

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 State Juvenile Justice Oversight Commission  
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING  
October 17th at 9:00 am**

**Transcript**

**Called to order at 9:00 am.**

**Roll Call:**

**(Voting Members)**

Present: Elizabeth Florez (Chair), Jennifer Fraser, Brigid Duffy, Dylan K. Tedford, Ethan Ewert

**(Non-Voting Members)**

Present: Pauline Salla

**(Staff Members)**

Present: Leslie Bittleston, Kayla Williamson

Absent: Sharon Anderson

Public: Elyse Monroy - Belz & Case Government Affairs, Representing: The Children's Advocacy Alliance, Boys Town and the Nevada Psychiatric Association

**Elizabeth Florez:** Thank you for the clarification. Okay. All right. Thank you. So, this is Liz Florez for the record. Ms. Bittleston had announced that we had met quorum during roll call. With that, I'll move on to Item Number 3, public comment and discussion. Is there any public comment? I don't see any. So, we'll move on to Item Number 4, review and approve minutes. If the members have had an opportunity to review the minutes, are there any comments about the minutes before we seek approval or corrections? I don't see any. So with that, I'll make a motion that we approve the minutes dated August 24th, 2023.

**Brigid Duffy:** This is Brigid. I'll second.

**Elizabeth Florez:** Okay. All those in favor say, aye.

**Unanimous:** Aye.

**Elizabeth Florez:** Any opposed? Is there any discussion? Okay. With that, the motion carries. Item Number 5, the Housing of Youthful Offenders. Leslie, can you please provide an update?

**Leslie Bittleston:** Yes, Leslie Bittleston for the record. Just a reminder to the members that in accordance with SB 356 from 2021, a report was completed and sent to LCB on time, which would've been July 31st of this year. DCFS has not received any feedback from LCB, no questions, no comments, nothing on that. I did put a status update here because recently I did have a conversation with the warden out at Northern Nevada Correctional Center. So, that is the facility that the youthful offenders are now located. They were moved on May 1st of this year from Lovelock Correctional Center. I will be

visiting them next Wednesday, on the 25th, and Commissioner Duffy will be joining me for that visit. So, if anybody else would like to go visit the youth, it is at Northern Nevada Correctional Center. The scheduled time is 11:00 am. That is our time for the tour. We will be meeting with the warden.

Also, just to update you, there are 20 boys currently at Northern Nevada Correctional Center. The facility is contracting with adult education for schooling. So, through adult education all of the youth are receiving between five and six hours a day of education. I'm not aware of any other programming, which will be a question that I will ask next week when we go out there. My understanding is they do have a case manager assigned to them. So, I am assuming there is some type of programming happening besides education. They also have their own yard, so they are available and free to go out into the yard on a routine schedule.

In addition to that Ethan, who is also a brand-new commissioner of the JJOC. Welcome Ethan, and I will talk about Ethan in just a second, but he visited last week Florence McClure in Las Vegas, which is the women's prison. There is currently one juvenile female at Florence McClure. She does have her own pod, her own little yard, and Ethan did speak to her and she's doing well. Her only complaint is she's lonely being the only female there, so she wishes that there was somebody else with her. So, that is really the update on the youthful offenders and how they are doing and what they're doing. So, I can take questions, if there's any questions.

**Elizabeth Florez:** Any questions? No.

**Brigid Duffy:** I am excited to go. This is Brigid.

**Leslie Bittleston:** And Brigid --

**Brigid Duffy:** Maybe see something positive.

**Leslie Bittleston:** Yeah. And Brigid, you can let me know if you want to meet me at my office or if you want to meet me at the facility, whatever works for you, so. And Northern Nevada Correctional Facility is a large facility, so you'll get quite a tour. They have an embedded hospital on that facility campus, which we don't see because it's for the adults, but it's an interesting campus. So, anyway that's it for me. Oh, Brigid.

**Brigid Duffy:** I just said I -- this is Brigid for the record. Just a random question in case anybody here knows. Are the conservation camps still open under NDoc? Their website has not been updated for forever. Like do we still -- does anybody know for like the 18 and up population?

**Leslie Bittleston:** My understanding is, yes, they are still operational. A couple of years ago, I visited the conservation camp in Ely and it was still up and running. So, that's my understanding. I haven't heard any different, but we can ask the warden next week when we see her, if they're still up and running, but no juveniles would go to a conservation camp.

**Brigid Duffy:** Right. This is Brigid again for the record. I'm trying to figure out kind of that continuum of care because we have a lot of adult criminal judges that want to put our juveniles in these conservation camps in the past, but they won't take them till they're 18. So, if they can, you know, go and start their sentence at the one place in Northern Nevada Correctional Center, work on their education piece and then as they turn 18 transitions into the conservation camp, especially if they have one in Southern Nevada because it's closer to their family and then back.

So, anyway I'm just trying to figure out how the Frankenstein together a blended sentencing model, I guess I'd call it, with what we have, and then, just so everybody knows, the other question I intend to ask when I'm there is about visitation. I don't know if you know the answer to that, Leslie, but because I assume of those 20 kids a majority are from Clark County and their families wouldn't have the resources to go and visit them, so how if they -- I mean I also imagine they have video visitation and how often they get that access. But if there's any programming in place to allow the families to come up, to assist the families to come up to see them, that's kind of one of the things. I e-mailed the Attorney General's office about it a little while back to see if there was something that the state could do to help facilitate some in-person visits with the families that couldn't afford to travel. Because let me tell you, it's expensive to fly to Reno.

**Leslie Bittleston:** Yes, it is. I do have a update on that. The warden did indicate that there are no funds or programs to bring families for visitation, but she did not say how the youth are doing visitation. I don't know if it's all video or if there's -- so, that's a question that I think we need to ask when we're there next week, but I do know there's no programs to pay for that. She did tell me that. Okay.

**Elizabeth Florez:** Okay.

**Leslie Bittleston:** So that's --

**Dylan K. Tedford:** This is Dylan Tedford for the record. Oh, sorry, don't mean to interrupt.

**Leslie Bittleston:** Go ahead.

**Dylan K. Tedford:** So, I actually toured the facility last week. I did the entire facility tour with the folks from NDOC [ph] and the warden and the deputy warden, and most of the folks from out there at the correctional center. And I'm not sure exactly what the conditions are like day to day for the youth in there, but there was certainly, it seemed like most of them are on pretty good behavior because most of the cells have TVs in them. The outdoor area that they have free access to is, I mean, it's not nice grass, but it's a pretty stunning view with a mountain.

And when I was there, none of them were in their cells. They were all in a kind of a central area that looked like maybe a classroom or just a common area. So, it seemed like at least most of them are well behaved enough that they're moving positively through their track in the correctional system, but I just don't know the extent to which they have access to that visitation and all that and that wasn't really discussed.

**Elizabeth Florez:** Right. This is Liz for the record. Thank you for that Dylan. And thank you very much, Leslie, for that report. Just for a matter of background, Dylan, this is Liz Florez again, for the record, because I know you had mentioned last time that juvenile justice is not necessarily your background, but research has shown over time that youthful population tends to be the one actually like 18 to 24 in adult corrections that have a lot of acting out behavior. A lot of it has to do with adolescent brain development and, you know, just where they are in their lifespan, then establishing themselves within an adult facility, making a name, you know, all of that.

So, for the under 18s, you know, I'm glad to hear that that was your observation and I do look forward to hearing about any potential future programmatic elements that could be incorporated as well because that's, you know, that's part of the dream we have, right, so I appreciate that update. Okay. Anything further on Item 5 related to Youthful Offenders? Okay. With that, we'll move on to Item Number 6, Juvenile Justice Oversight Commission, and I'll turn it again over to Ms. Bittleston.

**Leslie Bittleston:** Thank you. Leslie Bittleston for the record. In your list of attachments, there is attachment 6, JJOC membership. Since we last spoke or since our last meeting we've had, some new members appointed, but we also are losing some members. So, I just wanted to update everybody on the membership as it stands. So, we do have two members that were nominated by the assembly, Holly Welborn and Derrica Daniel. Holly Welborn is from, I can and I can't remember what it's called, and then Ms. Derrica Daniel is from the ACLU. Both are attorneys and we will see them at our first meeting next week on Monday. Dr. Cindy Pitlock, who was the administrator of DCFS, has resigned. So, we will be removing her from the list. Our new administrator Marla McDade Williams does not have the time to sit on this commission, so we are waiting for her to appoint her designee. So, I do not know who that is right at the moment. So, that position will be vacant until Marla identifies her designee. Sharon Anderson is now filling the role of Deputy Administrator from juvenile services. Let's see, Jack Martin, number 13, he had recently reapplied, but my understanding is he is no longer in his position, so I will be reaching out to Clark County to find out who their designee is or who the new director is for the Clark County role.

Another new person that we received, Dawn Gearhart. She is part of the Washoe County District Attorney's office. She is the designee of, I believe and I can't remember her name, but the designee of the replacement for Jolie Wicks, so she is new. And then lastly, Ethan Ewert. He is a youth member. I recruited him the moment that I hired him because he was within the age requirements, but Ethan did provide his resignation yesterday for his position with the state, but he has agreed to stay on the JJOC as a youth member. He will be going back to his old position that he had before the state, but he will be continuing as a youth member, so thank you, Ethan. I did talk him into that yesterday. So, you will be continuing to see him, but we will have an opening, a vacancy within the programs' office for that data collection person.

So, that is kind of really it on the new members. An area that we, not we this committee, but we in general need to focus on is recruiting some new youth members. Sarah Bruce, her term is up, but I have not been able to contact her, and then Ethan is our only youth member. We have six positions, so we have five vacant. If anybody knows anybody under 24 or below that would like to serve on this commission, that would be great, and it would be a benefit if the youth has some experience in the juvenile justice system themselves. Their voices are very, very important. So, please be on the lookout for anybody 24 and below that would like to be part of this commission. So, that is the update on the commission piece. There's a couple of other pieces of this agenda item.

**Elizabeth Florez:** Leslie --

**Leslie Bittleston:** Unless there's --

**Elizabeth Florez:** This is Liz for the record. May I just go back to the youth member. Just as a reminder, we had talked at the last meeting about potentially -- well, we had voted that we would recommend to the larger body stipends potentially for the youth members. So, I just wanted to remind everybody of that and that will be going into my report, which I know I have to submit like today. So, I just wanted to remind that, and I wanted to welcome Ethan. Congratulations on the transition, but thankful that you'll be on the JJOC as a youth member. So, thank you for that.

**Leslie Bittleston:** Great. Bullet Item Number 2, there is a commission meeting scheduled on 10/23/2023, which is Monday, and Madam Chair, you don't have to worry about your report for this meeting. This meeting is going to be a meet and greet and just kind of a high level what the JJOC is because we do have some new members, and we do have a new chair. So, for Mr. Tedford, Commissioner Tedford, Chair Tedford, you know, this is just kind of an overview of what the JJOC does. So, we will not have any reports until the next commission meeting, Madam Chair, and that's when we will discuss

stipends and all of those other things. So, we will also have Kristen Russell, the vendor for the resource center providing an overview as well for the members.

And then the last thing, Strategic Planning Committee membership update, there is an attachment, 6.1. So, this is what I have for the current Strategic Planning Committee. Everybody is here with exception of Sharon Anderson. Unfortunately, Sharon cannot meet on Tuesday morning, so we will have to find a different time for this committee to meet. And then, at the commission meeting, we will discuss openings of the other two committees; the Data Performance committee and the strategic -- excuse me, the State Advisory Committee and Racial and Ethnic Disparities. So, we will talk more about that at the larger full JJOC, but this is where we stand for the current Strategic Planning Committee. So, are there any questions on membership or anything around there?

**Elizabeth Florez:** This is Liz Florez for the record. Look at our list, good job. Strategic Planning Subcommittee. You've been working.

**Leslie Bittleston:** Yes. We have been working.

**Elizabeth Florez:** Thank you, Leslie. So, with that, we'll move on to Item Number 7, which is for the JJOC Strategic Plan.

**Leslie Bittleston:** Yeah. So, I included, it is attachment 7. This is the Strategic Plan that was created and approved by the JJOC back in, as you can see, on June 21st, 2018. State statute requires the JJOC to do a new strategic plan every five years. So, as you can see, we are due for a new strategic plan. I just provided this for the members just to refresh all of our memory on what the last Strategic Plan was. Also, to remind the members that this plan was created in conjunction with a vendor, and unfortunately, the state was not provided ongoing funds to contract with a vendor for the Strategic Plan. So, this does have to be another discussion at the full JJOC of how this plan will be updated by the commission, and I guess that's more for Madam Chair to discuss with the members. But those of us that have been around since this was created, most of this has been completed. There are some things in this plan that were not completed due to lack of resources, well, specifically lack of resources. So, I don't know, Madam Chair, would you like me to go over this plan or do you want members to refresh their own memories on their own time? Whatever you think, Madam Chair.

**Elizabeth Florez:** This is Liz Florez for the record. Could you perhaps, Leslie, remind about specifically on the areas where this previous plan, the items that still were incomplete?

**Leslie Bittleston:** Sure. So, if we move to page, there's a lot of data in this. So, if we move to Page 15, and I'm just going to do very high level just so we understand. Excuse me, not 15. I'm getting myself confused, 19; excuse me, strategic goals, that's where we want to start. Strategic goals on page 19, this was really the selection of the risk and needs assessment, the creation of the matrix of model programs, system collaboration and tailored services. This section and these four goals have been completed, so there is nothing remaining here.

And then moving on to Page Number 22, proven programs. This is an area where we have completed some things and not completed some things. As part of AB 472, now codified into NRS 62B, the state was to create an evidence-based resource center, which they did. However, there was no sustainable funding for the resource center after the startup cost or startup bundle of money that was provided as part of AB 472. The only funding for this resource center on the go forward has been roughly \$51,000 out of the Title II Formula Grant, and that does not pay for a full-time staff member. So, basically the pieces that we are missing under proven programs is, we do not have a lot of programs in our resource center website. I

guess you can say, nor do we have a full-time member that can do training and answer questions. So, that piece has not been done due to the lack of funding.

Okay. Let's see. Moving on to Page Number 26, system collaboration. This partially has been done and has not been done. This was a very large goal, and basically the premise of this goal was to have one system or some type of a data warehouse or one system where data could be stored that the state could kind of mine the data itself. So, part of that was for all counties and the state to move to the same platform, which at the time was called Caseload Pro. It is now called Enterprise Supervision, and that has been done by the state and all counties with the exception of Washoe County. Even though, we have all moved to this platform, these platforms remain siloed. They do not speak to each other and there is currently no way to share data through a bridge or anything from a county to the state, nor is there any way for the state programs' office, my unit, to pull data from any of the counties that are on Caseload Pro/Enterprise Supervision. So, that piece has not yet been completed.

Moving on to Number 2, I'm under strategic initiatives for those of you who are following along, the QA review. This has been completed. This included the selection of the correctional program checklist, and in the correctional program checklist is a validated evidence-based quality assurance tool that assesses programs for their compliance with evidence-based programs. This tool is used only on state facilities and youth camps. There is nothing in NRS that requires the use of this tool on county detention facilities or parole or probation. I don't know if that was the goal. I have heard some talk over the years that that could have possibly been the goal. I don't know that, but I just wanted to say that's what this tool is being used for and what it's not being used for.

Performance reporting, this commission did create a performance measure template for a bunch of performance measures; however, this has not yet been codified into NRS or NAC. So, the data committee will have to readdress this piece as part of their work. So, that's kind of the overview of that section.

Moving on to section number 4 which on page 31. So, this was the requirement to have a family engagement plan and to use family engagement in the case planning process. I can tell you that DCFS does have a family engagement handbook, but I cannot tell you if the other counties have a family engagement handbook. There is no requirement for the counties to provide a copy of their handbook to DCFS or the commission. This is just a requirement that we should all have a family engagement plan and then the second piece is case planning and reentry plans. State statute was updated in 2017 to require that before a youth is released from a facility, a state facility specifically, DCFS facility; at least 30 days prior to the release, there has to be a reentry meeting and a reentry plan. This has all been completed and is in practice.

And then moving on to, I think that's pretty much it. The rest of the information is about performance measures and things that the data committee will have to readdress in the next year or so. Are there any questions on all of that? That was a lot in a very little condensed summary.

**Elizabeth Florez:** Thank you, Leslie. This is Liz Florez for the record. Thank you very much for giving us an update on the areas that were incomplete. And we have had lots of conversations about the strategic plan and how to move forward and it actually took us, to my memory, a couple of meetings before we arrived at the recommendation to seek approval from the JJOC to hire a vendor to provide support because we had acknowledged that none of us were able to take on this very heavy lift on behalf of the state without resources. And we felt comfortable that with guidance and support, we would be able to inform and guide the project, but not necessarily conduct it. And so, are there any comments on this, on what Leslie went over or on the Strategic Plan itself or questions?

Okay. At this point, you know, I've been wrestling with what if any homework, this is Liz Florez again for the record, we should be providing -- I should be directing related to this strategic plan and I have to tell you I struggled with that and I certainly welcome any feedback because at this point, there are so many unknown variables, not the least of which is the OJJDP guidelines that came out, that's a whole other body of work that in my mind runs concurrent with this and perhaps may overlap with this. And because we're still -- I mean we're preparing for a meet and greet and an orientation with JJOC, I'm a little uncertain on how to move this work forward, so I'm leaning upon my partners on the committee if there are ideas about what if anything we should do prior to the next meeting or if we should wait. This is Liz. Is everybody stumped like me?

**Brigid Duffy:** Well, this is Brigid. I mean I know I have -- based upon Leslie's report, thank you Leslie, there's a lot of work my data committee has to do once I get people excited about data. So, to kind of bring back to the Strategic Plan Committee, so I think I already kind of see that as my homework to say I've got to go finish these portions to bring back and get us up to date on that portion. So, that's where my mind's going right now because I have some work to do in the next year.

**Jennifer Fraser:** This is Jennifer Fraser for the record. I think it's a good idea to kind of see how the meeting goes on Monday and then have the other subcommittees are going to like be reforming and then maybe after the next meeting and once we know, you know, so we'll know the duties of different subcommittees and have a better idea of how to move forward. I think it's kind of hard now because I think we're the only subcommittee that can continues to meet, right? So, it's hard to bounce ideas off and see. So, maybe finally getting the full commission together on Monday, we'll kind of restart and energize everyone.

**Elizabeth Florez:** Thank you for that, Jennifer, and also to Brigid. I appreciate that. So, at this point, this is Liz Florez again for the record. This will remain on our agendas going forward on the Strategic Planning Committee and I agree that I feel like we're sort of alone on this island and until we get our full team in place, there really won't be a lot of -- we do need to get our juvenile justice partners all back together so we can work as a team on this plan because it's not just our plan, it's the whole body's plan. So, thank you for that input.

Is there anything else related to this agenda item? Okay. With that then, we'll move on to Item Number 8, which is to confirm the next meeting date and time. I recommend that we do another Doodle poll. So, I'll ask Ms. Williamson and Bittleston to put that together. And at this time, I'll move to public comment. Is there any public comment? I don't see any. So, at this point, we will adjourn, and thank you everybody for meeting today. Appreciate you and the time you spent.

**Leslie Bittleston:** Thank you.

**Elizabeth Florez:** Bye-Bye.

**Dylan Tedford:** Thank you.