

Steve Sisolak
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 *Full Commission* Committee Meeting April 22nd 2022

Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT**

Call to Order: JJOC Co-Chair Judge Egan Walker called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

Roll Call:

Voting Members Present: Egan Walker, Joey Orduna-Hastings, Pauline Salla-Smith, Brigid Duffy, Jennifer Fraser, Rebekah Graham, Katherine Maher, Sara Bruce

Public:

DCFS Staff: Leslie Bittleston, Jennifer Simeo

Absent: Cindy Pitlock, Jack Martin, Gianna Verness, Elizabeth Florez, Mckenna Finnerty, Paula Smith, Jeremy Sutters, Daniel Perrault, Jessica Valdez-Ramirez, Jacquelyn Nader

Quorum: Leslie Bittleston took roll and quorum was not reached.

Public Comment:

Egan Walker: Joey, I just wonder while we have a few minutes, if I can talk process and give information to the members. Or if you think that may run afoul of the open-meeting rule?

Joey Orduna-Hastings: We do have our deputy attorney general, Jennifer Spencer on, and I will defer to Ms. Spencer for the answer to that. Ms. Spencer?

Jennifer Spencer: Hello, everybody. I think if it is just general information, this is being recorded so it is available and then there will not be a vote taken on it I think it should be fine if it is just real basic general information.

Egan Walker: Alright. Thank you for that, Ms. Spencer. So, I -- I think everybody is entitled to know sort of the where we've been in the last few months. And let me just put that into the record in this way. You all may recall that the last, sort of, regularly scheduled JJOC meeting we had was for last November. That's November 2021. And the Thursday before that meeting, Mr. Ross Armstrong left his position at DCFS. Ms. Orduna Hastings and I learned about his departure that day and the subsequent meeting or the meeting set for the next day was canceled really in connection with Mr. Armstrong's departure. Let me take a moment and just say thank you to Ross Armstrong for all the

years of service he put in. He was in Ms. Spencer's position for the Supreme Court commission and the state advisory group for many years before he had matriculated into DCFS and then served honorably of course for many years in DCFS. The why Mr. Armstrong left, I leave all of you, I don't know, and I've not been given a reason. I'm not suggesting we should speculate on it but I just want you all to know I don't know why Ross left or why his departure was precipitous. And so, that's why the November meeting was canceled. After his departure a variety of issues arose to include communication between Ms. Orduna Hastings and I and the governor's office. You all will note that Ms. Bailey Bortolin who was the deputy chief of -- Chief of Staff to Governor Sisolak is with us as a part of the public proceeding today. And Joey and I and Ms. Bortolin and many others have worked many, many, many hours behind the scenes. The results of that work, was a meeting held this week chaired by the Chief Justice of the Nevada Supreme Court, Justice Parraguirre. A variety of persons attended that meeting to include Joey and I, Ms. Bortolin, and Dr. Pitlock who is now in the position that was occupied by Ross. Ms. Duffy was at that meeting. Justice Saitta was at that meeting, and Justice Cadish was at that meeting and Justice Hardesty. And the result of that meeting -- and Brigid, I'll look to you to help or Bailey to you to help correct my understanding. But my understanding with the result of that meeting is basically this. The governor's office in conjunction with others is going to reach out to the legislative branch of government to seek to promulgate legislation to really invest and reinvest a statewide children's commission in Nevada. The statewide children's commission that exists in Nevada exists as a matter of the administrative docket of the Supreme Court. Its existence was stood up after the blue-ribbon commission in Clark County and was really -- it was really designed at least by that ADKT to address child welfare issues in Nevada or at least that was its principal focus. And all in attendance at -- at the meeting with the Supreme Court this week and I suspect all of you if I told you would agree, that the same 30 or 40 people have the privilege in Nevada of populating this commission. The CSEC commission, the children's commission, kind of all-child related commissions. And so, the result of our meeting was to suggest to the Supreme Court that legislative action and/or ADKT action need to occur so that we can really invest the children's commission in Nevada with overarching sort of umbrella authority for all child-related issues. Which would result in the JJOC continuing but as a, for lack of a better term, of subcommittee of the children's commission. And so, that's all sort of a long background on -- I can -- I'd be happy to talk to any of you who had individual questions for me on a one-on-one basis that sort of a long background to tell you that it hasn't been that nothing has been going on, but instead that much as been going on to really try to invest in Nevada's children through a commission styled after the Texas Children's Commission with overarching authority. And so I just wanted to explain that background to all of you and then apologize for the false starts. I know all of us prepared for a meeting in November that was precipitously vacated because of the departure of Mr. Armstrong. We then had a meeting set for earlier this month that unfortunately wasn't noticed properly and so we had to vacate that meeting I just wanted to personally apologize for that. But reassure you that in the background much, much, much activity, particularly through the governor's office, but much, much activity has been occurring to try and get not only the JJOC but all children's related issues sort of back on track, or on track behind a really powerful locomotive, for lack of a better term. Joey, I don't know if you want to weigh in.

Joey Orduna-Hastings: I do. I just want to thank you, Judge Walker, for summarizing that so accurately but then also reassure all of you that your service and your involvement in the JJOC is still crucial. We are still at JJOC but we are working towards being more strategic and having the support of other branches of government including having Ms. Borderland [ph] here today. So, I just want to thank you all for your service. I agree, and the apologies and a lot of the activity that's happening behind the scenes. And we just want to be very transparent with you today about where we are with the JJOC. Thank you.

Egan Walker: Ms. Bittleston, just checking and back in with you. I don't think we had any -- any member -- new members joined. Is that correct?

Leslie Bittleston: I am checking, as we speak there is somebody that is on iPhone and I don't know who that is. Could -- whoever is on iPhone, please identify yourself.

Egan Walker: Or if you haven't identified yourself yet --

Leslie Bittleston: Yes, he has. It's the gentleman that's here for Jack Martin. I'm sorry, I forgot your name. I apologize.

Joey Orduna-Hastings: Mr. Whelihan.

Mike Whelihan: Mike Whelihan.

Leslie Bittleston: Thank you, Mike. Sorry about that.

Mike Whelihan: That's alright.

Leslie Bittleston: No -- no other members have joined.

Egan Walker: Alright. Well, let me offer a procedural announcement into the record. You may all see correspondents under my name and Ms. Orduna-Hastings' name as co-chairs of the commission offering some suggestions to the governor's office about a funding opportunity. In particular, I'm going to suggest to the governor's office that money be broken out for strategic planning. Our strategic plan, the JJOC strategic plan is in its final year and set to sunset or -- or need to be renewed. And I'm simply going to suggest that we do a strategic plan for all child related issues in the state. But agenda item number -- off -- I'm sorry, seven on our agenda which we will not discuss and cannot make take action on is a funding update agenda item. And what it is about is American Recovery Act funds that may be available on for confirmation through the legislature out of the governor's office. So, I'll just give you a heads up you may see such correspondence. Joey, I don't think we can go any farther without a quorum.

Joey Orduna-Hastings: No. Unfortunately, I don't believe we can either. And it's been 15 minutes so we're well into the meeting.

Egan Walker: And so, let me just say thank you, thank you, thank you to all of you who have come. Please stay attached. Please stay connected to us. I apologize for the stops and starts. I know it can work chaos in your calendars as it does in mine, and I apologize for that. But the kids and families we serve deserve it. I know all of you know that better than I because you live your careers in their service. Keep an eye peeled for a subsequent meeting that will be set and we'll reach out with that new meeting date. Ms. Orduna-Hastings?

Joey Orduna-Hastings: And I would just add for administrative purposes for our next meeting, can a reminder be sent out to everyone in advance so that we remind them of the meeting not just the calendar item, but a reminder to them since everyone is so busy and may have missed e-mails.

Leslie Bittleston: Yes. My -- Leslie Bittleston for the record. My apologies, my administrative assistant is off this week, so that is something that is normally her responsibility, and so my apologies to everybody for the lack of reminder. And we will remedy for the next meeting.

Unknown Male: Alright.

Egan Walker: Then I am to go ahead and call the meeting to a close for failure to reach quorum.

Leslie Bittleston: Have a good weekend, everybody.

Unknown Female: Thank you.

Unknown Male: Have a great weekend.

Unknown Female: Hi, everyone. Nice seeing your faces.

Unknown Male: Bye.