



Department of Juvenile Justice Services

Director's Office

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John M. Martin, Acting Director



Policy and Fiscal Affairs Board Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2013 - 12:30 pm

Joshua Conference Room

Sixth Floor

Government Center

500 S. Grand Central Parkway

Las Vegas, NV 89155

Present:

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

Clark County Management

Jeff Wells, Assistant County Manager

Department of Family Services (DFS)

Lisa Ruiz Lee, Director

Department of Juvenile Justice Services

John "Jack" Martin, Acting Director
Thomas Maroney, Member DJJS - CAC
Carol McWaters, Executive Assistant

Clark County District Attorney's Office

Catherine Jorgenson, Deputy District Attorney
Lisa Logsdon, Deputy District Attorney
Brigid Duffy, Deputy District Attorney, Juvenile Division

Guests

Dr. Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners
Mike Shannon, Management Analyst, Administrative Services
Kelly Benavidez, Management Analyst, Administrative Services

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Judge William Voy at 12:30 PM.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

STEVE SISOLAK, Chairman • LARRY BROWN, Vice Chairman
SUSAN BRAGER • TOM COLLINS • CHRIS GIUNCHIGLIANI • MARY BETH SCOW • LAWRENCE WEEKLY
DONALD G. BURNETTE, County Manager

II. Approve the Agenda

The Agenda was approved.

III. Appointed time for Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

IV. Approve the Minutes from the Policy & Fiscal Affairs Board meeting of November 1, 2012

A motion was made by Commissioner Brager and seconded by Commissioner Weekly to approve the minutes as written.

V. Upcoming Legislative Bill Draft Request – DFS

Department of Family Services (DFS) Director, Lisa Ruiz-Lee presented her report.

The Department of Family Services received a letter dated February 4, 2013, from Amber Howell, Administrator of the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), stating that DFS has met all the requirements and actions steps in Nevada's Performance Improvement Plan. This was accomplished by the commitment and dedication demonstrated by staff and community partners in Clark County.

Commissioner Brager inquired as to ways in which DFS could not only meet the expectations set by DCFS, but surpass them. Mr. Jeff Wells, Assistant County Manager, responded with information regarding the request for an additional 49 Officers to decrease the caseload of the DFS Officers. This would be paid for by Fund 2300, Targeted Case Management monies. Commissioner Brager was interested to learn how the Director would be able to find 49 people that would fit the qualifications of these positions? Ms. Ruiz-Lee noted that they work closely with UNLV Social Services and open recruitment through the Human Resources. Both Departments attend various job fairs around the valley and will inform Commissioner Brager of the next one.

Legislative BDR 31 "Provides for the sharing of information regarding certain children among child welfare agencies, schools, courts, probation departments and treatment providers". With the signing of the Uninterrupted Scholars Act by President Obama this will allow Probation Officers and teachers to talk to each other regarding youth and how best to help them. Judge Sullivan noted that this information will be state-wide.

Discussion was held regarding the legislation that is pending to require a Warrant to remove a child from their home. Judge Sullivan noted this bill it to prevent a child from being unnecessarily removed from the home. However, there are difficulties for Metro if they have a warrant for a parent and there is then no supervision for the child. More work will go into this bill.

Director Ruiz-Lee discussed the Department's Budget as well as their Strategic Priorities which include the Safety Assessment Model and the Specialized Foster Care Pilot Program.

VI. Upcoming Legislative Bill Draft Request – DJJS

Mr. John Martin, Acting Director for the Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS), discussed the effect the Nevada State's proposed budget would have on the Department and Clark County. Clark County has 82% of the youth in correction beds housed within their system. The other 18% of youth in correctional beds are housed throughout the rest of the State.

At the present time, the State reimburses the Aurora/China Spring residential facility 33% of their costs to house and care for youth. The State reimburses Clark County Spring Mountain Youth Camp 7% of their costs to house and care for youth in their facility.

Jeff Wells, Assistant County Manager, discussed the commitment by the State to fund all deep-end youth. Judge Voy pointed out the letter, dated February 4, 2013 sent by the Juvenile Justice Commission and the corresponding Memorandum discussing the "Recommendations to Reform Funding for Deep-End Commitments".

Mr. Wells commented on the creation of a juvenile unit within Clark County Adult Detention Center for those youth under the age of eighteen (18) who are certified as an adult. The unit separates these youth from the regular population and provides programming and mentoring.

Discussion was held regarding **NRS 62B.330 " Child alleged or adjudicated to have committed delinquent act; acts deemed not to be delinquent."** At what age, and because of what crimes, may a youth be certified as an adult in the juvenile justice system. Commissioner Brager noted that if a youth is under twelve (12) years of age, they cannot be sent to Nevada Youth Training Center (NYTC) or Caliente. Judge Voy stated that at the present time, there are seventy-one (71) youth in NYTC, at least 50 of these youth are from Clark County.

The length of time given the District Attorney's office to file a petition is being questioned. If the time frame is shortened too much, the Attorney will not be able gather appropriate evidence, which then is a danger to the community. Clark County District Attorney, Steve Wolfson emphasizes thoughtful filing, asking many questions to get the whole picture.

Judge Voy suggested that the Clark County School District be encouraged to create panels in each school to handle the truant youth. Bring the youth back to school, instead of taking them to juvenile booking. Commissioner Brager discussed an expulsion committee could be used to eliminate school disturbances.

VII. Nevada State Budget

Thomas Maroney, Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) members for DJJS, discussed the possibility of having members of the CAC address the legislature regarding legislative issues that affect juvenile justice. The committee is asking for permission to take on a more pro-active role. Commissioner Weekly stressed that anyone representing DJJS or the County have their presentation approved by the Director's of the respective Departments.

- VIII. Appointed time for Public Comment.
There was no public comment.

- IX. Next meeting will be April 11, 2013 – 12:30 PM – Joshua Conference Room, Sixth Floor, Government Center.

- X. The meeting was adjourned.