



THE HARBOR – EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

Juvenile Assessment Center Minutes

December 16, 2020 – 1:00 PM

The Harbor

861 N. Pecos Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89101

Minutes taken by Vikki Andrews

Present in Person

City of Las Vegas

Dr. Tammy Malich, Director, Department of Youth Development and Social Innovation, *Board Member and Chair*

Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services

John M. Martin, Director – *Board Member*

Cheryl Wright, Assistant Director

Eboni Washington, Assistant Director

Jeff Jones, The Harbor

Yolanda Bennett, Manager

Linsey LaMontagne, Management Analyst

Vikki Andrews, Administrative Secretary

Clark County District Attorney's Office

Catherine Jorgenson, Deputy Civil District Attorney

Eagle Quest

Dave Doyle, Director of Operations Eagle Quest – *Board Member*

Jennifer Bevacqua, Director of Program Development

Diomar Chin, Manager, The Harbor Charleston

Present By Phone

City of Las Vegas

Lee Quick, Principal Policy Analyst

Rebecca Dunn

Sheena Mitchell

Clark County District Attorney's Office

Brigid Duffy, Chief Deputy District Attorney, Juvenile Division – *Board Member*

Clark County School District

Robert Tartar, Assistant Super-intendent, Educational Services Division – *Board Member*

Department of Health and Human Services

Ellen Richardson-Adams, Outpatient Administrator, Department of Public and Behavioral Health Services, *Board Member and Vice Chair*

Clark County Law Enforcement

Captain Adam Hyde, North Las Vegas Police Department – *Board Member*

Chief Laz Chavez, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department – *Board Member*

Workforce Connections

Jim Kostecki - *Board Member*

Community Representatives

Punam Mather, Parent Representative

Guests

Tammy Hance, Communities in Schools, Nevada

I. Call to Order

Dr. Tammy Malich, City of Las Vegas and Chair called the meeting to order, there was a quorum.

II. Public Comments

None at this time.

III. Approval of September 23, 2020 Minutes

The September 23, 2020 minutes were approved.

IV. Approval of December 16, 2020 Agenda

The December 16, 2020 agenda was approved.

V. Discussion Regarding Sustainable Funding (BDR)

There is an upcoming meeting between Dr. Tammy Malich, City of Las Vegas, Cheri Wright, Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) and Eboni Washington, DJJS, to discuss a sustainable funding model. There have been previous conversations with Punam Mather, Parent Representative, and Ms. Washington in regards to identifying a 501c3 or a fiscal agent; there is no update at this time.

John M. Martin, DJJS, states that the next legislative session will be extremely difficult. There are several legislators who want to approve legislation moving forward. The Harbor has proven through data that there is a nexus between the success of The Harbor and youth not escalating into Juvenile Justice. The Harbor can not rely on the funding of legislation in these difficult times. It is incumbent upon the board member of The Executive Steering Committee to be identifying 501c3's who want to work with The Harbor. Ms. Washington and DJJS are currently looking for grant writers to join the team in working on identifying additional funding task, but having a 501c3 will be a key piece. There are many grants that The Harbor would qualify for, but the grants are restricted to non-profit organizations. Mr. Martin asks the board members to identify funding options through 501c3's.

Catherine Jorgenson, District Attorney's Office, adds that as a county agency, donations may be accepted and are tax deductible. There is a donation policy that has been approved by the Board of County Commissioners that donations can be accepted up to \$2500.00; currently Ms. Wright and Ms. Jorgenson are working on this amount potentially being increased to \$25000.00.

This item will stand as a continuous agenda item.

VI. Discussion Regarding The Harbor Annual Report and Data Summary

Dr. Malich states that there needs to be some definitive expectations set around the annual data report. The current report shows only Harbor data. Mr. Jeff Jones states that he and Ms. Wright have recently met with John Hilpert who is an associate professor of University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and an expert in analytics. Mr. Hilpert will be assisting in accumulating the data of educational outcomes, Harbor growth and cost benefits. Dr. Malich requested that they include Bob Tartar, Clark County School District (CCSD) so educational outcomes can be included in the reports. Ms. Wright adds that Michelle King has been brought into the discussions and the 2020 report will include CCSD data. Ms. Wright suggests that having a one-page quick reference fact sheet in addition to quarterly and annual reports will be helpful for the legislative session and other instances when information is needed quickly.

Mr. Martin asks if this will be the building of an application for an ongoing report or if this will be a one-time evaluation. Ms. Wright states that this conversation has been started but this may require an additional contract that will include the Truancy Prevention Outreach Program (TPOP). Mr. Hilpert will also be providing information and recommendations on how to manage the data internally in the interim. Dr. Malich adds that she can help support the endeavor by offering and including the data analysts that the City of Las Vegas currently are contracted with.

A third-party endorsement will help with the credibility and business case of The Harbor. Qualitative data and testimonials from youth and parents will tell a strong story to legislators. The impact that The Harbor has made with the dollar that legislation has invested is overwhelming and can't be argued.

Ms. Mathur asks if there is currently a marketing committee for The Harbor, which there currently is not. There is some funding through TPOP; because it is an arm of The Harbor, this could be a wise expenditure of dollars. There are a large number of TPOP families who become referrals for The Harbor. Mr. Martin suggests that Ms. Wright chair a marketing sub-committee who can help decide what marketing should look like within a budget. Ms. Wright will report back at the next quarterly meeting and this will be added as an agenda item to the next meeting. Mr. Martin states he would happily assist in this endeavor and he would love to see Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) and North Las Vegas Police Department (NLVPD) as a part of the sub-committee. Laz Chavez, LVMPD, requested the logo be sent to him so he can present the idea of a Harbor sticker being added to police vehicles.

VII. Covid-19 Response and Strategies

At this time the response has been to encourage phone and virtual assessments as opposed to in office assessments to maintain safety. When an in-office assessment is being conducted, the number of people inside the building is limited, however it is ensured that everyone in the family know that The Harbor is accessible to them. Social distancing and mask policies are being followed diligently.

The Harbor has been trying to make their presence known in each community. The focus has been to let the community know that The Harbor is in their community and is happy to be a resource to all families. The Harbor Charleston made it a point to go into their community and it increased their referral numbers. The Harbor North Las Vegas, thanks to Magann Jordan of Eagle Quest, made a connection with West Prep Academy and did a presentation regarding The Harbor which helped increase their numbers. All managers are speaking to each other and sharing strategies and working hard on getting numbers up.

Staff and team members have become first responders. Food distribution, especially during the holiday season, has greatly increased. In addition, Commissioner Kirkpatrick donated turkeys to each location to

hand out to families. Staff went door to door giving out turkeys and letting families know that even in these hard times they are here to help their community. The Harbor is going out to medical clinics, dentist's office, and other areas to get word out about The Harbor.

The Harbor and TPOP have really been assisting entire families. During these times of Covid-19, the effort has become more than just assisting in distance learning. The Harbor and TPOP teams have been able to help in assisting grandparents in getting wheelchairs, in helping families get internet access, getting families into affordable housing, assisting in getting families shelter when they are being foreclosed on, etc. It has become a whole family approach. The dedication and innovation of the staff has been incredible.

Ms. Mathur asked what the difference in numbers of families served in 2019 compared to this year are. The numbers have gone from serving around an average of 200-300 families a month, to 50-80 a month. Ms. Mathur posed the question of what the mental health implication is on youth now that the community is going into 9 months of having only a virtual connection to schools, which were a place of connection, comfort and often food and trauma informed care, etc. There has been a decline of 87% in the number of suicide ideation reports in elementary school kids since this time last year, 71% in middle school kids and 60% in high school kids. Already in this school year, 12 youth have committed suicide; this is a number that has never been achieved in an entire academic year. During this same time frame there has also been a dramatic reduction in the number of reports to Child Protective Services, while having an increase in domestic violence, emergency room visits, etc. The Harbor data is a powerful catalyst to continue to accelerate taking action on Mental Health. Mr. Tartar has created a pilot program that is now in 50 schools called LifeLine that will act as a mental health wellness check for youth. The data from this pilot program should be helpful in a public policy discussion on the mental health implication that the Covid-19 crisis has caused. Ms. Wright has been a pioneer in the development of the LifeLine program.

VIII. Update Regarding The Harbor Expansion

The Henderson location for The Harbor is still developing. A walk through was completed in the area of 89015 Lake Mead and Water Street. The space is great, with a lot of other community partners nearby. Bamboo Sunrise, Nevada Health Centers and WIC are in the same place, and it is easily accessible through public transportation. It is a great location for the fifth Harbor.

IX. Executive Director Update

The Harbor has recently celebrated 4 years of opening and 4 locations. The anniversary was celebrated with an open house that allowed agencies in the community to come through and tour the locations. Mr. Jones had the opportunity to speak about The Harbor on the radio on station 88.1FM, and was able to spend an hour informing them about the services available. Currently there is a food and toy drive running in all locations thanks to Diomar Chin, Eagle Quest.

Over 15,429 families have been served to date through The Harbor. The data shows that elementary and middle schools are still making some referrals, while high schools are not. LVMPD and NLVPD have only had 4 drop offs in the current quarter. Mr. Martin reminds and stresses that The Harbor is available to support officers, and if there is something that they need such as a presentation or one-pager that will capture the officers The Harbor will make it happen.

X. Informational Items

- a. Announcements: Next meeting March 31, 2021 at 1:00 pm, The Harbor – 861 N. Mojave Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89101
- b. Dr. Malich met with Commissioner Jones, Ms. Mathur, CCSD and North Las Vegas leadership to discuss the \$950,000.00 grant received by the Governor's office. The grant is for computer

modems to be distributed to families. Dr. Malich will be looking for help in getting these modems delivered to families before the end of the year. She is requesting TPOP and Harbor support to help with this effort. Ms. Wright and Mr. Jones give their support.

My Brother's Keeper conference will be held in February with a date pending. An invitation will be sent out for two February dates. The conference will be held virtually with a focus on mental health as it relates specifically to African-American boys and young men, and how to address those needs.

- c. Ms. Mathur asks if there is an opportunity to name The Harbor after anyone in their honor. She would like to consider Tyrone. She would like this to be added as an item of discussion at a future meeting. This will be added to the next agenda.

Mr. Martin asks that someone from Clark County Administrators Association be identified to appear at the meetings. Currently Steven Augsperger is named, however he has not attended a meeting in over 18 months. Ms. Mathur suggests Jeff Horn who has a leadership role and involved in Mission High School and Dr. Mathur suggest executive director of CCEA Vicky Courtney. Mr. Martin asks someone to reach out to Mr. Horn and see if he has any interest in being involved. Mr. Martin thinks it would also be good to have a principal or teacher involved, possibly identified by region. This will be placed on the next agenda as an action item.

There has been an increase of battery domestic violence charges by way of an increasing trend of parents requesting children be detained on 12hour hold because they are unable to get them under control. Now that there are added stressors of staying home all day; this is an opportunity to develop parenting classes. Ms. Wright states that there are some resources currently in place but she is looking at expanding them to be specific to Covid-19. The same dynamic being seen in parents and kids is also being seen in personal intimate relationships as well. A subcommittee will be put together to work on that.

XI. Public Comments

Tammy Hance with Communities in Schools, Nevada (CIS) would like to extend her sincere appreciation to Ms. Wright and Yolanda Bennett for their amazing support from The Harbor and TPOP for the Family Support Centers and Field Agent program. They could not have managed their task without them.

XII. Adjournment