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Cindy Pitlock, DNP
Administrator

Nevada Children's Commission Education Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: Friday, January 6, 2023

TIME: 12:00 P.M.- Adjournment

VIDEO CONFERENCE:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_N2M2YzFiYmItMmM5YS00MzMLWlwMjgtNTQxOTk4MWUzMjhm%40thread.y2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22be58909a-421c-4f56-857e-c5f7d4ef6f7f%22%7d

TELECONFERENCE LINE: 1-775-321-6111

CONFERENCE ID: 261 239 297#

- 1. Call to Order** – Janice Wolf, Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Dr. Jesus Jara, Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner, Laura Obrist, Jodi Thornley
The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Janice Wolf.
- 2. Welcome and Introductions (Roll Call)** – DCFS Staff
Members Present by Video: Janice Wolf, Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner, Laura Obrist, Jodi Thornley, Dr. Jesus Jara

Members Absent: N/A

DCFS Staff: Dr. Cindy Pitlock, Elvira Saldana

Public: None

- 3. Public Comment and Discussion**

There was no public comment.

- 4. For Possible Action:** Meeting Minutes from September 30, 2022

Janice Wolf asked committee members if there were any additions or corrections.

There were no recommendations.

Action: Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Kimberly Palma-Ortega, and carried to approve the minutes of September 30, 2022.

5. For Possible Action: Committee Priorities and Recommendations – Janice Wolf, Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Dr. Jesus Jara, Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner, Laura Obrist, Jodi Thornley

- Discuss, prioritize, and take possible action regarding the committee’s priorities and recommendations.

Janice Wolf stated at the last meeting the committee priorities and recommendations were approved. The committee is now at the point of next steps. Janice Wolf suggested looking at what the committee has control over. A lot of the items are dependent on the county and state school districts. The Commission and committee do not have the authority to compel action. Janice Wolf stated she hopes to review the list today and start some discussion on what is doable in the short term and long term and focus on next steps.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated perhaps the committee could gather who else oversees the other school districts. Getting connections with the other school districts, maybe having a conversation, or including them on the committee.

Janice Wolf stated the committee had previously talked about Dr. Jesus Jara being a liaison between Clark County and the jurisdictions in the North. Janice Wolf asked Dr. Jesus Jara if it is still something he can help the committee with.

Dr. Jesus Jara asked Janice Wolf to repeat the question.

Janice Wolf stated when Dr. Jesus Jara joined the meeting, the committee was talking about the next steps the committee can and should undertake, and the need to bring in the rest of the state. The committee is wondering how they can identify people in other parts of the state the committee should connect with, and any assistance Dr. Jesus Jara can provide in identifying people and the ability to function as a liaison between his counterparts.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner stated Dr. Jesus Jara plays a unique and very influential role as the chair of the Superintendent Association.

Dr. Jesus Jara stated he is the President of the Nevada Association of Superintendents. Dr. Jesus Jara stated he can bring items to them, ask as the liaison, and include other members of the Superintendent Association to be able to participate as the committee moves forward on the education initiatives.

Janice Wolf stated the committee has the ability to expand and wonders if it makes sense to bring some of Dr. Jesus Jara’s counterparts on to the committee as opposed to Dr. Jesus Jara bringing items to them.

Dr. Jesus Jara stated the Executive Director could serve on the committee or be the liaison.

Janice Wolf requested Dr. Jesus Jara inform Elvira Saldana and herself if the Executive Director would be willing to serve in that capacity and join the committee.

Dr. Jesus Jara stated he would do that.

Janice Wolf asked committee members what priorities and recommendations in the document are the most doable in the short run.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner commented if it would be helpful if the committee gave Dr. Jesus Jara a moment to scan them. Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner stated she thinks there could be some power in having Dr. Jesus Jara review what was identified, determine which they could have the greatest impact immediately or what might be low hanging fruit, and those that he could champion with his colleagues because of the association as President.

Janice Wolf stated some items such as working with the family court judges and DAAY Court are items which are in the committee's control and those who are involved in the courts can take some leadership and get it going.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega suggested adding leads for parole and probation and scheduling a meeting where they can be included and have a conversation about the material.

Janice Wolf clarified if Kimberly Palma-Ortega is suggesting another meeting be set where the committee invites some of the stakeholders, like somebody from parole and probation. Janice Wolf asked what other stakeholders Kimberly Palma-Ortega would like for the committee to reach out to.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated it would be beneficial if the committee could provide the document to key stakeholders such as the family court judges and get input from them.

Janice Wolf stated it makes more sense to pick things the committee can get done and get them done. Janice Wolf stated she could reach out to Judge Bailey and Judge Gibson to see if they would like to setup the dialogue.

Dr. Jesus Jara stated he does not have the current priorities and recommendations document.

Elvira Saldana stated she would send the current document to Dr. Jesus Jara.

Janice Wolf asked if the Clark County School District tracks graduation success rates for kids in foster care or the child welfare system.

Dr. Jesus Jara stated they do not. They would be able to identify the kids and pull the graduation, however Dr. Jesus Jara does not believe they pull out the kids by the foster system.

Janice Wolf stated the committee would like to look at graduation success rates of foster kids versus non foster kids.

Dr. Jesus Jara stated they have graduation information however they do not have it broken down by foster students.

Janice Wolf asked Laura Obrist how the committee could get the data.

Laura Obrist stated it has not been done for very long, however they can pull the high school graduation rates specifically for foster care from the Nevada Report Card. Laura Obrist has 3 years of data, starting with 2018-2019 school year for graduation rates by district and statewide. Laura Obrist provided the report link in the meeting chat, [https://nshe.nevada.edu/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Affairs/2021%20NSHE%20Foster%20Youth%20Fee%20Waiver%20Report%20-%20FINAL%20\(Accessible\).pdf](https://nshe.nevada.edu/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Affairs/2021%20NSHE%20Foster%20Youth%20Fee%20Waiver%20Report%20-%20FINAL%20(Accessible).pdf).

Dr. Jesus Jara stated a challenge and a priority for the committee, would be for ways to support in the wraparound on the outside or lack thereof for kids. In reviewing data today, there are close to 10,000 kids who are homeless. Dr. Jesus Jara stated he will begin having conversations with community leaders to address homelessness. If the homelessness is addressed from municipalities, the school system challenges can be addressed.

Janice Wolf asked if Community in Schools is helpful. Janice Wolf asked if they should be adding them to their partnership.

Dr. Jesus Jara stated yes. As a stakeholder, Boys and Girls Town is another one.

Janice Wolf asked committee members how it sounded to them.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner stated it is great.

Laura Obrist stated it sounds good to her.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated with what has been mentioned so far, Dr. Jesus Jara will be handling adding additional school districts. The second thing Kimberly Palma-Ortega has written down is getting the document out to other stakeholders to get feedback. The third item is resources, for the committee to get community providers and stakeholders to buy in on what the committee is doing to cover and assist the other areas. Also, if the district and statewide data can be collected from the foster care report, it can be reviewed to see what components are not collected.

Janice Wolf asked Elvira Saldana if the meeting is being recorded and if she can provide notes regarding what Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated.

Elvira Saldana stated yes.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated she can provide notes to Janice Wolf.

Janice Wolf asked if the committee would like to look at increasing stakeholders to address Dr. Jesus Jara's concerns about the outside support systems which get kids to school in a position to be able to learn.

Dr. Jesus Jara stated yes, to support the outside conditions.

Janice Wolf stated as children attorneys another obstacle they see with regard to kids in foster care is many of their high school students do not have a mentor or community supports. The Children's Attorneys Project (CAP) has been working on a partnership with 100 Black Men to develop mentors for their young men that do not have them. Janice Wolf asked if there is any way something similar can be developed through the school system.

Dr. Jesus Jara stated they are working with 100 Black Men as well. Currently they have a little bit over 500 mentors.

Janice Wolf asked if as a committee they can help formalize the program.

Dr. Jesus Jara stated they are formalizing internally in the Clark County School District. Their goal now is to expand it. Dr. Jesus Jara stated his Chief of Staff, Shana Raflaski, is working with the Community Engagement Office to bring in partners. Dr. Jesus Jara provided Shana Raflaski's email in the meeting chat, rafalsh@nv.ccsd.net.

Jodi Thornley stated a lot of people who want to help mentor and volunteer have had a hard time getting the volunteer badges. Jody Thornley asked if there is an update on if the program is working any better or quicker for the background check.

Dr. Jesus Jara stated the challenge is at the state level. They are about a month behind on background checks.

Jodi Thornley asked if in the outlying areas the local police department can assist with the pictures.

Dr. Jesus Jara stated the police department does, however it still gets funneled up at the state level.

Janice Wolf stated some of the items she has on her list are community supports, mentoring project, and Laura Obrist will be providing the committee with the graduation data.

Laura Obrist stated yes, she can provide charts.

Janice Wolf asked Laura Obrist if she could email it to Elvira Saldana.

Laura Obrist stated she will add the 2021 data for the state, Clark and Washoe County and pass it on to Elvira Saldana.

Janice Wolf stated she volunteers to reach out to the judiciary counterparts in the South. Janice Wolf asked if anyone has a liaison with parole and probation.

There were no responses.

Janice Wolf stated she would reach out to parole and probation. If the committee would like to bring on community and schools, Janice Wolf stated she could reach out to them. Janice Wolf asked committee members what is within their wheelhouse to take on.

Dr. Jesus Jara asked who will be contacting his Chief of Staff.

Janice Wolf stated she would be happy to reach out to her. Janice Wolf asked Dr. Jesus Jara what she is reaching out to her on.

Dr. Jesus Jara stated it would be to learn about the mentoring program, what they are doing with 100 Black Men, what the program looks like and to see what can be tailored to the one the committee wants to bring statewide.

Janice Wolf stated asked if there are any immediate action items for collaboration (section 1 of the document).

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated she could gather a list of resources.

Janice Wolf stated other related stakeholders the committee may want to bring on are the district attorneys and the juvenile public defenders on the delinquency side.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated she agrees.

Janice Wolf asked Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner if she would like to add anything.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner stated she would lend her assistance where needed.

Janice Wolf asked Kimberly Palma-Ortega if there were any areas she would like to work on.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated she would pull the resources together. Once the committee gets the conversation going with parole, probation, Judge Bailey's office, and the public defender's office, Kimberly Palma-Ortega will review their resources and see what other options there are for the child welfare programs.

Janice Wolf stated it would be great and asked committee members by when they should bring the individuals to the table.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated for the material to be provided to the individuals mentioned and then schedule a meeting a month to a month and a half later.

Laura Obrist stated she is working on checklists for middle through high schoolers by grade for students in foster care, to simplify some of the key tasks they need to start thinking about. Laura Obrist is also working on a guide for high school counselors serving those students.

Janice Wolf asked Elvira Saldana if it is ok to use her as a conduit to gather data and resources for distribution.

Elvira Saldana stated it is fine.

Janice Wolf asked committee members if two separate meetings should be scheduled.

Dr. Jesus Jara stated one meeting is enough.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega commented having everyone at the same time would be in the committee's best interest.

Laura Obrist commented there a few typos in the document. Under 1a. trainings, the last two bullet points are one bullet point which got separated. The other item which is more content relevant is in multiple places it states children in foster care and/or those with disabilities. In some places it states students in foster care with disabilities. It should be and/or.

Janice Wolf stated with regard to the Children's Commission there is a bill being proposed to bring the Commission into statute with funding and staffing. Janice Wolf will let the committee know if there will be any changes to the committee.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega asked if Janice Wolf knows the BDR number.

Janice Wolf stated she does not think there is one yet.

Janice Wolf stated there is nothing formal on how the Commission is going to be structured as far as committees. The goal is to not just be limited to children in foster care and expand to children's issues in general.

Laura Obrist stated she agrees, including other populations is important. It makes sense if it is being expanded.

Janice Wolf stated the homeless population Dr. Jesus Jara referred to are not kids in foster care.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega commented it makes sense to expand. Whether the individuals are in foster care, with disabilities, or homeless they all belong to a family. The committee can make the document solid for it to be used going forward.

6. For Possible Action: Discuss and Decide Upon Next Steps – Janice Wolf, Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Dr. Jesus Jara, Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner, Laura Obrist, Jodi Thornley

- Assign Tasks to Committee Members (if needed)
No additional tasks were assigned.
- Specify Agenda Items for the Next Meeting
No recommendations were made.
- Confirm Next Meeting Date/Time
A meeting will be scheduled by the end of February.

7. Public Comment and Discussion

There was no public comment.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m.