

Steve Sisolak  
Governor



Richard Whitley, MS  
Director

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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



Ross Armstrong  
Administrator

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

**DATE:** Thursday, September 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#

**Supporting materials may be obtained online at**

<https://dcfs.nv.gov/Programs/CWS/CSEC/2021MeetingsAndAgendas/>

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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.*

### 1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Establish Quorum- Ross Armstrong

Ross Armstrong called the meeting to order at 10:08am.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown took roll and quorum was established.

**Members Present:** Ross Armstrong, Esther Brown, Jessica Halling, Eileen Hough, Brigid Duffy, Pauline Salla, Melissa Holland, Nancy Saitta, Nicole Reilly, Janice Wolf, Brennan Paterson, Eboni Washington, Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Electra Skrzydlewski, Cara Paoli, Abigail Frierson, Lauren Boitel, Stacy Scott

**Members Absent:**

### 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)*

None.

### 3. For Possible Action: Review and Approval of June 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes- Ross Armstrong

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

**Action:** A motion was made by Brigid Duffy to approve the June 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes, Jessica Halling seconded the motion. No objections. Motion carries.

No further discussion on this item.

**4. For Possible Action: Review and Adoption of Inclusive Language Documents as Coalition's Style Guide-**  
Eileen Hough

Eileen Hough requested that all subcommittee members, when creating documentation, be mindful about ensuring the use of first-person language so that when discussing impacted youth, nothing is written that could implicate blame of the situation. Ms. Hough reiterated that the document gives examples of substitutions of language for things like high-risk or vulnerable. Ms. Hough next addressed the word "stakeholder", indicating that this is a word that has a violent connotation for tribes and urban Indian organizations.

Ross Armstrong further indicated that these distinctions in language are important as there are times where certain language needs to be used for grant applications in order to enhance funding opportunities.

Eileen Hough informed the group that another state has informed CSEC that when they write a grant, they'll use the words in the grant itself and then make a note for future use to ensure that the language is inclusive.

**Action:** Pauline Salla made a motion to adopt the style guide for use in publications and documents, Eileen Hough seconded the motion. No objections, motion carries.

No further discussion on this item.

**5. For Possible Action: Review and Adoption of CSEC Coalition Bylaws-** Ross Armstrong

Ross Armstrong explained that the new bylaws suggested for adoption are attached to the meeting invite and opened the floor for discussion.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown explained that when she reviewed the bylaws, she replaced all instances of the word stakeholders with community members, thus indicating that she had adapted the language for the bylaws.

**Action:** Brigid Duffy made a motion to adopt the CSEC Coalition bylaws, Jessica Halling seconded the motion. No objection. Motion carries.

No further discussion on this item.

**6. For Information Only: Clark County ARYS (At Risk Youth Support) Unit-** Stacy Scott

- How ARYS Unit at Clark County DFS serves CSEC population in Child Welfare

Stacy Scott explained that the At Risk Youth Support Unit (ARYS) was created in May of 2017 and was initially intended for the identification of youth in care that were victims of child sex trafficking. Ms. Scott indicated that the unit was comprised of four caseworkers, one therapist, and one supervisor. Ms. Scott informed the group that the Department of Family and Youth Services uses the Nevada Rapid Indicator Tool (NRIT) to identify risk factors and if risk factors are identified, the information is sent over to ARYS, who then assigns someone from the unit for assessment of the case. Ms. Scott explained that once the assessment is completed, ARYS identifies the service needs for the minor(s) in question, and then submits community referrals for the youth. Ms. Scott next informed the group that in October 2019, AB 151 passed, which mandated people to call child welfare whenever child sex trafficking was suspected. At that time, ARYS opened up to service the whole of Clark County and the Department made the decision that the unit would be the primary investigator on cases of minors without legal representation from other jurisdictions who are located in Clark County. Ms. Scott informed the group that ARYS does partner with law enforcement in these cases. Ms. Scott indicated that all ARYS workers are trained in child forensic interviewing and in motivational interviewing, and that there are two team members trained specifically in child sex trafficking forensic interviewing. Ms. Scott explained that the main difference between a forensic interview and a sex trafficking forensic interview is that a high percentage of minors that have been victims of sex trafficking have also been sexually abused.

Ross Armstrong asked about the outcomes of this unit in terms of where the children are placed.

Stacy Scott explained that more than half of the kids that come in from out of jurisdiction are wards of the state from which they're running away. Ms. Scott further explained that in these cases, ARYS works with the child's

home state to return them to the state from which they're from; if the youths are under parental care, ARYS works to return them to their parents in addition to working with child welfare from the youth's home jurisdiction.

Ross Armstrong discussed the research on the health risks of children who have gone missing from foster care and indicated that the rural region for DCFS is looking into ways of having more urgency and ensuring that the conversation includes those children as missing versus simply as runaways because there is a different response and approach to finding a missing child versus finding a runaway.

Stacy Scott further indicated that ARYS functions as secondary workers to the kids that belong in Clark County and are wards of the Department of Family Services. Ms. Scott explained that when the unit began in 2017, 20 to 25 children per quarter were assessed as victims of sex trafficking; now that number has risen to approximately 125 kids per quarter.

Eileen Hough asked if there were particular trauma-informed approaches used by ARYS.

Stacy Scott reaffirmed that all unit members have been trained in forensic and motivational interviewing, which are part of the assessment process. In addition, all clinical services members have had trauma-informed training.

Abigail Frierson added that all members have been trained by GEMS in addition to other DOJ-offered trainings.

Eileen Hough asked to whom CSEC could reach out to learn about the best-practice trainings in use right now.

Stacy Scott indicated that the PowerPoint that will be distributed to the group includes the contact information for the members of the ARYS team, any of whom CSEC can contact for information.

Esther Brown informed the group that the Nevada Policy for Training offers a curriculum to all child welfare workers, as well. Ms. Brown asked Stacy Scott in the case where parents are not involved, for example in a case involving child pornography, would law enforcement reach out to ARYS.

Stacy Scott explained that ARYS works in partnership with law enforcement and that law enforcement would contact ARYS in an example such as the one Ms. Brown provided.

Ross Armstrong asked if there are other key partners that help the ARYS team to be successful.

Stacy Scott indicated that there are many partners who work with ARYS, including: the RISE Program; the Embracing Project; Purchased: Not For sale.

No further discussion on this item.

**7. For Possible Action: CSEC Subcommittee Updates-** Nicole Reilly, Esther Rodriguez-Brown, Dr. Alexis Kennedy

- **Local Task Force**

Esther Rodriguez-Brown explained that she met with different representatives from the rural areas under an up-and-running coalition for issues like substance abuse and domestic violence in order to include local task forces as part of that coalition and utilize the already-established infrastructure.

- i. MOU (Memorandum of Understanding)**

Esther Rodriguez-Brown indicated that this item is going to be tabled due to the need for review by a legal member prior to presentation.

Elyne Greene explained that the purpose of the MOU is to outline the expectations and the roles of all the different partners in order to have one collaborative response and one set of rules and expectations for everyone. Ms. Greene suggested keeping creation of the local task force MOU simple, explaining that any time an MOU is created with multiple signers, legal entities need to be involved in the drafting and information will need to be integrated and then sent back;

as such, this can become a very long process, which Ms. Greene explained can be simplified by identifying key partners to outline in the MOU in terms of roles and responsibilities.

- **External Engagement**

- i. **Approval of NRIT (Nevada Rapid Indicator Tool) and PEARR (Provide Educate Ask Respect Respond)**

Esther Rodriguez-Brown indicated that this item is going to be tabled due to the need for review by a legal member prior to presentation.

Elynn Greene explained that the purpose of the MOU is to outline the expectations and the roles of all the different partners in order to have one collaborative response and one set of rules and expectations for everyone. Ms. Greene suggested keeping creation of the local task force MOU simple, explaining that any time an MOU is created with multiple signers, legal entities need to be involved in the drafting and information will need to be integrated and then sent back; as such, this can become a very long process, which Ms. Greene explained can be simplified by identifying key partners to outline in the MOU in terms of roles and responsibilities.

**Action:** Jessica Halling made a motion to approve the NRIT and PEARR as CSEC's endorsed screening tools to be used by community providers, Eboni Washington seconded the motion. No objection. Motion carries.

- **Funding, Data and Sustainability**

- i. **SAC (Statistical Analysis Center) at UNLV Scope of Work**

Esther Rodriguez-Brown explained that the goal of this subcommittee is statewide data collection. Ms. Brown explained that the subcommittee is moving forward with this goal.

Abigail Frierson added that the subcommittee has made a lot of progress with this and is close to making a recommendation for CSEC as to the look, location, and cost of the databases.

Dr. M. Alexis Kennedy explained that she and Dr. Freeman had come up with a list of variables that people should be tracking to get a true statewide picture as well as a draft MOU for data sharing. Dr. Kennedy explained that in 2018, it was proposed that this data should be housed confidentially in the Nevada Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). Dr. Kennedy informed the group that the Nevada SAC lives at UNLV. Dr. Kennedy next indicated that the scope of work includes the idea that if there is no funding, SAC can receive the data, handle it in a confidential manner, and put it together into a statewide picture. Dr. Kennedy explained that the tricky part of this is that both public and community agencies are providing services and need to share information. As such, there is a discussion on which a decision has not yet been made regarding the potential use of a separate data system for the mostly community-based agencies to track the details of the kids that they are serving. In addition, Dr. Kennedy indicated the importance of remaining mindful of the amount of work the additional data entry will create for agencies. As such, Dr. Kennedy indicated that there has been conversation about using the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Dr. Kennedy informed the group that she is unsure of HMIS' use throughout the entire state, but it is used in Clark County for members to receive housing funding. Dr. Kennedy explained that this is a flexible system that some agencies will already be using and that those agencies are able to create new variables. Dr. Kennedy did caution that if opting to use HMIS, consistent assessment is needed of whether or not agencies are taking the time to enter the data given that the use of the system does add a burden to agencies who are being asked to use HMIS as a second system that requires data entry. Dr. Kennedy further indicated a scope of work in which a student was funded year-round in order to track agencies' submissions of data.

On the topic of subcommittees in general, Esther Rodriguez-Brown explained that there are new members in some of the subcommittees.

No further discussion on this item.

**8. For Possible Action: Future Agenda Items-** Ross Armstrong

Ross Armstrong explained that he would like to see an update from DCFS on the receiving center regulatory process as an agenda item for the next meeting. In addition, Mr. Armstrong indicated his desire for the local task force subcommittee to provide an update.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown added that she would like the group to establish their 2022 meeting dates. In addition, Ms. Brown explained that the external engagement subcommittee will be ready with their community screening tool by the next meeting.

Ross Armstrong indicated his wish to have a brief presentation on the state budgeting process so that everyone is aware of the fiscal situation and timeframes for fiscal asks for the following year.

Jessica Halling suggested a training or discussion regarding decriminalization and the differences between full, partial, and legalization.

Melissa Holland asked if the committee would take a position on the issue of legalization and if that should perhaps be a future agenda item.

Elynn Greene explained that on the federal side, if OVC or ECM grants are being received, then the Committee cannot support any form of legalization.

Ross Armstrong requested that the Coalition create a document that goes over what the potential impact could be to kids as well as the political ramifications regarding policy decisions.

No further discussion on this item.

**9. For Information: Next Meeting: Set next meeting date and time-** Ross Armstrong

Esther Rodriguez-Brown announced that the next meeting will be held on December 21, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

**10. 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*)

None

**11. Adjournment**

**Action:** Nancy Saitta made a motion to adjourn the September 21, 2021 CSEC Coalition meeting, Nicole Reilly seconded the motion. No objection. Motion carries.