



---

NEVADA CHILDREN'S COMMISSION  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Monday, February 3, 2020

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:**

Division of Child and Family Services  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Large Video Conference Room  
4126 Technology Way  
Carson City, NV 89706

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

**EXTENSION:** 486948

- 1. Call to Order** – Nancy Brune, Senator Marilyn Dondero-Loop, Kimberly Palma-Ortega  
The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Nancy Brune.
- 2. Welcome and Introductions (Roll Call)** – DCFS Staff  
**Members Present:** Nancy Brune, Senator Marilyn Dondero-Loop, Kimberly Palma-Ortega

**DCFS Staff:** Elvira Saldana

**Public:** Cynthia Carstairs, Kelly

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

**3. Public Comment and Discussion:**

There was no public comment.

- 4. For Possible Action:** Committee Goals- Nancy Brune, Senator Marilyn Dondero-Loop, Kimberly Palma-Ortega

Nancy Brune stated based on the Workplan, the committee, during the first part of the year needs to identify gaps in training and technology as it relates to education for the kids in the system. The current focus will be around training and data collection. The work plan states all committees create an inventory of current training and current technology and data systems. Nancy Brune stated she could talk to CCSD stakeholders where the school district is in terms of trying to improve, either streamlining data or data collection around foster care kids between DFS and Clark County School District. Nancy Brune suggested

each of the members taking an action item over the next two weeks, talking to own networks and finding out where things are to build up the inventory around training and technology.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega asked if any foster care children end up in online schooling, charter schools, private schools or funded through vouchers through CCSD.

Nancy Brune replied it is a great question and does not know the answer. It would be a perfect thing to find out and report back. She stated included in inventory is gaps, a list could be created of items the committee needs to find out. Some follow up items are how public charter schools and private schools track kids in juvenile justice and/or foster care and research if vouchers and/or scholarships were received by kids in care. Nancy will check and find out where DFS and CCSD are with sharing of information.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega inquired if the committee is currently focusing on Clark County only or if other jurisdictions will be involved.

Nancy Brune stated it is statewide gap analysis. Washoe County had been doing some work. She suggested Dr. Leslie Murdock be included in the committee meetings. Dr. Murdock has been involved in a lot of the work with technology and data systems around foster care for the entire state. Nancy Brune stated it would be good to know if other districts besides Clark County have a Foster Care Advocate at every school.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega asked if it would be an option to touch base with CASA.

Nancy Brune stated Legal Aid of Southern Nevada has Education Advocates. However, she is unsure if Washoe County has a similar advocate program. Nancy Brune asked if anyone else knew.

Kelly from Legal Aid replied, from her understanding, they are trying to create a program.

Nancy Brune asked for additional ideas for resources.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega asked if the CCSD Family and Home Connection Link would help.

Nancy Brune stated she did not know; however, it can be reviewed. A Foster Care Advocate the committee may want to include in committee meetings is Laura. Laura is looking into gaps in technology and data sharing. Nancy Brune stated she could invite her to committee meetings. Laura could possibly provide a presentation or provide what data she is collecting.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated there are different organizations that work with various age groups and specialties. She could check and see what other options of schooling and data collection are available relating to disabilities.

Nancy Brune stated she could see creating a matrix which includes services available for kids in different age groups as they relate to educational support and programming. It would be a great resource the committee could start populating. It would be helpful to have a better sense of training and services available for every age group.

Senator Marilyn Dondero-Loop stated the entities would have some type of record of children in foster care or court process.

Kelly replied if referring to dual docket cases. There is a way to track through the court system.

Nancy Brune asked Kelly who would have the information on the dual dockets.

Kelly stated it is through Judge Voy's planning.

Nancy Brune stated the recommendations the committee comes up with data and technology should address identified barriers and challenges around data collection, data sharing and information sharing. The committee can start talking about what the members perceive as identified challenges and barriers.

Kelly stated she thinks DFS does not see their role as going into the schools and monitoring. Many caseworkers have informed her they do not go to the schools to check on grades.

Nancy Brune stated when the Foster Care paper was done a couple of years that issue was addressed. Dr. Murdock consulted with CCSD to breakdown the silos and DFS case workers were staying on top of the educational plan of the kids.

Kelly provided an example of a current issue with DFS relating to an evaluation referral.

Senator Marilyn Dondero-Loop asked if it was an individual worker or agency overall decision.

Nancy Brune asked Kelly if anyone has brought DFS and stakeholders together to streamline the process.

Kelly stated they have not explored it, however Dr. Murdock and Mari wanted to have an Education Resource Unit housed at DFS.

Nancy Brune asked Elvira Saldana if it would be ok for whoever is interested, from this committee to meet informally with some stakeholders to talk about the challenges they are facing with data sharing, training and technology.

Elvira Saldana stated she would verify and follow up.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega suggested narrowing down some of the key players involved with foster care families and parole and probation.

Kelly stated the biggest issue they filed with CCSD was on eligibility.

Nancy Brune asked if the members know of anyone working on specific parole and probation issues they can think of to reach out to.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega stated she could find out who would be the best contact.

Nancy Brune stated she would reach out to My Brother's Keeper Alliance.

Nancy Brune asked members if there were any other barriers or challenges different stakeholder groups are working on.

Kelly stated there is a Foster Care Stakeholder Committee that meets the last Friday of every month which tackles through various issues of getting CCSD and DFS to work together. Members include DFS and CCSD.

Nancy Brune stated based on today's meeting there is a need to bring in stakeholders such as Dr. Murdock, some of the folks from DFS, CASA, parole and probation and juvenile justice system to talk through the education landscape and discuss some of the barriers and challenges.

Kimberly Palma-Ortega suggested adding a contact from Early Intervention Services.

Nancy Brune stated it would be important to map all organizations for the entire state and having a call with folks that represent Washoe County and the rural counties.

Nancy Brune asked if it would be an Open Meeting Law violation to meet with Dr. Murdock and invite the committee members.

Elvira Saldana replied she would verify and follow up.

Nancy Brune stated she will draft and submit an action plan.

5. **For Possible Action:** Discuss and Decide Upon Next Steps- Nancy Brune, Senator Marilyn Dondero-Loop, Kimberly Palma-Ortega
- Assign Tasks to Committee Members (if needed)
  - Specify Agenda Items for the Next Meeting
    1. Workplan progress and update
  - Confirm Next Meeting Date/Time  
The next meeting date will be February 19, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

6. **Public Comment and Discussion:**

There was no public comment.

7. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.