

Department of Juvenile Justice Services

Director's Office

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John M. Martin, Acting Director

Policy and Fiscal Affairs Board

Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2012

Present:

Commissioner Mary Beth Scow
Judge William Voy
Judge Frank Sullivan

Clark County Management

Jeff Wells, Assistant County Manager

Department of Family Services (DFS)

Lisa Ruiz Lee, Director
Donna Smith, DFS - CAC

Department of Juvenile Justice Services

John "Jack" Martin, Acting Director
Larry Ashley, Chairman DJJS - CAC
Carol McWaters, Executive Assistant

Clark County Civil District Attorney's Office

Mark Wood, Deputy District Attorney

Guests

Ms. Barbara Buckley, Executive Director, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
Brigid Duffy, Deputy District Attorney
Doreatha Watkins, Social Work Supervisor – Management Academy

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Judge William Voy. There was a quorum present.

II. Approve the Agenda.

The Agenda was approved.

III. Appointed time for Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

IV. Approve the Minutes from the Policy & Fiscal Affairs Board meeting of August 23, 2012

The minutes were approved as written.

V. Receive the Director's Report from the Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) John "Jack" Martin, Acting Director

Mr. Martin reported that at the present time the monies received for Targeted Case Management are funding thirteen (13) positions. In January 2013, the Clinical Services Division will be able to start billing for emergency services in detention.

The Department has created a committee modeled after the Department of Family Service's "Funtastics" entitled "County Appreciation of Recognized Employees (CARE) Committee. They are pleased to report that at the first Bake Sale, they raised \$600 to be used to finance a year-end banquet.

The Spring Mountain Youth Camp "Golden Eagles" football team finished 7-1 in the regular season and won their first playoff game.

The Juvenile Detention Center has been averaging 130 youth. There were only three (3) restraint chair episodes this past quarter. The average time a youth spends in their room continues to decrease.

The indiscriminate use of shackles in the courtroom is being discontinued. The shackles are placed on the youth prior to walking them over to the courtroom waiting area, at which time the shackles will only be kept on when the youth is considered unstable, are accused of violent crimes or are pending a certification hearing. On an average, there are between 25 and 60 youth being transported to Court each day. The physical plant limitations behind the courtrooms will require the installation of cameras at the estimated cost of \$160,000.

The use of additional staff creates an overtime problem for the Department as DJJS is not budgeted for overtime, so cannot add additional staff to ensure a safe transport. Mr. Martin commented that the first step has been taken to eliminate the use of shackles. Until the cameras are in place, this is as far as the department can go safely. This is a complete change in protocol, the youths will not be allowed to embrace their parents in the court room, but are ensured that they are to have a visit in the detention center with their child immediately following court that day.

The Diversion Court statistics were discussed. There were 160 youth referred from Probation Intake to the Diversion Court this past quarter with a graduation of 58 youth. As of this reporting date, forty four (44) youth are still active in the Diversion Court process. Mr. Martin commented on the excellent job Hearing Master Compan, the coordinators, probation staff and the community volunteers does with this court.

VI. Receive the DJJS Citizen's Advisory Committee Report.

Mr. Larry Ashley, Chairman of the DJJS Citizen's Advisory Committee reported this past year to have increased their membership to eleven (11) under the new Ordinance change. As a result of the new Strategic Plan, the CAC is much more community focused and representative of the community's voice relative to juvenile justice issues. .

VII. Receive the Director's Report from the Department of Family Services (DFS)

Lisa Ruiz-Lee, Director

Ms. Ruiz-Lee reported that the department is running slightly under budget at this time. The Department expects the State block grant award allocated during the last legislative session to remain the same during the next session.

Human Resources held a recruitment for 25 case manager positions in October. They received over 900 Family Service Specialist applications and 300 Sr. Family Service Specialist applications. Ms. Ruiz-Lee anticipates being able to begin their DFS training in December and their State training in January. The Assistant Director position was posted nation-wide.

DFS has been working with State Parole and DJJS on the review of all residential treatment center placements. Staff developed a comprehensive review tool to evaluate the placement facilities and to assess the quality of living conditions for these youth. The review included nine (9) sites located through the community. Jeff Wells noted that the coordination between these three entities is important. The goal is to create a uniform contract for all providers with the differences in the Scope of Work.

VIII. Receive the DFS Citizen's Advisory Committee Report – Chairman Donna Smith

Ms. Smith reported that in May they received approval of their Action Plans with four subcommittees:

1. Family Preservation
2. Mental Health
3. Education
4. Foster & Adoptive Issues

IX. Approve possible change of meeting dates for 2013 from bi-annual to quarterly, and rotate the discussions between DJJS and DFS.

The most advantageous dates, keeping in mind the 2013 legislature and the budget preparation for 2013/2014 fiscal year were discussed. (Copy attached)

X. Receive a report from Jeff Wells, Assistant County Manager

A new employee hired into a Management position after July 1, 2002 does not receive longevity.

An existing employee promoted into an M-Plan position may be eligible to retain longevity if their future earning potential in the new position, reduced by current longevity, does not exceed 12%.

Judge Voy noted that the ability to understand the decisions made by County Management improves the morale of staff.

XI. Receive a Report from Judge Voy

Judge Voy discussed a number of on-going issues he is working on, which include:

- Use of Restraints in Courtroom
- Administrative Assistance to the Director's Office
- Meetings with the Superintendent of Clark County School District

XII. Receive a Report from Judge Frank Sullivan.

Judge Sullivan discussed the many issues that pertain to DFS and DJJS combined. In regards to foster children attending school, he made the following points:

Education – Need more information sharing with the foster parents.

- Surrogate that can go into the school and access the youth's school records to assist the youth and the foster parent.
- School contacts – names and numbers
- Repository for information to Foster Parent
- Dictionary of acronyms used by Child Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)
- "Form" to use to follow through the procedures with case workers

XIII. Appointed time for Public Comment.

Ms. Barbara Buckley, Executive Director, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada

Ms. Buckley stated she would like to commend the District Attorney's Office on implementing the Agency model of representation and its emphasis on not disagreeing with the agency, but representing them and working together. Children will be better served with this model. She applauds them for this.

Ms. Buckley would also like to commend everyone on moving forward with the Mental Health Project – there is a need for community based mental health services to assist children in foster care and alternatives to placements that overmedicate and over-treat children, presumably for profit. Our most vulnerable children deserve better.

Ms. Buckley expressed the desire to have each youth/family be assigned one Judge throughout their entire court life. This will enable the Judge to follow the youth/family through the court system, regardless of the juncture in the case. Hopefully this would enable less youth/families to languish in the system as can sometimes be the case by promoting accountability.

XIV. Schedule next meeting

April 11, 2012 – DJJS/DFS Meeting – (Budget Meeting no CAC)
Meeting Location-DJJS Zenoff Hall Conference Room – 12:30 PM

XV. Adjournment