

Steve Sisolak  
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

## Nevada Children's Commission Education Committee Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** Friday, August 19, 2022

**TIME:** 12:00 P.M.- Adjournment

**VIDEO CONFERENCE:**

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_NGE2Y2E5MTAtNzEzNC00ZDZILTkyNDUtMjgyMTJIMDQ0Y2Uw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22be58909a-421c-4f56-857e-c5f7d4ef6f7f%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NGE2Y2E5MTAtNzEzNC00ZDZILTkyNDUtMjgyMTJIMDQ0Y2Uw%40thread.v2/0?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:** 573 168 870#

1. **Call to Order** – Janice Wolf, Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Dr. Jesus Jara, Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner  
The meeting was called to order at 12:04 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

**Members Absent:** Dr. Jesus Jara

**DCFS Staff:** Elvira Saldana

**Public:** Jodi Thornley, Laura Obrist, Steven Osburn

3. **Public Comment and Discussion**  
There was no public comment.

4. **For Possible Action:** Meeting Minutes from June 9, 2022  
Janice Wolf asked committee members if there were any additions or corrections.

There were no recommendations.

**Action:** Kimberly Palma-Ortega made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner, and carried to approve the minutes of June 9, 2022.

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

- Review and discuss recommendations and priorities provided by committee members  
Janice Wolf stated committee members submitted recommendations and the goal for the meeting is to come up with a list of recommendations to submit to the Commission. Janice Wolf stated she noticed an overlap in priorities in terms of education, delinquency, and probation.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated a lot of the stuff that came from her is something they have been doing since the Commission started when she was working with Nancy Brune and things she has seen working with other organizations. Kimberly Palma-Ortega is wondering if general areas can be taken and incorporate some of the other areas the committee has seen that are overlapping. Currently there is a collaboration with the Clark County School District (CCSD) and the District Attorney's (DA's) Office and Kimberly Palma-Ortega would like to use it to its full extent. Some of Kimberly Palma-Ortega's additional comments are due to her living through it or has worked with families who have engaged with it. They are areas which are still lingering. Kimberly Palma-Ortega asked Janice Wolf if there was something she had written which would open a door to allow a couple of pieces from everyone else's input.

Janice Wolf stated Kimberly Palma Ortega's collaboration recommendation ducktails with her recommendations where they talked about reengagement. One of the committee's recommendations was trauma-based advocacy for trauma-based training. It intersects with what Kimberly Palma-Ortega said about the school district, probation, and how kids and the courts in the delinquency system are affected by the lack of trauma training. Janice Wolf stated she was hoping they could take Kimberly Palma-Ortega's number 2 and 3 recommendations and work in trauma training into them.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated she agrees and is willing to entertain any other conversation to add those additional pieces.

Janice Wolf stated if several priorities were submitted, she was thinking there could be one big comprehensive one along the lines of what they are talking about with the trauma training. Some of the other things raised are also important such as higher education for foster kids. A gap they see with their clients is the middle ground is missing. There is not much emphasis on kids who are not college bound or going directly into the workforce. Janice Wolf asked if it is meritorious to look at a goal which does not fit into the initial thing but is also an important goal for kids in foster care.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated the three priorities the committee could still work on, ongoing.

Janice Wolf stated she was thinking Kimberly Palma-Ortega could articulate and frame the priorities the committee wants to focus on.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega asked if components should be added to the need for collaboration.

Janice Wolf stated a committee report needs to be submitted. As part of the report, Janice Wolf would like to put together what the committee has been working on and the identified priorities they wish to present to the Commission.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega asked Laura Obrist if there are a couple of pieces which are workable, doable, and reportable.

Laura Obrist stated there are a lot of ways it can be structured. The big things Laura Obrist was thinking was more incorporated education support in independent living programs. In terms of the first priority with higher education is information dissemination. For the trade vocational piece, looking at a comprehensive guide. For the last two, in focusing on discipline and students with learning challenges, using the Nevada Report Card data as a starting point, and then working with the folks at the district level and child welfare agencies to address the school's action plan for the schools who have the highest rates of disproportionate discipline issues. The Nevada Report Card tracks students who have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). With IEPs, there are a lot of compliance issues. Laura Obrist is not sure how to break down the structure. There are a lot of ways to pull out the different elements being discussed.

Janice Wolf asked Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner to express some thoughts and priorities.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner stated in reviewing the feedback provided, she sees two areas in which there appears to be some consistency around supports to youth with a focus on youth with foster care experience and individuals with special needs. There also appears to be a thread around data. Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner asked if it could be framed as the subcommittee reviewed the previous workplan, identified priorities by members, enumerate the list, and then say they decided or voted to prioritize one to two key areas. There appears to be great support across each of the documents for youth/student supports and some discussion around the data.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega asked if in the process of collecting different types of trauma and educational needs and concerns if there is the ability to ask different areas to look at the intake forms for each of the platforms, i.e., foster care, juvenile system.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner commented each of the committee members noted a piece around data priorities.

Janice Wolf stated if the committee can come up with priority categories and then go back as part of their assignments and maybe each of the committee members take a category. One of the categories Janice Wolf is picking up on is data collection.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated they can start with collaboration. Data collection would be second and third should be transition.

Janice Wolf asked committee members if there were any suggestions to the broad categories of priorities or any additions.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated Laura Obrist provided trauma informed training, increasing staffing support.

Janice Wolf asked if it should be listed as a separate priority or if it fits into one of the others.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner commented there is an opportunity to combine it with Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) Dr. Jesus Jara referenced.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega asked if it could be a collaboration and a subcommittee regarding what Laura Obrist and Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner mentioned, where it could fall under collaboration and maybe they could seek the information through the collaboration with CCSD and the DA's Office.

Janice Wolf stated she did not have a preference.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner asked when they say collaboration if it would get to the piece around student or youth supports, if it is intended to be the same thing or have some element of it.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated her intent would be because there is a collaboration, if it was brought to their attention to make sure it is interjected within the collaboration that they are looking for those things.

Laura Obrist stated with the components discussed, with training you are getting at overall mindset and approach, and it leads to the direct service piece. It is something that is needed across the board in terms of culture. The staffing support is its own thing which takes resources and have been a challenge for different districts to have. Both at the school level and within the child welfare agencies there has been more talk of trying to increase staffing. If collaboration is one of the big things, maybe then something which has an accountability piece in terms of what it looks like, what metrics should be looked at to increase staff training or staffing to support the young people in schools or through a child welfare agency.

Janice Wolf commented she is not sure she is understanding whether the collaboration part is getting too big. Janice Wolf asked if the collaboration priority could be broken down into subsections.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated Janice Wolf reiterated what she was hoping for, if it is the umbrella of work collaboration and as Laura had mentioned accountability. Collaboration is the umbrella, and they need to subpoint the smaller bites they can present to the full Commission.

Janice Wolf stated she would like to take collaboration and maybe divide it into however many subparts they need.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated she agrees.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner asked Kimberly Palma-Ortega when she says partnership between the District Attorney's Office and the school district if she is referencing the School Justice Partnership or if it is something else.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated that is the one with CCSD and District Attorney Duffy. Since it is new, it would be easier to help with the infrastructure. Kimberly Palma-Ortega is trying to use the new platform to come up with the different trainings discussed.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner stated she can see that and as a member of the group she can attest to MTSS and some of the other areas being part of some of the work that is happening. Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner believes it could be a great umbrella for a number of these efforts and inclusive of the priorities.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega asked Laura Obrist if she sees anything else or specific breakdowns.

Laura Obrist stated she thinks it covers everything she was thinking. Breaking it down more is helpful and there are a lot of intersections in whatever everyone submitted, starting to put it to paper and figure out where things overlap and how to simplify would be good.

Janice Wolf asked if they need to take a vote on the priorities/categories and if the priorities are collaboration, data collection, and transition.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega asked if for transition they should do long term transition.

Janice Wolf asked committee members if they would like to be more specific.

Laura Obrist commented the transition past high school whether it is trade or a vocational program at a public community college or something else which is affordable and reputable and transition services in terms of what vocational rehabilitation offers and connecting students while they are still in school. Credentials past high school as a broader thing which can include the more traditional paths, the 2- and 4-year schools. Laura Obrist thinks it makes sense as a category and then it could be broken down based on special needs or vocational trade options, then maybe the more traditional routes.

Janice Wolf asked Kimberly Palma-Ortega if that helps.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated if they could agree on the categories, create a Word document, and break down the subcategories. Kimberly Palma-Ortega offered to create the document.

Janice Wolf stated it would be wonderful if Kimberly Palma-Ortega could do that.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega asked if Janice Wolf would entertain to vote on the document at the next meeting.

Janice Wolf stated she thinks they should. Janice Wolf stated she would take the Word document the committee comes up with and present it as part of the committee report with the understanding it will be voted on at the next meeting. Janice Wolf asked Elvira Saldana if it made sense.

Elvira Saldana stated it does. Elvira Saldana asked if voting will not take place today and if only a structured list would be compiled.

Janice Wolf stated today was valuable in the sense the committee was able to take the general and it narrow down to the specifics.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega agreed to compile the document and submit to Elvira Saldana to provide to the committee members.

Janice Wolf asked if the committee needs to vote on the topics or if they need to table it until the next meeting.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated she believes they should vote on the three topics.

- Vote and approve top committee priorities  
Janice Wolf asked if someone would like to make a motion to approve the three priority topics.

**Action:** A motion was made by Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner to approve collaboration, transition, and data collection as the topics, seconded by Kimberly Palma-Ortega, and carried to approve the committee priorities.

- 6. For Possible Action:** Discuss and Decide Upon Next Steps – Janice Wolf, Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Dr. Jesus Jara, Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner
- Assign Tasks to Committee Members (if needed)  
Kimberly Palma-Ortega will compile the Word document with the committee priorities and recommendations.  
Janice Wolf will put the committee report together for the full Commission.
  - Specify Agenda Items for the Next Meeting  
Vote on the committee priorities and recommendations document.
  - Confirm Next Meeting Date/Time  
September 30, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.

## **7. Public Comment and Discussion**

Jodi Thornley stated she is more than willing to help with anything and thanked the committee for all the work so far.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated regarding Jodi's statement, Jodi has worked on the Council for several years. It is nice to hear everybody coming together and working on behalf of the youth. They have seen the detrimental effects of when they turn into adults. It is nice to have the right people on the committee.

Janice Wolf commented as the Children's Attorneys Project, they represent youth not only from the day they come into care but all the way through the time they turn 18 up to the age of 21. Janice Wolf stated

she is very passionate about what happens to their clients after they formally exit foster care, and they are on their own. It is very tragic as their attorneys to see them fall through the cracks and the education opportunities dwindle. One of the things Janice Wolf is most passionate about is making sure as the supports (case worker supports and judge supports) fall away, the kids have enough resources at their disposal to be able to stay out of the criminal justice system and homeless shelters. It is frightening for them with the lack of resources and support out there right now even in terms of basic needs. Janice Wolf likes the idea of taking the extra step to look at the transitional phase since it is the difference for a lot of their kids between jail, mental health hospitals, and homelessness.

## **8. Adjourn**

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

The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.