

Letter from Co-Chairs

Our mission is to strengthen courts and provide system wide support for children, youth and families in the State of Nevada protective care system thereby improving the safety, permanency, and well-being of all children.

The child welfare system is a broad network of stakeholders. Our Commission brings all these committed individuals and agencies to the same table. Too often this network, despite best efforts, is stretched thin and collaboration becomes difficult, if not non-existent. Stakeholders are asked to attend multiple meetings all working toward the same goal; to better serve the children and families who find themselves involved in the system. This drain creates a void, burnout and most importantly lack of forward movement.

The Children's Commission has worked for over five (5) years to identify a better way of doing business through education, resource sharing, and delegation of meeting commitment among stakeholders using focused subcommittee effort and virtual scheduling.

We are proud to report that we have convened thirty-seven (37) education sessions, presentations, and training opportunities in the past five (5) years. The broad range of subject matter experts who have presented is far too comprehensive to list here. The reports, meeting agendas and summaries are set forth in the separate sections of this report.

As Chairs, we have seen significant development in the work of the Commission. We learned that when faced with an unprecedented catastrophe like the pandemic, we were able to immediately shift efforts and resources, limited as they were, to responding to the needs of our courts and families. We look forward to a major development within the Commission that will expand our breadth and staffing. This, too, will be presented in further detail at the annual meeting.

The Commission is proud of where we have been and even more excited to see where we will go as the next year unfolds. We hope that the Commission will continue to improve the child welfare system by increasing public awareness of the challenges facing families, agencies, courts, and system providers. Our mission has been and will continue to be done through judicial leadership, reforming system wide practice while informing policy affecting child welfare.

Respectfully,

Justice Elissa F. Cadish
Nevada Supreme Court
Co-Chair, Nevada Children's Commission

Justice Nancy M. Saitta, Retired
Nevada Supreme Court
Co-Chair, Nevada Children's Commission

Cindy Pitlock
Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services
Co-Chair, Nevada Children's Commission

ADKTs

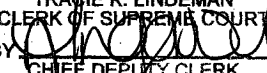
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF THE CREATION
OF A CHILDREN'S COMMISSION.

ADKT 0514

FILED

MAY 12 2016

TRACIE K. LINDEMAN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY 
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

PETITION

COMES NOW the Honorable Nancy M. Saitta, Associate Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court, and petitions the Nevada Supreme Court on its administrative docket to consider the creation of a Children's Commission. In support of the petition, Justice Saitta alleges that:

1. A well-informed, effective, and efficient welfare system is critical to ensuring the safety and well-being of children and families in a fair and timely manner, as well as achieving permanency.
2. The Nevada Supreme Court's Court Improvement Program Select Committee has actively studied evidence-based and outcome-focused best practices to effectuate system change and improve timeliness and outcomes for the over 3,500 children who are removed from their homes each year in Nevada. The Committee members have been able to resolve systemic problems cooperatively with meaningful local input and collaboration.
3. As demonstrated by Exhibit "A" attached hereto which relates to permanency and implementation of best practice models, significant success in reform has already been achieved.

16-014890

4. Petitioner believes that ongoing, thorough assessment of improvements needed and implementation of reform supported by evidence-based programs will yield remarkable results in Nevada.

5. Petitioner believes that a permanent statewide Commission composed of stakeholders in the welfare system will further important reform initiatives and provide support for local dependency courts in their efforts to best serve the needs of children and families in the various judicial districts.

6. Accordingly, petitioner requests that the Nevada Supreme Court place this issue on its administrative docket, hold such hearings as it deems necessary, and create the Nevada Supreme Court's Children's Commission and appoint such members as the Court deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nancy M. Saitta", written over a horizontal line.

NANCY M. SAITTA, Justice

EXHIBIT "A"

TIMELINESS OF ADOPTIONS DISCHARGED FROM FOSTER CARE	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Exits to Adoption in less than 24 Months (national median 26.8%, 75 th percentile = 36.6%)	14.6%	18.1%	25.0%	27.8%	30.0%
Exits to Adoption, median length of stay(national median 32.4 months, 25 th percentile = 27.3 months)	Median= 36.3 months	Median= 35.4 months	Median= 30.7 months	Median= 29.0 months	Median= 29.0 months

Source: Nevada CFSP-SFY 2015-2019, page 54, 6/23/2015 Data Profile

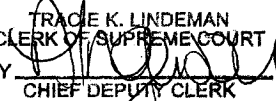
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF THE CREATION
OF A CHILDREN'S COMMISSION.

No. ADKT 0514

FILED

AUG 12 2016

TRACEE K. LINDEMAN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY 
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

ORDER APPOINTING COMMISSION MEMBERS

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2016, the Honorable Nancy M. Saitta, Justice, filed a petition seeking the creation of a Children's Commission; and

WHEREAS, in calendar year 2015, the state of Nevada was the legal parent to some 5,541 children because of allegations of abuse and/or neglect. Courts play a critical role in determining the future of a child: no child enters or leaves the foster care system without judicial intervention; our courts decide where the child will live, for how long, and which school that child will attend while in the care of the state; our courts decide whether a child will live, even temporarily, with siblings or other relatives or if and when the rights of a parent or parents will be terminated and the child will be legally free for adoption; and

WHEREAS, this court has determined that a children's commission is warranted and that it will establish and provide best practices in the dependency courts of this state by

1. Initiating reforms relating to judicial practice within the dependency system;

2. Developing training programs for judges, judicial officers, attorneys, and staff who serve the dependency population as defined within NRS Chapter 432B;

3. Developing training programs for multi-disciplinary groups who work within child abuse and neglect litigation which shall be founded upon evidence-based consideration of policy change, initiatives, and nationally recognized standards of practice;

4. Strengthening systemic improvements for technology capability and statewide data sharing; and

5. Enhancing public awareness of challenges facing children and families involved in the dependency system; and

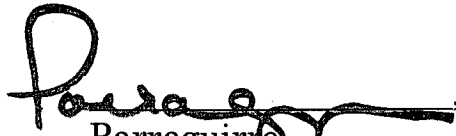
WHEREAS, the Commission will combine the efforts of multiple statewide dependency driven committees, task forces, and initiatives within one commission to better utilize scarce judicial and other resources; accordingly,

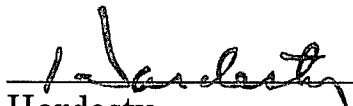
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Justice Nancy Saitta shall serve as chair of the Commission; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the individuals listed in Exhibit A are appointed to the Children's Commission; and;

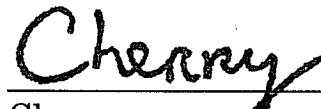
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission shall provide quarterly status reports to the Nevada Supreme Court.


DATED this 12th day of August, 2016.


 , C.J.
Parraguire


 , J.
Hardesty

 , J.
Douglas

 , J.
Cherry

 , J.
Saitta

 , J.
Gibbons

 , J.
Pickering

cc: Bryan K. Scott, President, State Bar of Nevada
Kimberly Farmer, Executive Director, State Bar of Nevada
All Commission Members
Administrative office of the Courts

CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

Hon. Nancy M. Saitta, Chair
Justice, Nevada Supreme Court
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Hon. Teresa Benitez-Thompson
Assemblywoman, Nevada State Legislature
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Assemblyman, Nevada State Legislature
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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF THE CREATION
OF A CHILDREN'S COMMISSION.

ADKT 0514

FILED

JUN 12 2019

ELIZABETH A. BROWN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY S. Young
DEPUTY CLERK

ORDER

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2016, this court created the Children's Commission to establish and provide best practices in the dependency courts of this state by initiating reforms related to judicial practice within the dependency system, developing various training programs, strengthening systemic improvements for technology capability and statewide data sharing, and enhancing public awareness of challenges facing children and families involved in the dependency system;


WHEREAS, this court has appointed Nancy Saitta, Justice, to serve as chair of the Commission who has since retired from the Nevada Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, changes to the composition of the Commission's membership are necessary; accordingly,

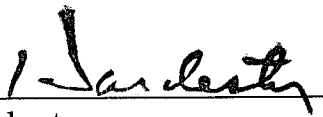
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Justice Lidia S. Stiglich, Justice Nancy Saitta (ret.), and Ross Armstrong shall serve as co-chairs of the Commission; and

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the membership of the Commission shall be comprised of the individuals listed in Exhibit A. The Commission co-chairs may appoint and replace members as necessary.

Dated this 12th day of June, 2019.

, J.
Gibbons

, J.
Pickering

, J.
Hardesty

, J.
Parraguirre

, J.
Stiglich

, J.
Cadish

, J.
Silver

cc: Richard Pocker, President, State Bar of Nevada
Kimberly Farmer, Executive Director, State Bar of Nevada
All Commission Members
Administrative office of the Courts

EXHIBIT A

Justice Lidia S. Stiglich, Co-chair

Justice Nancy M. Saitta, Co-chair

Ross Armstrong, Co-chair, Deputy Administrator, Div. of Child and Family Services

Nancy E. Brune, Executive Dir., Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities

Margaret M. Crowley, Mediation Attorney

Nevada Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop

Brigid J. Duffy, Clark County Chief Deputy District Attorney, Juvenile Division

Valerie Fujii, Family Law Attorney (Fujii Law)

Dr. Joe Haas, Psychologist WCDJS

Paula Hammack, Assistant Dir., Clark County Department of Family Services

Amber Howell, Dir., Washoe County Department of Social Services

District Judge Cynthia Lu, Second JD Court, Dept. 5

Katherine Malzahn-Bass, Coordinator, Court Improvement Program

Megan Miller, Clark County Deputy District Attorney (child abuse specialist)

District Judge Michael Montero, Sixth JD, Dept. 1

Nevada Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno

Tina Moreno, Inter Tribal Council of Nevada Family Violence Prevention Project

Kimberly Palma Ortega, Parent Advocate

Shelia Parks, Eighth Judicial District Court CASA Program

Nevada Senator Keith Pickard

District Judge Frank P. Sullivan, Eighth JD, Family Court, Dept. O

Denise Tanata, Executive Dir., Children's Advocacy Alliance

District Judge William Voy, Eighth JD, Family Court, Dept. A

District Judge Egan Walker, Second JD, Dept. 2

Janice Wolf, Dir., Children's Attorneys Project LACSN

Nevada Assemblyman Steve Yeager


IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF THE CREATION
OF A CHILDREN'S COMMISSION.

ADKT 0514

FILED

SEP 25 2019

ELIZABETH A. BROWN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY: 
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

ORDER

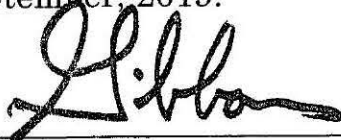
WHEREAS, on August 12, 2016, this court created the Children's Commission to establish and provide best practices in the dependency courts of this state by initiating reforms related to judicial practice within the dependency system, developing various training programs, strengthening systemic improvements for technology capability and statewide data sharing, and enhancing public awareness of challenges facing children and families involved in the dependency system; and

WHEREAS, this court appointed Justice Lidia S. Stiglich to serve as co-chair of the Commission; and

WHEREAS changes to the composition of the Commission's membership are necessary; accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED that Justice Elissa F. Cadish is appointed to replace Justice Stiglich as co-chair of the Commission. Justice Nancy Saitta (ret.), and Ross Armstrong will continue to serve as co-chairs of the Commission.

Dated this 25th day of September, 2019.


_____, C.J.
Gibbons

cc: Paul Matteoni, President, State Bar of Nevada
Kimberly Farmer, Executive Director, State Bar of Nevada
All Commission Members
Administrative Office of the Courts

Commission Members

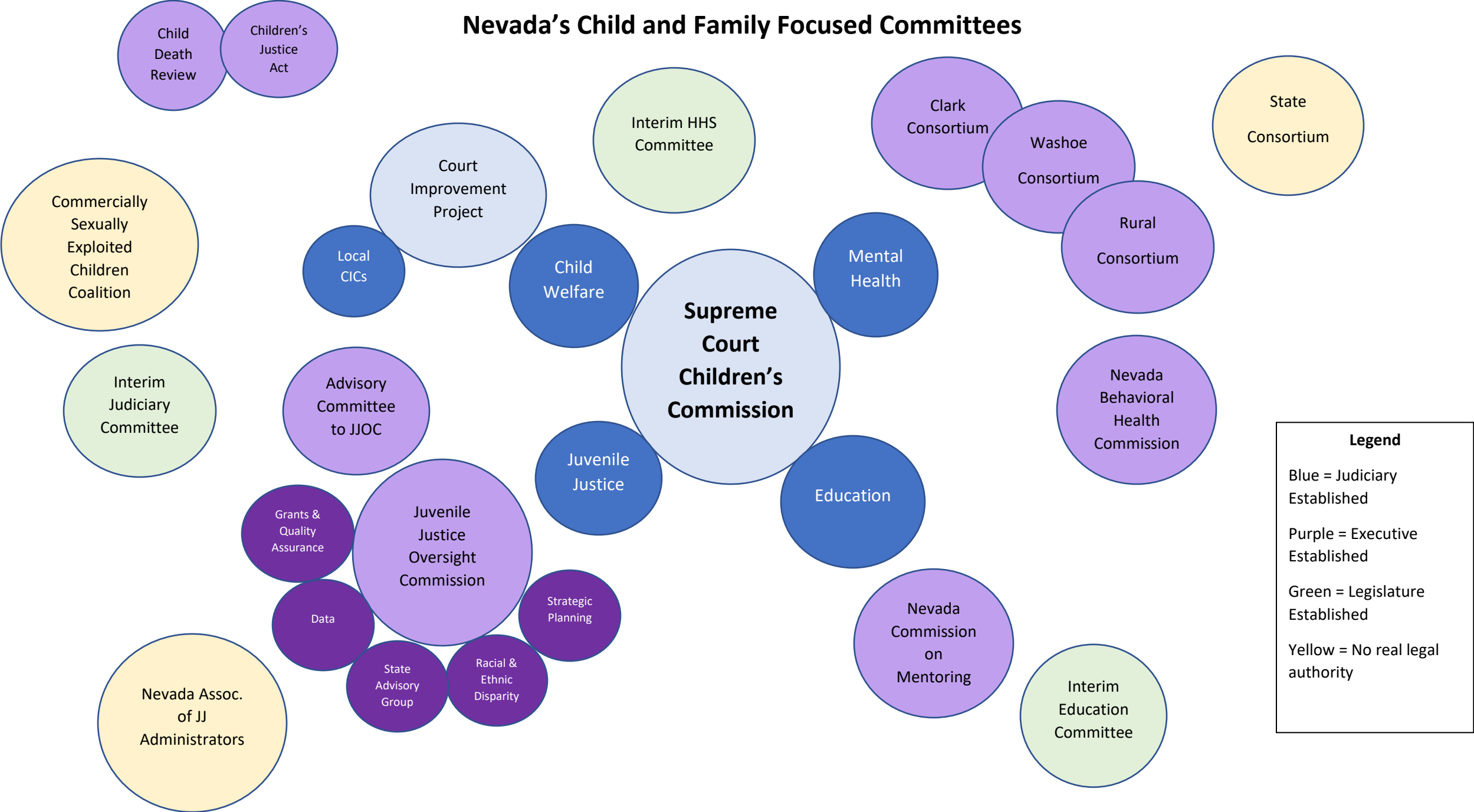
Nevada Children's Commission Membership

Name	Title/Position
Justice Nancy M. Saitta (Co-Chair)	Nevada Supreme Court Justice (retired)
Justice Elissa Cadish (Co-Chair)	Nevada Supreme Court Justice
Cindy Pitlock (Co-Chair)	Administrator - DCFS
Nancy E. Brune	Senior Fellow - Guinn Center
Tim Burch	Administrator of Human Services- Clark County DFS
Judge Rebecca Burton	Eighth Judicial District Judge Family Court, Department C
Judge Paige Dollinger	Second Judicial District Court Judge
Brigid J. Duffy	Clark County Chief Deputy District Attorney
Amber Howell	Director - Washoe County Human Services Agency
Dr. Jesus Jara	Superintendent- Clark County School District
Zaide Martinez	Coordinator - Court Improvement Program (CIP)
Megan Miller	Clark County Deputy District Attorney (child abuse specialty)
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno	Nevada Assembly (D)
Judge Michael Montero	Sixth Judicial District Court Judge
Kimberly Palma-Ortega	Parent/ Parent Advocate
Shelia Parks	Eighth Judicial District Court CASA Program
Senator Keith Pickard	Nevada Senate ®
Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner	Executive Director - Children's Advocacy Alliance
Judge William Voy*	Eighth Judicial District Judge Family Court, Department A
Judge Egan Walker	Second Judicial District Court Judge Department 2
Janice Wolf	Directing Attorney - Children's Attorneys Project LACSN
Assemblyman Steve Yeager	Nevada Assembly (D)

*- to be reappointed

Structure of Commission

Nevada's Child and Family Focused Committees



Legend

- Blue = Judiciary Established
- Purple = Executive Established
- Green = Legislature Established
- Yellow = No real legal authority

Meeting Summaries

Nevada Children's Commission- Full Commission Meetings

2019

August 9, 2019

<https://dcfs.nv.gov/Programs/CWS/ChildrensCommission/2019MeetingsAndAgendas/>

October 11, 2019

https://dcfs.nv.gov/Meetings/2019/2019_Meetings/

2020

January 10, 2020

March 06, 2020

June 19, 2020

August 13, 2020

September 18, 2020

December 18, 2020

<https://dcfs.nv.gov/Programs/CWS/ChildrensCommission/2020MeetingsAndAgendas/>

2021

March 19, 2021

June 18, 2021

September 17, 2021

December 17, 2021

<https://dcfs.nv.gov/Programs/CWS/ChildrensCommission/2021MeetingsandAgendas/>

2022

March 18, 2022

June 10, 2022

<https://dcfs.nv.gov/Programs/CWS/ChildrensCommission/2022MeetingsAndAgendas/>

Committee Reports

Behavioral Health Committee

Gwynneth Smith- Chair

Dr. Sheldon Jacobs

Kim Abbott

Dr. Joe Haas

NEVADA CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

Behavioral Health Subcommittee Report

Prepared by: Gwynneth Smith, Chair

Members: Gwynneth Smith, JD, PhD
Sheldon Jacobs, PsyD, LMFT
Kimberly Abbott, JD, CWLS
Joseph Haas, PhD

The current membership of the Behavioral Health Subcommittee convened its first meeting on November 5, 2021 and has conducted meetings thereafter on the following dates: December 10, 2021, January 27, 2022, March 1, 2022, April 12, 2022, June 7, 2022, and September 7, 2022. This report covers subcommittee updates from November 5, 2021 through the present.

During this time period, the Behavioral Health Subcommittee focused on establishing robust engagement from subcommittee members and community stakeholders, with positive results. All members have attended all subcommittee meetings, and there has been regular attendance and engagement from key community stakeholders including Division of Child and Family Services (Administration, Mobile Crisis Response Team, Wraparound in Nevada), Children's Advocacy Alliance, Nevada Public Health Foundation, and the Office of the Governor.

The subcommittee has prioritized responding to the youth mental health crisis in Nevada, which pre-dates and has been significantly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Committee meetings have therefore focused on highlighting the impact of the crisis on the child welfare population, identifying issues where further attention and intervention is merited, and bringing key issues to the full Commission for education and advocacy. The subcommittee has utilized the Children's Commission Objectives (ADKT 2: Training Development, ADKT 3: Technology and Data Sharing Capability, and ADKT 4: Public Awareness of Challenges Facing Children and Families) as the framework for this work.

Below are key issues the subcommittee has addressed in its meetings since last November, some of which were then brought before full Commission for consideration.

Review of Children's Commission Workplan Tasks

- 11/5/2021. At the first meeting of the Behavioral Health Subcommittee, the ADKT Workplan Tasks were reviewed with the members within the context of the current youth mental health crisis. The follow key priorities were identified:
 - Increasing training provided to attorneys and judiciary particularly on the topics of trauma and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders
 - Recommending improvements to technology including modernizing the UNITY statewide system to track mental health variables such as interventions utilized in the child welfare population.

- Raising public awareness of challenges facing children and families, particularly highlighting the issues that cause families to relinquish custody of their children to the child welfare system when parents/guardians can no longer safely meet children’s mental health needs. The subcommittee identified critical gaps in the System of Care, such as intermediate level care, intensive outpatient, and partial hospitalization, as reasons why families turn to the child welfare system as a last resort.

Increasing Effective Collaboration Among Stakeholders:

- 12/10/2021 Committee members identified increased transparency and ongoing collaboration between stakeholders statewide as a goal. This collaboration has not historically occurred consistently and has resulted in multiple groups working on initiatives related to children’s mental health in isolation.

Review of Youth Mental Health Crisis Statewide and Nationally

- 1/27/2022. The subcommittee reviewed the goals of Clark County Mental Health “Task Force” efforts. Subcommittee agreed that the need for additional community-based services and treatment beds was a statewide issue. Subcommittee reviewed Surgeon General Youth Mental Health Report and American Academy of Pediatrics Declaration of National Emergency highlighting inadequacy of resources in a national context. Subcommittee agreed to advocate for identified priorities by soliciting community stakeholders to present to the full Children’s and advocate for increased resources in these areas. The Ackerman Center at UNLV was identified as a key community provider who should present to the full Commission on the topic of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in the child welfare population.

Review of Prior Behavioral Health Subcommittee Work:

- 3/1/2022 Joe Haas, PhD. (prior subcommittee chair and current member) reviewed previous priorities identified by the Behavioral Health Subcommittee and actions taken to address them. Specifically, Dr. Haas reviewed a prior draft letter drafted for the Children’s Commission to Nevada Department of Health and Human Services in 2020 regarding funding priorities for youth mental health. Discussion confirmed that previously identified critical issues remain unresolved in Nevada including:
 - Unsuccessful attempts to divert children presenting mental health issues their families cannot safely manage from the child welfare system
 - Lack of mental health services required by children and families due to inadequate behavioral health workforce.
 - The increase of “crossover” children involved with both juvenile dependency and delinquency systems due, in part, to significant mental health diagnoses.
 - The historical challenges DCFS encountered when services were contracted out, rather than provided directly by the state.
 - The development of the “System of Care” in Nevada and its ability to effectively respond to the current youth mental health crisis in the State.

UNLV Ackerman Center Presentation on FASD & Impact on Child Welfare

- 3/18/2022 Subcommittee member Dr. Sheldon Jacobs coordinated presentation by the Ackerman Center to the Children’s Commission regarding FASD and its disproportionate impact on the child welfare system. Over 17% of children entering foster care have documented alcohol exposure, and children and adults diagnosed with FASD require a significant investment of resources over their lifespans to function successfully. The Commission identified professional training and increased services for children with FASD as a priority.
 - The Children’s Commission subsequently supported a request by the Ackerman Center for \$10 million in ARPA funding to expand its services, which was granted at the August 2022 IFC.

Clark County “Task Force” Efforts:

- 3/18/2022 Gwynneth Smith (Chair) and Kim Abbott (member) presented to full Children’s Commission on Clark County Children Mental Health “Taskforce” regarding ongoing efforts of coalition of community stakeholders (Clark County, Legal Aid of Southern Nevada, Clark County DA’s Office, Clark County Children’s Mental Health Consortium) to partner with state stakeholders (DCFS, ADSD, DPBH, Office of the Governor) to address the immediate crisis and longer term priorities related to children’s mental health. A report regarding development of task force, procedures that were established, and achievements to date was submitted to the Commission Chairs.

Behavioral Health Workforce Development for Children and Youth in Nevada:

- 6/7/2022 Presentation from Megan Comlossy of University of Nevada, Reno, director of Nevada Health Care Workforce and Pipeline Development Initiative. Discussion of workforce shortage impacting the provision of services to children and families and ongoing statewide efforts to develop more robust workforce.
 - As a result, Behavioral Health Subcommittee representative invited to participate in ongoing Workforce Initiative to advocate for needs of child welfare population.

Understanding and Utilizing Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to Treat Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder:

- 9/7/2022 Presentation from the Ackerman Center to educate the subcommittee on the use of ABA to treat FASD. ABA has been identified as one of the most important empirically supported interventions for children with FASD, and Medicaid was recently expanded to include coverage for this purpose. However, Nevada has too few Medicaid approved ABA providers and the intervention is challenging to implement in some child welfare settings. This training will address how to utilize this important treatment to benefit the child welfare population.

Conclusion: The Behavioral Health Subcommittee has been robustly and consistently engaged in Commission workplan goals since the current membership was convened in November 2021, with particular focus on the crisis in youth mental health that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The subcommittee will continue to identify topics and priorities to address this crisis to bring to the full Commission for education and consideration. Topics that the subcommittee intends to consider in future meetings include:

- Medicaid reform to increase provider availability

- Implementation of programs established with recently approved ARPA funding to address youth mental health

Child Welfare Committee

Megan Miller- Chair

Tim Burch

Ryan Gustafson

Judge Paige Dollinger

Judge Stephanie Charter

Shelia Parks

NEVADA CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

Child Welfare Subcommittee Report

Prepared by: Megan Miller, Child Welfare Subcommittee Co-Chair

Between March and August of 2022, the Child Welfare Subcommittee focused on the following Workplan goals: developing an implementation plan to fill training gaps identified and prioritized by the Commission, developing an implementation plan to fill data/technology gaps identified and prioritized by the Commission as well as helpful visual representations and reporting of data, and identifying any necessary statutory changes.

- ADKT 2: Training Development
 - Developing an implementation plan to fill training gaps identified and prioritized by the Commission
 - Identified training gaps include:
 - Implicit bias training
 - Training regarding avoiding or minimizing trauma for children in the courtroom
 - Training specific to issues impacting LGBTQ+ children in care; potentially including a panel discussion with youth to educate on their lived experiences
 - Training for foster placements regarding education
 - Implementation plan goals include:
 - Coordinating with the Blueprint for Racial Justice committee, DFS, and Legal Aid of Southern Nevada to identify training that may be available
- ADKT 3: Technology and Data Sharing Capability
 - Developing an implementation plan to fill gaps identified and prioritized by the Commission as well as helpful visual representations and reporting of data
 - Identified gaps included:
 - Resource and staffing issues in both recruiting and retaining staff for mental health providers, particularly including acute psychiatric providers
 - Recruiting and retaining appropriate foster placements to decrease reliance on congregate care facilities
 - Increased funding to accomplish these objectives
 - Implementation goals include:
 - Raising awareness regarding identified gaps to the larger commission as well as at the legislative level
 - Identifying any necessary statutory changes.
 - Increased funding to address resource and staffing issues for mental health providers
 - Increased funding for recruiting and retaining appropriate foster placements

Education Committee

Janice Wolf- Chair

Kimberly Palma-Ortega

Dr. Jesus Jara

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner

Laura Obrist

August 30, 2022

**REPORT OF THE NEVADA CHILDRENS COMMISSION
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Hon. Nancy Saitta, Co-chair
Hon. Elissa Cadish, Co-chair
Dr. Cindy Pitlock, Co-chair

Thank you for this opportunity to update you on the activities of the Education Committee. By way of brief background, our committee members include Dr. Jesus Jara, Kimberly Palma-Ortega and Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner. I took over as Education Committee Chair at the March 2022 Commission meeting, replacing Nancy Brune.

The Education Committee has met twice since March: June 9, 2022 and August 19, 2022. Our next meeting is set for September 30, 2022.

Our Committee efforts have focused on identifying and fleshing out educational priorities. At our August 19, 2022 meeting, we identified and approved three priority areas:

1. Collaboration, including, but not limited to, stakeholder trainings, staffing recruitment and retention issues;
2. Data Collection, including, but not limited to data gathering on IEPs, disproportionality in discipline and community based services;
3. Transition from foster care issues, including, but not limited to, education/vocational opportunities, employment and accessing community-based services.

With assistance from Kimberly Palma-Ortega, the Committee is in the process of putting together an Education White Paper of priorities and recommendations that we will vote on at our September 30, 2022 meeting and if approved, submit to the Commission.

As a final note, the Education Committee is looking to expand its membership. Several names have been proposed and awaiting final approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Wolf, Chair

Future Projects

Future Projects

PUBLICATIONS and PROPOSED EFFORTS

- Current Issues - Children's Mental Health Services and Solutions
- Toolkit - Parents, Attorneys, Children, Courts
- Equity Workgroup
- Post Foster Care Education, Life Skills, and Self Care
- Judicial Trauma Institute
- Statewide Collaborative on Trauma Informed Care
- Prevention: Getting in Front of the Curve
- Mediation in Child Protective Services cases
- Trial Skill Institute
- Scholarship Initiative
- Study on Dual Status Kids

2017-2018

Speakers and Presentations: 2017-2018

2017

Data Gathering Report and Update

Monitor and Report out on Child and Family Serving Meetings - Commission Members

2018

May 4, 2018

Casey Family Programs Facilitation for Strategic Planning - Casey Representative

December 14, 2018

Legislative Watch Update - Denise Tanata-Ashby, Nancy Brune (legislative)

2019-2020

Speakers and Presentations: 2019-2020

2019

June 11, 2019

Collaborative Advisory Council Meeting - Ross Armstrong, Barbara Buckley, Nancy Brune, Joey Orduna Hastings, Justice Nancy Saitta

August 9, 2019

Goals and Objectives Approval from Collaborative Advisory Council
Legislative Watch Committee Report - Ross Armstrong (legislative)

2020

January 10, 2020

INSPIRES technology update - Judge Egan Walker
Interim Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice - Ross Armstrong
Division of Child and Family Services Budget Overview – Ross Armstrong, DCFS
Funding Priority Department of Health and Human Services - Ross Armstrong

March 6, 2020

Health Care Meeting Update (legislative) - Ross Armstrong
Subcommittee Reports (5)

June 19, 2020

Full Overview of Child and Family Serving Committees, Commissions, and Task Forces
Children's Justice Act (CJA) Report - Sally Kerr, Co-chair
Commission on Behavioral Health - Lisa Durette
Statewide Children's Mental Health Consortium - Ellen Richardson-Adams
Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee - Judge Egan Walker
Presentation on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice - Leslie Bittleston
Child Welfare Update National - Casey Family Programs

September 18, 2020

Child Advocacy Alliance - Dr Tyler-Garner
Covid Awareness Update - presentation re: NV 211 and access to resources
Subcommittee Updates

December 18, 2020

Overview of Nevada Commission on Mentoring - Dr. Michael Maxwell, Chair
Covid '19 Update - Amber Howell
Covid '19 Resource Update - Amber Howell
Report on Suicide Statistic Clark County - Dr. Jesus Jara
CCSD Update re: School Police and Wellness check/training - Dr. Jesus Jara

Coping with Disaster and Responding to the Pandemic Years

In fiscal 2020-2021, the Nevada Foster Care System experienced a significant strain on placement capacity as well as an increase in the number of children without parental or court oversight. The Commission used most of its quarterly capacity and meeting time, both at meetings and in the time between, looking at how to respond while seeking meaningful ways to address capacity strain, training for the pandemic driven stakeholder and the court partners. The Commission sought to engage and assist the judiciary, all child serving agencies, attorneys, and community partners. Meetings focused, informally and in set agendas, on deep gaps in service surrounding the new world of virtual hearings, virtual visitation, and virtual education.

In one Herculean effort, the Clark County Office of the District Attorney, the Washoe County Family Services Department, and all rural partners took the Commission to “the streets”. In some of the efforts, Chromebooks were literally delivered door to door so that kids now untethered from the in-school setting could keep up with academic endeavors. In other efforts, public safety officers were quickly trained on how to watch for situations in the community where children were unattended and/or in potentially abusive or neglected situations.

The Commission used meeting time to share ideas from their jurisdictions on how small efforts within the community could help to boost the safety of children who would otherwise be without food, supervision, or school oversight.

Heartfelt gratitude is extended to every Commission member who offered solutions no matter how big or how small. The Commission Chairs thank each and every Commissioner who worked diligently in this statewide effort.

2021-2022

Speakers and Presentations: 2021-2022

2021

March 19, 2021

Effects of the Pandemic on Children Reports - Dr. Tara Raines

Las Vegas Public Broadcast Station Special Overview Panel Presentation by Commission Members - Dr. Jesus Jara, Assistant Brigid Duffy

China Springs Update/Funding

June 18, 2021

Dr. Jay Fisher, Medical Director Pediatric Emergency Medicine at University Medical Center

Evictions Updates - Directing Attorney for Consumer Rights Project of Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada

Statewide Court Order Implementation (Administrative Agenda Nevada Supreme Court

Legislative Session Update(s) - SB 274, SB 397, AB 426 (Legislative)

September 17, 2021

Evictions Updates (AB 486) - Aaron MacDonald Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada

Nevada Commission on Mentoring - Karl Catarata

December 17, 2021

Trial By Peers presentation - Alexis Brown, esq

CSEC - Dr. Domonique Rice (Report from the CSEC Coalition)

American Rescue Plan Act Funding - Dr. Cindy Pitlock

2022

March 18, 2022

The Ackerman Center Presentation- Dr. Colleen Morris and Dr. Mario Gaspar de Alba

June 10, 2022

Clark County School District Update- Dr. Jesus Jara

Nevada Children's Commission Update- Justice Nancy Saitta and Brigid Duffy

American Rescue Plan Act Funding Update- Dr. Cindy Pitlock