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**Nevada Children's Commission  
Full Commission Meeting  
Minutes**

**DATE:** Friday, March 6, 2020

**TIME:** 10:30 AM

**LOCATIONS:**

Northern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services  
2655 Enterprise Rd., Conference Room 1  
Reno, Nevada 89512

Division of Child and Family Services, Youth Parole Bureau  
6171 W. Charleston Blvd., Building 15  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89146

**1. Call to order-** Justice Nancy Saitta, Justice Elissa Cadish, Ross Armstrong

The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m. by Justice Saitta.

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

**Members Present:** Justice Nancy Saitta, Justice Elissa Cadish, Ross Armstrong, Nancy Brune (phone), Margaret Crowley, Brigid Duffy, Dr. Joe Haas, Tim Burch (phone), Shannon Gildea, Megan Miller, Judge Michael Montero (phone), Kimberly Palma Ortega (phone), Shelia Parks, Senator Keith Pickard, Judge William Voy (phone), Janice Wolf, Assemblyman Steve Yeager

**Members Absent:** Senator Marilyn Dondero-Loop, Valerie Fujii, Amber Howell, Judge Cynthia Lu, Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Judge Frank P. Sullivan, Denise Tanata, Judge Egan Walker,

**DCFS Staff:** Kathryn Roose, Elvira Saldana

**Public:** John McCormick, Jane Saint, Wanda Pena, Bailey Bortolin, Ryan Gustafson

Roll call was taken, and it was determined a quorum of the Nevada Children's Commission was present.

John McCormick introduced Shannon Gildea. Shannon is the new Court Improvement Program Coordinator. She has been a CASA volunteer in Douglas County and has worked in management for business and nonprofit.

**3. Public Comment and Discussion:**

There was no public comment.

**4. For Possible Action:** Meeting Minutes from January 10, 2020

Justice Saitta asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. No recommendations were made.

**Action:** A motion was made by Brigid Duffy to approve the minutes, seconded by Janice Wolf and carried to approve the minutes of January 10, 2020.

**5. For Information:** INSPIRES Update

Justice Saitta asked the Commission members if there were any questions or follow up requests.

Brigid Duffy inquired on the presentation discussed at the last meeting.

Justice Saitta asked Judge Voy for an update.

Judge Voy stated he did not have an update.

Justice Saitta asked Tim Burch for an update.

Tim Burch stated they have put through a capital request plan for this year through the county. They will not know if they were awarded until June or July.

Justice Saitta requested Elvira Saldana include INSPIRES update as an item on the next agenda.

Ross Armstrong suggested Washoe County report if it is operational and Clark County provide an update at the next meeting.

Judge Voy requested to take agenda item 7 out of order to report on his committee. Judge Voy reported the juvenile justice committee met and concurred they chose two items, regionalization of state institutions and change of daily rate for placements. The committee will be reconvening for another meeting in April.

**6. For Information:** Legislative Affairs

Ross Armstrong reported the Legislative Committee on Health Care Meeting will be on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The morning session will be focused on children's mental health including presentations about the link between behavioral health, child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The next Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice meeting is March 27<sup>th</sup>. Once the agenda is out, the Commission will be informed. There was discussion of having presentations on the foster care licensing process. At the last meeting the University of Maryland was selected as their preferred contractor to do the study on maximizing child welfare funding. The Legislative Counsel Bureau will be engaging with the University of Maryland to get the study completed. The ACLU and DCFS offered support to the Legislative Counsel Bureau in their study of the juvenile justice system and the juvenile youth in the adult system. The Division is currently in the budget development process. The Governor has stated the plan for all of state government is to develop a child and family centered government.

**7. For Information:** Updates from Committees

- Child Welfare Committee- Megan Miller reported the child welfare committee had their first meeting. The committee focused on the inventory of current training and technology systems used. The CLE program is training attorneys and the dependency system completed in the South. Regarding technology systems, INSPIRES was discussed. Dayana, a new technology program being rolled out in the South was discussed. There was also discussion on Prime, a new app being rolled out, which revolutionizes the way placements are done. The North is currently working with getting their court systems to communicate with UNITY better. Another meeting is scheduled March 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Behavioral Health Committee- Dr. Haas reported the behavioral health committee has not met as he is the sole member of the committee.
- Education Committee- Nancy Brune reported the education committee had two meetings. The first meeting was to start talking about areas of opportunity. The second meeting was to start identifying the action plan. The committee provided the Commission with their workplan. The highlighted areas reflect the committee's action steps for the next 12 months. One of the items the committee will be working on is getting the baseline data for how foster care kids are doing in all the school districts as well as charter schools. One of the committee members will participate in the Foster Collaborative meetings. Nancy Brune reported the committee learned there used to be a Statewide Foster Care Stakeholders group. The committee discussed reestablishing the working group by either the committee or the Commission.
- Court Improvement Program Committee- John McCormick reported the committee has not met yet.

Justice Saitta requested the committees provide a report of the items the committees are working on by next Friday.

#### **8. For Possible Action: 2020 Workplan**

Justice Saitta suggested the Co-Chairs reviewing updates received from the committees and have an executive session of updating the workplan.

Justice Cadish stated it is reasonable.

Ross Armstrong stated he is ok with it. The Commission is hoping to have an inventory of training required in each of the areas where there is a subgroup and technology needs by the end of March. As the Co-Chairs are approving the agendas for the committee meetings, they will need to ensure those items are being addressed.

#### **9. For Possible Action: Discuss and approve the letter with funding priorities to the Department of Health and Human Services**

Ross Armstrong stated he was abstaining from the discussion and the vote.

Dr. Haas stated it was his understanding there was a need for budget priorities to be presented to the Commission. At the last meeting, there was some agreement mental health priorities cut across the three other subgroups. The letter was arrived from various strategic planning groups and the Division's staff knowledge of the consortia plans. Two major components were identified. One of the major components is to provide care for children and families, children specifically, in their home communities in the least restrictive level of care, to use community-based practices whenever possible and limit and strategically use residential treatment.

Justice Saitta asked the Commission members if there were any questions, comments, or concerns.

Justice Cadish asked Ross Armstrong if mental health was identified as the top funding priority based on the Commission survey responses.

Ross Armstrong stated to assist with connecting our child surveying systems with children's behavioral health services was a priority and prevention.

Justice Cadish asked if the Commission moves forward with the letter if it would be on behalf of the full Commission and if it requires Commission letterhead.

Ross Armstrong stated if the Commission votes to submit the letter, the letterhead piece will be figured out before submission to the Director.

Justice Cadish asked when the letter should be submitted.

Ross Armstrong stated the Division's budget must be submitted to the Director by the end of March.

**Action:** A motion was made by Senator Keith Pickard to approve the letter with funding priorities to the Department of Health of Human Services, seconded by Brigid Duffy and carried to approve the letter.

**10. For Possible Action:** Discuss and Decide Upon Next Steps

- Assign Tasks to the Committee Members (if needed)
- Specify Agenda Items for the Next Meeting
- Confirm Next Meeting Date/Time

The next meeting date for the Children's Commission will be Friday, June 19, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

**11. Public Comment and Discussion:**

There was no public comment.

**12. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.