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

**DATE:** Friday, September 18, 2020

**TIME:** 10:30 AM

**LOCATION:**

This meeting will be conducted via video conference and teleconference options listed below, in accordance with Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 1; The requirement contained in NRS 241.023 (1) (b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate is suspended.

Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006 shall remain in effect for the duration of the current state of emergency, unless terminated prior to that date by a subsequent directive or by operation of law associated with lifting the Declaration of Emergency, pursuant to Directive 029, Section 4.

**VIDEO CONFERENCE:** <https://call.lifesizecloud.com/486948>

**TELECONFERENCE LINE:** 1-312-584-2401

**EXTENSION:** 486948

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:34 a.m. by Justice Cadish.

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

**Members Present:** Justice Nancy Saitta, Justice Elissa Cadish, Ross Armstrong, Nancy Brune (phone), Senator Marilyn Dondero-Loop, Brigid Duffy, Tim Burch, Amber Howell, Shannon Gildea, Judge Michael Montero, Kimberly Palma-Ortega (phone), Shelia Parks, Jared Busker, Judge William Voy, Janice Wolf, Assemblyman Steve Yeager

**Members Absent:** Margaret Crowley, Valerie Fujii, Judge Cynthia Lu, Megan Miller, Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Senator Keith Pickard, Judge Frank P. Sullivan, Judge Egan Walker

**DCFS Staff:** Elvira Saldana

**Public:** Jane Saint, Wanda Pena, Gabrielle Carr, Ron Murphy, Fernando Serrano, Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner, Cynthia Carstairs, David Poyner, Kristina Meyers

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

### **3. Public Comment and Discussion:**

There was no public comment.

#### **4. For Possible Action:** Meeting Minutes from June 19, 2020 and August 13, 2020

Justice Saitta informed Elvira Saldana has an update for the meeting minutes.

Justice Cadish asked members if there were any corrections or comments for the June 19, 2020 minutes. No recommendations were made.

**Action:** A motion was made by Senator Marilyn Dondero-Loop to approve the minutes, seconded by Brigid Duffy and carried to approve the minutes of June 19, 2020.

Justice Cadish asked Elvira Saldana what correction was being requested on the August 13, 2020 meeting minutes.

Elvira Saldana replied on page 5 the correction is Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno was listed and it should be Senator Marilyn Dondero-Loop.

Justice Cadish asked if members had any input or corrections for the August 13, 2020 meeting minutes. There were no other recommendations made.

**Action:** A motion was made by Brigid Duffy to approve the minutes, seconded by Shelia Parks and carried to approve the minutes of August 13, 2020.

#### **5. For Information:** Overview of Children's Advocacy Alliance

Dr. Tyler-Garner informed the Children's Advocacy Alliance addresses the needs of children in child welfare, health, economic well-being, and early learning/school readiness. Dr. Tyler-Garner reported the findings of the household pulse survey were published. The survey found 54% of adults in households with children have lost employment, 24% of households with children, applied for unemployment and did not receive it and 14% of households reported not having enough food. The study noted 32% of households with children reported feeling on edge or anxious more than half the time during this pandemic. The report noted nearly a quarter of households with children reported are at risk of foreclosure and nearly half of households at risk for eviction. There are opportunities to work across systems to seek change. The Kids Count Data Book and Nevada Report Card is administered by the Children's Advocacy Alliance. An area of opportunity to continue moving the needle is to continue the work of AB150. As the pandemic unfolds it will require systems, such as the childcare system, to be strong. The Children's Advocacy Alliance looks forward to hearing from the Commission about what can be refined, elevated, spread, all in support of ensuring our children are thriving.

Justice Cadish asked what the Children's Advocacy Alliance is and what it does.

Dr. Tyler-Garner replied they are a children's policy advocacy organization focused on children and their needs. There is a strong focus on making sure folks have the information they need to make informed decisions about the issues impacting children. They are there to amplify the voices that are impacted by the issues and increase awareness through data driven practice.

Fernando Serrano, Board Member of the Children's Advocacy Alliance, commented they are pleased with the recent hire of Dr. Tyler-Garner. The Kids Count Data Book and the Nevada Report Card mentioned by Dr. Tyler-Garner are very helpful documents. When the new publications become available, they can be provided to the Commission members.

**6. For Information:** Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 432B Update

Gabrielle Carr stated at the CIC Summit last year she suggested a team be created to identify and make change to Nevada Revised Statute on child abuse and neglect. The Honorable Nancy Saitta recommended Gabrielle to chair the committee. The committee was created by an invitation to everyone who participated in the CIC Summit and anybody who is involved in dependency cases. It resulted in a membership of approximately 45 stakeholders. The goal of the committee was to try to identify what changes they wanted to see in Chapter 432B. The committee met monthly since February. Four subcommittees were created. A comprehensive bill draft request has been completed, which will go before the committee within the next couple of weeks before it is sent to Assemblyman Steve Yeager. Gabrielle Carr informed if anyone wishes to see the drafted document and provide any input within the next 15-30 days, the committee is happy to consider.

Justice Cadish asked if the bill draft request is in process.

Gabrielle Carr replied it is in process and in somewhat of a bill draft request structure. It has not been provided to Assemblyman Steve Yeager to submit to the Legislative Counsel Bureau for review.

Justice Cadish asked if there is someone who will introduce it.

Gabrielle Carr replied they are not quite there yet.

Shelia Parks asked if the committee unanimously agreed to move forward with some of the language changes for CASA.

Gabrielle Carr replied it was initially brought to the committee. A meeting occurred to address the proposed language. The request by CASA to include any changes in the legislation they are working on, was indicated the statute as written already addresses the concerns. The request by CASA was withdrawn.

Shelia Parks commented she wished she could have been part of the discussion since she has been raising the question for many years.

Jane Saint stated she would follow up with Shelia Parks to let her know where the decisions came from. Jane Saint commended Hearing Master Carr for her and her Co-Chair for an awesome job on leading this effort and keeping the committee on track.

Justice Cadish asked if the draft proposal is ready for distribution.

Gabrielle Carr replied it will be, within the next few days.

Judge Michael Montero asked if there will be a presentation at the CIC Summit regarding these efforts.

Shannon Gildea replied it is not on the agenda.

Justice Saitta commented at the close of the session, an announcement could be made for a post session gathering for a presentation.

**7. For Information:** COVID-19 Awareness

Overview of Family Support Services on the 211 website

David Poyner, Administrator and Call Center Supervisor for the Nevada 211 Program provided a walkthrough of the 211 website and the Family Support section. There are currently over 3900 resources available for the public. The Family Support options listed are not the only resources, there are several others within the other categories. There is an option to narrow down the search by zip code. The guided search feature is a good tool

for those who may not be familiar with all the available programs. On the main page there is also a key word search button which allows to search for something specific. The resources are maintained at least once a year by the agencies listed. The 211 program contacts the agencies to ensure the information in the database is correct. The 211 website is also accessible from a cell phone.

Justice Saitta commented the reason for Co-Chair Ross Armstrong suggesting having the update is due to lack of awareness of the resource. The emergency meeting the Commission held in August dealt with an effort to get information out more readily to individuals in the community who need the information. Community outreach has gone to a new level. Justice Saitta stated it is important for the Commission to know Ms. Brigid Duffy and some of her Deputies went out into neighborhoods to ensure anyone in need of assistance during back to school had the assistance or direct them to resources.

Ross Armstrong stated at the last meeting gathering of resources was discussed. The ask for the Commission is to spend some time searching through the website. If there are any services that are missing or a gap, send the information to Elvira Saldana and the Co-Chairs to ensure the services get placed on the 211 website. In addition to the website, families are also able to call or text.

Judge Montero asked if they are aware of other services, should the agencies be instructed to request to add through the website or should it be brought to the Commission or DCFS.

David Poyner replied it can be done by either method.

Judge Montero commented he would add the 211 website to the next CIC meeting and get information out.

Justice Cadish asked what is done to promote in the community.

David Poyner replied there is some advertisement through TV and radio. Most of it is done through their outreach specialists through events or community gatherings.

Justice Cadish asked if there was work done on search engine optimization.

Kristina Meyers replied the system developed is modified for search engine optimization.

Brigid Duffy asked if it is available in different languages.

Kristina Meyers replied there is a translation tool available on the site.

Janice Wolf commented an appropriate place to maybe direct families to Nevada 211 is at a disposition hearing or a 72hr hearing. A lot of families could benefit from the services.

Ross Armstrong stated to unleash the power of 211, all the services need to be in the system and people need to be driven to the site.

Justice Saitta asked Commission members to keep a list of what they refer and bring to the next meeting to ensure it gets on the website. Justice Saitta requested Commission members to send an email to Elvira Saldana where they think additional information for 211 should be provided, i.e., when closing a case or front end of contact.

Justice Cadish thanked David Poyner for guiding the Commission members through the resource.

## **8. For Possible Action: System-wide Priorities**

Justice Saitta stated there is a big overview because the system-wide priorities have been changed by the pandemic and health crisis we are facing. Some of the system-wide changes looked at as an objective for this year had to do with some of the things still being worked on, for example legislative agendas. A lot of the issues had to do with enhancing and developing resources. However due to statewide budget cuts, any of the infrastructure opportunities the Commission had hoped to look at, will have to be moved onto the next session. The Commission needs to raise awareness and continue to be a present and active organization. Since the Commission was created, there has been discussion of there being a connection between education and the foster kids served. Justice Saitta stated she is pleased to inform the Commission, Ms. Duffy and she have a meeting scheduled next week with the Clark County School District (CCSD) Superintendent. The plan is to hold meetings with the other jurisdictions.

Brigid Duffy commented another priority should be mental health.

Ross Armstrong suggested inviting Dr. Freeman, Senior Children's Mental Health Policy Analyst for DCFS, to the next meeting to provide an update on the Nevada Resilience Project. Ross Armstrong reported the Department of Education is using funding from Health and Human Services to hire a Statewide Education Children's Mental Health Coordinator to help local districts address the needs in a more comprehensive way.

Justice Saitta suggested having a lunch and learn prior to the next meeting to learn about the project Ross Armstrong discussed.

**9. For Possible Action:** 2020 Workplan  
The 2020 Workplan was tabled.

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

- Juvenile Justice Committee- Judge Voy reported the committee has not met. Judge Joy provided an update of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Commission. Judge Voy echoed what Brigid Duffy mentioned earlier in the meeting, regarding mental health being a priority.

Brigid Duffy commented the emergency meeting brought a lot of people together and connected some great people in Clark County. There are approximately 16,000 children unaccounted for in Clark County. An update regarding the meeting with CCSD and the meeting with CCSD and the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority will be provided at the next meeting.

- Child Welfare Committee- Amber Howell reported they are going to meet after this meeting. The committee is focused on technology enhancements.
- Behavioral Health Committee- Jared Busker reported the committee has not met as he is the sole member of the committee.
- Education Committee- Kimberly Palma-Ortega reported Nancy Brune pulled information from Washoe County which reflects there are many kids with IEPs. The same information has been requested from CCSD. Kimberly Palma-Ortega has reached out to the council for developmental disabilities and will provide an update once they are onboard.
- Court Improvement Program Committee- Shannon Gildea reported the committee has not met since the last meeting. The committee is planning to hold a meeting mid-October or early November.

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

- Assign Tasks to 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, December 18, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

**12. Public Comment and Discussion:**

There was no public comment.

### **13. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.