

Joe Lombardo  
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 Full Commission Draft Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** Friday, January 20, 2023

**TIME:** 10:30 A.M. - Adjournment

**VIDEO CONFERENCE:**

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_NDdiMGUwZmItNjBiZS00MzkzLWJjZGIYjYmY2RkMzI1NTcz%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_NDdiMGUwZmItNjBiZS00MzkzLWJjZGIYjYmY2RkMzI1NTcz%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:** 775-321-6111

**CONFERENCE ID:** 491 997 555#

1. **Call to Order** – Justice Nancy Saitta, Justice Elissa Cadish, Dr. Cindy Pitlock  
The meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m. by Justice Nancy Saitta.

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

**Members Present by Video:** Justice Nancy Saitta, Justice Elissa Cadish, Dr. Cindy Pitlock, Judge Sunny Bailey, Brigid Duffy, Judge David Gibson, Amber Howell, Zaide Martinez, Megan Miller, Judge Michael Montero, Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Shelia Parks, Senator Keith Pickard, Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner, Janice Wolf

**Members Absent:** Nancy Brune, Tim Burch, Judge Paige Dollinger, Dr. Jesus Jara, Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Judge Egan Walker, Assemblyman Steve Yeager

**DCFS Staff:** Elvira Saldana

**Public:** Jane Saint, Patrick Barkley, Pauline Salla, Gwynneth Smith, Jennifer Erbes, Liz Florez, McKaye Treanor, Kim Abbott, DaShun Jackson, Linda Anderson, Jack Mayes, Amy Honodel, DeNeese Parker, Hana Fahmi, Vanessa Dunn

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

3. **Public Comment and Discussion**

Jane Saint from Nevada CASA stated she is present.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega congratulated the Co-Chairs for adding the judges to the Commission.

Patrick Barkley stated he is the Manager at Child Haven Placement and was recently promoted to Deputy Director at the Department of Family Services (DFS). Patrick Barkley stated he hopes he can make big differences.

Judge Michael Montero introduced the Director of Juvenile Justice Services in the Sixth Judicial District Court, Pauline Salla.

Gwynneth Smith stated she is a Chief Deputy District Attorney in Clark County and Chair of the behavioral committee.

Jennifer Erbes stated she is a Manager at Family Services in Clark County, over Resource Development and Support Services which is all of licensing, recruitment, and training.

Liz Florez stated she is the Director of Juvenile Services in Washoe County and thanked the commission for allowing her to observe.

McKaye Treanor thanked the commission for having her. McKaye Treanor stated she is the owner and Executive Director of Aurora Center for Healing, the newest PRTF in Nevada and is excited to share more about their program.

Kim Abbott stated she is the Mental Health Initiatives Manager with the Children's Attorneys Project at Legal Aid of Southern Nevada and serves on the behavioral health committee.

Dashun Jackson stated he is representing the CAC with Clark County and the Children's Advocacy Alliance.

4. **For Possible Action:** Meeting Minutes October 17, 2022- Justice Nancy Saitta  
Justice Nancy Saitta asked committee members if there were any additions or corrections.

No recommendations were made.

**Action:** A motion was made by Dr. Cindy Pitlock to approve the minutes, seconded by Judge Michael Montero, and carried to approve the minutes of October 17, 2022.

5. **For Information:** Aurora Center for Healing Presentation- McKaye Treanor
- Provide a brief overview of the Aurora Center for Healing and enrollment criteria  
McKaye Treanor stated they have been open for almost two months. They currently have 16 young people. McKaye Treanor has worked in adolescent residential treatment for 22 years and was the Executive Director at the Heritage Community in Provo, Utah for the last 15 years. After conversations with her brother who is an emergency room physician in Las Vegas, about lack of resources, McKaye Treanor decided to look into Nevada. A facility was found, it was remodeled, and the program was written. The facility is CARF accredited, in the top 3% of all programs accredited internationally. The team consists of a Clinical Director, Psychiatrist, 2 Therapists, and a Program Director. They are in Hawthorne, Nevada and are a secure 60 bed psychiatric residential treatment center. They work with all genders, ages 13 to 17. They utilize an attuned relationship-based model so the caregivers are trained to know the kids and to help to work on things when they are small before behaviors get blown up. Their program is very straightforward, so the students know where they are at within the program at all times. Prior to enrolling with them,

students have experienced trauma. Trauma is the root of pretty much everything that the kids are going through and their maladaptive behaviors are a communication about what's going on and about how they are feeling. Many of their students have engaged in substance abuse. They are aggressive against people and their property. They see a lot of school refusal, theft, codependency, addiction, struggles with friendships and their family, elopement, self-harm, suicidal ideation and attempts. They work with all students who have all those behaviors due to trauma. They treat PTSD, mood disorders, attachment disorders, and attachment issues. They have built their program through a phase system, and they can meet each student where they are at within their treatment journey. They want to be a resource and part of the continuum of care. They have a state-of-the-art sensory center on campus, a 60,000 square foot field, school cafeteria, workout area, classrooms, and recreation area. They provide individual therapy, family therapy, group therapy, and speech and occupational therapy to be able to meet the kids' needs. They feel it is important to help their students develop resilience and try new things or re-engage in things they enjoyed before, so they offer social skills nights. Their treatment plans are individualized. They are committed to providing the best residential care for Nevada teens and their families.

Dr. Cindy Pitlock asked if they are considered secured or locked.

McKaye Treanor stated they are secure not locked. They have a fence around the entire perimeter. The only way out is through the front and there are three locked doors before you can exit.

Dr. Cindy Pitlock commented for parental placement it is much different than a placement through the legal system.

McKaye Treanor stated as they have consulted with attorneys and organizations who they are working with and serving, they have said they are considered secured. If there is a different definition, please let McKaye Treanor know for them to change the designation in their marketing and messaging.

Justice Elissa Cadish asked what the age of the target students is.

McKaye Treanor stated they work with ages 13 through 17.

Justice Elissa Cadish asked what their capacity is and how many they currently have.

McKaye Treanor stated their campus is licensed for 60 and they currently have 16 students.

Judge David Gibson asked what diagnoses or past behaviors are not accepted.

McKaye Treanor stated the program was created to be able to specifically work with those kids who are harder to place. The rule out for them would be if they had a significant history of aggression, aggressive all the time, or if they were involved in shootings.

Judge David Gibson stated another impediment is money, the per day for Medicaid.

McKaye Treanor stated the Nevada Medicaid is good. They are a Medicaid provider.

Janice Wolf asked how their program interacts with law enforcement, at what point do they bring in law enforcement, or if they call law enforcement when a student exhibits behavior.

McKaye Treanor stated she tries to not include law enforcement unless it is necessary.

Gwynneth Smith asked if they can serve kids with dual diagnosis.

McKaye Treanor stated they can serve them. They are working on a dorm specifically for kids who are on the autism spectrum.

Judge Sunny Bailey asked if they will be taking the older kids who are more violent, who have never been in an ABA program before, and how many BCBA's they have.

McKaye Treanor stated they have 1 BCBA and 1 RBT. As they have more kids enroll, they will expand. They can work with the older kids who are aggressive.

Zaide Martinez asked if they have a family approach for the kids and what it looks like.

McKaye Treanor stated yes. The students have family therapy once a week. Families are invited to come visit. As the children get ready to transition home, they work on a program with them to help with home planning and transition. They work with all the involved parties. McKaye Treanor stated she would like to decrease the rates of recidivism in residential treatment. Without involving family, they cannot succeed.

Zaide Martinez asked how they plan on measuring recidivism.

McKaye Treanor stated they are tracking where students are at every 3 months through their outcome tools.

Amber Howell stated she is the Director at Washoe County Human Services Agency. Washoe County has no beds in the community. Amber Howell asked how many beds they have open and if there is a waitlist.

McKaye Treanor stated there is not a waitlist. Students are being enrolled based on need and staff capabilities. They are fully staffed for up to 60 students. They have a lot of beds available, however McKaye Treanor wants to make sure the right young people are being enrolled and she is not overwhelming staff. They anticipate they will be ready to take more than a few enrollments a week within the next month.

Amber Howell stated she appreciates McKaye Treanor being innovative and addressing a significant gap in the foster care system.

McKaye Treanor stated it is an honor and a joy to be working in the community.

Jane Saint asked if they have had any challenges with getting staff to relocate to Hawthorne.

McKaye Treanor stated it has been less of an issue than she thought it would be.

Patrick Barkley asked how long the program is.

McKaye Treanor stated the average length of stay is 6 to 9 months. For neurodiverse kids it can be longer.

Patrick Barkley stated the setup of their program is great and sounds like it will be more conducive to their population. They have struggled with limited resources and trying to get kids into programs that really do not fit them. The ideas they have are exactly what they need.

McKaye Treanor stated she ran a phase program with the other programs she helped create and it worked well with the kids.

Patrick Barkley stated they need to get the kids quality therapeutic intensive help and have successful outcomes because what they do now is going to make a big difference in the long run and who they become as adults.

McKaye Treanor stated it is all about the outcomes. They need to continuously assess and work as partners to ensure they are aligned, and they have resources.

Senator Keith Pickard stated it is sounding fantastic. The first thing that comes to mind is funding. Senator Keith Pickard asked how they are funded, what the difficulties are in terms of funding, and how they can sustain it.

McKaye Treanor stated they are funded through Medicaid and other insurances as well. The program was written to be able to work within Medicaid funding. McKaye Treanor has a lot of experience with fundraising and is constantly looking for grants and private donations.

Senator Keith Pickard asked if they lease the space or if they own it.

McKaye Treanor stated she has a 30-year lease with an option to be able to buy them out within 2 years. They are committed to being there long term and keeping it private to provide the kind of care the kids need.

Justice Nancy Saitta requested McKaye Treanor provide a packet of information to Elvira Saldana to disseminate.

**6. For Information:** Clark County Foster Homes Overview- Jennifer Erbes and Patrick Barkley, Clark County Department of Family Services

- Provide an overview of the availability of foster homes, what types of foster homes they are lacking, and the number of children who are not in a foster home.

Jennifer Erbes reviewed the presentation presented to the Board of County Commissioners by Jill Marano, Deputy Director of Clark County Department of Family Services (DFS). In 2022, they had 5500 foster children supported by DFS, with an average of 3300 children in care on any given day in different placement types. It has taken about 10 months to reunification and 31 months to adoption. Approximately 46% of children go into a kinship placement when they are removed from their home, 2% go to the Child Haven campus, 17% to regular foster homes, and 13% go into specialized agency homes.

Patrick Barkley stated the current population at Child Haven is 98 kids. It has fluctuated between 85 and 120. One of their biggest issues is a lot of the kids not being able to be stabilized enough with their mental health issues to be able to stay in a stable foster home placement. They lack mental health resources and step downs. The kids are bouncing all over and ending up in juvenile justice or being rejected by their parents, and they end up at Child Haven. During the pandemic, a lot of kids who had severe developmental delays were dropped off. The kids were overstimulated,

acting out aggressively, and a lot of staff got hurt. With the partnership of the state, they have a small ICF at the Oasis site. All the kids who lived at the Child Haven campus for over a year were placed at the Oasis site and they have excelled. There are only 6 beds at the site. They need to continue to build the resources for this population in the community. Patrick Barkley sees a lot of supportive services in the community however, no build out of residential services the different subgroups need. They have a lot of large sibling groups. There needs to be more effort in finding homes for them. It is challenging to find a home to meet the needs of large sibling groups. Eagle Quest is working on two homes which will help reduce the population at Child Haven. They are potential CSEC homes and will be able to take some of the teenage girl population. They need to figure out how to better support the children and fill the gaps.

Jennifer Erbes stated they went to 187 recruitment events and touched about 6700 people in the community with outreach, information sessions, and providing information. They worked with the Las Vegas Lights and were able to do the full season this year with them. They did family nights for the families. Retention is an important part of their families. This year they partnered with Glittering Lights. They were able to give out handouts and a foster family night was held. They have partnered with Oneseven, a marketing agency, to help with outreach through social media. KNPR has aired an interview repeatedly. Most of the referrals come from families, therefore ensuring the families are healthy, happy, and getting the support they need will hopefully increase their ability to bring in more foster homes. Over Christmas they did a lead ad which brought them 845 leads. They are working on strengthening the pipeline. They are finishing up a contract to have Dr. Goodman come back to their community to strengthen the recruitment and placement partnerships. They had almost 2800 people register for an information session, resulting in 215 households completing the training to become foster parents. They are capturing about 8%. They would like to get it to 15%. They have decided to do something different, and they are doing an expedited training class which starts next Friday, to get families licensed sooner. At the beginning of 2022, they lost 64 beds due to the regulation changes which requires families to have flu shots and Tdap.

Dr. Cindy Pitlock stated she has waived the requirement statewide for the mandatory flu shot except for the medically fragile population. The requirement for Tdap has not been waived since infants are unable to get vaccinated for pertussis. Pertussis is extremely dangerous to babies, with a very high morbidity and mortality rate.

Jennifer Erbes thanked Dr. Cindy Pitlock for the updated information. Foster Kinship is an amazing partner with their kinship families and are a huge support to licensing. Jennifer Erbes is currently working on a contract with Raise the Future for them to have DFS' training transferred to them so they can focus on recruitment, retention, and support for their current families. Regarding foster home retention, they had 40% closure due to permanency and it includes the kinship families. There were 107 licensed homes due to family decision. They are doing follow ups to see what the decisions were. Very few homes were not in compliance, who did not do what they needed to get done to be relicensed through their process. Foster parent champions will be added. Anyone can participate in increasing recruitment efforts. General recruitment, targeted recruitment, licensure, and relative caregiver supports are ways they are working together to keep kids where they are supposed to be and improving the pool of families to have the best care they need. Some simple steps to support Family Services is by following them on Facebook and sharing posts, visiting [clarkcountyfostercare.com](http://clarkcountyfostercare.com) to learn about the foster care program, including foster parent information sessions in social media and/or e-newsletters, inviting the Family Services recruitment team to a public event, placing family services recruitment posters in an office,

volunteering at a Family Services event, speaking publicly about the need for foster families, and voting in favor of foster care funding. They had an overwhelming response since Jill Marano presented at the County Commission.

Brigid Duffy commented there may be some steps missing to connect the courts and her office to be able to participate in events. Brigid Duffy asked if there are beds that are not being used due to agencies deciding not to take kids.

Patrick Barkley stated what is happening is they are becoming selective with what they will take.

Jennifer Erbes stated with Dr. Goodman coming back they are hoping to get the specialized contract, which has specific expectations, completed by the end of the year.

Dr. Cindy Pitlock stated she specifically secured an additional \$20 a day for funding for specialized foster expiring June 30<sup>th</sup> at the request of the industry and for some reason there are still empty beds, and she cannot get to yes. There are still 116 kids in Child Haven. Dr. Cindy Pitlock stated she would be happy to get a listening session together to bring all the parties to the table.

Justice Nancy Saitta asked if she could request to convene an emergency/ad hoc meeting to address it. Justice Nancy Saitta asked Dr. Cindy Pitlock to convene the meeting and suggested getting providers involved.

Dr. Cindy Pitlock stated she agrees. If there is a way Dr. Cindy Pitlock can get to yes and can advocate for, she would like to know what it is and hear from the boots on the ground people. Dr. Cindy Pitlock stated she would be more than happy to lead it.

Justice Nancy Saitta requested it get done as quickly as possible and it come back as an agenda item for the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Justice Nancy Saitta stated there was a comment in the meeting chat from Amber Howell requesting her folks be involved.

**7. For Information: Sixth Judicial District Juvenile Justice Services Transitional Living Center Update- Judge Michael Montero**

- Provide an update on the opening of the transitional living center  
Judge Michael Montero stated the project was in the works for about 6 years. They took their juvenile detention center and converted half of it into a transitional living center for youth. They already had the building, the space, and staff to support it. They are open, able to serve youth in their community, provide youth with a place to live, and training to become independent. They are currently taking the youth who are in their juvenile delinquency system who do not have a home or a safe place to live. The youth are free to go to school and are provided services. Director Pauline Salla, who is attending the meeting, will be able to share the type of youth they will be serving. At the grand opening there were approximately 80 people present. There was great support from the community. They have admitted the first young man in the center. The center has 6 beds, 6 rooms, and 2 full bathrooms.

Pauline Salla stated they are looking at serving two types of youth, both will be involved in the juvenile justice system at some level however they are focusing on the kids who may go to a treatment center and complete it successfully. When they are released from the treatment center, they would come through the transitional living center to reintegrate them back into the community slowly and effectively while they work with the family. They would like to provide support for

the kids to continue their growth and working on their difficulties while being in a safe place. For kids who are at risk for possible removal from the community whose living environment may not be conducive, rather than removing them from the community and sending them to a different program, they would be able to provide a safe living environment while wrapping services around them. Evidence based and evidence informed programming is provided onsite. One of the probation officers recently received their ABA certification and is doing onsite work with the kids on probation and in transitional living. The goal is to keep kids in the community.

**8. For Information: American Rescue Plan Act Funding Update- Dr. Cindy Pitlock**

- Provide updates on any information relating to the American Rescue Plan Act Funding  
Dr. Cindy Pitlock stated a sizeable investment of ARPA funding was received for services to address the children's mental health crisis. The Division is working on sustainability with Medicaid and in the budget. The investment includes mobile crisis response in the communities and Clark and Washoe County school districts, intensive family in home services, emergency and planned respite, family and youth peer to peer support, wraparound and intensive care coordination, workforce development, day treatment programs in the North and South, and replacement of UNITY. The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the care management entity is waiting for approval at State Purchasing. The PRTF for the Oasis Campus was awarded to Bamboo Sunrise and services will be transitioned to them. An RFP has been released for PRTF services in Reno at the Enterprise campus. A pilot project was started at the Nevada Youth Training Center in Elko to add female beds. Work is being done to take the Desert Willow Treatment Center from 32 beds to 54 beds, based on the 6 million dollars of ARPA funding received.

**9. For Information: United States Department of Justice Investigation of Nevada's Use of Institutions to Serve Children with Behavioral Health Disabilities Update- Dr. Cindy Pitlock**

- Provide an update on the investigation  
Dr. Cindy Pitlock stated the report highlighted Nevada does not provide adequate services in the least restrictive setting to youth with behavioral disabilities and includes community based services. It also called out the state over relies on out of state placement or acute and long term placement for too long without adequate step down to community based services. The Division is working with other Divisions, the Department of Justice, and the Attorney General's Office to develop a comprehensive response. The plan is to move the whole children's System of Care forward. It is a great opportunity.

**10. For Information: Legislative Session Overview- Dr. Cindy Pitlock**

- Review bills pertinent to the Children's Commission  
Dr. Cindy Pitlock stated there are about 138 bills. SB 41 is the only one on Dr. Cindy Pitlock's radar right now. It is a study of child welfare funding which may be going from an incentive grant type system to a categorical grant process. Dr. Cindy Pitlock suggested tabling this agenda item.

Justice Nancy Saitta asked commission members if there were any questions or follow up relating to agenda items 8 and 9.

Kim Abbott commented the Commission should be aware the PRFT level of care, the step up step down level of care, is still a crisis point in the system. It is an area of huge need. The only real option has been Oasis. Oasis has had its own significant staffing issues, at times functioning without a therapist for weeks at a time. They have seen downwards spirals from youth there



because of the lack of care. They are excited to hear about the Aurora Healing Center. It continues to be an issue of concern and it goes to the heart of the DOJ investigation because when there is not a lower level of care, they are forced to put kids in higher levels of care than they need, and it is a violation of their rights. It is a waste of having a child spend months in residential treatment and not have an appropriate transition plan to bring them back into the community. When the stakeholders met and worked together with the state on the full array of ARPA requests to make sure the full continuum of care was addressed, there was a plan to do some requests around a PRTF. However, after further exploration there were barriers to being able to do that. There currently is not a solution and it concerns Kim Abbott deeply.

Justice Nancy Saitta asked Dr. Cindy Pitlock if she would take it up in the ad hoc meeting.

Dr. Cindy Pitlock stated she would. Dr. Cindy Pitlock added to not forget about the 73 kids who are out of state and how are they going to come back, step down appropriately, and integrate back into family and community.

Justice Nancy Saitta stated the legislative session overview will be continued to the next meeting agenda.

#### **11. For Information: Court Improvement Program Update- Zaide Martinez**

- Provide updates on the Court Improvement Program  
Zaide Martinez stated the report is attached to the meeting invite. Zaide Martinez reported the Court Improvement Program (CIP) Legislative Subcommittee chaired by Buffy Okuma, submitted a bill to Assemblywoman Marzola to make provisions and revisions around 432B matters. There are some studies pertaining to the child welfare court process on the CIP website.

Justice Nancy Saitta stated the bill Zaide Martinez mentioned will be a clean-up, changing of basic terminology. Hopefully it will be presented as a consensus bill. The bill will be on the next meeting agenda.

#### **12. For Information: Updates from Committees**

- Behavioral Health Committee- Gwynneth Smith  
Gwynneth Smith stated the focus of the committee over the last two meetings has been on meeting the needs of children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder in the child welfare system. Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder looms over this population. It is not a diagnosis they have yet learned how to effectively diagnose early, get services in place early, have the placements they need, or consider post adoptive and lifetime supports. Gwynneth Smith believes it is at the heart of some of the biggest issues and tends to be the children discussed today who are escalating through higher levels of care and cannot be stabilized. The focus is going to continue over the course of the year for the committee. There has been a two-part meeting with the Ackerman Center on the topic. At the second meeting, administration from ADSD and Medicaid participated to discuss how to sustainably fund it. The interventions the kids need are at the heart of what needs to be done. The committee will be working with DCFS on the UNITY upgrade and learning more about it.
- Child Welfare Committee- Megan Miller  
Megan Miller stated after the questions from Brigid Duffy at the last meeting, the committee focused on the placement issues and Jennifer Erbes and Patrick Barkley attended the committee

meeting. One of the discussions was if the issue is unique to Nevada. One of the perspectives Ryan Gustafson brought, it is not unique to Nevada, however Nevada Medicaid is one of the lowest paying Medicaids. There is also difficulty sending kids out of state due to the out of state providers not willing to deal with Nevada Medicaid. One of the necessities discussed at the end of the committee meeting was the need to have Nevada Medicaid involved in the discussions and at meetings going forward. Tim Burch also discussed what they have looked at in turning the tides. However, when it comes to Medicaid investment there needs to be a special carve out for the high needs children. Another issue is parents are sending children into the system in hopes they can receive the care they are not receiving.

Justice Nancy Saitta suggested getting a representative from Medicaid, to pull in for discussions on a regular basis.

Megan Miller commented at the meeting Richard Whitley was suggested.

Dr. Cindy Pitlock stated if the Commission would like for her to reach out to Medicaid, she would be more than happy to.

- Education Committee- Janice Wolf

Janice Wolf stated at the last meeting they presented a comprehensive list of goals. In further reviewing the list, the committee came to grips with the fact there are limits to the amount of control and influence the Commission and committee have over the state Department of Education and individual school districts. The committee asked Dr. Jesus Jara what the committee and Commission can do to facilitate or to improve academic outcomes for kids. From Dr. Jesus Jara's perspective, he would like for the Commission to focus on the external factors that affect lack of school success and pointed specifically to homelessness. The committee also looked at the confluence of children with disabilities and juvenile justice. The committee would like to figure out a mechanism for expanding Detention Alternative for Autistic Youth (DAAY) Court to the rest of the state. The committee would like to focus on educating those in the juvenile justice system, i.e., parole officers, probation officers, juvenile district attorneys, juvenile public defenders, on how disabilities affect and coincide. The committee has agreed to bring some of the stakeholders to the next meeting. Brigid Duffy previously asked regarding statistics on graduation rates for foster kids and Laura Obrist who is a member of the committee has been compiling the statistics since 2017. Janice Wolf reported for 2017-2018 the graduation rate statewide was 83.2%, 46.5% for kids in foster care, and 83.4% for non-foster kids. There is a huge disparity in graduation outcomes for kids in foster care. For 2021-2022 the graduation rate statewide was 81.7%, 46.9% for kids in foster care, and 82% for non-foster kids.

Justice Nancy Saitta commented the numbers emphasize everything the Commission has been talking about and there is much work to be done.

Zaide Martinez stated they are not doing a great job as a state and are failing the kids. Zaide Martinez hopes what the Commission is receiving today is taken and they do better. It is heartbreaking to hear only half of the kids in foster care are graduating. The report outs are important, however what will be done to make it better.

Janice Wolf commented she has the breakdown by year from 2017 to 2022 and there has been no improvement for graduation rates for kids in foster care.

Zaide Martinez stated the kids are in their care and they are responsible for most of the kids in the system. If the statistics are not changing then they are not working.

Janice Wolf stated they are failing the kids in terms of placement, mental health, and education. Janice Wolf has realized how many challenges and how much work the Commission has, along with the potential to do some good.

Justice Nancy Saitta stated the Commission has to find a better way to get out to the public what the Commission does. Justice Nancy Saitta will try to do something to change it.

Judge Sunny Bailey stated through collaboration there are small victories, one child at a time. With the help of Brigid Duffy, Patrick Barkley, CAP attorney, and CASA they graduated someone who was in detention almost every day and he is now in a group home doing great in ABA. They made a big difference to one kid this past month.

**13. For Possible Action: Discuss and Decide Upon Next Steps– Justice Nancy Saitta**

- Assign Tasks to Committee Members (if needed)  
Tasks were not assigned.
- Specify Agenda Items for the Next Meeting  
No recommendations were made.
- Confirm Next Meeting Date/Time
  - i. Friday, March 17, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

**14. Public Comment and Discussion**

There was no public comment.

**15. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12: 51 p.m.