organization referrals, as well as school administrators and social workers. Sergeant Flores further noted that most videos are coming from the Central Intelligence Unit (CIU), which monitors jail calls from which VICE often times runs an entire investigation without an actual victim involved. Sergeant Flores indicated that these cases have been fairly successful and resulting in good prosecutions. Sergeant Flores informed the Coalition that year to date, 330 traffickers have been arrested, 40 of which have been for sex trafficking of a child. Sergeant Flores further indicated that year to date, VICE has recovered 83 children, a number that is expected to rise as many of the investigations still ongoing, 82 have been arrested for sex trafficking as an adult, and then an additional 126 have been arrested for other felonies. Sergeant Flores next indicated that 171 buyers were either arrested or cited and reminded the Coalition that most buyer arrests are misdemeanors due to the current legislation. Sergeant Flores noted that VICE would like to arrest buyers, but legislation dictates that first contact is a citation. Sergeant Flores next discussed the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit, which runs child luring operations more frequently than VICE is able to. Sergeant Flores informed the Coalition

that there were 6 VICE related death investigations this year, and that 276 search warrants have been served, leading to recovery of 99 illegal firearms and 216 VICE related theft arrests. Sergeant Flores further indicated that VICE was able to arrest a significant number of traffickers based off of the theft investigations. Sergeant Flores informed the Committee that although VICE is making arrests, the intent is not for convictions of victims but rather to intelligence lead VICE to traffickers. Sergeant Flores described some actual cases involving both children and adults to illustrate the work that VICE is doing in the community.

Chair Pitlock asked if VICE will be able to secure the bank accounts of perpetrators and sweep the funds.

Sergeant Greg Flores indicated that when the earning can be established as resulting from pandering activity, VICE can then go after the money but noted that perpetrators are getting smarter by doing things like using Bitcoin rather than traditional bank accounts or cash.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown asked if pandering applies for minors.

Sergeant Greg Flores confirmed that it does not, noting that in the case of minors, it is always sex trafficking.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown asked Sergeant Flores to discuss some of the challenges around arresting the buyers given the fact that arrest of the buyer is a misdemeanor.

Sergeant Greg Flores noted that this is one of the things VICE hopes the legislation will change but as it stands now, if a buyer solicits an adult victim, it is a misdemeanor. As such, Sergeant Flores explained that if this is a first-time offense, the only recourse officers have is to write a ticket and release the buyer. Sergeant Flores further noted that because this is a misdemeanor, if the offense does not occur in the presence of police, police are unable to enforce. Sergeant Flores indicated that if it was a higher level of crime, such as a gross misdemeanor or felony, officers have the ability to make an arrest even if the crimes do not occur in police presence.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown asked if judges are prone to dismiss these cases given that they are often first offenses, thus creating the cycle of repeat offenders being "first-time offenders" each time due to the dismissal of their previous cases.

Sergeant Greg Flores confirmed that this happens often, particularly because these records are able to be sealed, thus showing no previous history for repeat offenders. Sergeant Flores noted that Lieutenant Roberts had taken the lead on trying to get this addressed as a separate category of crime with increased penalties for that crime.

Chair Pitlock asked Sergeant Flores to discuss how the vicarious trauma piece for staff is handled.

Sergeant Flores indicated that this has not been handled well up to now, but with the new sheriff coming in, this will be a large focus. Sergeant Flores noted that the new sheriff will be starting a complete Wellness Bureau.

Chair Pitlock asked if there is any work that needs to be done in that space by the members of the Coalition and asked for suggestions from the members.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown indicated that Sheriff McMahill is very invested in this and intends to focus significantly on self-care as well as on how to address trauma. Ms. Brown further indicated that she is looking to be involved in those conversations as well, noting that vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue, and burnout are high in first responders.

Chair Pitlock requested that everyone keep this issue on their radar for addressing these issues within

their own programs.

Sergeant Greg Flores thanked the members for allowing him time to highlight the things that VICE is doing and expressed his appreciation for the work being done by the members of the Coalition.

No further discussion on this item.

5. For Information Only: Provide updates on outstanding tasks from 2021 CSEC Subcommittees- Esther Rodriguez-Brown

Esther Rodriguez-Brown indicated that the only outstanding task is the finalization of the Nevada 211 website. Ms. Brown presented some of the changes on the existing website, noting that this is the final project based on some of the feedback from the full Coalition. Ms. Brown reminded the members that if their organization is not listed in Nevada 211 and should be, they should contact Ms. Brown, who will put them in touch directly with the person who deals with agencies.

No further discussion on this item.

6. For Information Only: 2022 CSEC Subcommittee updates- Makaya Swain, Shannon McCoy

- Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Shannon McCoy informed the group that the Strategic Planning Subcommittee has wrapped up after having, over the course of time, reviewed and adjusted some best-practice documents. Ms. McCoy indicated that following the feedback received, those documents will be posted on the new and improved CSEC website. Ms. McCoy further indicated that the subcommittee also updated the outdated prevention guide that, too, will be posted on the new and improved CSEC website.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown added that the full, 23-page, best-practices document was attached to the agenda. Ms. Brown further indicated that key points were added to the website from the prevention guide to make them easily accessible rather than having information seekers need to download the PDF document in its entirety. Ms. Brown explained that the full document is available should anyone want it from the website. Ms. Brown thanked Lieutenant Roberts for providing her with a contact in the ICAC, who provided much information and helpful tips that have also been added to the website. Ms. Brown explained that this is now accessible from the DCFS website, so anyone can access the information.

No further discussion on this item.

7. For Discussion and Possible Action: 2023 Subcommittee Ideas- Esther Rodriguez-Brown

- Parent Education

Esther Rodriguez-Brown discussed the need to develop new subcommittees, noting that it is often difficult for parents to understand the dynamics and trauma bonding that takes place with children and as such, these parents can sometimes become a challenge for the process of a child's healing. Therefore, Ms. Brown indicated the importance of developing some kind of simple curriculum or tools for parents. As such, Ms. Brown suggested the creation of a Parent Education Subcommittee.

- Identifying barriers and systematic gaps to enhance engagement with BIPOC/LGBTQIA+/CSEC with Disabilities

Esther Rodriguez-Brown suggested the creation of a subcommittee that can help to identify the barriers and systematic gaps to enhance engagement with the

BIPOC/LGBTQIA+/CSEC with Disabilities. Ms. Brown indicated that there is not a lot of representation in these very underserved groups and suggested involving people from communities of color, LBGTQ, and CSEC with Disabilities to see what the needs may be for these groups.

- Others

Esther Rodriguez-Brown opened the floor to the group to suggest any other subcommittees they felt would be appropriate.

Pauline Salla-Smith discussed the need to decriminalize behavior of youth that are potentially CSEC in the rural areas where there is little to no programming or placement available. Ms. Salla-Smith discussed the fact that there are no foster care facilities in Winnemucca and as such, these youth often need to stay in the system when there are no other appropriate options for them.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown concurred with Ms. Salla-Smith, noting that this will be a frustration shared by all at the beginning of the next fiscal year. Ms. Brown indicated that Clark County is already working on a plan to address this.

Eboni Washington explained that Clark County is seeing kids being escalated because placement options are a major challenge.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown suggested the creation of a Placement Continuum of Care Subcommittee that would involve people from different foster home agencies as members as the receiving center is developing.

Cara Paoli concurred, noting that at one point, someone had been added who ran a home specifically for CSEC youth, and recommended inviting this person to join the subcommittee.

Action: A motion was made by Eboni Washington to approve the creation of the suggested subcommittees, Pauline Salla-Smith seconded the motion. No objections. Motion carries.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown indicated that she would be sending out an email to members regarding interest in participation of the three subcommittees.

Chair Pitlock added that the Governor's budget should be released soon and noted that it is on CSEC's radar to establish funding for caseloads for this group of youth.

No further discussion on this item.

8. For Information Only: 2023 CSEC Coalition Membership- Esther Rodriguez-Brown

Esther Rodriguez-Brown informed the members that the applications for membership in the CSEC Coalition will be opening and noted that the bylaws explain the application process. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown indicated that the application is open each year from the first week of January through to January 31. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown indicated that current members who wish to remain on the subcommittee or wish to leave the subcommittee need only send her an email indicating their intent. Ms. Brown further indicated that new members will be announced on February 27 in preparation for the first Coalition meeting of 2023.

No further discussion on this item.

9. For Information Only: 2023 Meeting Dates- Dr. Cindy Pitlock

- March 21, 2023 from 10am-12pm (or until adjourned)

Chair Pitlock noted that the March meeting will likely align with the legislative session and as such, should a meeting date fall during one of the relevant committee meetings at which members would need to be present, the CSEC meeting date could be changed.

- June 20, 2023 from 10am-12pm (or until adjourned)
- September 19, 2023 from 10am-12pm (or until adjourned)
- December 19, 2023 from 10am-12pm (or until adjourned)

No further discussion on this item.

10. For Discussion and Possible Action: Future Agenda Items- Dr. Cindy Pitlock

Cara Paoli asked if UNLV could provide an update regarding data collection.

Dr. Alexis Kennedy, UNLV, provided an update regarding the data collection, noting that the first set came from DCFS and included Clark County, Washoe, and the rural DCFS. Dr. Kennedy noted that she is hoping to get another data pull at the end of the year in order to have a complete 2022 picture from the DCFS data. Dr. Kennedy indicated that among the kids screened in Clark County, some were referred back to other places depending on where these kids were actually from. Dr. Kennedy concluded her report by noting that approximately 2 percent of the girls screened are trafficking victims, whereas only 0.1 percent of the boys screened are trafficking victims.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown informed the members if they are an agency that did not receive the MOU sample put together by DCFS, to contact Ms. Brown directly who can then provide that sample. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown further indicated that anyone wanting to use the same verbiage that DCFS utilized to also let her know directly.

Chair Pitlock suggested discussion of whether the new stadium played in by the Raiders is partnering in any way for a response to or prevention of human trafficking giving that this is bringing thousands of people into the area.

Sergeant Greg Flores noted that the NFL has a penalty campaign going in which they are donating money and resources and building billboards around trafficking. Sergeant Flores indicated that there may be other things being done of which he is not aware. Sergeant Flores conceded that whenever more people come in from outside the state, it does absolutely increase the number of crimes being committed.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown suggested adding the subcommittees and updates from the subcommittees to the agenda.

Chair Pitlock suggested adding a legislative update.

There were no additional suggestions.

11. Final Public Comment and Discussion (*Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for a later meeting*)- Dr. Cindy Pitlock

Esther Rodriguez-Brown noted that there are many events happening in January for Human Trafficking month, and noted any organizations present that would like to share the information can do so or, alternatively, send the information to Ms. Brown, who will then share the information with the group.

There was no additional public comment.

12. Adjournment- Dr. Cindy Pitlock

Chair Pitlock adjourned the December 20, 2022 meeting of the CSEC Coalition.