



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
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NEVADA COALITION TO PREVENT THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN: LEGISLATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 10, 2022

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

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

TELECONFERENCE: 1-775-321-6111 CONFERENCE ID:79616574#

Supporting materials may be obtained online at

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

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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.*

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Brigid Duffy at and Esther Rodriguez-Brown called roll.

Members Present: Sara Stephan, Brigid Duffy, Noel Roberts, Elynne Greene, Jennifer Spencer, Nicole Reilly, Sharon Anderson, Sgt. Greg Flores, Makaya Swain, Abigail Frierson, Jason Guinasso, Jessica Cisneros, Samantha Bailey, Katie Ryan,

Members Absent: Joe Saiz, Kimberly Yeager, Lauren Boitel, Samantha Bailey

DCFS Support: Esther Rodriguez-Brown, Jessica Freeman, 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)*

Katie Ryan announced herself and asked for confirmation of her role in the subcommittee as a member.

3. For Information Only: Member Introductions

Brigid Duffy stated that her and her co-chair, Sara Stephan would introduce themselves first followed by each member on the roster as read by Esther Rodriguez-Brown.

Brigid Duffy stated she is the chief of the juvenile division for the Clark County District Attorney's office and oversees juvenile delinquency matters as well as cases that come in through the foster care system. She has a team of 30 attorney deputies directly under her and she reports directly to District Attorney Wolfson.

Sara Stephan stated she is an attorney under the Children's Attorney Project at the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada with the sex abuse specialty team.

Elynn Greene stated she is the manager of victim services and human trafficking at LVMPD (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department) and coordinator of southern Nevada Human Trafficking Task Force.

Abigail Frierson stated she is one of assistant directors at Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS)

Cara Paoli stated she is one of the division directors at Washoe County Human Services Agency (WCHSA)

Jessica Cisneros stated she is the program director at Awaken in Reno, Nevada.

Sgt. Flores stated he is the VICE Sergeant at LVMPD over the juvenile and adult trafficking task forces.

Lt. Noel Roberts stated he is the VICE Lieutenant at LVMPD.

Makaya Swain stated she is the program director for The Embracing Project.

Nicole Reilly stated she is the ombudsman for domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking at the Attorney General's office.

Samantha Bailey stated she is one of the CSEC only workers at WCHSA.

Katie Ryan stated she works for Dignity Health -Saint Rose Dominican and handles government affairs.

Sharon Anderson stated she is a unit manager at Nevada Youth Parole Bureau.

Brittany Hopballe stated works for the RISE (Resources and Integration for Survivor Empowerment) program out of Signs of Hope.

No further discussion on this item.

4. For Information Only: CSEC Coalition Bylaws and Subcommittee expectations

Brigid Duffy informed the group that the support staff from the Department of Child and Family Services shall be responsible for keeping minutes of the subcommittee meetings and the subcommittee co-chairs will report on subcommittee activities to the full CSEC Coalition. The subcommittee members are subject to the same responsibilities and shall attend meetings and deliver tasks assigned to them to move forward with the goals of each subcommittee. Members missing two meetings within one year will receive written notification for immediate removal. Brigid added that a proxy can be sent if the member will not be able to attend any of the monthly meetings ahead. Monthly meetings will be held because the hope is that after presenting last month to the Judiciary Interim Subcommittee, this group is able to provide some recommendations for legislative changes for them to ultimately vote on for BDR 's at their last meeting.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown announced Jessica Freeman and Lorena Bojorquez as behind the scenes support for the subcommittee.

No further discussion on this item.

5. For Discussion: Review of Shared Hope International Report Card

Brigid Duffy informed the group that Nevada ranked with an F on the Shared Hope International Report Card. Brigid added that her and Esther Rodriguez-Brown were able to meet with Shared Hope International to discuss the law misinterpretations included in Nevada's report, like NRS 432C to which Shared Hope International agreed that they do not always interpret laws the way states intend for them to be interpreted. Brigid shared that she now feels Nevada ranks with a D+ rather than an F. The report essentially provides a roadmap to potential recommendations for legislative changes that would assist with raising Nevada's current grade. Moreover, Brigid added that assistant director at Clark County DFS, Abigail Frierson, researched the ranking more thoroughly and found that the grading system being used at Shared Hope International had been updated without notice. Given that Nevada as well as other states had done well in some areas, Shared Hope International proceeded to move the goal line so that states would be motivated to raise their new grades.

Abigail Frierson commented that Shared Hope International provided a short informative video explaining their actions which she would put in the chat for everyone to see.

Brigid Duffy opened the floor to comments or questions regarding the report card.

No further discussion on this item.

6. For Possible Action: Identify and brainstorm possible recommendations for upcoming legislative session, including but not limited to:

- **Addressing Demand**
- **Legislating MDT's**
- **Mandating Trainings**
- **Mandating Data Collection**
- **Other suggested topics**

Esther Rodriguez-Brown informed the group that because this is the first meeting, the listed relevant points were based on conversations held in some of the previous subcommittees, like addressing demand and how to ensure laws are enacted to hold buyers responsible. Another important topic is legislating the multidisciplinary approach, mandating trainings and data collection. Esther recommended working on only 2 or 3 topics to ensure the goals are achievable as there is a lot of work to be done.

Sara Stephan opened the floor to discussion on the listed recommendations.

Nicole Reilly asked about the system's limitations when minors are identified CSEC or at risk however their parents aren't offenders meaning they're now in a position to agree to services for their child, can this be addressed in NRS?

Esther Rodriguez-Brown stated that when parents aren't offenders but are determined to be part of their child's established vulnerability, it's very difficult for the system to act and the group should explore what can be done or enacted to change this. She added that more often than not, the parents are indirectly affecting their child's situation however it is important to be mindful of not violating their rights.

Lt. Roberts, LVMPD, stated he would like to explore the adding NRS 201.355 after 201.354 to make

it the buyer's charge. Currently, the charge is the same on both ends; whether, typically, the female is getting charged for soliciting or the male for buying, both the charges are listed under NRS 201.354. The differences are only tracked internally at LVMPD, there is no tracking mechanism in place outside of that, which is where the addition of NRS 201.355 would come in. Lt. Roberts added that subsections could be added to ensure arresting buyers automatically when charged with soliciting as a buyer versus a misdemeanor citation. Another potential subsection that can be added could include second offenses as gross misdemeanors. Any seizures associated with the arrests could be used to help victims and associated police operations.

Samantha Bailey stated that Washoe has bridged the non-offending parents gap discussed earlier by Esther Rodriguez-Brown by providing education to parents and families and offering to put services in place without opening up an investigation. She added that she believes NRS alludes to agencies taking action if their policy allows however she is unaware of anything set in stone on her end and so the steps she mentioned have been in place for about three years now.

Katie Ryan stated she agreed with the importance of funding police operations however she would also like to see a portion of the funds go to a survivors account.

Nicole Reilly stated that there is a mechanism in place for adult buyers regarding the recommendations made by Lt. Roberts. Nicole commented that she has reached out to Assemblywoman Tolles for the specifics of the NRS which could potentially be mimicked for CSEC. She added that to her knowledge, the bill states that 50% would go to law enforcement agencies and the other 50% would go to victim services.

Esther Rodriguez shared that a missing piece when addressing this is the labor trafficking aspect given that labor is being forced, wages are not being paid and the conditions of work are deplorable. She suggested that funds go directly to survivors given the intersection of labor and sex trafficking.

Brigid Duffy asked for clarification on previous discussion regarding the non-offending parents, asking if the cases were in relation to minors that are potentially identified soliciting, like those picked up for delinquent acts like Minor in Gaming Establishment or those where schools express concerns regarding things like them flashing new phones and/or tattoos.

Nicole Reilly stated that the cases she referred to are cases where the minors have had assessments done to identify them as either high risk or confirmed CSEC. Juvenile probation officers have expressed frustration over child welfare agencies not having authority to intervene with a case plan when the parents are non-offending.

Brigid Duffy stated she disagreed a bit, explaining further that if the child is already in the JJ system for an unrelated offense and has been identified through the NRIT (Nevada Rapid Indicator Tool) as being 'at risk', the statute for JJ requires a case plan which involved parental engagement. There is also a piece within the juvenile delinquency statute that allows the courts to hold the parents responsible for assisting in completing their plans. She added that the children as a whole should be treated within the case plans and using the statutes to order the parents to do their part.

Nicole Reilly asked if statewide training is an area of focus for any of the other subcommittees as it seems that it is something needed at juvenile probation.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown stated that yes, the need for training originated with the SB293 workgroups and the subcommittees that have followed. Currently, the Strategic Planning subcommittee will be addressing statewide training. She added that she will be conducting a training for juvenile probation in April however there is still a need for a mandated statewide training that is accessible to individuals outside of child welfare.

Brigid Duffy stated Shared Hope International recommended legislating the requirement assessing

every child in the juvenile justice system. In the delinquency statutes, specifically Chapter 62, if this is taken a step further, it could be said that when a child is identified as 'at risk' the assessments are then required.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown commented that Juvenile Justice does not complete the NRIT the way every child welfare agency does. Part of the training will include how to ask questions in a trauma informed way. Mandating the assessment will be a quick fix however it will have to be performed in a way that would not retraumatize the child.

Brigid Duffy clarified that there is a category of children that will come through the Juvenile Justice system and will be identified only because of they were screened even though they came in under nothing related to typical sex trafficking offenses. The second category of children to be identified will come in through typical sex trafficking related offenses like soliciting or minor in a gaming establishment which is where the receiving center issues will have to be addressed.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown agreed and stated that it is important for JJ to screen all kids as some could fall through the cracks if they're not screened. As for the receiving center, one of the biggest challenges has been funding however she does not have any updates on any progress in that realm. She added that a contractor has started on NAC (Nevada Administrative Code) development for the receiving centers.

Abigail Frierson agreed and stated that Clark County earmarked funds for this project at St. Jude's but is unaware of the duration of it all. In the interim there is work being done to develop an unlocked group home/emergency shelter. She added that she hopes alternatives will be available given the needs of each child will differ.

Brigid Duffy reminded the group to be prepared to discuss potentially putting a fiscal note forward for the mandating of assessments at the subcommittee's next meeting.

Abigail Frierson stated that she is not sure that Clark County DFS would have a fiscal note given that assessments are already required before closing a case.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown suggested inviting Eboni Washington to be part of this subcommittee as she is part of Clark County JJ.

Brigid Duffy in response to Lt. Robert's suggestion of the statute subsection of 201.355 stated that the LCB makes determinations on the numbering but for this subcommittee's purposes it can be referred to as a breakout of 201.354 tentatively named 201.355. She agrees that this was a big miss during the last legislative session.

Lt. Roberts added that he would also like the record sealing requirement be longer as it currently is only one year causing repeat buyers to slip through the cracks without second offenses. Lt. Roberts added that his recommendation would be moving it up to three years.

Jason Guinasso asked about potentially making it impossible for the buyers to seal their records with these types of offenses once convicted of the crime.

Brigid Duffy stated that it would be very difficult to have this approved by the legislature.

Jason Guinasso stated that the legislative process is a negotiation as much as it is policy exercise and suggests to use this as starting point and have a landing point of about 5 years.

Katie Ryan asked if these records are able to be sealed more than once.

Brigid Duffy stated that yes, they're able to seal it more than once.

Lt. Roberts stated that he chose three years because although there aren't any official statistics on this, in gathering information via interviews on unassociated topics with female sexual assault victims, they

have found that the assault go unreported. If the data was available, some of the legislative recommendations discussed, like buyers not being able to seal their records at all would be more feasible.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown suggested a tier system like what is used with sex offenders depending on the kind of violence involved.

Brigid Duffy stated that she believes that is an option and suggested selecting a maximum of four topics to be addressed during this subcommittee's work. She added that another suggested recommendation is mandating data collection. One of the previous subcommittee's started the work on this and progress has been made however confidentiality has been a challenge. UNLV would be providing the data collection service however they're not providing a direct service to children therefore confidentiality poses a challenge. She added that this connects to legislating MDT's as well.

Jason Guinasso asked if there is a way to encrypt the child's identifying information before sending over to the research provider. He added that an identification number would be assigned to each child before sharing their information.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown clarified that therein lies the challenge because the research provider needs to have access to identifying information so as to ensure that data is not duplicated. She added that Dr. Alexis Kennedy from the Statistical Analysis Center at UNLV assigns identification numbers to each child upon initial receipt of data.

Brigid Duffy stated that Jason's suggestion could be something to explore outside of this group discussion while in the interim adding it to the MDT process to be mandated.

Sara Stephan added that need for tailoring the language regarding transferring children to detention and adding the no fault petition that Nicole Reilly brought up earlier. Sara stated that the language should narrowly specify the occasions in which detaining the child would be needed.

Brigid Duffy informed the group that her and Sara got very close to completing the language that would protect the due process rights of victims that needed to be held in a receiving center for a limited period of time that would involve a court review and attorney. Brigid stated she will bring it to the group for discussion and that the no fault petitions go hand in hand with the receiving center. Brigid added that it has been her dream to build up NRS 432C moving away from blaming parents for abuse and neglect as described in 432B when they are not to blame and are seeking treatment for their children. She reiterated to the group that the bones are there and now 432C can be built up adding pieces around psychiatric or acute hold, the receiving center, no fault petitions for parents, mandated MDT's, trainings and assessments.

Brigid Duffy asked if the members would like to take a vote on the four topics discussed:

- Mandated trainings and assessments for Juvenile Justice and child welfare
- Addressing buyer statutes in separate statutory section
- Mandating MDT's
- Addressing receiving center and other at-risk kids in need of services through no fault petitions

Elynn Greene suggested communication with other state groups doing the same work to ensure the language and intent that will eventually be presented is consistent.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown agreed with Elynn, stating that Lauren Boitel is part of this subcommittee as well as leader of the Nevada Policy Council. She added that if members are aware of anyone on other groups doing similar way to please connect them with her so that an invitation can be extended to this one.

Katie Ryan added that she is one of the co-founders of Nevada Policy Council.

Abigail Frierson asked if a no-fault petition process is needed suggesting building on existing work to create policy rather than building a new court process that would be more costly to do and difficult to navigate for the families.

Brigid Duffy agreed and stated that it could be a training issue as across the state there are gaps which lead to not using what is already in place. She added that it would still be worth discussing thought because if IV-E funds will be used for private placements, it will need to be in statute.

ACTION: Katie Ryan motioned to approve the topics listed by Brigid Duffy. Cara Paoli seconded the motion. Non opposed.

No further discussion on this item.

7. For Possible Action: Future Agenda Items

Brigid Duffy stated that mandating assessments and MDT's would be the easiest to tackled between herself and Sara Stephan in preparation of next month's meeting.

No further discussion on this item.

8. 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.

9. Adjournment

Esther Rodriguez-Brown reminded the group that the next meeting is on April 14, 2022 at 10:00am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:12am.