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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
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Ross Armstrong
Administrator

Nevada State Juvenile Justice Oversight Commission Full Commission Committee Meeting June 11th, 2021 at 1:00 pm

Meeting Minutes – **DRAFT**

Call to Order: JJOC Co-Chair Judge Egan Walker called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Roll Call:

Voting Members Present: Judge Egan Walker (Co-Chair), Eve Hanan, Ross Armstrong, Nancy Saitta, Pauline Salla-Smith, Jack Martin, Gianna Verness, Brigid Duffy, Jennifer Fraser, Rebekah Graham, Katherine Maher, Paula Smith, Jeremy Setters, Daniel Peirott, Jessica Valdez-Ramirez

Absent: Joey Orduna-Hastings (Co-Chair), Jo Lee Wickes, Kevin McMahill, McKenna Finnerty, Alejandro Gonzalez, Alexis Waddell-Upton, Jacquelyn Nadar, Scott Schick

Non-Voting Members Present: Heather Plager, Christine Eckles, Mike Whelihan, Captain Kenneth Young

DCFS Staff: Leslie Bittleston, Kayla Dunn, Jennifer Simeo, Kayla Landes, Kathryn Roose

Public: Kimberly Palma-Ortega, Liz Flores – Washoe County Director, Thad Rucker – Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of Nye County, Dr. Megan Freeman - DCFS, Dave Laity, Jennifer Spencer – NV Attorney General's Office, Diego Martinez – Youth Parole, Stephanie Foster – Elko County Public Defender's Office, Susie Miller – DCFS, Eric Briggs, Paige Sinoy – Youth Parole

Leslie Bittleston took roll and quorum was confirmed.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Thank you very much, Ms. Bittleston. Folks, just a general reminder, as you speak, if you would please identify yourself by name. That would help with the minutes. In Las Vegas, are you folks able to hear us? Interesting. So present in Las Vegas, Ms. Bittleston, do you recognize the folks there?

LESLIE BITTLESTON: Yes. Jennifer Fraser, Jeremy Setters, and I believe that is Jessica Ramirez.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: To the technician in the back, sir, I don't know your name. I'm so sorry. And who are you in communication within Clark County to problem solve the connection? Oh. All right. There is no one else here in Carson City to identify and acknowledge other than commission members and, of course, staff. I show Ms. Roose, the two Kaylas, and Ms. Simeo. It's good to see all of you. Let's give it a few minutes to see if we can problem solve the connection to Clark County. Has anyone else appeared by phone who would like to be acknowledge who we didn't acknowledge in the roll call?

KIMBERLY PALMA-ORTEGA: This is Kimberly Palma-Ortega, public, by phone.

THAD RUCKER: This is Thad Rucker, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer of Nye County.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Good afternoon, sir. Welcome.

THAD RUCKER: Thank you, sir.

CHRISTINE ECKLES: Christine Eckles, Washoe County Juvenile Services.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Good afternoon, Christine. You couldn't make the 30-mile drive? Come on Christine.

CHRISTINE ECKLES: All right. Liz is gone so I'm holding down the fort.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: No excuses, Christine. No excuses. It's good to hear your voice.

CHRISTINE ECKLES: You too. Thank you.

LIZ FLORES: This is Liz Flores, Washoe County Director. I'm in route to a 2 PM meeting, a NACO meeting, so I apologize. I'm listening in, and I'm not sure how much I can respond if called upon, but hello everybody. Christine is my excellent representative in the event I cannot communicate.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: It's good to hear your voice, Liz. Good afternoon to you. Christine checked in--

HEATHER PLAGER: This is Heather Plager. I'm with Elko County Juvenile Probation. I'm on the phone as well.

CPT. KEN YOUNG: Captain Ken Young, Clark County Police Department, on the phone.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Thank you for making the meeting this afternoon. Good afternoon. You folks may hear a lot of background going on. What we're trying to problem solve right now is the connection down to Clark County. We can hear them, but they can't hear us. So if you hear conversation in the background, it's most likely that. Hang with us for a minute.

DR. MEGAN FREEMAN: This is Dr. Megan Freeman from the Division of Child and Family Services on the phone.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Good afternoon. Welcome, ma'am.

SUSIE MILLER: Susie Miller with the Division of Child and Family Services.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Good afternoon.

DAVE LAITY: Dave Laity from the Youth Parole Bureau is present as well.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Okay. Good afternoon, Dave. It's good to hear your voice.

DAVE LAITY: Good afternoon.

MICHAEL WHELIHAN: Michael Whelihan, Clark County.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Hey, Mike. It's good to hear your voice as well. Good afternoon.

MICHAEL WHELIHAN: Nice to hear you too.

JENNIFER SPENCER: Good afternoon. This is Jennifer Spencer with the Nevada Attorney General's Office.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Ms. Spencer, welcome.

DIEGO MARTINEZ: Good afternoon, Diego Martinez, youth parole.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Mr. Martinez, good afternoon.

CARLIE HUGHES: Good afternoon. Carlie Hughes, youth parole.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Welcome.

ERIC BRIGGS: Good afternoon. Eric Briggs, youth parole.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: I'm sorry. What was the name again?

ERIC BRIGGS: Eric Briggs.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Good afternoon.

ERIC BRIGGS: Thank you.

PAIGE SINOY: Good afternoon. Paige Sinoy with youth parole.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Welcome.

STEPHANIE FOSTER: Stephanie Foster with the Elko County Public Defender's Office.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Ms. Foster, good afternoon. Welcome.

STEPHANIE FOSTER: Thank you.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: So folks, since you can't see the screens we're looking at, we're again trying to problem solve the audio connection to Clark County. Just hang in there with us. Perhaps to the technician here, we could invite them in Clark County through the technician there to simply call in so we could start. Okay. Okay. Can you hear us in Clark County?

JEREMY SETTERS: Yeah, we can hear you.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Good afternoon. Please if you would, go ahead and make your appearances folks.

JENNIFER FRASER: Hi. This is Jennifer Fraser, present.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Welcome.

JESSICA VELASQUEZ: Commissioner Jessica Velasquez, present.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Welcome to you.

JEREMY SETTERS: Commissioner Jeremy Setters, present.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Welcome. Thank you for appearing folks. So we have connection. We've successfully undertaken roll. In the world of Zoom, it's funny how difficult it is now to have an in-person hearing. The next agenda item is to acknowledge a new juvenile justice oversight commission member, Ms. Bittleston.

LESLIE BITTLESTON: Thank you, judge. We do have a new commission member, a youth member. Her name is Jacqueline Nadar. Jacqueline, are you on the phone? She does not appear to be on the phone, but she was appointed effective April 1st. She has joined the SAG committee and she was present for, not the last one, the one before that. So, that is who she is.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: A hearty welcome to her then and condolences. Don't teach her your bad habits, Pauline, please. The next agenda item is approval of the March 12th meeting minutes. That's attachment five. I'll cue it up and simply move to approve the meeting minutes. Any second?

ROSS ARMSTRONG: This is Commissioner Armstrong. I second.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Any discussion about the minutes?

PAULINE SALLA-SMITH: This is Commissioner Salla. I was not present, as I was not present at the meeting.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: All right. Thank you, Commissioner Salla-Smith. Anybody on the phone, any comments about the minutes? There's been a motion and a second. Hearing no additional comments, all in favor, please say aye. Aye.

Ayes all around

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Thank you. The minutes are approved. The next agenda item is the COVID-19 update. Ms. Bittleston.

LESLIE BITTLESTON: Thank you, Judge. The COVID-19 update, attachment number six. This is the facility COVID-19 data as of May 31st, 2021. Table number one is a running total of the total tests provided to youth in our facilities, which is 1,406. Out of those, 63 positives for a positivity rate of 4.48. Staff tests 1227, 103 positives for an 8.39% positivity rate. The positivity rate for both staff and youth is steadily dropping, and we did not have a single positive test in the month of May, staff or youth. Table number two, that is all of the positives by month. The first chart or table number two is all of the staff tests by month. And then table number three is all of the youth positive tests by month. And then on page two going on to table number four, this is an updated testing policy for facilities now that we have moved to opening up the state. There are still mask requirements in the facilities, but some facilities are still quarantining youth until they receive a positive test. Some facilities are no longer quarantining youth. Most of the facilities are only testing staff and youth when required for transport or upon symptoms if they are symptomatic. So that is the COVID-19 update. I can take questions.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Any questions for Ms. Bittleston? First on the phone, any questions? I hear no questions for the telephone callers. In Clark County, any questions?

JEREMY SETTERS: None over here.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: All right. Thank you. Here in Carson City, any questions from the commission members?

ROSS ARMSTRONG: This is Commissioner Armstrong. I just wanted to check, Ms. Bittleston, China Spring and Douglas show nothing. Was that a non-response to your question or are they having no mitigation or testing done.

LESLIE BITTLESTON: Thank you for the question, Leslie Bittleston. Neither facility responded. So that is a non-response not so --

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: A request. I know how much work it is to gather this information. I suspect how much work it is to provide the information. If you could follow up with both of them at my request, I'd appreciate it. Any other questions or comments here in Carson City?

PAULINE SALLA-SMITH: I think with the follow-up, a phone call is helpful because we get, like, so many emails and they weren't, you know, I'll speak for myself. I'm like, oh, I'll respond and then things happen, and I don't end up responding in timely manner. So, I mean, as a jurisdiction, I would just ask for a follow-up phone call, if I'm non-responsive. You can yell at me then.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Thank you for that. I have a comment to make if there are no other questions here in Carson City. The comment I would make is this, thank you to everybody across the state for all of your work. Hopefully, as we come out of the night of COVID into the day of a new -- I'm sorry -- a new, re-invigorated world, this will be the new normal, meaning that we can meet in person again, begin to conduct business in person. But the overarching comment I wanted to make is, as I paid attention to these statistics as you collected them, Ms. Bittleston, I was heartened and really gratified to see that children in the facilities remain safer as a statistical matter than they did in the community. Speaking as a judge, there was a concern in the adult criminal world and in the juvenile justice world, that facilities would become epicenters of infection for children, et cetera. And that -- those statistics were never born out during the crisis thus far. And so my compliments to people across the state for all the hard work that people like Ms. Flores, Ms. Salla-Smith, Jack Martin, all the hard work people had to do to keep kids safe was reflected in this data. So my kudos to everybody. Any other questions or comments related to the COVID-19 update. I hear and see none. The next agenda item then is commission membership update, Ms. Bittleston?

LESLIE BITTLESTON: Thank you, Judge. Attachment seven is the next attachment that I will be referring to. We do have quite a few members who are expiring. Their terms are expiring on August 31st of this year. That is before we meet again as a full commission. So I have listed all of you that are coming due on August 31st and also the role that you are filling. For example, the top one is, Ms. Eve Hanan. She was nominated by a member of the Senate. To fill that role again, she will need to be renominated by a member of the Senate. We do have four vacant positions. We have another position to the Senate, another position to the assembly, the director of juvenile services representing a county 100,000 to 700,000. Ms. Elizabeth Flores is applying for that. And then, we have lost Mr. McMahill, who was our representative of law enforcement. He has retired. So we will be looking for a member of law enforcement. So these are all of those that are coming due on August 31st. And I ask you all if you are interested, to reapply. At the bottom of this attachment, that is the web address to apply for the position and you complete step number two and step number three, which is submit the application and submit a waiver, which does have to be notarized. Thank you.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Thank you for those updates. Any questions? In particular, any questions from those whose terms may be expiring? To persons, for example, whose nomination is required by the Supreme Court, if you need an entrée, I'd be happy to carry the water to the justices of the Supreme Court. For example, Katherine Maher, I see is somebody who requires a nomination. Joey, of course, requires a nomination. And I'd be happy to be the intermediary to anybody who might need that service. Any questions or comments on the phone?

JEREMY SETTERS: I had a question. Just curious of the vacancies that doesn't say require nomination. Can we put in -- can we, you know, reach out to, you know, people in the community? For instance, I -- I have -- I know people in law enforcement agency that might be open to participating on the commission if that's something that we can make recommendation for.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Absolutely. That's something you can make recommendations for. And, in particular, we are in need of law enforcement voice, meaning, you know, of course there are law enforcement officers in the juvenile justice commission and as directors of facilities, but in the outside the juvenile justice law enforcement arena, we're definitely in need of a voice. So any suggestions you might make or even nominations you might offer would be welcome.

JEREMY SETTERS: Absolutely. Thank you.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: You're welcome. Any other questions on the phone? All right. Or in Clark County? I see none and there aren't any here in Carson. Thank you for that update, Ms. Bittleston. The next agenda item is the OJJDP grant update. Ms. Bittleston?

LESLIE BITTLESTON: Thank you, Judge. There are no attachments for this. This is just for information only. Our formula grant funds remain frozen. The state has received partial release of formula grant funds based upon request. So we have received some funds out of the FY-18 grant and more recently the FY-19 grants, mostly to cover our subgrantees. So we are almost fully paid with most of our subgrantees, but I did want to let everybody know that the formula grant funds are still frozen.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: And then just a brief summary of the why. I know you've reported on it previously, but just a brief summary of the why, please.

LESLIE BITTLESTON: Yes, sir. The reason that the formula grant funds are frozen is the Division of Child and Family Services is currently designated as a high-risk grantee. That is a designation placed on the state by The Department of Justice based on audits of various grants. There's a lot of grants that come out and that the Division of Child and Family Services are involved in. So we, DCFS received an audit about three years ago where we needed to provide some corrective actions. So pending the completion of those corrective actions, we will remain a high-risk designee. Once the corrective action is closed, that designation will be lifted and grant funds will be unfrozen.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Any sense of how long? I know that's the \$64 million question.

LESLIE BITTLESTON: No, sir.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Okay. Thank you for the direct answer.

LESLIE BITTLESTON: Thank you, sir. Moving on to compliance. For those of you who are new to the commission and maybe new to OJJDP and the formula grant, compliance is compliance with the four core protections of the Juvenile Justice Reform Act, previously the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act. So a lot of work is done in my office with my staff and myself maintaining compliance with those four-core protections: Jail removal, deinstitutionalization of status offenders, sight, and sound separation, and racial and ethnic disparities. The compliance report was submitted by my office on May 25th of this year. So we are pending review by OJJDP. I have a summary that I just completed this week that I will present to the state advisory group committee when we meet next week. So that's compliance. The FY-21 formula grant solicitation was recently announced. It is expected or we are anticipating receiving

\$600,000, which we haven't received in many years. So that grant is currently in process. That grant application is currently in process. Another grant that is currently in process is the FY-21 delinquency prevention grant. The state is applying for this grant to help the high-poverty areas in the state, also known as the Nevada Opportunity Zones. Las Vegas Valley is mostly an opportunity zone. So the program that will be provided with these grant funds is an outreach program partnered by Las Vegas Metro and the school resource officers. They will be following up with at-risk youth identified by the school district and conducting home visits on weekends and evenings to assess the youth and family situation to see if they need any referrals or resources. This is a program that they have been working on for the last year. So they are continuing and hopefully making it better. The rural areas; Elko, Carson, Lyon, Churchill, and Washoe. We hope to make some grant funds available to them for mental health services and evaluations and things for juvenile sex offenders. So we will be doing more work on that if those grant funds are received by the division. Thank you.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: So questions, comments, concerns? Ms. Salla-Smith.

PAULINE SALLA-SMITH: Thank you. Is there any discussion about including our Native American reservations in this? Because Humboldt is not part of this, but we have a fairly decent sized reservation up north, and I believe they meet all the criteria for high poverty and high needs and all that. And I know that with our formula grant, Native American populations is important for us to address. So is that being considered with this grant?

LESLIE BITTLESTON: Thank you for the question. So this grant actually had two different pots of monies, one for state governments and one for tribal governments. So tribal governments are requested to apply on their behalf, but no, I did not reach out to any of the tribes to see if they needed help, but they did not fit into the state piece. I'm not sure if I'm saying that right.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: So, Commissioner Paula Smith, an overture, I deeply appreciate Commissioner Salla-Smith's question because it's a longstanding out-sized need. Any suggestion you might have from the tribe that you work for in particular or from the tribes that you know of to connect with them, to poll them for needs, for example?

PAULA SMITH: I know ITCN reaches out to all 27 reservations throughout the tribe. They've gotten a lot of assistance through the CARES Act. In addition, like the Washoe Tribe, we work closely with all our school; Alpine, Douglas, and here in Carson City. And a lot of times we do backpack buddies where the kids get a backpack of food for the weekend so. But ITCN would be one of the main, in our tribal council of Nevada and Reno, would be very helpful.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: All right. I'm so sorry to keep adding to your to-do list, Ms. Bittleston, but perhaps a call to them as an overture would be warranted. Thank you for that suggestion, Commissioner Smith. Other questions or comments on the phone?

JEREMY SETTERS: No, nothing over here.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: And nothing in Clark County. So, Commissioner, Salla-Smith, you and I have a good working relationship which I appreciate. We've always been able to speak frankly with each other, which I deeply appreciate. I know you've had some frustration which you've expressed about OJJDP grant and the delay of the grant. Anything you want to express or talk about in that regard?

PAULINE SALLA-SMITH: I'm still frustrated. I understand being designated as a high-risk state. When I first started in 2005, we were designated as a high-risk state also. And in nine months we were removed from that. It took us, I mean, it took us calling every day, submitting our reports to do that. I mean, we're four years into this, almost four. Three -- I have three frozen grants right now. So, 18, 19 and 20. I think at least for my jurisdiction, we have the opportunity to continue our services even though our funding's not coming through. I'm not sure that's the same for all jurisdictions and the formula grant is really, not just for the four core requirements, but direct services for delinquency prevention too. I can't imagine how we're three years into this and it's still frozen.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Do you have a suggestion having been the state coordinator, for example, do you have a suggestion about how we could -- ?

PAULINE SALLA-SMITH: I was on the phone every day. And if people wouldn't call me back, I'd call them in the beginning when I first got to the office and at the end of the office, and they'll get sick enough that they'll be calling people back. But if our representatives aren't actively involved in this, maybe our Supreme Court can get actively involved in this. I know there's a lot of turnover. I talked to my past state representatives there too. I understand OJJDP's going through changes too, but this really focuses on direct services for our kids, and I would assume that if we had 20 sight and sound violations at a facility, OJJDP would be responding quickly to that and take away our funding. So it has to go both ways. They have to respond when we're trying to fix things and just like if we're having violations. So I would be calling. I asked some of my old people to check into it too there. We're three years in. To me, it's unacceptable.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Well, thank you for voicing those concerns. I know you and I have talked privately as it were, offline about it. I know you've reached out to both Joey and I as co-chairs with that frustration, and I want to hear those concerns. I welcome any constructive suggestions you may have about it. Candidly, Ms. Bittleston, a request I have is if you would give me the number to the contact you've been talking to, I'll call them. I haven't done that. I apologize for not doing that. I don't know that I really have any jurisdiction to do it, but I have no problem being a part of the burr in their side. So I would request that information. Other comments or concerns, commissioners?

ROSS ARMSTRONG: I just wanted to clarify for the commission that OJJDP has no authority to release the funds. It's not -- in the past where we've been non-compliant with the formula granted and the JJDP, that's OJJDP that makes that call. In this case, the offending audit was on the Victim of Crime Act grant. It's the office of Inspector General within the Department of Justice. So I can provide that information, but from Leslie's position, aside from when we get the special authorization to pull down partial funds, and she submits that application, there's nothing that Leslie's office can do in terms of how much longer we think it may take. We have had tremendous help from Senator Cortez Masto who was able to get millions released for us recently in the last couple of weeks and they had been an incredible ally in getting this audit done. I have all sorts of thoughts about an audit that takes three years. It's not that helpful for anybody. And we've submitted some final documentation. So as an example, if you're wondering, like, what are we providing? You know, the last request we got was why a nonprofit law firm that received VOCA funding charged different percentages one year in 2015, 6 years ago, for internet versus their lighting. And so that's what we're dealing with, and I have frustration with the Department of Justice and especially the office of Inspector General in terms of what on earth is taking so long, but I would like to say, I think we're at the very end, but I've said that a lot of times and the end has not yet come. But I will

get that information for the contacts outside of OJJDP because they're not the ones who can release funds for us under this particular freeze.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: So appropriate comments related to pressure, appropriate response from the state. I don't think I hear that anybody's dropped the ball on the state side. I don't know that you share that perspective, Commissioner Salla-Smith, but thank you for calling it out. Any other comments on the phone?

JEREMY SETTERS: No, nothing in Clark County.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: All right. Thank you. So the next agenda item then is DCFS updates. Timely Segway, Ms. Bittleston?

LESLIE BITTLESTON: Thank you, Judge. So we do have a few updates on the DCFS side. So for the quality assurance we, a few years ago, selected a quality assurance tool that is called the correctional program checklist. At that time, we trained eight individuals to become certified assessors of this tool and we are currently down to four. So we have recently partnered with Clark County to train eight additional assessors.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Thank you to -- I'm sorry for interrupting. Thank you to Jack or Mike for that. I appreciate that.

LESLIE BITTLESTON: Yes. So four of those assessors will be coming from Clark County, three will be coming from DCFS, and one from China Spring. So Clark County and DCFS will be splitting that contract. So DCFS will be covering the three DCFS staff and the China Springs' staff for training. Clark County has also offered a training room for this training. It will occur the week of August 30th of this year. So those eight new folks will be trained. Also, as part of this contract, we will be providing, well not we, but the vendor of the correctional program checklist will be providing booster training to the four staff that are still doing the correctional program checklist. So we will be up to 12 folks that can administer this tool going forward. So we would like to thank Clark County for their partnership and also the University of Cincinnati, who is the vendor of this particular tool. So that's it for the correctional program checklist. And moving on to the next bullet, which is the resource center project update. In your packet of materials, there is attachment nine, and attachment nine is titled Technical Assistance to the Nevada Center for Juvenile Justice Innovation. So there were some technical assistance funds available through the court system that I spoke to our resource center vendor about, and they proposed a work plan for these funds, which is roughly \$66,000. So I applied on the state's behalf for that \$66,000, and we were awarded those funds. So the resource center, which is the Nevada NCJJ, which is a subsidiary of NCJFCJ, will be doing the following project. On page one, activity one is virtual training for probation officers and court professionals. That really kind of focuses on the case planning and smart goals and things around that. Activity number two will be researching quality assurance tools. This is still a remaining piece from AB472, which is to find a tool to help the state determine if programs are actually in fact evidence-based. So the programs that the probation departments and the parole are using are evidence-based. And also activity number three, to add some additional material to the website. And so that is the project. We are working on finalizing the contract as we speak. And then the research division of the Nevada council will get started on that. And then the last thing we have is now that legislature is over, we can move forward with the public hearing for our pending NAC 62B and 62H. I have staff actively trying to schedule rooms for this. We do not have a date yet, but we are working on the next step of moving the NACS forward. So,

we will keep this commission updated on when we have scheduled that date. So, those are DCFS, upstate. I can take questions,

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Questions for Ms. Bittleston from listeners on the phone? We should acknowledge that Bridget Duffy has joined us on the phone. She texted me some time ago, and I forgot to mention it. I apologize. Any questions from listeners on the phone? I hear --

BRIGID DUFFY: Thank you, Jack. I am definitely here. Y

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: You're welcome, Bridget. I apologize. Thank you for joining us. I apologize for not acknowledging it sooner. In Clark County any questions on the DCFS update?

JEREMY SETTERS: No question in Clark County.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: All right. Here in Carson City? Again, the only request I would have, Ms. Bittleston, as soon as that date hits, if you would let me know, I'll give it my level best to try and make it. My calendar, like all of yours, I know is nightmarish as the world opens back up, but you know, there's trial after trial, after trial occurring across the state appropriately, it's not a complaint, it's just an observation, but as soon as that date hits, if you'd let me know, I'd appreciate it. All right. The next agenda item then is updates from the sub committees. The first subcommittee in line is the Date of Performance Committee. That's Ms. Duffy. I don't know if Commissioner Armstrong, you were going to cover that for Ms. Duffy or not.

ROSS ARMSTRONG: I think that was if she was unable to join. So, I am extremely --

BRIGID DUFFY: No, no, no. I need Leslie to help. I don't have the materials in front of me. So, I'm here for question.

ROSS ARMSTRONG: Got it.

BRIGID DUFFY: Yeah. Yeah. Thank you.

ROSS ARMSTRONG: So, I'm a little less relieved, but it's always good to be with Commissioner Duffy. So, in the packet, you will see the report from the data subcommittee. At our last meeting, we really tried to wrestle with some of these final terms and what needs to be in the score card and not. You know, I think when we started, we're like, we want to collect all the data all the time, and you realize that if you can't get a meaningful definition of that data, or it's not even useful in determining what is going on within a juvenile justice system then it is -- it's not necessarily data that needs to be collected. And so, if you look also in the packet, is a red line version of the scorecard. And in particularly the last page shows recommended changes to how the CPC items are reported. That was due to actually just working with the CPC some more and understanding what the actual domains that were checked are. And so, on page 31, you will see those particular changes. And then we have a definition of rearrest. I'm going to ask. I don't know. Leslie, do have where we put that in the red line version of that, that rearrest? Cause there were questions of does, you know, is a referral? As a citation? What should be counted as a rearrest,

BRIGID DUFFY: Commissioner Armstrong? I'll I can, I don't have the materials in front of me to flow it, but I can definitely discuss that. So, thank you for being my assistant. and I apologize to the commission. I needed to take a last-minute trip out of town for my own wellbeing. So, on my furlough day, but I didn't want to fail completely. So, rearrest, so, Commissioner Wickes brought to the data can see back at our meeting in, I want to say March, an issue that they came up with during the SAG meeting, which was, does

the definition of recidivism include citations or is it just additional arrests, like putting in handcuffs in the back of a squad car and taking to juvenile detention? So, we, and you'll see in the meeting materials, I kind of laid it out in the committee report so you would have it right in front of you. When you look up the definition of recidivism, the definition says arrest to last citation and then you're measuring it within three years of a rearrest. And because the definition has arrest slash citation, it was our determination or consensus in the subcommittee that the rearrest would also include an additional citation and so that way we're being a little more transparent into whether or not children are reentering the juvenile justice system after an initial contact. And so, it's the subcommittee's recommendation that we clarify that local collecting data on recidivism that with the term prearrest, we also mean, and it just no citation within three years of the initial one. And then at the bottom of my report, we're asking for that to be approved by the full commission.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: So, I move to approve the report of the data subcommittee and the definitions in particular recommended by the data subcommittee. Is there a second?

PAULINE SALLA-SMITH: I'll second.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Discussion. Any questions, folks or discussion related to this? Yet again, Bridget, you and your colleagues demonstrate how hard you work. I'm glad you're getting some time off. I'm sorry. We're invading it for this meeting. Questions or comments in Clark County? Or on the phone? Hearing no questions or comments, there's been a motion and a second, please indicate aye.

Ayes all around

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Any opposition, any abstentions? So, that -- those proposed definitions are approved. I return to you Mr. Armstrong.

BRIGID DUFFY: I can pick up from here again, Judge Walker, if I may. So, there are a couple of other things in my report and one of them, at the bottom, is a question slash recommendation I'd like to make to the full commission and I know we haven't discussed legislation yet, but if you could look at my recommendation, I'm asking that of the data collection and the information from S Senate bill 366 was around juvenile competency be placed within my subcommittee. I championed the bill on behalf of the interim committee on child welfare and juvenile justice. It ended up becoming a bill where we needed to collect some data. And so, on a request when we get to the legislative piece of the agenda, that that be put into my subcommittee to follow up with over the next two years as we move into the next session. So, I wanted to make sure I brought that to everybody's attention. The other thing was we are making some strides in some staff in protecting data from the juvenile system to the adult correctional facilities system. It's a little difficult to do, but we think we found a way and we're going to be reaching out to counties individually with the formula that we think we've discovered in order to track and see. We can't, all we can do is get a percentage of children or young adults that have left juvenile justice and entered into the adult system. So, we think we can move forward with that. And then with regard to our family surveys, that's still a work in progress and will continue to update the full commission. So, thank you for my time and I do appreciate the time off, but this is a very important commission. So, I'm working around it.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Thank you for that. All I have to say is, wow. So, a dream that Judge Voy has had, that everybody on the JJOC has had, and that I've had that predates this JJOC back to the Supreme Court Commission and probably back to the beginning of time, is tracking data into the adult system and so if you have a lead on that, all I can say is, wow, about that. Speaking as a cochair, I --

BRIGID DUFFY: I'm sorry. I'm sorry to interrupt. Cause I can't really see you, but if you want a little more information on that, Leslie, my right-hand woman, she can explain it because there is a piece in the packet that kind of explained it to everybody, how we're starting to do it with the analytics committee, from the Department of Health and Human Services. So, if you want to know more information, Leslie, sorry to put you on the spot, but I know that you can explain it and I asked you to put that piece of paper into the committee material.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Please go ahead, Ms. Bittleston.

LESLIE BITTLESTON: Thank you. Attachment 10.C is what Ms. Duffy is referring to. So, currently, the Department of Health and Human Services data com -- not committee. There's a unit within DHHS that does a lot of data mining, so to speak. They do have a link into the adult system. So, we have been able to gather information on the youth in our correctional facilities, our DCFS facilities, and follow them into the adult department of correction system by some formula that this unit has created. So, what, Commissioner Duffy is discussing is that DCFS myself reach out to this unit within DHHS and find out what information they would need from the counties in order to do this same type of comparison to the department of corrections. So, we can expand that data pulled from beyond the DCFS correctional facilities, to all of the counties. I have put a request in for a meeting. I do not have one scheduled yet, but we're trying to find out what exactly they would need to put this in place for the entire state.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: I'm pretty sure Justice Seda is doing backhand springs. If she wasn't on the phone, we could watch her, but that's remarkable.

LESLIE BITTLESTON: Yeah. So, we do have a plan, but I can't guarantee how long it'll take to get it moving, but we have a plan

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: That's wonderful. Before I forget, I assigned to the data subcommittee work on data collection for SB366, specifically related to children deemed incompetent. Thank you for volunteering for that, Bridget.

BRIGID DUFFY: Anytime. Thank you.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Any questions about the data subcommittee report for Ms. Duffy or Commissioner Armstrong? On the phone?

JEREMY SETTERS: Nothing in Clark County.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: And nothing here in Carson City. Thank you for that succinct report, Bridget, drive safe, enjoy your time off. The next agenda item then would be the SAG advisory crew and planning committee, Commissioner Salla-Smith.

PAULINE SALLA-SMITH: Thank you. I apologize for not submitting a written report. COVID made me forget doing that, I guess. I'll get back into the swing of things on that. We have been meeting though. There's actually -- we have a lot of topics that we've had discussion on, but we wanted to bring back to the full commission. We just, we needed some clarification as through the SAG committee we've been working with NAJJA in order to develop a template for use of force, data gathering spreadsheet. As a group and when I say as a group, I'm speaking for NAJJA right now as their president this year that the definition of physical restraint utilized by the state has caused some of us just the cause for pause and for some discussion. When we think of physical restraint, we're thinking of an actual hold or grab where

we're stopping the behavior, whether it's a safety or security issue for our kids and our staff. There was some discussion that an escort, a hand behind them to guide them if we were trying to get some movement because there was a situation, would count as a physical restraint with the definition that's being used on this spreadsheet. And to us, that's a guide or an escort. So, I guess I'm just asking the commission, if NAJJA can, through NAJJA working with SAG, rewrite at least our physical restraint or revise it, our physical restraint definition to not include an escort or a guide into that information. I think that a physical restraint is much different than that and depending on what behavior modification program we use as a detention center, it wouldn't be defined as a physical restraint. So, I'm bringing it to the full commission to see if there's any appetite for us to at least revise the physical restraint definition on the paperwork that's in the packet to collect use of force data. The mechanical restraint and OC spray definitions are okay. There has been a lot of discussion with NAJJA that, are we going to count unduplicated youth? It could be one situation where OC spray is used and there might be six to four to six or eight kids involved. Is that considered one episode of an OC spray or are we counting it as eight separate, OC sprays. So, whereas the jurisdictions are more than willing to provide data, I think we just need to make sure that we're reporting accurately and that we all agree on what we're reporting and if it's duplicated or unduplicated or else our data's going to be skewed and not really helpful.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: First questions on the phone or comments.

JEREMY SETTERS: Nothing in Clark County.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Commissioner Salla-Smith, I guess you should know, I've done quite a bit of thinking and a little bit of research on this issue. In preparation for this meeting, I discussed with staff, I discussed with, Commissioner Armstrong, the lack of data reporting, which is a frustration to me. Issues of physical force have been at the forefront of juvenile justice issues in Nevada for a long time. You would know better than I, having worked so hard in it, longer than I have. You know, the echoes of the so-called consent decree in the early aughts that Nevada suffered were around physical force. Bad press, more recently, related to so-called hog tying was around physical force. The title of this commission contains the word oversight and the charge of the commission in the legislation is clearly oversight. So, we need to collect some data. I'm very sensitive to the concern that we would duplicate data or that data would be in some way skewed. We have discovered, let me give an example. We had a commission meeting earlier this year and/or late last year about COVID reporting data and there was a legitimate concern in my view, out of Clark County, that sort of a constellation of positive results for children related to one incident in Clark County would be misrepresented and I hope I demonstrated in terms of a commission co-chair in the way that was handled. I'm not interested in pillaring anybody. Clark County -- children in Clark County, in my view, are safe, in detention and they have been, as long as this commission has been in existence, and we just need to shine the light on what the data shows. So, I would suggest that we simply by fiat today indicate a use of force is a restraint that is used in detention or a correctional type facility as a behavioral intervention, because that's at the heart of what you were describing, right? Handcuffing a child to take them to or from court or a doctor's appointment or putting a restraint on a child physically with another person's body for purposes of safety is not a use of force by that definition, focusing on what a parent wants to know, was my child, a group of these 10 kids in a fight who was subjected to pepper spray. Yes, each individual needs to be counted, right? If they were sprayed. And so, one incident might result in 10 uses. I don't think this has ever happened. I'm using an extreme example, 10 uses of pepper spray. So, I'm going to put a July 30th deadline on reporting some data, and I will just promise you as the president of NAJJA, Commissioner, Salla-Smith, and as a commission member and a friend, I won't let

anybody misrepresent the data. It will take some scrubbing and some cleaning up for sure. We'll need to understand it. First, I always want to understand the data and then follow the where it leads, if it leads. I suspect, I don't know, and I hope I'm not jinxing any of us. I suspect that just like with COVID, once we figure out how to report it, when we actually look at the data, we're going to be pleasantly surprised. I don't know if my suggestion answers the concern of NAJJA related to the definition or not.

PAULINE SALLA-SMITH: Thank you. Judge Walker, I always appreciate you. It does. I mean, a July 30th date for us gives us time to gather the data and just work out some kinks and we'll present it at the next oversight commission or it'll run through the SAG committee also. There's no hesitation in us providing the data. We just want to make sure we're all coming at it the same way.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: The purpose, let me be clear for the data, is simply to know what's happening with our children. If there are challenges, I commit to focusing positive energy toward addressing the challenges and not pillaring anybody. You know, watching what happened related to the hog tying in the press was a great object lesson for me as a human being about what shouldn't happen and what should happen because Ross spent, I don't know, untold hours writing an entire administrative code as a result of that incident, for example. So, it led to some good things in my opinion and we just got to see what the data shows. And I promise if there's a data point that looks out of line, like the room confinement data. Remember last year, we had some very interesting room confinement data. If there's a point that looks out of line before in this commission, blame is placed on anybody. We'll make sure we understand the data and that it's accurate. That's the best I can offer

PAULINE SALLA-SMITH: I'm committed to getting the data to the full commission.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Thank you for that. Any other questions or comments related to the SAG advisory for planning group and their requests for refinement of the use of force definition?

JEREMY SETTERS: I'm not sure if this would fall under the jurisdiction of the commission, but with incidences like China Springs shutting down the boys' unit, there's going to be an increased need for out of state placement for a lot of these youth. How are we able to monitor and track those numbers? Because I'll give you an example, like Ely and Pahrump and Tonopah and a lot of the rurals, I'm sure, you know, those who are online know this, only have resources for rehabilitative services outside of the state and they use that in a way to kind of help the youth, but not leave them in detention because they can't just send them home. How do we track that data? How do we know what's happening with them?

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Commissioner Armstrong, I'm going to put you on the spot. I know DCFS keeps data about all categories of children placed out of state.

ROSS ARMSTRONG: We get a monthly report, an out-of-state report from our HHS data analytics team and I'm happy to let you know that I think we're maybe 60, no more than 90 days out from having that as a public facing dashboard. So, any member of this commission or the public can click on a county or an agency and see where that county is sending their children, in terms of what facilities, our juvenile justice system. So, that report includes children that are sent an out of state in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. For a while now, the juvenile justice system has been the vast majority of those placing children out of state and so, we can certainly provide that particular information in terms of what is it is looking like for children out of state and we also know that, you know, the changing landscape of both internal, really the changing landscape of beds for different, you know, therapeutic interventions and treatment is a regularly changing landscape. And so, we're preparing a presentation, I think at Justice

Seta's request at our next children's commission meeting to go over what that residential treatment landscape looks like for youth and so, we can certainly bring that presentation to this commission for its next one, as well.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: To my colleague with the question. Did that answer your question?

JEREMY SETTERS: Yes, it did. Thank you very much.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: You're welcome. Any other questions in Clark County or on the phone? Ms. Bittleston let me return to you then, or I'm sorry, Commissioner Sala-Smith to the room confinement data presentation.

PAULINE SALLA-SMITH: Thank you. You do have the information in your packet for our room confinement incidents from April, 2020 to April, 2021. We add the caveat that, of course, this was during COVID. Most of our detention numbers did decrease, drastically during this time and actually we've added the average monthly population, which is included by the facilities for January, February, March, and April. So, it's broken down by each of the detention, juvenile detention facilities in the state. As everyone can see, our room confinements have been declining, at least in the last six months, we're seeing a decline, a large decline in them. Again, we just want to make sure that we all remember that our numbers declined overall. So, I think that would make, at least a supporting, caveat to our room confinement numbers, um, decreasing also, but all the jurisdictions have been committed to ensuring that we drill down on the room confinement data from the concerns that you identified we had, during last year. So, I think that the data speaks for itself. And if anyone has any questions, we can ask Ms. Bittleston or Ms. Landis to talk more about it. I think it's pretty, self-explanatory in your packet.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: I have a question if I could. How hard is it to get this out of Tyler supervision?

PAULINE SALLA-SMITH: The room confinement or the monthly population?

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Either. If everyone has the system -- the report set up to run them, it's very easy to do it. If you just -- during, in your booking, in the booking section, if you just hit average population and you put the date range in, it pops it all up with the list of all the kids, how long they were in, males and females separated. So, it does give us reports that break that down. Room confinement, if you, as long as we're entering the information in the right places, which has been everything with Tyler supervision, then you can get a nice report for room confinement, also.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: It's a non-sequitur question, which I apologize for, Commissioner, but I am sensitive to the fact that all of you have done all the work to implement. Tyler had been very frustrated by implementation and that's really how my -- why my question was born out that way. There were -- this is my opinion and no one else's, there were differences between what was promised and what was delivered with Tyler and I don't know if this continues to be -- if there continues to be a symptom of that in this data.

PAULINE SALLA-SMITH: I've been a cheerleader for Tyler supervision from the very beginning. So, I'm the cheerleader with NAJJA too. And I think that we did submit a letter of concern from NAJJA to Tyler supervision and our responses have been much better. The amount of times to get some feedback on a ticket or an issue has improved. Jurisdictions have reported to me, it has improved. I mean, I think they're still working with Washoe to go live. I'm not all the way certain about that, but I can speak for us that things have improved. And once we figured out our data mapping system of where we needed to input

information to get the right information pulled out on the reports, that was really helpful, they walked us through that. We're still working through templates of, that are really individualized for jurisdictions, the DMC report. We're still working through that, but I do feel like it's getting better and I've received that feedback from some of the other jurisdictions too. So. we'll work through it.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Thank you for that. Questions on the phone related to room confinement data of Commissioner Salla-Smith?

JEREMY SETTERS: Nothing in Clark County.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Thank you. Nothing here in Carson City that I see. Thank you for the detailed reporting as always, Commissioner Sala-Smith. The next subcommittee reporting is the racial and ethnic disparity group, Commissioner Graham.

REBEKAH GRAHAM: Hi, good afternoon, everyone. I am sorry, not be there in person. It sounds fun. The -- we don't have a formal report as our subcommittee is briefly on hiatus between report, essentially, but of note is that SB108, did pass and was approved by the governor on June 4th, 2021. And that SB108 did include a lot of the research from that red committee including gaps in training, around childhood trauma and child development, and there's a -- and the effects of those adverse childhood experiences. So, that is pretty exciting that some of the work from the red subcommittee did and passed this legislation. If there's any questions, I'm sure Leslie or I are happy to answer them

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Questions for Commissioner Graham, a teaser commissioner Graham, wouldn't it be interesting if we started collecting ACE's data at the time of evaluation of children and reporting that out, just to thought? Questions for Commissioner Graham on the phone?

JEREMY SETTERS: Nothing in Clark.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Thank you. Here in Carson City, I see none. Thank you. Commissioner Graham. Grants and quality assurance was to go to Commission Wickes. I know she is excused for a necessary meeting. Ms. Bittleston.

LESLIE BITTLESTON: Thank you, Judge. The grants and quality assurance has not met in a few months and will be picking up again in the fall after the new folks have been trained in the correctional program checklist. So, no update. Thank you.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: All right. Thank you. Strategic planning committee is ad hoc. I don't know that we have a chair. If we do, I've forgotten who it is.

ROSS ARMSTRONG: I think it was Frank back in the day and he's gone.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Yeah. And Judge Voy, that's correct. Thank you for that reminder. So, not throwing either one of them under the bus, I'm sure. Judge Voy is busier than just about any other human being I know and Frank, gosh, had the great privilege of retiring. The only thing I'd like to throw out is always a teaser to you. We discussed it on our, bi-weekly meeting, Commissioner Armstrong is, you know, assuming the NACS get approved, which I think they will, we need to start building a legislative agenda. I know you and Commissioner Duffy are always on top of that, but that's one strategic planning item that we need is kind of a bullet report. Each meeting, I think, Ms. Bittleston, it is my request. So, we can have some sense of, for example, do we want to put in the NAC and or in the NRS, a definition of the use of force. Ms. Sala-Smith, it was very fascinating to me to see if there was a national definition of use of

force or a regional definition or a state definition. And, of course, there are none that are consistent. So, just thoughts.

PAULINE SALLA-SMITH: It's kind of like the definition for recidivism.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Yeah. I saw on discovery. All right. The next agenda item then is the legislative wrap up, Commissioner Armstrong.

ROSS ARMSTRONG: Good afternoon. In your meeting materials, I think it's attachment 11, there's a legislative review. It's very much in draft form. The governor is still working on signing bills today. I think today is his last day that he's permitted to you make a decision on bills. So, this review is one that we've created for the Division of Child Family Services in all four systems that the Division of Child and Family Services works in. So, that's child welfare, children's mental health, juvenile justice, and victim services. So, I'll just highlight some of the key ones in some of the other areas and then kind of drill down on the juvenile justice, one, Brigid alluded to some things earlier. On the child welfare page, just of note, Senate bill 274 relates to commercially, sexually excluded youth and continues the work in trying to pull them out of juvenile justice interventions and into health interventions. And so, that particular bill will allow the division to come up with a licensure for what are being, in the laws, called receiving centers, which would be a place you take a victim of C sect rather than detention that is safe and secure, and they can be assessed and then connected to services after that. So, that I think is the most important one in the child welfare page to be aware of. In terms of children's mental health, there were a number of initiatives this session dealing with what do you do when you have a youth that's going to a facility for treatment? Some, you know, kind of along the lines of what Commissioner Setters was talking about earlier, but really making sure that, yes, they're there for treatment, but we need to start planning right away in terms of the continued education for that child and then something to be aware of for all of our stakeholders is the crisis response. So, federally, all states are required to initiate the 988 program, which is essentially a 9 1 1, but for behavioral mental health crisis. Right? So, if you're having that type of crisis, you don't call nine one one, you call nine eight eight and so SB390 really sets up some fiscal resources to get that off the ground or figuring out how exactly that fits into our current mobile crisis response team. What we know is those states that have implemented those types of hotlines see an explosion of found need afterwards. And so, a lot of concern and thought and work will be put in place in terms of what is actually there in terms of services, when those calls start to come in and so Dr. Freeman, who I believe is in attendance, is working with Dr. Woodard of DPBH on that advisory committee. I'm sure there's an official name, but an advisory committee to figure out exactly how Nevada is going to implement 988, but that was very helpful, uh, legislation to move that forward. In terms of juvenile justice, there were a handful of bills really that discussed the decisions about what system should serve a particular young person, whether it's the juvenile justice system or the adult justice system. So, AB230 got rid of some of the automatic certification provisions specifically around the firearms charges with previous adjudications. And then there's also a study, you see there SB356, second from the bottom, that DCFS and the Department of Corrections. This is a study they funded, which is always much bigger because we have a bunch of resources to actually do it, but to take a look at what is the appropriate intervention for that age, between 18 and 24. So, something a little bit different, you know, does that look like blended sentencing? There's been some thoughts in, you know, in prior years about do we take the youth from Lovelock and house them at Summit View? There was a bill to pilot that. That did not pass because of the cost, but the Department of Corrections, is not on the sheet, the Department of Corrections, this coming by is going to have to record the cost of serving those children, so they know, um, what that cost looks like. So, progress

in terms of where are the boundaries of the adult system and the juvenile system, and is there an appropriate place for some sort of hybrid system? And then, Bridget talked about SB 366, which requires DCFS to develop a plan for uniform services in the event a child is found incompetent at that time for competency restoration long-term services. We've had the legal framework for making the decision about the competency of a youth for a while now, but there's no plan on the service's backend. That bill also requires each county department of juvenile justice to submit data about the number of children found incompetent each year because in coming up with what is the cost of those services, the first question that we don't know what the numbers are and I think what we find in the adult system, you find really to two core reasons for incompetency to stand trial and, and go through the process and it's either a developmental disability or severe mental illness and I think what we see those same things, but then you add on and you weave in the layer of just general youth development, right? So, a 14-year-old is not going to be able to tell you everything about, you know, juries and, and defending themselves in court and everything. And there are lots of different models across the country. So, that bill requires DCFS to come up with a plan, to be able to secure federal system of care money to pay for that plan, to pay for expertise to develop that plan and then has those data requirements so we know what type of incompetency is out there that our jurisdictions are seeing. Probably most exciting for this commission is that SB 398, specifically talks about the juvenile justice oversight commission and this would be a good task, I think, for the strategic plan committee, but when you take a look at the timeline of our five-year strategic plan and when it ends, it became clear that, well, if we're looking at our five-year strategic plan and we know we need some legislative changes to make the next five-year strategic plan better, we need to get going now and have those legislative changes proposed next session and so this bill really requires us to do that to provide an update on the five-year strategic plan and think about if there are any legislative changes related to the plan and also related to disparities in the juvenile justice system related to race and ethnicity. So, this provides an additional platform for our red committee to make some good change and then also compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act or its successor that we're currently in and that could include the membership makeup of the commission. if there are definitions that we need to change, in terms of those core protections in our state statutes. So, it really provides this commission with the opportunity to take a look at how we've done since the AB472, recommend any changes to statute to continue the work that you're doing and provides us a formal platform to do that and I would imagine that the recommendations of this commission would then end up in a bill draft request in one large bill next session. One bill that is interesting --

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: I apologize for interrupting Commissioner Armstrong. Before you move on as to SB398, a request Ms. Bittleston, yet again, adding to your to-do list. I apologize. Once Ms. Flores's application hits for appointment in Frank Cervantes' place and assuming it is approved, would you let me know so that I can help her because I intend to appoint her to the, in commissioners, former Commissioner Cervantes' place to the strategic planning committee and I want to help support her in that rather large task that will accrue, looking at the five-year strategic plan. I know Joey, you and Ross and I or Ross, you and Joey, and I spent hours building the strategic plan with the help of some very able folks through a part of the original commission grant. At any rate, if you would help me remember that I'd appreciate it, Ms. Bittleston. I'm sorry for the interruption.

ROSS ARMSTRONG: That's okay. So, something to take note, I'll pause just for a minute in terms of a bill that's not in the packet, but one of the bills that was passed changes the way the legislature operates, and it will be interesting to see how this impacts our system. So, for a very long time, there's been an interim committee on child welfare and juvenile justice. And so, we've been asked to provide presentations and

discuss child welfare and juvenile justice systems to a special interim committee that is designed just to look at that those populations. This year, the legislature passed a bill to get rid of that committee and actually got rid of all their kind of odd one-off committees during the interim. And they're only going to have committees that then align with the committees they have during regular sessions. And so juvenile justice matters in this interim will be heard by the interim committee on the judiciary. Child welfare matters will be heard by the interim committee of Health and Human Services. One of the nice things that was negotiated during the amendments of that bill, is it the interim judiciary committee, I think, gets 15 bills for the next session. Five have to be related to juvenile justice. The health and human services committee, I think, gets 15 bills and five have to be related to child welfare. And so even though that interim committee is going away, there's still a place for the committees that come after it to work on the issues that are in front of this commission often. In terms of victim services, the victim services page of the legislative review, I think, an important one to know for us specifically is the child advocacy center bill AB228. I'm sure many of our partners have worked with child advocacy centers. There's four currently in the state of Nevada, but that bill, establishes them in law. It allows the Division of Child Family Services to receive donations or grants to help fund and expand child advocacy centers throughout the state. And so that, I think, is an important one to note in terms of the victim services. I'll note to the one on there about the human trafficking coalition, there's currently one focused on C SEC and so this AB1431 is really centered around adults and their response. So, it's always, it can be a little bit weird to remember that DCFS has like all these child and family serving arms, and then we also have victim services at any age as well. And then the last page has some additional legislation of interest. There are some bills that talk about how the opioids money that Nevada will be receiving, the process for determining where that should go as well as the American Rescue Plan priorities that we worked closely with NAJJA. A number of NAJJA members had some questions about SB21, which standardizes background checks for our juvenile justice detention facilities and allows agencies to waive exclusionary crimes that are not relevant to that person's job, or there's been a great deal of time since and a lot more discretion to our juvenile justice agencies in terms of hiring and, and to the extent that someone's past may exclude them. I think that this bill will really expand the ability to have folks with lived experience working with our children. And, I think as I testified at the hearing, you know our agencies that are all about a second chance and our hiring practices should reflect that as well. Each page talks about the budget. I'll say the biggest juvenile justice budget thing that popped up during the session was really the China's Spring Youth Camp. As part of our budget, the state recommended reducing the China Spring funding that the state provides so that it was equal with that of Spring Mountain, which was a substantial reduction. They worked with the legislators on a compromise that reduced the reduction of that. So, they didn't have to take as big of a cut as was originally proposed as part of that negotiation that required to have lots of meetings during this interim to come up with some long-term solutions. I think the first one of those started at 2:00 PM today with the different counties. And so, that process is underway. We had some initial, our initial proposals kept our JJ facilities operated by the state at the same level following the special session. So, those big reductions and those were reversed through a number of mechanisms throughout the session. And so, we should be able to increase our capacity at NYTC CYC and Summit Vie in the coming months which can be helpful. So, we will update this when all the bills are signed and we know where everything landed and get that out to the commission as it helps with that.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Thank you very much for that detailed reporting. Questions on the phone for Commissioner Armstrong and the legislative wrap-up.

JEREMY SETTERS: Not any in Clark County.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: A comment, if I may, Commissioner Armstrong, to you and to your staff, but for example, to Commissioner Salla-Smith, I hope soon to be Commissioner Flores to Commissioner Martin, to all of the folks who day-to-day have provided care to children around the state. It has been a remarkable privilege to witness how hard all of you worked in very, very troubling and troubling financial times to your last comment about budgets, to see that children remain safe across the state, and the data bears out, for example, data about the penetration of the virus into the facilities, bears out that children are safe in all of those facilities. It's remarkable thing. I hope you all feel a sense of pride over it. The next agenda item then is the legislative agenda. Thank you for covering that item, Ross. Well done because otherwise that was going to fall to me. The next agenda item of the next commission meeting date, please Miss Bittleston.

LESLIE BITTLESTON: My apologies. I do not have a calendar in front of me.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: I don't either, and I should have it. I turned to one of the helpful Kaylas.

PAULINE SALLA-SMITH: The second Sunday, the second Friday in September will be September --

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: September 10th.

PAULINE SALLA-SMITH: Yep, September 10th.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: September 10th at 1:00 PM in person in Clark County and here in Carson City. Please make that request. I know you will, for the room, Ms. Bittleston through the governor's office. That was really the only next step I would identify at this time, except Ross. I have a question, a request I'm going to make publicly. So, Dave Liaty has gone above and beyond in many, many ways over the years. Several years ago, Dave took me and a couple of other people on a kind of a whirlwind tour around the state because I don't have any funding other than my own money, which I'm happy to spend, but I have a request of DCFS and that's to help me go to every juvenile justice facility in the state. There's some I've never been to. For example, I'm embarrassed to say I have not been inside the facility here in Carson City and I would like to personally visit each of the facilities, understand in a boots on the ground way, what those facilities look like, both county and state. So, that's just a request Ross that I would make as a next sort of a next step. Let's move to public comment. Is there any public comment on the phone?

Kimberly Palma-Ortega: I would first like to quickly thank you, Judge Walker for making that last statement, which brought tears eyes. I'm trying really hard to keep my composure. Being a parent, sometimes you get frustrated with certain things that aren't necessarily working. There's a quite a few people on there on this call that do know me or have known my circumstances with regard to juvenile probation and parole and the fact that you want to visit these kinds of facilities really kind makes a parent proud that you take great pride in making sure that our youth is taken care of and that the staff is being heard as well. So, I would like to thank you for making that statement and I would like to also second thing that you mentioned as well as over the last year it's been quite difficult for every facility to be able to manage the care and come up with ways of making sure everybody's protected, but moving forward with services, especially during our last COVID and the only question I have and only hope that hopefully this commission will take into account is where do we go from here? What are some follow-up possibly for kids that were turned off of probation or parole and were lost in the loop for education. So, my biggest concern at this point, there was a handful of children that would have been able to graduate if we were able to have a more clear, concise process education-wise and so I'm really hopeful that, and a lot the kids in these facilities have IEPs. So, we do have some extended time in making sure that these kids do get that

second round of follow-up so that they can pursue their education as we complete that so that we can hopefully avoid further up the pipeline avenue, especially for the fact that if we don't emphasize their education and giving them another opportunity for follow up especially during this last year that they're valued. So that we don't have to worry about finding members now that we have a platform to figure out and follow our youth from the juvenile into the adult system. So, I hope one day the education will allow a parent to help work alongside this commission as well as other committees, but again this is one grateful mom that you guys have all put together to make sure we have a bright future and that is all I have at this time.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Thank you for those comments. Any other public comments on the phone?

GIANNA VERNES: Good afternoon, Judge Walker. This is Gianna Verness on the phone. I wanted to advise you that I joined late. I've been here since the approval of the prior meeting minutes.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Thank you very much Ms. Verness. It's really great to hear your voice. Thank you for joining us today. Any other public comments on the phone? In Clark County? Here in Carson City? I'm sorry?

JEREMY SETTERS: Nothing in Clark County.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Thank you. Well, it's been a great privilege then to see all of your smiling faces and hear you. I'm sorry.

ROSS ARMSTRONG: Yeah, I just have, sorry, Judge, I just had two quick things for the record. One, I just want to take a moment to recognize the contributions of Master Mirrens from Elko, who recently passed and was a champion for kids in Northeastern Nevada. I don't know if Chief Plager is still on, but he did tremendous work out there including bullying DCFS to put Elko as a secret pilot county for the YLS when he heard, when he heard Winnemucca was getting it and he hadn't. So, a tremendous loss. And then, also, Deputy Katherine Roose will be retiring to beautiful Mexico in the coming weeks and so, I just wanted to recognize her contribution and leading the juvenile justice programs office, which serves this commission.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: How did you let that happen?

ROSS ARMSTRONG: I really checked to see if I had, you know, tickets to Mexico too, but I did not. So, it will be a great place to visit and maybe we can do a remote JJOC meeting sometime in the future. But --

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Here here to that.

ROSS ARMSTRONG: She has been a tremendous part of really the DCFS team for the last two and a half years and was, as a contractor, instrumental in the successful reopening of Summit View and so, I'm just wanting to put on the record, my appreciation for her in that manner.

JUDGE EGAN WALKER: Thank you for those public comments, any other public comments? Then again, first I move to adjourn the meeting and I thank you all for your time. It's great to see all your smiling faces. Anybody have any objection to adjourning the meeting? Hearing none. We are in recess.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.