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Ross Armstrong
Administrator

Nevada Children's Commission Education Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, November 30, 2021

TIME: 9:00 A.M.- Adjournment

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

TELECONFERENCE LINE: 1-775-321-6111

CONFERENCE ID: 959 933 347#

1. **Call to Order** – Nancy Brune, Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Dr. Jesus Jara, Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner, Janice Wolf

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Nancy Brune.

2. **Welcome and Introductions (Roll Call)** – DCFS Staff

Members Present by Video: Nancy Brune, Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner, Janice Wolf

Members Absent: Dr. Jesus Jara

DCFS Staff: Ross Armstrong, Elvira Saldana

Public: Brigid Duffy, Morgan Briscoe, Anna Marie Binder

3. **Public Comment and Discussion:**

There was no public comment.

4. **For Possible Action:** Meeting Minutes from February 19, 2020– Nancy Brune, Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Dr. Jesus Jara, Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner, Janice Wolf

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner abstained.

Action: Kimberly Palma-Ortega made a motion to approve the minutes as they are written, seconded by Nancy Brune, and carried to approve the minutes of February 19, 2020.

5. **For Possible Action:** Workplan Committee Goals – Nancy Brune, Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Dr. Jesus Jara, Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner, Janice Wolf

Nancy Brune stated the workplan was attached. The previous meeting minutes provided a recap of the conversations the committee had in 2020, where the need to gather more data on foster care youth outcomes and the intersection of youth in foster care with IEPs was identified. One of the action items was to do a gap analysis around some of the services and training available to kids between the ages of 0 to 24. There are some action items that have not been addressed based on the conversation in 2020 with the previous workplan. Nancy Brune asked committee members if they would like to carry over some of the other data points and gap analysis addressed previously to the new workplan and integrate them or if the focus should be reshifted to the new workplan overview and focus on racial and ethnic disparities.

Janice Wolf stated they have an education advocacy project under Children's Attorneys Project (CAP). They have been working and looking to expand their education program to fill what they see as a gap. It covers what Nancy Brune talked about, the racial ethnic disparity they see in the school to delinquency pipeline. They are trying to get in there and represent the kids in the education system before they cross over to the delinquency system. One of the areas they have looked at for training, which they feel is important and hopefully will reduce the pipeline traffic, is to train the school police. The biggest issue they have is school police do not understand disabilities or trauma. Those are the most common with kids in foster care. The school police are not trained in tools and techniques to deal with these traumatized kids. It would be valuable to do more trauma training for individuals in the schools who work with these kids. As a Children's Commission it needs to be looked at.

Brigid Duffy stated she has attended the Behavioral Health committee meeting and they are following the 2021/2022 workplan. Adding to what Janice Wolf said there was a bill that passed, SB108 which requires training around Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) scores for anyone who works with children who would enter the juvenile justice system and will include school police and resource officers. It is going to become mandated training. Brigid stated the workplan requires an inventory of current training and what the Behavioral Health committee requested was for the members to come with a list of trainings at their next meeting to see the gaps and make recommendations.

Nancy Brune asked Brigid Duffy when the training will be implemented.

Brigid Duffy asked Ross Armstrong for assistance.

Ross Armstrong stated if not school year 2022/2023 then the following.

Janice Wolf commented it is too long.

Nancy Brune stated to Janice Wolf's point about the school police she would include higher level school Administrators. Nancy Brune suggested having an inventory of training and efforts currently underway related to the nexus of education, foster care kids with disabilities, and juvenile justice.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega suggested the committee taking what is on the workplan and breaking it down further, by adding SB108 and figuring out how it plugs in as it rolls out. Ideas discussed previously should be considered for the new workplan.

Janice Wolf asked the committee if they saw the rollout the school district is doing to try to improve special education. Janice Wolf will forward it to the group. Janice Wolf stated her office advocates at the manifestation determination hearings for kids with an IEP.

Nancy Brune stated the recent data on school discipline does show the numbers for disciplinary actions against students with IEPs does seem high compared to the general population. Nancy Brune stated she is unsure whether the regulations will address enforcement of the training relating to SB108 or if the bill addresses it. Currently there is no idea of what happens to kids who have IEPs who graduate from the school districts. Nancy Brune would like to see a school district report out of kids with IEPs who graduate.

Ross Armstrong stated DCFS received a grant from the Department of Justice where they are working with school resource officers in Clark County. Ross Armstrong believes there is some funding for mental health for the rural areas. At the next meeting the committee may want to have the DCFS representative come in and provide an explanation so they can keep an eye on the priorities this committee has in working through the grant.

Nancy Brune asked Ross Armstrong who would be the contact.

Ross Armstrong stated it is Leslie Bittleston. She is the Chief of the Juvenile Justice Programs Office. Another person the committee might invite is the Behavioral Health Coordinator for the Department of Education, to discuss what is going on in the schools. With the efforts of Clark County and with the state and Medicaid helping to work, we should see a vast expansion of school based mental health in the next 2 to 3 years. It is important for this commission to make sure the youth who are in foster care or juvenile justice can access those at the schools they are attending and there is good communication between their caseworker of what is going on. Ross Armstrong suggested the committee keep it on their radar going forward.

Nancy Brune stated UNLV has been working to try to get some on site clinics in the schools and they were able to implement a couple recently. Having an inventory of all that would be helpful. Nancy Brune feels like the committee is already behind based on the workplan timeline. Nancy Brune asked if there is availability or willingness to try to meet one more time in December to come back with a preliminary inventory or if it would be more realistic to meet the first week of January. The idea would be to come back with an inventory of current training and current data gaps as well. In reviewing number 3, technology, and data sharing capability in the workplan, Nancy Brune thinks it would include data points the committee would like to see that could be helpful in informing policy we currently do not have. Nancy Brune asked the committee members what they think.

Janice Wolf stated she is ok with meeting in early January.

Nancy Brune stated she is more than happy to organize a meeting in early January however, she asked the committee members and anyone participating in the meeting to send any information they may have.

Brigid Duffy suggested the committee send a letter to the Nevada Department of Education and the local school districts asking what training they provide. Between now and January the letter can be sent.

Nancy Brune thanked Brigid Duffy for the suggestion. Nancy Brune asked who is paying for the ACES training.

Brigid Duffy stated she can speak on behalf of Clark County. The Department of Juvenile Justice Services have a training which has the specific training embedded in it. The Juvenile Justice Department is paying for it and they are rolling it out to school police as well. They are doing a train the trainer. The Juvenile Justice Department will be trained to teach the program. It consisted of 3 days of intensive training.

Nancy Brune stated she will get the letter out by December 6th.

Brigid Duffy suggested to ask committee members what training they want. Janice Wolf for example, had specific training on how to train school police and resource officers around children with disabilities.

Janice stated Administrators and education decision makers should be included too. Trauma training needs to be included.

Nancy Brune asked members to send specific trainings to inquire about to include in the letter.

Elvira Saldana asked Ross Armstrong what the process would be for drafting the letter and if it would require for the committee to convene to approve it prior to it being sent out.

Ross Armstrong replied the best way to do it would be to have a draft of the letter at the next meeting for the committee to approve the language. In the motion to approve the language, there could be some flexibility for the Chair of the committee to make any necessary changes prior to sending it.

Janice Wolf asked when the next meeting is.

Nancy Brune stated it would be in January. Nancy Brune asked if it could be over email or if a meeting would be required due to Open Meeting Law.

Ross Armstrong stated the committee cannot take action today since it is not on the agenda however there is not anything that prevents a Chair from sending a letter.

Nancy Brune asked if it was allowable for a committee member to make a motion to authorize the Chair of the committee to send a letter to the Department of Education and the school districts asking them to what extent they provide certain types of training.

Janice Wolf commented if it is not allowable the committees are going to get paralyzed.

Ross Armstrong suggested to not take a vote since it is not on the agenda and for Nancy Brune to send the letter in her inherent power as the committee Chair.

Nancy Brune requested committee members to submit specific types of training they are interested in knowing about, whether the school districts and state is providing. Nancy Brune asked if there were any other issues or points the committee would like to discuss. The committee needs to create an inventory of current technology and data systems. Nancy Brune suggested to also ask in the letter what data they are tracking or what systems they are using.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated Nancy Brune is right on it and suggested taking it a step further and ask what they are doing and how they are going about it to maybe figure out where the school districts rate their racial and ethnic disparities by their school areas/zonings. It may help the committee prioritize and figure out ways to get information to those families.

Nancy Brune asked Kimberly Palma-Ortega if she is suggesting the committee ask what vehicles for public awareness or community outreach they currently have in place.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated for the public awareness, to know what their main focus was.

Nancy Brune asked the committee members to provide specific questions they would like to be included in the letter.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega asked by when she would like them.

Nancy Brune replied by close of business on Friday. Nancy Brune asked Janice Wolf if there are certain people within the school districts they should be sent to.

Janice Wolf stated she would speak with Jonathan Norman, their Team Chief for Education, and will provide a list to Nancy Brune on Friday.

Nancy Brune asked if perhaps the Department of Education would have a contact person for each of the rural districts.

Janice Wolf asked Brigid Duffy if she knew if anyone created a list in connection with legislation.

Brigid Duffy stated she did not know. The Department of Education should know who everybody would be.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated since she is the Chair of NDLC, she will ask them what they know statewide and see if one of their staffing attorneys can be pulled in.

Nancy Brune stated Clark County has Title I Coordinator, Meg Pike. Laura Obrist at Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) may have folks as well. Nancy Brune stated she would reach out to Laura Obrist.

Janice Wolf stated she is looking forward to making changes that will mean something.

Anna Marie Binder stated she sits on the Special Education Advisory Committee and a part of the Strong Start Program. An issue that came out as they were reviewing the state strategic plan is the data seemed to be off. At their last meeting the representatives from the Nevada Department of Education admitted there were some anomalies in between the data reporting of 2017 and the data they currently have, to work with. The data for last year will not be released until this month.

Nancy Brune stated the committee is going to send a letter to the school districts and the Nevada Department of Education to ask what specific types of trainings they are offering with respect to behavioral health, special education, and awareness around interacting with kids who have IEPs. Based on what Anna Marie Binder said, it sounds like the committee needs to ask what professional development and/or training teachers and/or Administrators are receiving to be able to collect and enter the data as it relates to students with IEPs and their progress.

Janice Wolf asked if data is collected on how many special education classes are being taught by substitute teachers or if it matters.

Anna Marie Binder stated it does matter, reimbursement from Medicaid cannot be requested if they have an unlicensed professional in the classrooms and it is a violation of the IDEA Act and Americans with Disabilities Act. Anna Marie will provide the committee members with the data the state provided.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated with the information the committee has, there is a good start.

Nancy Brune reminded committee members to send her questions about data, training, and technology systems to include in the letter which will be sent to the school districts and the Nevada Department of Education. The letter will go out next Monday.

6. **For Possible Action:** Discuss and Decide Upon Next Steps – Nancy Brune, Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Dr. Jesus Jara, Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner, Janice Wolf
 - Assign Tasks to Committee Members (if needed)
 - Committee members provide questions relating to data, training, and technology systems to include in the letter to the school districts and the Nevada Department of Education
 - Specify Agenda Items for the Next Meeting
 - Behavioral Health Coordinator- Department of Education
 - DCFS Representative- new grant
 - Report on preliminary information received from the school districts relating to provided training
 - Confirm Next Meeting Date/Time
Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

7. **Public Comment and Discussion**

Brigid Duffy suggested the committee to diversify out of Clark County. The committee should think about representatives from Washoe County and the state. If the people who can make decisions are not on these meetings, nothing will get done.

Anna Marie Binder stated Jessica Boyles with the Nevada Department of Education can probably provide contacts for a lead in just about every county.

Brigid Duffy added it might be even better to diversify further out, maybe find a foster care liaison for Washoe County School District or something so there is a voice from everywhere. Brigid Duffy requested the committee come back with recommendations the Chair and Co-Chair can appoint to the committee on the next agenda.

Nancy Brune requested the committee members to think of names before the next meeting.

8. Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn by Janice Wolf, seconded by Kimberly Palma-Ortega, and carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.