



Department of Juvenile Justice Services Director's Office

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John M. Martin, Director
Patrick Schreiber, Assistant Director



Policy and Fiscal Affairs Board Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2013 - 12:30 pm

Joshua Conference Room - Sixth Floor
Government Center
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Present:

Commissioner Susan Brager
Commissioner Lawrence Weekly
Judge Frank Sullivan
Judge William Voy

Clark County Management

Jeff Wells, Assistant County Manager
Catherine Jorgenson, Civil District Attorney

Department of Juvenile Justice Services

John M. Martin, Director
Patrick Schreiber, Assistant Director
Carol McWaters, Executive Assistant

Department of Family Services

Lisa Ruiz-Lee, Director
Michael Knight, Assistant Director
Alex Ortiz, Principal Financial Analyst

Guests:

Lucy Flores, Assemblywoman AD28
Yesenia Amaro, Review Journal Reporter
Dr. Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Chief Operations Officer
Dr. Lisa Morris Hibbler, President of the Pearls of Henderson

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Brager with a quorum present.

II. Approve the Agenda

The minutes were approved as written.

III. Annual Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Commissioner Lawrence Weekly nominated Judge Frank Sullivan as Chairman of the Board and Commissioner Susan Brager as Vice Chairman. This was approved as nominated. The two members will hold these offices until the next meeting in May 2014.

IV. Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from May 23, 2013.

The minutes were approved as written.

V. Public Comments

Dr. Lisa Morris Hibbler, President of the Pears of Henderson, discussed the importance of appropriate advocates for the children of Clark County. These advocates are necessary to bring awareness to the community of youth needs. One avenue is the upcoming Harley Davidson ride in Henderson on September 21st at 9:00 AM. This is the second annual ride for a cause, human trafficking. All proceeds go to the non-profit.

Dr. Hibbler wanted to make everyone aware of their efforts and ask for your support. Dr. Hibbler stated she would forward the information regarding the bike ride to Commissioner Weekly for distribution.

Commissioner Weekly asked how can we support this cause? Dr. Hibbler stated that that they have a website, where donations can be made, also show up and show support and spread the word.

Commissioner Weekly requested the Directors make this information available to their staff. Lisa Ruiz-Lee, Director of the Department of Family Services (DFS) will send out the flyers to her community partners. Mr. John Martin, Director of the Department of Juvenile Justices (DJJS) will also forward to his department's partners and staff for support. More information will be gathered and disseminated.

Assemblywoman Lucy Flores spoke on her concerns regarding the group homes that are under the supervision of the County. She had spoken with the Director Lisa Ruiz-Lee, Director John Martin, and Commissioner Weekly who suggested she share her concerns with the Policy & Fiscal Affairs members at their meeting today (August 1, 2013). Assemblywoman Flores was first approached by a contractor that was terminated from County employ who stated that the termination was the result of speaking up regarding allegations concerning Brighter Day & Eagle Quest.

Director Ruiz-Lee noted that with the passing of Assembly Bill 348, which will be effective October 1, 2013, creates a very high standards for these homes that they will be required to follow. Commissioner Brager asked if these issues are about funding and if so we need to figure out how to provide services for these kids. If I can be a partner in any way, I would like to help, not point fingers. I would like to offer my assistance we meet so infrequently, we sit here for a specific reason.

Assistant County Manager Jeff Wells stated that Director Ruiz-Lee was the one that drafted and testified regarding AB 348. Commissioner Brager requested that since Ms. Ruiz-Lee has been working on this, the committee would like a report back. Commissioners Brager and Weekly stated that as Commissioners they need to be made aware of the issues with the different youth facilities.

Assemblywoman Flores stated that she had gotten permission from everyone that she can speak up about these issues. She said that some that work in the county were afraid to speak up for fear of retribution. It was stated that people can come to the Commissioners with their information and it will stay confidential. Ms. Flores stated that she is very

committed to this and wants to continue working with the Board to figure this out. She will continue talking with folks and you can count on me to come back.

Mr. Wells stated that though most of the placements come out of DJJS, the licensing comes from DFS. The licensing structure they can appeal for a fair hearing in front of a neutral hearing officer. Mr. Wells stated you cannot suspend on hearsay, it has to be live bodies to substantiate the allegations. The people with allegations need to come forward. Commissioner Brager stated we have to be careful how far we go with this. We can call a special meeting to discuss further.

Commissioner Brager would like the parties that need to, go back and meet with Commissioner Weekly at a special meeting. This is not a dropped issue, but the board must continue on with the Agenda now.

VI. Receive the Director's Report on the Activities of the Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) and Direct Staff Accordingly. *John M. Martin, Director*

Mr. Martin reported that the Department graduated seven (7) Juvenile Probation Officers (JPO) at the recent Peace Officer Standards Training (POST) Academy. The Academy has changed its slant from a 'law enforcement' emphasis to more 'academic'. This is also being followed in the recruitment for new probation officers. There were 59 people that passed through the vetting process. Interviews will be finalized and offers will be made to fill vacancies.

Since July 2011, it has become more difficult to fill vacancies, due to the required testing, background, psychological and lie detector tests. There is only a 35% passing rate after all testing is done.

The department is planning a POST Academy in October. Commissioner Weekly inquired as to whether or not the new law applies to existing employees. Mr. Martin explained that all employees of DJJS will have a background check done every five (5) years. This is still being set-up. A few details have to be ironed out including who is going to pay for this service. Commissioner Brager inquired as to whether or not the Department is able to do random drug testing. Mr. Martin stated that this will need to be negotiated with the three unions come contract renewal time.

Mr. Martin discussed his recent trip to Baltimore for the American Probation & Parole Association conference. While in Baltimore he researched a girls center in the area. The Department is exploring an Evening Reporting Center and day treatment centers. At the present time there are 41 girls placed. It is difficult to find resources. Spending more money does not necessarily mean better services. The department needs the quality assurance from the agency partnering with them to develop appropriate resources.

The Department evacuated the youth and staff at the Spring Mountain Youth Camp on July 4th, due to the Carpenter 1 Fires at Mt. Charleston. The boys and staff did an incredible job moving all necessary items down to the two detention units that were provided for their use.

Mr. Martin introduced Mr. Patrick Schreiber, the new Assistant Director of DJJS. He is a 37 year veteran of Clark County. We are happy to have him aboard.

VII. Receive the Director's Report on the Activities of the Department of Family Services (DFS) and Direct Staff Accordingly. *Lisa Ruiz-Lee, Director*

Director Lisa Ruiz-Lee discussed the highlight of her department is the recent hiring of a group of fifteen (15) new grant-funded positions. There will be an Academy August 19th. This will fill out the remaining positions.

On July 22nd, the Department, in partnership with the Department of Social Service, SNRPC Regional Initiative Office and ten (10) other major community partners, applied for an Administration for Children and Families (ACF) planning grant aimed at reducing homelessness for at-risk youth, including current and former foster youth. They are hopeful they will be competitive in the selection and award process.

The Legislative changes regarding AB348 are being discussed with the State and Washoe County. This will be difficult on many of the providers. DFS will be scheduling meetings with the providers in August to discuss those changes.

Commissioner Brager requested Ms. Ruiz-Lee keep the Board of County Commissioners aware of any changes that are to come before the Commission. Judge Sullivan commented on the short turn around for this bill. The department is sending out the changes to these programs so the homes do not have to close their doors. Ms. Ruiz-Lee stated the department has a whole communication plan to start the end of August to do a de-briefing on the law and schedule one-to-one meetings with providers. Instruct them as to what the law requires them to do as evidence that they are coming into compliance. If any of these providers have more than 23 homes, the Director is required to have a Bachelor's degree. Each agency will have a choice to restructure in order to operate in compliance with the law.

Commissioner Weekly inquired as to outsourcing. Do not want to be outsourcing all these youth. Ms. Ruiz-Lee put provisions in the law so that does not happen. Those out of state homes now have to have a license here in Nevada in order to take our youth, even if the home is in California. Boys Town is a national model. They have a national and a local board.

VIII. Public Comments.

There was no further public comment at this time.

IX. Schedule next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2013 - Joshua Conference Room

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.