

Steve Sisolak
Governor



Richard Whitley, MS
Director

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
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Ross Armstrong
Administrator

NEVADA COALITION TO PREVENT THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN: EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, November 9, 2021

TIME: 10:00 am – 11:30 am (or until adjournment)

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

TELECONFERENCE: 1-775-321-6111 CONFERENCE ID: 772 437 315#

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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 subcommittee.*

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Establish Quorum- Jessica Halling

Melissa Holland called the meeting to order at 10:06 am. Esther Rodriguez- Brown took roll call; a quorum was established.

Members Present: Brigid Duffy, Jessica Halling, Melissa Holland, Eileen Hough, Brenda Sandquist, Lauren Boitel, Ryan Gustafson, Brennan Paterson, Det. Wes Leedy, Stacey Scott, Danica Anderson, Makaya Swain, Brittany Hopballe, Pauline Salla

Members Absent: Nicole Reilly, Holly Gibbs, Michael Bartel

DCFS Support: Esther Rodriguez-Brown, Lorena Bojorquez

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 September 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes- Jessica Halling, Melissa Holland

Jessica Halling opened the floor to discussion or suggested corrections to the September 9, 2021 meeting minutes.

Pauline Salla indicated that she was not at the last meeting and did not know if she was able to vote to approve the minutes.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown indicated that Ms. Salla could vote because she was a member and had reviewed the minutes.

No discussion on the meeting minutes.

Action: A motion was made by Pauline Salla-Smith to approve the September 9, 2021 meeting minutes, motion was seconded by Brigid Duffy. No objections, no abstentions, approved unanimously.

No further discussion on this item.

4. For Possible Action: Nevada 211 Human Trafficking Tab Resources- Jessica Halling, Melissa Holland

Esther Rodriguez-Brown indicated that she had not received any emails from members regarding feedback of this agenda item following the last meeting. Ms. Brown explained that she had gone through each tab of the site and found that some organizations listed such as Children of the Night, although listed as a state resource is actually in Los Angeles but that this information is not immediately listed, which can potentially turn away people looking for resources. In addition, Ms. Brown indicated the importance of having a tab that specifically reads *Human Trafficking Resources* as this would be helpful to survivors as well as indicating clearly where to find these resources, whether in-state or out of state.

Melissa Holland reiterated Ms. Brown's point by stating that the website does need to be very intuitive for someone not to have to problem solve and should have simple categories and simple flow.

Lauren Boitel reminded the group that the Nevada 211 site is extensive with a lot of resources and as a result, Ms. Boitel had sent out intersecting resources for all of the needed resources for CSEC victims and survivors that were outlined in the CSEC Protocol. Ms. Boitel indicated that the fact that standards for the providers were outlined in the model coordinated response protocol, and none of the resources necessarily adhered to those standards. As such, Ms. Boitel explained that the resources on Nevada 211 were currently dispersed and fragmented given that there are very broad categories that are not necessarily geared towards victims and survivors and do not necessarily adhere to standards. Ms. Boitel therefore suggested creating something along the lines of a downloadable PDF that lists organizations and resources for survivors.

Melissa Holland informed the group that the Attorney General's office has something similar that could be used for reference in creating this type of PDF.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown indicated that some of the AG's office's resources are outdated, thus supporting the need for a tab with clear Human Trafficking Resources on the Nevada 211 page.

Lauren Boitel indicated that it would be nice if as a state coalition, verbiage and tools could be aligned

so that there is similar messaging across all platforms.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown informed the group of the importance of having resources for reporting on the website in addition to resources for help. Ms. Brown further indicated her agreement with Ms. Boitel that it does not all need to be under the general information tab for human trafficking, but that there should be at least a couple of reliable resources included there. Ms. Brown reiterated the importance of starting with something small and reliable rather than spread-out, unreliable information.

Eileen Hough agreed with Ms. Boitel's explanation that some may not even know what human trafficking is, and as such, showed her support for Ms. Brown's idea of including some basic questions on the site. In addition, Ms. Hough suggested perhaps the tabs should be the questions rather than being called human trafficking given that survivors may not know they are being trafficked.

Melissa Holland suggested using the term "sex trade" on the tab as to minimize confusion about trafficking.

Eileen Hough concurred, indicating that this may help people to identify and click on the links.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown indicated her support for using the term "sex trade" but did remind the group that by using that particular terminology, this would leave out domestic servitude and labor trafficking.

Melissa Holland opined that conceptually, it would be better to have a separate category given that the treatment is very specific for sexual violation versus labor trafficking. In addition, because the restorative process is different, Ms. Holland indicated her support for the separation of these different terms.

Jennifer White, Nevada 211, noted that simple, straightforward website changes are very easy to make on the Nevada 211 site. However, to create a whole new page, a website developer would need to be hired, and that this is not something that Nevada 211 has budgeted. Ms. White concurred that at least in the short term, one of the easiest ways to address the things discussed by the group is with the use of a PDF as suggested by Ms. Boitel. As such, Ms. White suggested that the group consider the cheapest, most effective way that will meet the standards. Ms. White requested that the group create whatever questions and verbiage they would like on that PDF and Nevada 211 will work with the group to ensure that the questions and verbiage fit with Nevada 211. Ms. White further requested that if the group sees missing resources or knows of resources that could be listed, to please inform Nevada 211, who will then cross reference with their database. With regards to inconsistencies, Ms. White informed the group that part of the process and accreditation requirements to be part of Nevada 211 is that the ownership rests on the agencies themselves to provide correct and updated information. Ms. White further indicated that Nevada 211 does have an exclusion policy that indicates that agencies listed must comply with very specific guidelines in order to be included on Nevada 211's page.

Makaya Swain indicated her belief that there is not a clear audience that can be reached on the site and suggested that the structure of the tabs, the questions, and the information are all dependent upon the audience trying to be reached. As such, Ms. Swain opined that without narrowing down the target audience, the website will not be utilized by those who may need it.

Jennifer White thanked Ms. Swain for her feedback and explained that the talent of 211 is that it needs to meet all of the needs for all of the people and that this is very difficult to accomplish. Ms. White continued on to inform the group that in the past year, Nevada 211 created a youth app specifically

targeting youth who might need to access services, available in both the Apple store and on the Google play store. Ms. White did indicate that the app is not a place where a PDF could be posted. Ms. White further informed the group that beginning January 1, Nevada 211 will be doing a long-term, two-year outreach campaign with focuses on rural Nevada and youth. Part of the campaign will include creating ads and social media information and Nevada 211 expects, based on past marketing campaigns, that there will be a large uptick in the target audiences.

Eileen Hough indicated that it would be valuable to have something in the youth app that could direct or redirect young people to the location of the PDF since the PDF can't be included within the app itself.

Detective Wes Leedy echoed Makayla Swain's comments, indicating that in investigations of victims' cell phones, a common thread in the search histories is the search for sex trafficking resources in Nevada rather than searching specifically for Nevada 211. As such, Detective Leedy suggested that Nevada 211 do some search optimization for words like sex trafficking in order to drive traffic to their website.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown indicated that there is some funding for technology available through DCFS that could possibly be used for building the webpage on Nevada 211 should the group feel that was a good use of the funds.

Brigid Duffy indicated the fact that there is a market not only for children needing resources, but the parents of children in need of resources and that some of the information listed on Nevada 211 in terms of trafficking should perhaps be directed towards parents looking for information.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown concurred, suggesting that this might be a more realistic approach to take.

Lauren Boitel indicated her belief that Nevada 211 is an excellent resource that should be supported, but that it is not the only resource that the subcommittee should be promoting and supporting. Therefore, Ms. Boitel explained it is important for the subcommittee to identify other available tools and to utilize them effectively.

Makaya Swain reiterated Brigid Duffy's point that likely, Nevada 211 will be utilized more by parents, service providers, and concerned adult members of the community rather than by youth. Ms. Swain further suggested perhaps a youth crisis line with a live respondent would be a good resource for young people to reach out for help if needed, indicating her belief that this might be a more effective tool for young people looking for help and resources.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown indicated her support for this idea, suggesting that it is something worth exploring.

Brittany Hopballe informed the group that the Embracing Project and RISE through Signs of Hope do still have a hotline and that the public-facing crisis line is the general crisis line for Signs of Hope, which used to be Rape Crisis Center. Ms. Hopballe indicated that there has already been discussion regarding incorporating direct contact with survivors of trafficking and is something that merits further discussion. Ms. Hopballe further indicated that a meeting took place in which there was talk regarding the need for an interpersonal violence hotline across Nevada.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown suggested adding this to the list of goals for 2022. In addition, Ms. Brown

indicated that the subcommittee may need to bring back this Nevada 211 agenda item and decide what action to take or what to focus on in 2022.

Melissa Holland concurred with Ms. Brown's suggestions.

Action: A motion was made by an unidentified member to revisit this on the next agenda in order to conclusively figure out the lane going forward for Nevada 211, motion was seconded by Brigid Duffy. No objections, no abstentions, approved unanimously.

No further discussion on this item.

5. For Possible Action: Review of and Updates on Screening Tools- Jessica Halling, Melissa Holland

- **Community Tool**
- **NRIT (Nevada Rapid Indicator Tool) Revisions to include LGBTQ Language and Identification of Male Survivors**

Esther Brown informed the group that a meeting had taken place among a few members to brainstorm these screening tools. In addition, Ms. Brown discussed her conversation with Abigail Frierson regarding the NRIT, indicating that Ms. Frierson's feedback included the idea that the NRIT does not include questions for identifying male survivors. Ms. Brown explained that the NRIT tool was then sent to Andre Wade, the former director of the LBGTO Center, and she is currently waiting on his feedback regarding making the NRIT more LGBTQ inclusive.

Stacey Scott concurred and further clarified, citing the example of a male in a gang not necessarily correlating with human trafficking whereas a female in a gang may correlate. In addition, Ms. Scott reiterated the fact that there is currently nothing in the tool for the LGBTQ community.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown requested that the members look at the tool and brainstorm some of the questions they feel should be included or shifted to make the tool more inclusive. She asked that the feedback be brought to this subcommittee's next meeting so it can be reviewed before presenting to the full Coalition.

Action: A motion was made by Brigid Duffy to revisit this on the next agenda and bring possible questions to the table for discussion and vote to bring to the coalition as a whole, motion was seconded by Stacey Scott. No objections, no abstentions, approved unanimously.

No further discussion on this item.

6. For Discussion and Possible Action: Nevada School District CSEC Awareness & Training for Staff and Students- Jessica Halling, Melissa Holland

- **Identify representatives from Clark, Washoe and Rural Regions**

Esther Rodriguez-Brown informed the group that she has met with the school district about implementing the NRIT given that the school district is the biggest source of referral for child welfare. Ms. Brown indicated that working with the truancy population would be a good starting point given that running away and truancy are listed as risk factors for potential trafficking. Ms. Brown informed the group that a meeting will be taking place, this time with DFS at the table, for further discussion.

Jessica Halling discussed UNITAS and the Lights Curriculum, indicating that this is one of the most comprehensive curriculums Ms. Halling has seen and that she supports as a survivor herself. Ms. Halling explained that youth survivors were paid to help build the curriculum,

and that it covers all arenas including: gang initiation; labor trafficking; LGBTQ. Ms. Halling further explained that prior to being able to implement the curriculum, policies and procedures need to be in place for a child identified as or coming forward as a victim of human trafficking. Ms. Halling informed the group that this curriculum is implemented in the New York City School District as well as in Washington DC and suggested someone provide an overview at a future meeting. Ms. Halling indicated that she had passed on this information to the Clark County School District when she met with them. In addition, Ms. Halling informed the group that she had met with teachers and counselors at Juvenile Justice and that she will be doing a speaking engagement for them in January. Ms. Halling explained that the curriculum consists of social learning and is very much about facilitating conversations and safe spaces for kids.

Melissa Holland explained that discussions had taken place pre-COVID for Tanya Turner from UNITAS to come in and do a presentation, which were derailed by the pandemic but that conversations regarding this subject were again taking place. Ms. Holland indicated that they were flying in from New York for a different engagement but that it would behoove the group to coordinate a presentation while they were in town.

Jessica Halling explained that the Healing Center also was trying to meet with them, and therefore it might be wise to have everyone coordinate together in order to minimize or share expenses.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown asked Jessica Halling and Melissa Holland to send her information on the curriculum they've spoken of and dates they'd be in town. She added Ms. Turner is very familiar with Clark County and its needs.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown next discussed the Traffic No More curriculum taking place in the school district and indicated that conversations have taken place suggesting changes to current curricula. For that reason, Ms. Brown recommended creating a 2022 agenda item regarding training recommendations from the subcommittee and the coalition for the school district and/or other organizations that may be more appropriate than the ones being currently utilized.

Action: A motion was made by Brennan Paterson to table this item until the next meeting agenda, motion was seconded by Stacey Scott. No objections, no abstentions, approved unanimously.

No further discussion on this item.

7. For Discussion and Possible Action: Best Practices and the Use of Images for Public Awareness Campaigns- Jessica Halling, Melissa Holland

Esther Rodriguez suggested tabling this item until the next agenda in the interest of time.

Action: A motion was made by Brennan Paterson to table this item until the next meeting agenda, motion was seconded by Stacey Scott. No objections, no abstentions, approved unanimously.

No further discussion on this item.

8. For Discussion and Possible Action: Review External Engagement Subcommittee Charter and Identify Objectives for 2022- Jessica Halling, Melissa Holland

Esther Rodriguez-Brown indicated that of all the pending objectives in the External Engagement Charter, the subcommittee would have to decide which to focus on in 2022.

Melissa Holland explained that there is already some momentum, citing objective 2C, the Nevada 211 website that was discussed today and re-agendized for the next meeting, as an example.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown reminded the group that finishing Nevada 211, inclusion in the NRIT, and a potential hotline as a resource for youth had already been agendized as future items, and suggested that the group pick one of the listed objectives in addition to this one as a goal in need of finishing.

Melissa Holland suggested a guest to sit in on these discussions, perhaps someone from the AG's office, to make recommendations in the interest of the subcommittee building some policy recommendations for the laws against perpetrators and consumers of child sex trafficking, as well as laws that support CSEC.

Pauline Salla concurred.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown reminded the group that the subcommittee is an extension of the coalition, and as such, policy recommendation is one of the objectives. Therefore, Ms. Brown concurred with the first step being identifying the proper person to sit in prior to creating any recommendations.

Eileen Hough concurred with the suggestion to locate key people to serve as advocates for the coalition given that many of the members are state employees and are therefore unable to advocate toward bills. Ms. Hough further asked if Objective 3C was something that would be built upon after legislative session or if it could be worked on in the later part of this year.

Melissa Holland indicated that because legislative session would not be for another year and a half, the subcommittee would want to start working on that now in order to be able to make any kind of legislative recommendation in time for the next session.

Jessica Halling asked if Objective 3 would be a piece of that because of the minimum training that may need to be legislatively mandated.

Brigid Duffy indicated that legislation does do mandates on recommendations for victim-sensitive training.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown indicated that the standards for training have already been created through SB 293. Ms. Brown next summarized the objectives on which the subcommittee will focus over the next year: Objective 2C; Objective 3C, which is training; and Objective 5C.

Eileen Hough asked if Objective 2B, providing a holistic continuing of characters, including quality placement options with secure funding sources, has already been met. Ms. Hough indicated that this was on the June 10 timeline.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown clarified that this is where the NRIT and Continuum of Care came from and that it was just for identification and recommendation, not implementation.

Action: A motion was made by Brigid Duffy to keep the goals the same with no changes, motion was seconded by Pauline Salla. No objections, no abstentions, approved unanimously.

No further discussion on this item.

9. For Possible Action: Future Agenda Ideas Provided by Members- Jessica Halling, Melissa Holland

This item was covered in agenda item 8.

10. Next Meeting: January 13, 2021. 10:00 am-11:30 am (or until adjournment)

Melissa Holland asked about the possibility of having an in-person meeting for this date given that many of the subcommittee members will be in southern Nevada on that day.

Jessica Halling indicated her ability to reserve a conference room at the St. Jude's Rainbow Location for the meeting.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown indicated the need to have remote access for those who would be unable to attend in-person for the next meeting given that open meeting laws have changed to allow meetings to remain remote.

Brennan Paterson informed the group that current guidance suggests that if meetings can be held remotely, they should be. If the meeting needs to take place in person, as long as there's a video and audio component for people, this would be acceptable provided that everyone who attends in-person continues to mask and maintain social distance.

Brittany Hopballe indicated that if the meeting room at St. Jude's is too small to hold the meeting, she could look into the Family Justice Center or potentially a room at Metro for a larger space.

Jessica Halling indicated that she would need to look into how to make the meeting a Zoom meeting and what equipment would be needed to do so.

No further discussion on this item.

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)

There was no public comment.

12. Adjournment

Melissa Holland adjourned the meeting at 11:31 a.m.