



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
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PUBLIC NOTICE

NEVADA COALITION TO PREVENT THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, June 28, 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/2021MeetingsAndAgendas/>

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- Esther Rodriguez-Brown

Esther Brown called the meeting to order, indicated that because Dr. Pitlock had an emergency, she would be running the meeting in her stead, and Sharon Anderson would be the proxy for Dr. Pitlock.

Members Present: Esther Brown, Sharon Anderson, Ali Banister, Nicole Reilly, Janice Wolf, Brennan Paterson, Jessica Halling, Cara Paoli, Kelly-Jo Shebeck, Sergeant Flores, Pauline Salla-Smith, Andrea Davis, Laurie Jackson, Eboni Washington, Andre Wade, Tiffany Tyler, Ashley Martinez, Abigail Frierson, Fran Maldonado, DaShun Jackson, Makaya Swain

Members Absent: Brigid Duffy, Michael Barton

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)*

There was no public comment.

3. For Possible Action: Review and Approval of March 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes- Esther Rodriguez-Brown

Esther Brown opened the floor to discussion or corrections of the minutes.

Action: A motion was made by Ali Banister to approve the March 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes, Cara Paoli seconded the motion. No objections. Motion carries.

No further discussion on this item.

4. For Possible Action: Polaris Project Presentation- Robert Beiser

Esther Rodriguez-Brown introduced Polaris Projects, indicating that they are doing some different projects around the county and are interested in seeing how they can collaborate with Nevada.

Robert Beiser, Director of Strategic Initiative on Sex Trafficking at Polaris, explained that since 2007, Polaris has operated the US National Human Trafficking hotline and has a referral network of around 2,500 different service providers and organizations as well as referring to over 300 different law-enforcement bodies. Mr. Beiser indicated that after multiple years, Polaris realized that the groups having the most impact on creating greater safety for those at risk of trafficking were actually working on the city and county level and that while state and federal laws could do a tremendous amount to level the playing fields across the country, implementation was unequal. As such, Polaris began reaching out to survivor leaders around the country to ask what type of approaches they felt would be useful. Mr. Beiser indicated that the overwhelming response was to work with the cities and counties on practices to keep people safer. Mr. Beiser informed the Coalition that over the next eight years, Polaris hopes to engage with an additional 20 cities around the country to have those cities learn from one another about approaches being used that are seen as effective. In addition, Mr. Beiser indicated that Polaris will be reaching out to a number of cities to see if there are possible solutions to some of the challenges seen in other cities in order to address these issues.

Ali Banister asked if this is information that he would be willing to present during a quick staff meeting to all probation officers in order to provide them with the information.

Robert Beiser indicated that Polaris would be happy to do so and requested that members reach out to him via email to connect directly.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown informed the Coalition that she would share the email with every member and asked if in the work with other states, these other states share their biggest challenges in terms of residential for CSEC.

Robert Beiser explained that most of the work done by Polaris is actually with systems of care that

would see youth prior to their entering a CSEC support situation. Mr. Beiser informed the Coalition that although this has not be a real focus of his company's work, he would be happy to share the connections with people operating CSEC residential services in all of the states served.

5. For Information Only: Courage Worldwide - Jenny Williamson

Esther Rodriguez-Brown introduced Jenny Williamson as the founder of Courage Worldwide.

Jenny Williamson informed the Coalition that Courage Worldwide began as a level-12 group home in northern California, a home that was operated until 2017 when California changed its licensing and no longer had long-term group care. MS. Williamson indicated that the organization was CSEC only, which for many reasons was a struggle due to the different needs of the CSEC population versus just a child in the foster-care system. Ms. Williamson indicated that when California went to STRTP, Courage Worldwide opted not to go that route as its mental-health professionals and documented success generally did not see the results for pure stabilization until a 12-18 month situation and as such, Courage Worldwide opted to transition its home to an over-18 instead. Ms. Williamson next discussed the operation in Tanzania, which offers beds for 60 children, 3 beds for over-18, and the Courage Café for job opportunities and skills. Ms. Williamson indicated that Courage Worldwide's offices moved to Reno the previous year.

Jenny Williamson discussed the zero-to-three-month timeframe after which minors are placed as a stressful time, which is also extremely disruptive and a high-anxiety time for all involved. Ms. Williamson indicated that stabilization began to happen in the three-to-six month timeframe. As such, the clinical director, Dr. Benjamin Keyes, started working toward a trauma assessment center that would place the youth in a place of stabilization, a place of assessment, and intensive case management. Ms. Williamson explained that because the licensing did not exist in California at the time, the trauma assessment center never reached accomplishment.

Jenny Williamson informed the Coalition that Courage Worldwide is very interested in partnering with CSEC, particularly to potentially fill any gaps. Ms. Williamson reiterated the importance of a receiving center as well as long-term placement for kids who do not have a safe home. Ms. Williamson explained that Courage Worldwide has a federal grant deadline of today and all staff are currently working on submitting the federal grant that would allow time over the next 36 months to apply for a license for a Courage House in Nevada as well as to be a part of the CSEC Coalition and open a receiving center in Nevada.

Pauline Salla-Smith thanked Ms. Williamson for her presentation and asked how one's stay at the Courage House is paid.

Jenny Williamson indicated that it was paid through the foster-care system and for private placements, through organization fund raisers. Ms. Williamson further indicated that going forward, the hope is for these homes to be CARF or JCAHO certified, which would additionally open up funding from Medicaid and potentially build up some insurance.

Elynn Greene asked with the upcoming legislative session, if there is something the group needs to look at in terms of Medicaid and how it funds the care of children that are not diagnosed with a mental-health or physical disability so that those funds can be used for housing.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown explained that this is in discussions but that nothing formal has yet been put

together for legislation.

Greg Flores asked about the type of facility intended for the receiving center in Reno.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown explained that this is still in the conversation phase and no location has yet been specified.

Cara Paoli reiterated that no location has yet been designated, nor has a contractor yet been identified, so the discussion of this center is still in its beginning stages.

Jenny Williamson reiterated that the project is still in its early stages and that the hope is to get the federal grant that will allow the time needed to bring in mental-health professionals , to write the program, and put everything in place in order to open the facility.

6. For Possible Action: Adoption of Bylaws

- Review of amendment regarding assigning proxies
Esther Rodriguez-Brown reminded the Coalition that the last meeting included discussion about proxies. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown indicated that she would read this into the record prior to a motion and a vote. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown read the following into the record: "The point is 4.2. A voting member may designate a proxy for the same membership category for any meeting. Advanced notice must be given in writing to the Chair and/or administrative staff for this Coalition. Electronic mail is acceptable. Proxies may not represent coalition voting members for more than 50 percent of meetings held within a calendar year. Proxies may vote on behalf of the coalition member they represent. Those members who are part of the Coalition because of their life experiences regarding trafficking and exploitation can designate a proxy, another person who also has life experience background even though the situation and circumstances differ from the voting member's personal experience. If this is not possible, it is the member's responsibility to let the coordinator know at least two weeks in advance, that neither the member nor proxies will be in attendance."

Action: A motion was made by Pauline Salla-Smith to approve the changes in the bylaws under proxy, Eboni Washington seconded the motion. No objections. Motion carries.

7. For Information Only: Provide updates on outstanding tasks from 2021 CSEC Subcommittees:

- Nevada 211
Esther Rodriguez-Brown indicated that the subcommittee agreed and came up with a plan to update the Nevada 211 website with a link. Currently, when going to Nevada 211, nothing is specific to human trafficking. As such, the subcommittee approved a header with human trafficking with a link that leads to different resources for youth, parents, and providers. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown further indicated that Nevada 211 is expanding, already has a contract with the state, and funding allocated to be able to update the website. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown explained that when that happens, the link will be distributed to all members of the Coalition.
- Statewide CSEC Database
Esther Rodriguez-Brown explained that the state entered into a contract with the Statistic

Analysis Center (SAC) from UNLV, and will be collecting information and running the data. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown explained that because this is an agreement between the state and UNLV, the legality behind sharing information and private data regarding children will be completely safe. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown explained that this is already in place and information will be disseminated soon and as such, any nonprofits or agencies interested in being part of the database should email Ms. Rodriguez-Brown, who would then put the interested parties in touch with Dr. Kennedy at UNLV and also send the template the state is using for the agreement to share information with UNLV.

8. For Discussion and Possible Action: 2022 CSEC Subcommittees

- **Legislative Subcommittee Co-Chair Introductions and Update**
Sara Stephan explained that the subcommittee voted and approved the shell of a proposed statute to create MDTs. Ms. Stephan explained that the first one is for the juvenile justice system with recommended language basically a compilation of the statutes already in NRS for MDTs around child welfare and domestic violence cases. Ms. Stephan indicated that the language states who needs the MDT training, explaining that the proposed statute includes those needing training as juvenile justice, the child welfare agency, and also the education community. Ms. Stephan next indicated that there was significant discussion regarding the validated risk assessment tool to be used, as well as how often the training should take place. Ms. Stephan next addressed the receiving center's ability to be a locked facility in certain circumstances and the kind of language needed with the potential of possibly mirroring language following the mental-health hold. Ms. Stephan further indicated the importance of ensuring that due-process procedures protect children's rights. In addition, Ms. Stephan explained that conversations are continuing regarding increasing buyer penalties and record sealing. Ms. Stephan indicated that there did not appear to be much issue with the record sealing of the victims and that the subcommittee is obviously wanting something harsher and potentially un-sealable for buyers and traffickers.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown reminded the Coalition of the language for the training and provided an update on the school district, indicating that the Coalition met with some of the leadership in the school district regarding UNITAS and the LIGHTS curriculum, but nothing appears to be moving forward on that front at this time. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown next discussed the MDTs and their legislation, including accountability regarding confidentiality for anybody who comes in on the MDT and presents information. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown discussed the buyer penalties as well as youth who need lower or higher levels of care or placement and how these youth can receive the needed services or placement.

Pauline Salla-Smith indicated that juvenile justice has had a lot of new training that has been implemented in the last session and that a lot of the jurisdictions use PoliceOne for this training. As such, Ms. Salla-Smith suggested that CSEC work with PoliceOne so that training is not duplicated. In addition, Ms. Salla-Smith explained that there is some training that has been placed at the approval of DCFS, but some of the training submitted by CSEC has not been approved yet and as such, requested that CSEC do some work on the forefront to streamline this as it is intended to go into statute. Ms. Salla-Smith asked if each department of juvenile justice services will be implementing a validated risk assessment tool like the NRIT, and indicated that most juvenile justice agencies throughout the state use Tyler Enterprise and raised the concern that if this goes through legislation without the state implementing it in the system, each jurisdiction could then be responsible for the cost of including and attaching it into its case

management system for juvenile services. As such, Ms. Salla-Smith suggested discussion regarding who will pay for this given that the local jurisdictions do not have the cost in their budgets.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown indicated that these concerns will be noted and passed onto the legislative subcommittee. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown informed the Coalition that all members are welcome to join the legislative subcommittee and provide input. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown encouraged members who are not able to join the subcommittee to contact her directly via email with concerns and recommendations that can then be brought forward to the subcommittee.

- **Strategic Planning Subcommittee Co-Chair Introductions and Update**

Esther Rodriguez-Brown informed the Coalition of the work on the NRIT, the screening tool approved by the CSEC Coalition. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown explained that some changes were made based on input and feedback from other members of the Coalition, the community, and the strategic subcommittee, including the addition of demographic information. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown indicated that this is not self-disclosure, nor it is an interview, and that all information taken from the NRIT should be taken from the police report or another file and not from interviews with the child unless the questions could not be answered or found in the file. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown next indicated that the subcommittee received excellent feedback from Detective Robert Wright regarding changing some of the language as well as identifying confirmed and high-risk victims. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown reminded the members that this is not for an interview but rather should be taken from the existing file or police report except for in the case that this is not an option, at which time it can be used as guidance to interview or converse with the child to ensure identification as high-risk. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown indicated that some changes were made with the flow of questions regarding gang affiliation. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown informed the Coalition that the input of information into UNITY is a concern because the changes can take years, but did indicate that if this version of the NRIT is approved, it will be cleaned up and then sent out as the updated NRIT to be used statewide.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown next discussed the prevention guide created by the CSEC Coalition in 2016, indicating that each chapter is under review. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown explained that some of the links are no longer available, and some things are now obsolete, but overall, the information in the resource prevention guide is very good. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown explained that the challenge is that people are not using it. As a result, Ms. Rodriguez-Brown indicated that the subcommittee will be updating the links and some of the information. In addition, Ms. Rodriguez-Brown explained that one of the propositions was the creation of a website with that guide to enable people to use the website and simply click on whatever links they need in order to obtain the information immediately on the web rather than through a PDF document. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown explained that this will be part of the discussion in the next meeting. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown further explained the challenge of updating sections currently only in English as well as updating the chapters that involve the native communities.

Action: A motion was made by Pauline Salla-Smith to approve the NRIT as amended, DeShun Jackson seconded the motion. No objections. Motion carries.

9. For Information Only: Updates on Promising Practices: Challenges and barriers from other states- Esther Rodriguez-Brown

Esther Rodriguez-Brown informed the Coalition that she has been meeting with different jurisdictions regarding how they operate their receiving centers, especially in terms of the wraparound, the continuum of care on CSEC. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown explained that the only receiving center still in operation throughout the nation is in Georgia and indicated that the one in Washington State is not yet open. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown indicated that the center in Georgia has up to 20 beds, has different funding streams, and that the referral sources come from law enforcement, social services, local partners, parent referrals, and further indicated that youth can also refer themselves. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown informed the Coalition that this is an old juvenile detention center that has been renovated into a trauma-informed facility.

Andrea Davis informed the Coalition that she visited a couple of months ago and was very impressed with the center and the layout. Ms. Davis indicated that the center has a school onsite and is able to meet the girls there at their level education-wise. In addition, Ms. Davis indicated the existence of different therapy groups, art groups, and other activities for the girls in attendance.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown explained that she meets with the director of the center monthly to discuss challenges and reiterated that this is the only center in existence in the nation. As such, Ms. Rodriguez-Brown indicated that many of the conversations revolve around how to go about the licensing for the receiving center that is intended for Nevada. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown explained that best practices includes having one or three people per bedroom in order to try and prevent peer recruitment, which tends to happen more when there are two people per room. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown further indicated that the biggest challenge across the boards is keeping kids secure and safe, with most of the challenges stemming from runaways, safety, and traffickers picking children up from nearby locations of the homes or receiving center. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown informed the Coalition that another challenge is keeping the kids in long enough to stabilize them and put services in place. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown explained that this is why the receiving center in Georgia decided to be a secure facility so as to be able to address that challenge. In addition, Ms. Rodriguez-Brown explained that providing specialized programming for the LGBTQ-plus community continues to be a challenge, particularly finding providers that really understand the dynamic and are specialized for this community. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown indicated that founding is an additional challenge. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown next addressed the work being done in Minnesota and the different programs they offer, highlighting the No Wrong Door model, which is Minnesota's safe harbor law. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown indicated that the website is very clear and contains a lot of programs and resources. In addition, Ms. Rodriguez-Brown explained that Minnesota offers a lot of continuum of care and wraparound services.

Lieutenant Roberts questioned if the girls in the Georgia receiving center are being held under some type of charge in order for them to legally be held in a secured facility.

Andrea Davis indicated that the laws in Georgia differ from the laws in Nevada in that a judge is not needed in order to place a child in a 90-day facility. As such, Ms. Davis explained that either the girls entered the facility willingly or family members or social services placed them in the program. Ms. Davis further explained that the building is locked down and surrounded by a fence with all doors and everything secured.

Lieutenant Roberts asked if the girls wished to leave, would they be able to do so based on a lack of legal basis for the hold.

Andrea Davis indicated her belief that they could not as the program was a 90-day program from start to finish.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown explained that the program exists under the jurisdiction of juvenile justice, and juvenile justice are the ones contracting Wellspring, the nonprofit that runs the facility. As such, Ms. Rodriguez-Brown indicated that the girls are not able to leave until they have completed the 90-day program and clarified that the program is not necessarily 90 days, but up to 90 days, thus allowing kids placed who need less time to move to foster homes if needed. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown indicated that the receiving center serves more as the emergency housing.

Lieutenant Roberts indicated that one of the stats still being studied refers to runaways and explained that over 50 percent of the girls placed in Child Haven or the Harbor, two facilities where girls could walk out, did walk away.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown concurred that this is a challenge and indicated that California reported the same challenge given that there were no legal tools in place to hold some of the children in need of a higher level of care. As such, Ms. Rodriguez-Brown reported that these children would sometimes end up back with the trafficker, dead, murdered, or in a worse situation.

10. For Discussion and Possible Action: Future Agenda Items

Makaya Swain asked if the discussion regarding making the resource guide web-based was a full CSEC agenda item or for the subcommittees.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown indicated that this would be addressed by the strategic planning subcommittee in order to bring forward ideas to the Coalition in its entirety for approval. Ms. Rodriguez-Brown reminded the members of the Coalition that they are welcome to attend subcommittee meetings and informed the Coalition that the next meeting of the legislative subcommittee will take place on July 14 at 10:00 and the next meeting of the strategic planning subcommittee will take place on July 28.

11. For Information Only: Next Meeting: September 20, 2022. 10am-12pm (or until adjourned)

There was no discussion regarding the next meeting to take place on September 20, 2022.

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)*

There was no public comment or discussion.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.