

Department of Juvenile Justice Services

Director's Office

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John M. Martin, Director

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Policy and Fiscal Affairs Board Minutes

August 27th, 2020 - 12:30 pm

Joshua Conference Room

Sixth Floor

Government Center

Present

Commissioner Justin Jones

Commissioner Lawrence Weekly

Judge William Voy

Clark County Management

Jeff Wells, Assistant County Manager

Brigid Duffy, Deputy Attorney

Catherine Jorgenson, Associate Attorney

Department of Juvenile Justice Services

John Martin, Director

Cheri Wright, Assistant Director

Eboni Washington, Assistant Director

Michael Whelihan, Assistant Director

David Doyle, DJJS CAC Chair

Shannon Freire, Administrative Secretary

Department of Family Services

Timothy Burch, Administrator of Human Services

Abigail Frierson, Assistant Director

Jill Marano, Assistant Director

Margaret LaBlanc, Assistant Director

Debbie Croshaw, Assistant Director

Sheila Parks, DFS CAC Chair

Guests

Kevin Schiller

Xavier Planta

Chair: Commissioner Justin Jones

Vice Chair: Judge William Voy

I. Call to Order

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MARILYN KIRKPATRICK, Chair • LAWRENCE WEEKLY, Vice Chair

LARRY BROWN • JAMES B. GIBSON • JUSTIN C. JONES • MICHAEL NAFT • TICK SEGERBLOM

YOLANDA T. KING, County Manager

- a. The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chair, Judge William Voy with a quorum present at 12:30pm.
- II. Public Comments**
- a. None at this time.
- III. Approval of the May 28th, 2020 Meeting Minutes**
- a. Approved as written.
- IV. Approval of the August 27th Agenda**
- a. Agenda approved as written.
- V. Dual Jurisdiction Calendar/Cases-**The group discussed the progress and growth this team has made recently. Several members discussed a current issue of placing higher level of care youth and this team possibly assisting. A meeting will be set in the near future to address this idea. Commissioner Weekly also said he will add this discussion topic to the next agenda for the board of County Commissioners.
- VI. Judge Voy to provide a report on current status of the State Juvenile Justice facilities-**Judge Voy met with State officials regarding concerns for community safety and whether or not State funding will be extended to Juvenile Justice services. Available beds in State institutions continue to reduce causing youth to stay in Detention or be released early. The Judge recommends bringing Youth Parole under Juvenile Justice services.
- VII. Receive the Director's Report on the Activities of the Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) and Direct Staff Accordingly. *John M. Martin, Director***– Please see Director's report for full report.
- a. Two new Harbor locations opened last month! Harbor NLV is located at 3001 N. Martin Luther King Blvd. NLV, NV 89032. Harbor Flamingo is located at 2000 E. Flamingo Rd, LV NV 89119. Because of Covid-19, there were only media and speakers at the grand openings. If you or someone you know would like a tour of either new location, please contact Shannon Freire.
 - i. DJJS' newest division, TPOP (Truancy Prevention Outreach Program), is housed in Flamingo Harbor. We have hired a manager and management analysts and are currently hiring Community Navigators. Community navigators are part time positions that will be responsible for supporting and assisting youth attending school. All positions in this division will work closely with families and the community. It is important that we all value the importance of school attendance starting in elementary schools.
 - ii. Representatives from The Harbor have been asked to speak at several conferences due to the success of the program. In addition, The Harbor is in the process of joining the National Assessment Center Association (NAC) that is developing guiding principles for centers nationwide. The NAC also provides education and training on a variety of topics that will be offered to our assessment center staff members.
 - b. We continue to make revisions to processes/work hours and locations due to Covid-19. As the community is forced to change their ways, we are too.
 - c. SMYC has been temporarily closed due to fires and cost containment. The staff and youth have been moved to Detention to assist in containing the virus and its potential spread.

- d. Our Probation Field Division Assessment team is up and running and ensuring there is consistency across the board on outcomes and recommendations. We are able to complete assessments over the phone and in the youth's home! We are including educational interviews, parental interviews and stakeholders in the youth's life to ensure a complete picture of the child's current situation is addressed in the recommendation as well. We will be able to find strengths of youth and build on that and have more follow through on case plans and constructing case plans.
 - i. The assessment team has been able to complete assessments within two weeks for in-custody youth. This is extremely helpful to get youth recommendations to the Judge in a more timely manner and if possible, youth released from Detention sooner than before.

VIII. Receive the DJJS Citizen's Advisory Committee Report. *David Doyle, Chair* - Mr. Doyle thanked the County Commissioners for always supporting the Harbor expansion. Especially in these times, it is exciting to see two new locations still opening and providing resources and services to those in need! It is imperative we are in the community and helping families through these hard times when intervention may be needed more than ever. Please contact any Harbor location for a tour. Over 15,000 families have been served to date with only 7% recidivism rate!

IX. Receive the Director's Report on the Activities of the Department of Family Services (DFS) and Direct Staff Accordingly. *Tim Burch, Administrator of Human Services* – Please see Director's report for full report.

- a. Mr. Burch shared current goals for the Program Improvement Plan for NV; NIA supervisors will monitor and report monthly staff members not meeting benchmarks, 60% of staff will complete family engagement training, develop trauma informed training for staff, improve frequency and quality of family contacts, educate staff on permanency planning, improve diligent search efforts, and develop statewide CQI processes.
- b. DFS had 16 employees depart with the voluntary separation program offered by Clark County.
- c. At the start of Covid-19, the County directed all part-time employees to be eliminated. DFS has been given authority to bring back all grant-funded part-time hourly positions. To date, 39 vacant hard-funded positions have been approved to fill. This will allow Child Haven to maintain appropriate staffing ratios.
- d. Outreach to Raise awareness for identifying abuse and neglect-Due to the stay at home order and school and community services closed, DFS has seen a decrease in abuse and neglect reports. DFS is engaging with the community to ensure children are remaining safe and that families are getting support they need through this pandemic.
- e. DFS prepared and continue to be a support to families dealing with distance learning and the challenges that come with. There is a work group consisting of care providers, DFS case managers, educational experts, and community partners to discuss other challenges and barriers children in care may come across and to develop solutions. Mr. Burch also thanked Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Weekly in assisting families have the necessary school supplies, wi-fi connection, and electronic devices to succeed in this new school year.
- f. There have been many policy and department updates since May 2020: Alternate NIA instructional memo from DCFS, confirming a safe environment for children, amendment to address changes in background checks, KinGAP subsidies

extended to fictive kin placements, re-engage face to face parent and child visits, and many more.

X. Receive the DFS Citizen’s Advisory Committee Report. *Sheila Parks, Chair or Representative on her behalf*

- a. Ms. Parks thanked the DFS team for the many adjustments, new directives and policies they have implemented since COVID-19, to deliver continued services to protect the safety and well-being of children and families. As it relates to educational needs, a lot of efforts are being made by the Department to partner with CCSD and community partners to ensure children in care are provided with the necessary tools to be successful through distance learning.
- b. Of the 5 strategic priorities of CAC, the one that really became of greater importance during COVID-19 is with Interventions and Accountability, which basically involves the efforts that the department is doing to improve Internal and external communication.
- c. Lastly, several members of CAC were invited to participate in a webinar to learn about the new Independent living program, called ‘LifeSet,’ which is a program of Youth Villages, that will provide an intensive case management system to improve outcomes for youth aging out of care.

XI. Announcements

- a. Next meeting will be *December 3rd, 2020*, in the Joshua Conference Room, 6th Floor, Govt. Center.

XII. Public Comments

- a. Judge Voy is anticipating additional budget cuts at the State level.
- b. Mr. David Doyle expressed concerns for HLOC (higher level of care) foster placements and retaining these foster parents. Recruitment for homes is much harder with Covid-19 restrictions. Resources need to be available to current foster homes more than ever. Distance learning is putting more pressure on these homes as well. Mr. Doyle thanked Kevin Schiller for listening to these concerns and assist in finding solutions. There is a meeting next week to see if CARES funds can assist.

XIII. Adjournment – 1:17pm