

Director



**DEPARTMENT OF** 

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** 



Cindy Pitlock, DNP Administrator

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# NEVADA COALITION TO PREVENT THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN: STRATEGIC PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, May 26, 2022 TIME: 10:00 am – 11:30 am (or until adjournment) VIDEO CONFERENCE: <u>Click here to join meeting</u> TELECONFERENCE: 1-775-321-6111 CONFERENCE ID: 318 324 217# Supporting materials may be obtained online at: https://dcfs.nv.gov/Programs/CWS/CSEC/2022MeetingsAndAgendas/

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- Items may be taken out of order, may be combined for consideration by the public body, and/or may bepulled 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 and Roll Call

**Members Present:** Shannon McCoy, Makaya Swain, Sgt. Greg Flores, Laurie Jackson, Det. Robert Wright, Chris Davin, DaShun Jackson, Ryan Gustafson, Andrea Davis, Brittany Hopballe, Jennifer Malnar, Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner, Brenda Sandquist, Mandy Hall, Samantha Elkins

**Members Absent:** Alexa Rodriguez, Brennan Paterson, Cara Paoli, Cynthia Burboa, Jason Guinasso, Pauline Salla, Sharon Anderson, Leslie Bittleston, Christina Vela

Guests: Tammi Goulden-Bosco, Lea Case, Katie Williamson

**2.** Public Comment and Discussion (Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agendaitem until scheduled on an agenda for a later meeting)

### 3. For Possible Action: Approval of April 28, 2022 meeting minutes.

**ACTION:** Unidentified speaker motioned to approve minutes as submitted, Chris Davin seconded motion. No oppositions. No abstentions. Motion Passed.

- 4. For Discussion and Possible Action: Continue discussion and development of strategies for implementation:
  - Prevention Strategies (Prevention resource guide to address CSEC)
    - Members will provide organizations in their community that would benefit from CSEC awareness and education tools and training.
  - Identification of validated screening and assessments tools for community organizations (NRIT and Vera Institute Assessment)
    - Approval of revised NRIT (Nevada Rapid Indicator Tool)
    - Training for NRIT users
  - Statewide service standards for providers (Southern Nevada Human Trafficking Task Force Best Practice for Standards of Service) and Continuum of Care

Shannon McCoy reminded the members of the continued discussion that would be held regarding the Prevention Resource Guide and identifying a plan of action regarding making it available to community members as well as specifically which community members.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown reiterated how lengthy the guide was and recommended choosing one portion of the guide to provide targeted prevention as a starting point. She reminded everyone of the importance of reviewing the meetings documents prior to each meeting to aid in the efficiency of tackling each agenda item. Esther added that the Prevention Resource Guide is available to the public via the DCFS website and as members of the subcommittee, community partners could be notified.

Makaya Swain stated that the community screening tool being developed for the community providers would tie into prevention piece.

Shannon McCoy asked if that would mean focusing on chapter 4 – CSEC Prevention Toolkit for Communities and Businesses.

Laurie Jackson asked if Chapter 11 would be an appropriate area to focus on given the work currently being done with the NRIT.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown agreed and stated that it would also tie in with Chapters, 11, 12 and 13, given the need for prevention services in underserved areas. She reminded everyone of the importance of establishing the concrete goals, to keep up the momentum.

Shannon McCoy stated that although this is publicly available, she does not believe that the majority of the community service providers may be aware of its existence therefore she suggests setting a goal of informing them of this resource via a letter, or other form of communication.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown agreed and suggested that the organizations that are part of this subcommittee could start with adding the link to the resource guide on their sites.

Jessica Freeman suggested to also have the resource guide emailed to any distribution lists the members of this subcommittee already have established. Furthermore, she added that this step could also be brought to the Coalition so that the information is spread even further.

**ACTION:** Shannon McCoy motioned to approve members' distribution of the Prevention Resource Guide as applicable via a link on their agency's site and associated email distribution lists. All

members present stated they were in favor of the motion. No oppositions, no abstentions, motion passed.

Shannon McCoy next asked for clarification on which chapters were proposed for the group to focus on.

Laurie Jackson asked if the group would consider condensing information in the Prevention Resource Guide to provide to kinship navigators.

Makaya Swain stated that if we're doing targeted prevention, we would need to focus on one area at a time. If the group decides to start with further exploitation, the next area could be exploitation of higher risk kids followed by prevention of all children. She shared that the tier should be worked backwards, one by one, in stages so that each population is hit.

Shannon McCoy opened the floor to the group's opinions on starting with Chapter 10 as a prevention strategy.

Laurie Jackson stated that she agrees with Makaya Swain's tiered approach, asks the group to follow that and to agree on moving on from one thing to the next as tasks are completed.

Jessica Freeman stated that infographics or something similar can be created for each section the group decides to work on which could be added to the DCFS site as a resource for kinship navigators.

Shannon McCoy asked if the group agreed to including prevention elements related to parents and caregivers.

Makaya Swain stated that the area of prevention that Laurie Jackson is referencing would fall under prevention for kids that are at risk because their children, in which parents and caregivers would also be educated. The two groups that would be targeted prior would be the prevention of further exploitation of kids that have already been exploited and the prevention of kids that show multiple vulnerabilities toward being exploited.

Laurie Jackson agreed with Makaya.

Jennifer Malnar recommended directing the recipients of the toolkit to the specific areas that align with their agency or services provided. Jennifer added that feedback could also be solicited.

Shannon McCoy agreed with the suggestion and recommended adding prevention of kids with lower risks as well as informing parents, guardians and caregivers of potential risks. She added that it would entail further discussion and identification of action steps.

Jessica Freeman stated that the group can agree to put that item on the next agenda and the motion can be taken and asked Makaya Swain if chapters 5,9,11 and 12 would be areas of focus for the next meeting.

Makaya Swain agreed that chapters, 5,9,11 and 12 are areas to focus on. She added that everything being worked on currently is linked to the prevention of further exploitation with the identification tool and the best practices tools. In order to prevent further exploitation, when children are confirmed via the screening tool, appropriate and effective services need to be in place.

Jessica Freeman asked if anyone would like to motion to focus on the prevention efforts as discussed in the three-tiered approach.

**ACTION:** Laurie Jackson motioned for the subcommittee to focus on the prevention efforts as discussed in the three-tiered approach. Andrea Davis seconded the motion. No oppositions. No Abstentions. Motion passed.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown stated that to her understanding, Chapters 5, 9, 11, 12 and 13 were agreed on

earlier as focus areas and suggested that if accurate; concrete steps would be established for the next meeting that include specific members reviewing those chapters.

Jessica Freeman agreed and clarified that since the group has agreed on the prevention efforts using the three-tiered approach, the work will be begin with reviewing the chapters Esther's cited.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown opened the floor to volunteers, alone or paired to read and provide a condensed version of each chapter to the group at the next meeting.

Dashun Jackson volunteered for Chapter 5.

Jennifer Malnar volunteered for Chapter 9.

Makaya Swain volunteered for Chapter 11.

Sgt. Greg Flores volunteered for Chapter 12.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown volunteered for Chapter 13 and added she would also review the others and support the volunteers as needed.

Shannon McCoy moved on to the next portion of the agenda item; discussion on screening and assessment tools for the State of Nevada. Shannon presented the revised NRIT on the screen and asked for a motion to approve the NRIT as presented.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown clarified that the NRIT is an initial screening tool which will be used in association with already established information, like a police file; it is not an interview tool.

Det. Robert Wright stated that law enforcement does not use the NRIT and suggested changing 'may be victimized' to 'child may have been victimized or at risk'.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown agreed.

Laurie Jackson asked if demographic information was required.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown stated that the importance of inclusivity was important as well as other demographic information for the statewide database to get a better understanding of the population and services needed according to the population.

Makaya Swain asked if race, ethnicity and preferred language are on the form.

Shannon McCoy stated that because the questionnaire is not an interview tool, those aren't included, but should already be included on the agency's database.

Tammi Goulden-Bosco, stated that race and ethnicity are on several of their Washoe School District forms as well as preferred language and whether an interpreter is needed to ensure they're answering in a way they're most comfortable with.

Shannon McCoy recapped that the 1<sup>st</sup> page would be guidelines, 2<sup>nd</sup> page would be the demographics where race, ethnicity and language could be included which could be presented as optional based on agency's database, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> page would stay with high risk, check box categories.

Makaya Swain stated it may be important to ensure demographics including ethnicity and cultural aspects are included because ultimately, when it is sent to the database, we cannot guarantee that the they will already have that information.

Tammi Goulden-Bosco stated their forms also ask about client siblings.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown stated that sibling information can be addressed during an assessment.

Det. Robert Wright suggested adding the word 'encouraged' to the first question under the Confirmed Victim section so that it would read, ' Has the child self-reported being encouraged, forced or coerced

into sexual activity, labor, or domestic servitude for the monetary benefit of another person or group of people?'

Shannon McCoy asked the group to review the other language changes, presented in blue on the shared screen.

Makaya Swain suggested for the second question under the Confirmed Victim section, to add child protective service in addition to law enforcement.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown agreed and suggested adding a broad term like 'any other agency'.

Jessica Freeman asked if these questions were created in abidance with statutory language.

Shannon McCoy stated that she cannot recall why only law enforcement was included other than that the distinguishing factor behind the fact that disclosures lead to automatic law enforcement referrals and investigations. She added that it is only one of four or five categories that open up different avenues to identifying a confirmed victim.

Jessica Freeman suggested that if the intent is to ensure it is more broad, to leave the question as it is and add a subsequent question asking, 'Has the child self-disclosed to any other agency and if so, has that agency reported it to law enforcement?'

Esther Rodriguez-Brown noted that the question Jessica Freeman suggested is already included, it is the last question under the 'confirmed victim' section.

Makaya Swain reiterated the importance of adding child protective service given that confirmation of child exploitation holds more weight when it comes from law enforcement or a child welfare agency.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown agreed and suggested having the question regarding confirmation through law enforcement or a child welfare agency as the first question under the 'confirmed victim' section because if a disclosure has already led to an investigation, the rest of the questions are irrelevant.

Shannon McCoy agreed and moved on to the 'High Risk Section' of the documents to present the minor revisions.

Jessica Freeman asked if the questioned referenced should be limited to males.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown stressed the importance of ensuring NRIT users are well trained to use the form – because the male has been identified as a gang member does not automatically indicate they're at risk of being exploited, all of the other factors covered must also be present.

Shannon McCoy expressed the potential need for a dialogue box where the person completing the tool can explain why they have any other reason to believe the child may be a victim of trafficking.

Jessica Freeman asked if the question regarding gang affiliation should include clarifying words.

Samantha Elkins shared that based on her experience in completing the NRIT, she would suggest leaving the question as it is currently worded. She added that because she does not have the expertise in this area as someone in law enforcement would, leaving the question broad would be best.

Shannon McCoy called for a motion to approve the NRIT with the recommended revisions.

**ACTION:** DaShun Jackson motioned to approve the NRIT with the recommended revisions. Det. Robert Wright seconded the motion. No oppositions. No Abstentions. Motion passed.

Shannon McCoy next presented the introductory paragraph (pg. 2) from the NRIT cover page document and proposed moving it to the first page and asked the group on whether they felt the outline provided enough guidance to other agencies that will need to create a how-to cover page for their agency. Not hearing any feedback or recommendations, Shannon McCoy called for a motion to accept

the sample cover page with the inclusion of the paragraph from the approved child welfare NRIT.

ACTION: Jennifer Malnar motioned to approve the sample page with the inclusion of the paragraph rom the approved child welfare NRIT. Laurie Jackson seconded the motion. No opposition. No abstentions. Motion passed.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown suggested removing the identification of validated screening and assessment tools for community organization bullet under this agenda item. She added that this subcommittee should focus on prevention, screening and assessment given that training is being developed by DCFS separately.

Shannon McCoy informed the subcommittee members that while it is validated, the Vera Institute screening tool is primarily used with adults therefore the West Coast Children's Clinic (CSE-IT) tool is being recommended.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown stated that in her meetings with colleagues from other states she has come to find out that the feds are inquiring about which validated tools and evidence-based tools are being used. There are only two nationally recognized tools, the Vera Institute and the West Coast Children's Clinic CSE-IT tool.

Shannon McCoy asked how the group felt about recommending the use of this tool as the tool that the State of Nevada would use to promote the assessment upon screening completion.

Makaya Swain asked if the tool is able to be integrated into assessment that agencies already use.

Esther Rodriguez-Brown stated it can be done however it might be beneficial to note that the assessment was adopted from the validated tool, whichever is chosen. She reiterated that if approved, it would serve as a guide where organizations are including that their assessment was an adaptation from the validated tool.

Tammi Goulden recommended using both 'evidence-based' and 'validated' descriptors especially when thinking about applying for grants.

Esther Rodriguez Brown informed the group this item could be tabled if they needed more time for review.

Makaya Swain stated she would like to take more time to review the tool.

Samantha \_\_\_\_ motioned to table to review of the CSE-IT tool for the next meeting. Dashun Jackson seconded the motion. No oppositions. No abstentions. Motion passed.

Dashun Jackson motioned to move the statewide service standards for providers to the next meeting. Greg Flores seconded the motion. No oppositions. No abstentions. Motion passed.

Shannon McCoy reminded the group that the document for the statewide service standards is 12 pages so it would be beneficial to carve out some time to review it. Lastly, she reminded the group that the next meeting is June 23. 2022.

No further discussion on this item.

**5.** Final Public Comment and Discussion (Action may not be taken on any matter brough up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for a later meeting)

None.

## 6. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Shannon McCoy at 11:31am.