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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
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Cindy Pitlock, DNP
Interim
Administrator

NEVADA COALITION TO PREVENT THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, December 21, 2021

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

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

TELECONFERENCE: 1-775-321-6111 CONFERENCE ID: 760 892 97#

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- *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.*

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Establish Quorum- Dr. Pitlock

Dr. Pitlock called the meeting to order.

Roll call was taken and quorum was established.

Members Present: Cindy Pitlock, Esther Brown, Vickie Ives in for Eileen Hough, Brigid Duffy, Sara Stephan in for Janice Wolf, Melissa Holland, Jessica Halling, Cara Paoli, Domonique Rice, Nicole E. Reilly, Eboni Washington

Members Absent: Nancy Saitta, Brennan Patterson, Pauline Salla, Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Abigail Frierson

Support: Esther Rodriguez-Brown, Jessica Freeman, Lorena Bojorquez

Guests: Heather Bugg, Sergeant Flores, Andre Wade, Tonya Turner, Noel Robertson

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. Pitlock**

There was no public comment

3. For Possible Action: Review and Approval of September 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes- Dr. Pitlock

Dr. Pitlock opened the floor to discussion or revisions of the September 21, 2021 meeting minutes.

Action: A motion was made by Brigid Duffy to approve the September 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes, Jessica Halling seconded the motion. No objections. Motion carries.

No further discussion on this item.

4. For Discussion Only: State Budgeting Process Overview for 2022 Fiscal Asks- Heather Bugg

Heather Bugg, DCFS, provided the Coalition with a brief overview to describe Nevada's process in implementing their budgets. Ms. Bugg began her presentation with a discussion of the process Nevada uses for budget requests. Unlike many other states, Nevada is one of four states that does not do an annual budget but rather a biennial budget with a biennial legislative session. As such, the work is beginning now regarding budget implementation for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. Ms. Bugg explained that the state agency budgets are statutorily required to be submitted on September 1 of even-numbered years following which the Budget Division evaluates the agency request budget prepared by each agency. During this process, the budget then becomes the governor's recommended budget. Ms. Bugg indicated that this phase of the process is confidential and is not shared outside the executive branch until the governor's State of the State Address in January, at which time the budget is formally submitted to the legislature approximately two priors to the start of the legislative session. On the first Monday in February, the legislative session begins a 120-day review and approval of the state budget. Ms. Bugg explained that in June of the odd-numbered year, the final legislatively approved budget is transmitted back to the Budget Division for implementation and agency management. Because agency requests are beginning now, Ms. Bugg informed the Coalition that her division has begun working on ideas and initiatives. Although the planning process has begun, implementation and building of the budget continues through to September, during which time the division is also going through and managing the current budget.

Heather Bugg informed the Coalition that DCFS also has many different revenue sources in a general fund to fund the budget, which comes from the Chief Operating Fund that is comprised of taxes, fees, and other sources collected by the state. This Chief Operating Fund is limited to the economic forum projections given in December and at one other time during the session to ensure the correctness of projections. Ms. Bugg indicated that the Highway Fund, which includes revenues from fuel sales and motor vehicle licensing, funds the highway and infrastructure-related items such the DMV and DOT. Additional funds are obtained from monies from things including licenses, fees, federal and private grants, and court assessments. Ms. Bugg explained that occasionally there will be a balance forward, which is funds that have been held in accounts that can then be balanced forward and used to implement programs. In addition, Ms. Bugg indicated federal funding that comes directly from the federal

government to support programs and special uses; these funds, Ms. Bugg explained, may have restrictions on their usage

Heather Bugg informed the Coalition that the focus now is to have ready the budget that is due to the DHHS Director's Office. Anything that the agencies are currently planning to roll up for approval is in the process of conceptualization and will be based on the approval from the Director's office to move forward with those proposals. Ms. Bugg explained that in January and March, the fiscal departments in DCFS will start to estimate the costs of those concepts and then after financial information is given in mid-April, the Director's office will approve or deny enhancement requests based on priority levels and goals. As such, Ms. Bugg indicated that the fiscal units work diligently in the period between March and August to prepare the decision units in order to submit the budget as a whole by the September 1 deadline. Ms. Bugg reiterated that the budgets are reviewed by the Governor's Office of Finance between October and December and that they then question agencies to try and resolve and adjust any issues in the creation of the governor's recommended budget.

Heather Bugg discussed the impact of caseloads on budgets, which are used to adjust the budget amount for services and subsidies for a specific population. The projections need to be approved by the legislature. Ms. Bugg indicated that currently DCFS has caseloads for: adoption subsidy; non-reoccurring adoption subsidy; family foster care; specialized foster care; advanced foster care in court jurisdictions; and kinship guardianship. Ms. Bugg explained that if any more caseloads were to be added through this process, approval would be needed prior to adding them to the budget. Ms. Bugg informed the Coalition that the way they work is to look at what the caseload is projected to be in the biennium and then adjust the subsidies or services based on that caseload.

Heather Bugg explained the potential budgetary impact of a bill draft request, which is a written submission to the Legislative Council Bureau proposing or modifying law changes. Ms. Bugg indicated that a request for a budget draft request can come from a legislator, the governor, the judicial branch, a local government, a school district, an association of cities or counties, or the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum. Ms. Bugg explained that the agency deadline for submittal of non-budgetary bill draft requests to the Governor's Finance Office is April after which, between May and December, the governor's office will approve or deny those non-budgetary agency budget draft requests. September 1, Ms. Bugg explained, is the agency deadline for submittal of budgetary BDRs to the Governor's Finance Office. They will then be tied to a budget and must have in-depth justification for implementation of the governor's recommended budget.

Esther Brown requested that Heather Bugg forward the PowerPoint presented to the Coalition to Lorena Bojorquez for distribution to CSEC members.

Cindy Pitlock reiterated the importance of the timelines in championing a bill draft request through a legislator or stakeholder.

No further discussion on this item.

5. For Discussion and Possible Action: UNITAS-Training Curriculum Overview- Tonya Turner

Esther Rodriguez-Brown explained that she had met with Tonya Turner regarding her curriculum for possible recommendation to Clark County School District and invited her to speak to the Coalition about this curriculum.

Tonya Turner, UNITAS, discussed her LIGHTS curriculum, which was created approximately two years earlier with the purpose of prevention. Ms. Turner explained that the LIGHTS program is narrative based and comprised of 10 interwoven narratives based on the experiences of youth who have been trafficked. Ms. Turner further explained that the narratives and complex information are then unpacked in order for youth to have a comprehensive understanding of trafficking. Ms. Turner indicated that the 45-minute program was designed to educate youth between the ages of 11 and 18 and that the curriculum fits within the curriculums of school-based systems. Ms. Turner further explained that in some schools where sessions are longer, the program can be adjusted to run for a longer time. The program consists of three prerequisites that cover the basics of sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and sextortion and is then followed by seven additional sessions.

Tonya Turner discussed the settings for the program, which includes schools, youth services, community groups, and churches and indicated that the primary setting at this time is school. Ms. Turner discussed the importance of removing the footprint of the teacher in order to create an inclusive environment for youth. The program begins with the reading of a story, followed by a breakdown discussion that allows for interaction between the youth and the facilitator. Ms. Turner explained that the facilitator is receiving the information from the youth and then interacting with them rather than providing information. Following the breakdown discussion are activities that provide team opportunities for the youth to unpack the complex information about trafficking.

Tonya Turner explained that the team is comprised of top experts around the country, including herself. Ms. Turner explained that she began her work as a member of GEMS, (Girls Educational and Mentoring), the director of which is one of the cofounders of Love146. Ms. Turner indicated that there is a member of the team who helps with the clinical aspect and ensures that the trauma points in the curriculum are not extreme. Ms. Turner discussed other members of the team, which includes a recognized therapist for males, an arts specialist, and the founder of FAIR Girls in Washington D.C.

Tonya Turner provided the Coalition with an overview of the program, reiterating that the first three sections of the program are prerequisites focusing on sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and sextortion. Ms. Turner further indicated that the program focuses on familial trafficking, as well, an issue that is becoming even more prevalent in some parts of the country following COVID. Ms. Turner explained that this program is the only curriculum in the country that also deals with pimp deterrence. Ms. Turner further indicated that the LGBTQ aspect, a community often overlooked, is included in this curriculum, as well as the immigrant aspects of sex trafficking and domestic trafficking.

Tonya Turner informed the Coalition that this curriculum speaks through the lens of survivors and is an accurate representation of the dangers faced by youth. Ms. Turner further indicated that there is a narrative currently in the works for this curriculum that addresses indigenous communities, something prevalent specifically to the state of Nevada.

Cindy Pitlock asked if this is an opt-in or opt-out model in schools.

Tonya Turner explained that this is dependent upon the school system. However, Ms. Turner indicated that the program provides the youth themselves the option to opt out and opt back in should they choose to do so. Ms. Turner explained that because this program is for the purposes of being trauma informed, an area of the room or school becomes a dedicated location where a social worker or other trusted adult remains to speak with any youth who opt out due to discomfort or triggering.

Cindy Pitlock asked about the parental consent for participation in this model.

Tonya Turner explained that most schools send out a one-sheeter created specifically for the LIGHTS program that explains the curriculum to be reviewed. Parents are given the option to opt their children out of the program. Ms. Turner indicated that this has never been an issue or a challenge.

Domonique Rice indicated her belief that this curriculum is very much needed not only in school systems but in juvenile justice particularly because it captures the dangers of human trafficking and the pimp deterrence factor, which is often seen in juvenile justice with male youth. Ms. Rice explained that this is the only curriculum she has found thus far that addresses this particular issue. Ms. Rice further commended the practices of having a specialist onsite during the curriculum to work with any youth needing it. Ms. Rice concluded her statement by indicating that she personally knows of many counterparts in other states who would find this curriculum useful.

Tonya Turner informed the Coalition that there are pre and post evaluations, the first of which takes place after the first portion of the curriculum, and the second after the curriculum is concluded. Ms. Turner further indicated that not all 11 modules need to be completed and the option of electives exists in order to create a package that best fits the needs of its recipients. Ms. Turner further indicated the importance of a facilitator who is able to show confidence in the presentation in order to draw youth into discussion that is free enough to include potential disclosures. Ms. Turner informed the Coalition that at each session done in the DC school systems, there have been disclosures and that to address situations such as this, people working with the youth are mandated to train to become facilitators. In addition, the program mandates that schools put in place a protocol for post-care for disclosures.

Esther Brown expressed her appreciation for the curriculum and indicated that she has been unable to find this comprehensive a curriculum anywhere else. Ms. Brown further indicated that members of the school district were invited to attend the meeting and requested that any in attendance feel free to ask questions of Ms. Turner.

Jessica Halling explained that as a survivor herself, she too has done significant research in programs similar to LIGHTS and has been unable to find anything as comprehensive or as helpful in terms of protocols put in place for disclosures.

Action: A motion was made by Jessica Halling to approve the recommendation from the CSEC Coalition for the Clark County School District, Washoe County School District, and the juvenile justice system across the state as well as the Department of Family Services, Domonique Rice seconded the motion. No objections. Motion carries.

No further discussion on this item.

6. For Information Only: Shared Hope International 2021 Report Card on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking- Esther Rodriguez-Brown

Esther Rodriguez-Brown explained that a report card was received from the members of the Coalition for Nevada through Shared Hope International delineating the continuum of care and available victim services. Ms. Brown indicated that CSEC had received an F on this report card with strong emphases on the lack of continuum of care, and the lack of accountability upon buyers and criminalization. Ms. Brown explained that she has an appointment on the books with Sarah Bendtsen from Shared Hope International for the first week of January to discuss the report card. Ms. Brown further indicated that some of the recommendations have come in regarding things like the decriminalization of minors effective 2023. Ms. Brown explained her belief that there are other recommendations in need of discussion.

Brigid Duffy explained that she had reviewed the report card and indicated her belief that there may be some confusion in that the individuals from Shared Hope may not fully understand the purpose of 432C. Ms. Duffy further indicated the request to add sex trafficking as a form of child abuse and neglect into 432B and explained that in Nevada, that has specifically been its own statutory section so as not to confuse it with parents and other persons legally responsible for a child. Ms. Duffy explained that 432C does, however, have the ability to report into 432B. For this reason, Ms. Duffy believes that there may be a lack of understanding behind the purpose of separation of those two statutes.

Brigid Duffy indicated her belief that Nevada has attempted to do some thing but was unsuccessful in past legislative sessions, citing the defense to some violent felonies committed as a result of trafficking victimization as an example of this. Ms. Duffy expressed her belief of the need for clarification and discussion regarding the purpose of 432C. Ms. Duffy further indicated the importance of the extension of foster care services, explaining that this is currently in process along with other things. Ms. Duffy indicated her hope that the Coalition will move forward to legislatively mandate the MDT.

Melissa Holland asked Ms. Duffy to discuss the affirmative-defense hurdle.

Brigid Duffy explained her belief that the rhetoric was very broad regarding a victim of sex trafficking or commercial exploitation committing a homicide and then using their victimization as an affirmative defense with the rhetoric then being that the trafficker could then use the person to commit these homicides because of the affirmative defense. Ms. Duffy further indicated that the opposition to this piece was that it was not tight enough to preclude that type of offense and continues the trauma of that victim. Ms. Duffy pulled up policy goal 2.8 to present to the Coalition, which is specific to violent felonies committed as a result of their trafficking victimization.

No further discussion on this item.

7. For Information Only: Decriminalization: Review of differences between Full, Partial and Legalization- Esther Rodriguez-Brown

Esther Rodriguez-Brown prefaced her presentation by informing the Coalition that CSEC is not endorsing legalization or decriminalization in any way and reiterated that this item is informational only. Ms. Brown indicated that there is a movement around the country on the legalization of prostitution. Ms. Brown informed the Coalition that information provided by Elynne Greene explaining the difference between legalization and criminalization had been provided to all members. In addition, Ms. Brown discussed the Equality Model, which most survivors and advocates support. Ms. Brown explained that there is a broad consensus in gender justice and human rights communities across the country indicating that those who have been prostituted or trafficked should not be criminalized and agreement that those who are doing the selling and trafficking are the ones who should be held accountable. Ms. Brown informed the members that she has been attending different webinars and the last one she attended in Oregon involved a lot of push to pass legislation on legalization of buyers of sex and sex-worker agencies. As such, Ms. Brown raised the question of the potential impact for children and young adults if legalization moves forward in the state, positing that the cost will be high as a result of high demand that in turn will spur high recruitment. Ms. Brown further indicated that any groups or agencies, nonprofit or government, in support of partial or full legalization will be unable to receive victim-services centered grants from federal funding.

Melissa Holland informed the Coalition that she has been engaged in this conversation over legalization for more than 10 years and indicated the necessity of understanding that this is an issue that will reach to communities and children. Ms. Holland offered her that legalizing prostitution is, in a sense, grooming a state, and idea that has become clear to her through her work with victims and survivors. Ms. Holland explained that she has heard from multiple survivors that traffickers come to Nevada to recruit children as the laws have done much of the work for them given the state's desensitization to the purchase of sex, in turn creating a sex-tourism state. Ms. Holland informed the Coalition that the most recent data shows Nevada as the number one online sex trade state nationwide at 63 percent higher than the next highest state. As such, Nevada is in the top 10 for potential youth trafficking nationwide. Ms. Holland indicated her understanding that the Coalition intends not to take a position but she nonetheless is hopeful that the Coalition can find a way to take a position on the harms of legalization and full decriminalization as well as to promote the Equality Model.

No further discussion on this item.

8. For Discussion Only: CSEC Subcommittee Updates- Esther Rodriguez-Brown

- Local Task Force

Esther Rodriguez-Brown explained that this subcommittee reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for recommendation to the desired local task forces around the state. Ms. Brown explained that she had met with members of coalitions already in place in Nevada and indicated the interest in implementing the local task forces as a part of their coalitions. Ms. Brown indicated that the recommended MOU will be finalized in the next meeting of the subcommittee and then presented to the full Coalition for approval prior going to the statewide coalition. Ms. Brown further indicated the interest in training and involvement and explained the importance of creating the local task forces in the MOU given that many groups are in rural areas.

- External Engagement

Esther Rodriguez-Brown informed the Coalition that this subcommittee has been working on the Nevada Rapid Identification Tool (NRIT) update. Ms. Brown indicated that NRIT is the screening tool being used in child welfare. Ms. Brown explained that up to now, the tool has been focused primarily on female survivors and as such, the subcommittee felt it prudent to update the tool to more inclusive of male and LGBTQ+ survivors and victims. Ms. Brown indicated that Andre Wade from Silver State Equality provided good feedback on questions that should likely be included in the screening tool. Ms. Brown informed the Coalition that once finalized, the subcommittee will bring the NRIT back to the CSEC Coalition for final approval prior to dissemination.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown discussed the conversations that took place in the subcommittee regarding creating more specific and clear information in Nevada 211 to help those looking for resources find them more easily.

- Funding, Data and Sustainability

Esther Rodriguez-Brown explained that this subcommittee focuses primarily on the statewide database given that there is not currently one in existence. Ms. Brown informed the Coalition that the subcommittee had a conversation with UNLV's Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), which was part of the strategic call from the prior Coalition. Ms. Brown explained that the conversation is going well and indicated her belief that the contract will be signed fairly soon given that UNLV already has a contract with the state. Therefore, Ms. Brown explained, it is just a matter of finalizing some details in order to implement the statewide database. Ms. Brown informed the Coalition that the subcommittee had also met with HMIS (Homeless Management Information System), the system already in place for homelessness in the state of Nevada. Ms. Brown indicated that at this time, the subcommittee intends to focus first on the SAC and then will likely transition to the other system in the future.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown concluded her presentation by reminding the Coalition that the subcommittees are created to achieve certain goals. As such, Ms. Brown explained that the current subcommittees will be recreated to focus on legislation and updating the strategic calls recommended during the last Coalition.

No further discussion on this item.

9. For Discussion Only: Legislation Recommendations and Potential Legislative Impacts on CSEC- Esther Rodriguez-Brown

Esther Rodriguez-Brown explained that as the state moves towards the legislation of 2023, discussion has taken place among the different subcommittees about the different things that need to be regulated. Ms. Brown indicated that MDTs need to be regulated through legislation. Other topics that have arisen is how to create more accountability around the sex buy-in in Clark and Washoe Counties, where prostitution is not legal. Ms. Brown reiterated the fact that the children of Nevada are the primary goal

for the CSEC Coalition and as such, the Coalition does its best to serve as a catalyst to create change in the state and to bring legislation that will protect Nevada's children and young adults.

Brigid Duffy informed the Coalition of her belief that strides can be made around true safe harbor laws that do not currently exist in the state. Ms. Duffy further indicated that every statutory change needs to be supported by foundation in the community; otherwise, Ms. Duffy explained, the statute itself is meaningless and could potentially do more harm than good. Ms. Duffy indicated her personal intent to take bold steps legislatively to stop the criminalization of minor victims of sex trafficking and explained that some basic things can be done to move this forward. Ms. Duffy further indicated her willingness to join that subcommittee if invited to do so.

Melissa Holland concurred with Brigid Duffy's assertion that some very important steps need to be taken to ensure that legislation around ensuring that victims are not criminalized is done well and does not cause additional harm. In addition, Ms. Holland indicated the importance of caring for survivors as well as ensuring that laymen and not just those in the movement understand the importance of laws given that this is an act of violence against women and children, something that the law does not currently indicate. Ms. Holland opined that if law enforcement is not empowered to reduce this criminalization, more harm could be caused.

Jessica Halling concurred with Melissa Holland's comments. Ms. Halling indicated that she had attended a meeting at one point where it was opined that this change would be difficult due to the fiscal side of things. Ms. Halling further indicated that should the Coalition choose to pursue this, she would be very much willing to use her survivor voice for going after the demand.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown indicated that the Coalition would give opportunity to anyone interested in bringing ideas for legislation to be a part of the subcommittee. Ms. Brown explained that the application would be available for anyone wanting to participate.

Melissa Holland indicated the importance of ending legalization of prostitution in the state, as well.

No further discussion on this item.

10. For Possible Action: Future Agenda Items

Cindy Pitlock asked the members for their suggestions for future agenda items.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown proposed a special meeting for January 25th in order to review membership bylaws and to review an application process by which anybody could apply for CSEC Coalition membership in order to increase its diversity for representation of a wider array of citizens in the state of Nevada.

Domonique Rice indicated she would be unavailable on January 25.

Melissa Holland indicated she would be unavailable on January 25.

Cara Paoli indicated she would be unavailable on January 25.

Coalition members agreed to have Esther Rodriguez-Brown send alternative dates in order to find a date for the meeting that would work best for all involved.

No further discussion on this item.

11. For Information Only: Next Meeting: 2022 Meeting Dates and Times

- March 15, 2022 from 10am-12pm (or until adjourned)
- June 21, 2022 from 10am-12pm (or until adjourned)
- September 20, 2022 from 10am-12pm (or until adjourned)
- December 20, 2022 from 10am-12pm (or until adjourned)

Esther Rodriguez-Brown informed the members of the 2022 meeting dates adding that a meeting invite would be sent out shortly.

No further discussion on this item.

12. 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)*

Lieutenant Noel Roberts, Metro VICE, asked the Coalition what criteria was used to determine buyer accountability on the report card.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown explained that she did not have an answer at this time, but would be meeting with one of the representatives from Shared Hope International in January and would ask that question of them at that time.

Melissa Holland indicated that she also did not know the criteria used by Shared Hope International and explained that a national study had been done with men who purchase sex, who indicated two things would be major deterrents for them reoffending: the perception of getting caught, and actually getting caught. Ms. Holland further indicated that these men indicated that increased penalties would deter them, as well. Ms. Holland explained that the survey showed that 20 percent of men in the country have purchased sex at least one time in their lives, and of that 20 percent, six percent are considered repeat buyers. As such, Ms. Holland indicated that the 6 percent is actually the population that CSEC is targeting in order to stop repeat offending. Ms. Holland reiterated the importance of equipping law enforcement enough to make this a known priority at the state level as well as ensuring that the law backs it.

Nicole Reilly explained that one of the things taken into consideration when giving a grade is the penalties and consequences. Ms. Reilly further explained that if the consequences and penalties in the

state have enough teeth to give law enforcement agencies sufficient resources from those penalties, more operations can be funded. Ms. Reilly explained that this is the way Seattle, Washington and Cook County, Illinois function, indicating that buyers have to pay to such a high degree that law enforcement is able to put 50 percent of the fees towards funding law enforcement operations in the agency and 50 percent of the fees to victim services in the jurisdiction.

Lieutenant Noel Roberts indicated that law enforcement in the state will be dissecting their statistics in greater depth. Lieutenant Roberts explained that everything is in place to do so and that one of the stats that will be studied is buyer arrests and informed the Coalition that a first-offense misdemeanor crime outside of DV or DUI results in citation and opined that legislation allowing arrest rather than citation would be more effective and more easily enforced by law enforcement.

Melissa Holland informed the Coalition of her desire to see prosecution of sex purchasers for sexual assault and rape given that money is the power differential and creates an unequal playing field wherein the buyer has more power, privilege, and resources.

Jessica Halling asked Lieutenant Roberts for clarification regarding citation of the buyers and arrest of the victims.

Lieutenant Noel Roberts explained that the new law states that for any first-time misdemeanor arrest outside of DV or DUI, a citation must be written. Lieutenant Roberts further explained that when juveniles are involved, this is actually a felony crime that results in prosecution. Lieutenant Roberts informed the Coalition that victims with multiple priors can be arrested, but first-time victim offenders are written a citation. Lieutenant Roberts stated that this is standard operating since the change in the law.

Sergeant Flores informed the Coalition that the police departments also think this is ridiculous but are unable to deviate from current law.

Detective Leedy, Reno Police, indicated that Reno is not taking any enforcement action upon victims and is instead offering resources in the field for recovery. Detective Leedy further explained that Reno is experiencing the same problematic issues described by Lieutenant Roberts and Sergeant Flores regarding misdemeanor citation in lieu of arrest and reiterated the fact that law enforcement's hands are tied by current law. Detective Leedy informed the Coalition that Reno Law Enforcement has been working with Nicole Reilly regarding response to this law in hopes of changing the legislation. In addition, Detective Leedy indicated that law enforcement is working with District Attorney Darcy Cameron regarding approaching purchasers of sex differently and informed the Coalition that Ms. Cameron is charging purchasers of children who have more than one offense with sex trafficking. Detective Leedy explained that northern Nevada is experiencing a bottleneck of cases because there is not sufficient DA staffing to handle all the cases. As such, Detective Leedy asked the Coalition for recommendations on grants that could create additional DA spots. In addition, Detective Leedy asked if any discussion had taken place regarding mandatory education for judges, many of whom, Detective Leedy indicated, are unaware of the laws and investigations and as such, make their decisions based on outdated legal standards.

Cindy Pitlock questioned if application for ARPA funding could possibly bridge that gap.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown informed the Coalition that education of judges is something that CSEC has been trying to implement for years and recommended in the SB293 report. As such, Ms. Brown indicated that the law enforcement in attendance would also receive invitations to participate in the legislative subcommittee in order to include those who are on the front lines and see the needs firsthand.

Melissa Holland informed the Committee there is currently a grant under NOVO with a youth advisory board that is vetting all training materials specific to CSEC Courts, as well as training for the judges. Ms. Holland indicated that there is an existing training curriculum for judges specifically working with CSEC cases.

No further discussion on this item.

13. Adjournment

Action: A motion was made by Domonique Rice to adjourn the December 12, 2021 Meeting, Eboni Washington seconded the motion. No objections. Motion carries.