

Joe Lombardo
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.



Cindy Pitlock, DNP
Administrator

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEVADA COALITION TO PREVENT THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AGENDA SUB-COMMITTEE FOR THE PLACEMENT AND CONTINUUM OF CARE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, March 2, 2023

TIME: 10:00 am until adjournment

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

TELECONFERENCE: 1-775-321-6111 CONFERENCE ID: 982 586 823#

This will be a virtual only meeting as authorized pursuant to AB253 (2021) and NRS 241.023

Supporting materials may be obtained online at
<https://dcfs.nv.gov/Programs/CWS/CSEC/2023MeetingandAgenda/>

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.*

AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Establish Quorum- Esther Rodriguez-Brown

Esther Rodriguez-Brown called the meeting to order.

Members Present: Karla Delgado, Tiffany Coury, Kimberly Small, Brittany Hopballe, Laurie Jackson, Natasha Lau-Johnson, Jenny Williamson, Brenda Sandquist, Makaya Swain, Greg Flores, Ryan Sexton, Janice Wolf, Leslie Bittleston, Ryan Williamson, Shannon McCoy, Brennan Paterson, Cara Paoli, Jill Marano, Joanna Ramos, Ryan Gustafson, Pauline Salla, Brigid Duffy

Members Absent: Dr. Ali Banister, Eboni Washington, Christina Vela

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, per NRS 241.020*)- Esther Rodriguez-Brown

There was no public comment.

- 3. For Discussion and Possible Action: Discuss and approve proposed purpose of subcommittee-**
Esther Rodriguez-Brown

- **Explore the residential gaps for CSEC in our state and create a plan to identify providers, develop opportunities, and resources to CSEC housing.**

Esther Rodriguez-Brown opened up the discussion by stating the proposed purpose and goals and were shared in the meeting invite and will be shown on the screen for the group to discuss. Ms. Brown asked the committee if everyone received the document and group members stated that not all received the document; Ms. Brown stated that it will be sent after the meeting, once updated, to all who attended.

Ms. Brown read the discussion to the group and asked the group if they were in agreement, or if anyone felt any changes were warranted. Leslie Bittleston asked if the purpose could be expanded to include runaways. Ms. Brown asked how the wording would be best, and Ms. Bittleston provided background that there have been conversations from Juvenile Justice that the agency does not want to put runaways into detention. Ms. Brown suggested that perhaps it's modified to include missing and runaway children. Ms. Bittleston stated that it was very important for juvenile justice have access to the placement options as well. Ms. Brown stated that come July 1, 2023, if youth come through detention, are screened and identified to be at high-risk and/or a confirmed victim of trafficking, then they cannot be placed into detention. Ms. Brown thought it would be best to be inclusive and include this population. Ms. Brown asked for thoughts from the group, to which none were given.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown informed the group that she would make the suggested updates to the proposed purpose of this subcommittee and share the revised document in an email to all members, to which the members agreed.

Action: No action was taken at this time.

- 4. For Discussion and Possible Action: Discuss and approve proposed subcommittee goals-** Esther Rodriguez-Brown

- **Explore placement needs and the barriers.**
- **Identify continuum of care services that currently exist in our state, as well as the services that are needed but are not present in our state.**
- **Strategies to accomplish a robust continuum of care plan.**

Jill Marano asked if it would be appropriate to discuss the pros and cons of differentiating CSEC or at risk of CSEC, of that is beyond the scope of this sub-committee. Ms. Brown stated that it was based on the NRIT and that at-risk was never separated from discussions because they will still receive the services, however, perhaps it's important to distinguish when it comes to discussing the best housing options. Ms. Brown explained that is one way to look at the different tiers of the proposed receiving center. Shannon McCoy agreed that this should be considered when developing the continuum of care, and that the NRIT helps identify this population. Ms. Bittleston stated that Juvenile Justice will begin imbedding the NRIT screening assessment in their case management system, and that should be ready to move forward sometime in April. Ms. Bittleston stated that based on the screening result, if a victim is identified to be at risk or confirmed, then a referral to child welfare will be done. For the next meeting, it is hoped that more insight on this aspect will occur, as the current AB 183 moves through legislation.

Brigid Duffy provided the group with an update to the proposed AB183 that will be heard in legislation on March 7, 2023. Ms. Duffy stated that the requirement of screening, via a high-level screening tool, will begin to be used in Juvenile Justice and for facilities, and if the youth is identified as having a reasonable cause to believe that they are the victim or at risk of being a victim, then there will be a mandated reporting requirement.

Brenda Sandquist suggested that due to having limited housing for this population as a whole, that the group should be cautious moving forward in regard to separating housing for at-risk/runaways versus confirmed victims, as there may not be enough housing to accommodate. Ms. Sandquist stressed that good, careful conversations around this occur. Ms. Brown agreed, and again stressed that having the tiered level in the receiving center is important.

Cara Poli stated that the licensure and standards of licensure is going to be extremely important as well, and that currently in Washoe County, there may not be a need for a receiving center but rather a place that would provide the assessment, services, and healthcare for individuals that enters the home. Safety and security are also important aspects to consider as well. Licensure and requirements for the licensure will guide the agencies who may want to contract with child welfare to provide these services.

Ms. Brown brought the conversation back to the goals and said that some of the topics discussed can be placed into the goals. Ms. Brown read proposed goal #1 and stated that the above conversation feeds into the barriers and goals, and that this goal does not solely focus on the receiving center, but rather the placement and continuum of care. Ms. Brown stated that the point of contact of where the youth will be brought to be screened is needed, along with where they will be going, and what kind of continuum of care/wrap around services they will be receiving. Additionally, the barriers to these will need to be addressed such as high risk vs. lower risk. While these goals are broad, the committee can make them more specific. Additionally, the committee would also need to know what services currently exist across the state so that the committee can identify what services are missing.

Furthermore, robust strategies to accomplish the continuum of care plan will need to be developed.

Ms. Brown stated that this is an implementation subcommittee as a reminder to not choose more goals that can be worked, so as not to overwhelm the committee. As such, Ms. Brown suggested that the committee start with two or three goals and add more at a later time if appropriate. The group agreed with this, and felt that the proposed goals were robust, and additional goals were not needed, as the current proposed goals have the potential to have many objectives that can be accomplished. Ms. Paoli voiced that the implementation plan for July 1 should be a priority. Ms. Brown stated that Clark County is in process of developing a plan that will allow the youth to be assessed by ARYS at a specified location, and then a MOU will be developed with Eagle Quest for emergency housing. Once the youth is assessed, they will either be sent home, if safe and appropriate, or will go into the emergency housing through DFS.

Ms. Brown asked for clarification about the issue with licensing. Ms. Marano stated that Clark County is approaching this by using licensed foster care group homes through current licensed providers, which are staffed facilities, with the goal of keeping them small (only 6 beds). Eagle Quest will most likely be one of the agencies that will be used for this purpose, and it is hoped that it will be ready to late spring. There is some artistic use of the statute by doing this, but they believe the intent is there, so it shouldn't be an issue to not have 7 beds. Clark County had wanted to put forth a bill to change statute during the interim, however, consensus was not there so it was not able to be completed. Ms. Brown stated that promising practice states that the ratio should be 3:1 (youth:staff), and that this should be taken into consideration, and how odd numbers are always better to have in situations like these, in an attempt to balance out bad ideas from the youth. Discussion was held about some of the other contradictions found in the SB274 bill that was codified into NRS 424.274-424.278, and that potential amendments to these statutes will need to be suggested at the next legislative session.

The discussion then moved to the funding of the receiving center and where the funding will be coming from for this center. Ms. Bittleston was concerned, as they are finding in the juvenile justice system that they are losing some of their providers due to Medicaid reimbursement rates being low, so she suggested that a lack of funding should be addressed as a barrier in goal #1. Dr. Cindy Pitlock stated that DCFS did recommend funding during the budget build, but that it was not approved in the governor's recommended budget.

Pauline Salla voiced concern about the Rural Region's lack of housing options, as there is nowhere to currently place these youth except for detention, which causes the youth to escalate through the system as a petition now needs to be filed in four days to stay in detention. Other group members reminded the group that in certain situations, it may be appropriate to place youth from this population into 432B cases, when home environments are not appropriate for the youth to return. Ms. Salla was very concerned, as she expressed that there were no foster homes in the rural region that have availability, especially since these requirements will now be placed on juvenile justice. Ms. Duffy agreed that the plan is

on the child welfare agencies but acknowledged that no additional funding was given for this legislation.

The discussion began to explore potential avenues of funding such as VOCA, or specialized housing grants for identified sex trafficking victims and that some time to research these grants would be time well spent. Dr. Pitlock stated that a large portion of the youth will most likely qualify for specialized foster care rates. Ms. Marano reiterated that the challenge will be when parents have not been neglectful, therefore the foster care funding would not be accessible. Jenny Williamson acknowledged that with foster care funding, the funds come and go with the youth, so sustainability of these placements will also need to be addressed.

Ms. Brown moved to goal #2. Ms. Brown asked the committee on how, and if, they want to address this goal. Ms. Bittleston suggested that this document be sent out in a Google document so that committee members could add information surrounding this goal. The group agreed that this was a good idea.

Ms. Brown moved to goal #3 and felt that this goal would come as goals 1 & 2 are developed. Ms. Brown shared comments by Eboni Washington, as she was not able to attend the meeting. The comments centered around youth with higher level of unmet mental health needs lingering in detention too long, and behaviors being criminalized, due to a lack of appropriate resources and how appropriate short-term housing is lacking in our communities, not only at initial contact, but as step-down programs from higher level treatment facilities. Ms. Washington believes that a strength of our communities is that there is a large number of advocates who want to see positive change, and this population would be served better if the continuum of care was better, with more organized and better-connected resources.

Action: A motion was made by Pauline Salla to approve the subcommittee's proposed goals as identified, and Brigid Duffy seconded the motion. No objections. Motion carries.

5. For Discussion and Possible Action: Appointment of Subcommittee Chair and Co-Chair- Esther Rodriguez-Brown

- **Subcommittee members will recommend & approve who should be the chair and co-chair of the subcommittee.**

Esther Rodriguez-Brown detailed the need for a subcommittee chair and co-chair to facilitate the future subcommittee meetings. Ms. Brown opened the floor to the group to nominations or volunteers for chair and co-chair positions. Pauline Salla noted that Eboni Washington, who was not present in the meeting, had expressed interest in becoming a co-chair. Ms. Salla, therefore, nominated Ms. Washington as one of the co-chairs with no objections from the group. Ms. Brown then asked for nominations for a second co-chair, to which Cara Paoli nominated Shannon McCoy. The nomination of Ms. McCoy was seconded by Ms. Salla. Ms. McCoy agreed to take on the role of co-chair alongside Ms. Washington. Ms. Brown clarified that the subcommittee is only assuming that Ms.

Washington will accept her nomination, and that a second nomination will be needed if she does not.

There was no public comment.

Action: A motion was made by Pauline Salla to nominate Eboni Washington and Shannon McCoy to be co-chairs of this subcommittee, and Cara Paoli seconded the motion. No objections. Motion carries.

No further discussion on this item.

6. For Discussion and Possible Action: Future Agenda Items- Esther Rodriguez-Brown

Esther Rodriguez-Brown opened the floor to members to suggest future Placement & Continuum of Care agenda items. Ms. Brown suggested adding a legislative update, requesting such from member Brigid Duffy. Ms. Duffy acceded to this request.

There were no additional suggestions.

There was no public comment.

Action: No action was taken at this time.

7. 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, per NRS 241.020*)- Esther Rodriguez-Brown

There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment- Next meeting will be April 6, 2023, at 10 am.

Ms. Brown adjourned the March 2nd, 2023, meeting of the Placement & Continuum of Care subcommittee.

CHAIRPERSON MAY CALL FOR A BREAK AT THEIR DISCRETION

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The meeting will not commence until or after the designated start time. The meeting will be adjourned after all scheduled agenda items have been addressed.

Agenda items may be taken out of order at the discretion of the of the Chair to accommodate persons appearing before the CSEC Coalition and/or to aid in the time efficiency of the meeting.

Items may be combined for consideration by the Coalition. Items may be delayed or removed from the agenda at any time.

If members of the public participate in the meeting, they must identify themselves when requested under agenda item number one.

Public comment is welcomed by the Coalition but may be limited to five minutes per person at the discretion of the Chair.

Action items are noted by the phrase “for possible action” and typically include review, denial and/or postponement of specific items. Certain items may be referred to a subcommittee for additional review and action.

This notice and Agenda have been sent to be posted at the following locations, in accordance with NRS Chapter 241:

State of Nevada- Nevada Public Notices

Website- <https://notice.nv.gov/>

State of Nevada- Division of Child and Family Services

Website- <https://dcfs.nv.gov/Programs/CWS/CSEC/2023MeetingandAgenda/>

- 1. Division of Child and Family Services, 6171 W. Charleston Blvd. Bldg. 8, Las Vegas, NV 89146**
- 2. Northern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services, 2655 Enterprise Rd., Reno, NV 89512**
- 3. Nevada Youth Parole Bureau, 6171 W. Charleston Blvd., Bldg. 15, Las Vegas, NV 89146**
- 4. Division of Child and Family Services, 1010 Ruby Vista Dr. Suite 101, Elko, NV 89801**
- 5. Division of Child and Family Services, 2533 North Carson St. Carson City, NV 89706**
- 6. Washoe County Human Services Agency, 350 S. Center St. Reno 89501**

