



## **THE HARBOR – EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE**

### **Juvenile Assessment Center Minutes**

**September 23, 2020 – 1:00 PM**

The Harbor

861 N. Pecos Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89101

*Minutes taken by Vikki Andrews*

#### **Present in Person**

##### **Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services**

John M. Martin, Director – *Board Member*

Cheryl Wright, Assistant Director

Eboni Washington, Assistant Director

Vikki Andrews, Administrative Secretary

##### **Clark County District Attorney's Office**

Catherine Jorgenson, Deputy Civil District Attorney

##### **Clark County School District**

Kamille Bryner, ESP

##### **Eagle Quest**

Jennifer Bevacqua, *on behalf of Dave Doyle, Director of Operations Eagle Quest – Board Member*

Diomar Chin

##### **Guests**

Barbara Collins, Mission High School

Kaleb Hayden, Mission High School

Giuseppe Russo, Mission High School

#### **Present By Phone**

##### **City of Las Vegas**

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

Sheena Mitchell

Rebecca Dunn

##### **Clark County District Attorney's Office**

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

##### **Clark County Department of Family Services**

Abbie Frierson, Assistant Director – *Board Member*

**Clark County School District**

Robert Weires, Director, Psychological Services – *Board Member*

Bob Tartar, Assistant Super-intendent – *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*

**Workforce Connections**

Jim Kostecki, *Board Member*

**Community Representatives**

Punam Mather, Parent Representative

**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 March 25, 2020 Minutes**

The June 24, 2020 minutes were approved.

**IV. Approval of June 24, 2020 Agenda**

The September 23, 2020 agenda was approved.

**V. Introduction of New Harbor Manager Jeff Jones**

Cheryl Wright, Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS), announced to the committee that Cesar Lemos received a promotion and has transitioned into his new position of Manager at Spring Mountain Youth Camp. Replacing Mr. Lemos is Manager Jeff Jones. He has worked in a variety of positions within DJJS. Mr. Jones will be great in the position of manager of The Harbor. He grew up in Las Vegas and has strong ties within the community, does a lot of networking and outreach, and also has a background in even planning. Mr. Jones will be able to positively promote The Harbor within the community.

Mr. Jones introduced himself to the committee and gave some additional background. He informed the committee that he grew up in Casa Rosa subsidized housing and is a product of restorative justice. When he was 17 years old he had to opportunity to make a wrong right. He went into the army and attended college at Gramling State University, these events changed his life tremendously. He is happy to be a part of The Harbor, and has been a dedicated practitioner of youth and families for over 25 years because of the opportunities he was given to change his own path.

**VI. Update Regarding Harbor Expansion**

Mr. Jones has been at The Harbor for six weeks, and in that time there have been two grand openings, one for The Harbor North Las Vegas, and The Harbor Flamingo. The media and community partners were invited to the grand opening events, following Covid-19 restrictions. Tours have been set up in both new Harbor locations for community members who were unable to attend the grand openings. The need for The

Harbor in North Las Vegas is large. This Harbor serves two different communities, the West Las Vegas community and the North Las Vegas community. The ability to service two communities at one time will be invaluable to The Harbor and its work. The Harbor Flamingo is a transient area, and The Harbor has seen folks from this community who are on their last leg come into The Harbor looking for resources and guidance. The Harbor has been able to not only help youth in this area, but adults who are in need of assistance.

Ms. Wright and Mr. Jones have also been working with the City of Henderson in an effort to open a fifth location in the Henderson community. There are some asks requested of the City of Henderson, and Ms. Wright and Mr. Jones are waiting for a proposal.

Part of the work done in the last few weeks for expansion has been community outreach. The Harbor staff went into the community door to door to connect with families and let them know that The Harbor is open and ready to assist them in their needs. They were able to present informative material from The Harbor, Truancy Prevention Outreach Program (TPOP), and Clark County School District (CCSD), and were asked what needs may not be being met, such as connecting to school databases, and resolving the digital divide with school engagement. Mr. Jones explained that the community canvassing experience had a big impact on him personally. Families were seen living with very little but were still happy. The families were very thankful and appreciative for The Harbor to reach out to them.

TPOP has been putting together a team of energetic and knowledgeable individuals who are excited to make a meaningful impact on the community. They are working hard to make sure each youth in the community is given the opportunity to do the best they can with distance learning.

Mr. Jones and his team have made connections with new community providers such as the Fire Investigators, We are Hope, North East Area Command Juvenile Program. They have educated these groups on what The Harbor can do for youth, the referral process and how to access additional resources online.

## **VII. Covid-19 Response and Strategies**

The Harbor has re-opened to the public with limited hours as opposed to 24-hours. The Covid-19 response at The Harbor has been to try to meet families where they are. Assessments by phone and other means of communication have been put in place for families who are unable or unwilling to come in, while temperature readings, mask and social distancing guidelines are in place for those who do come into The Harbor's in person.

John M. Martin, DJJS, states that Covid-19 has been difficult on DJJS. DJJS has had to temporarily close Spring Mountain Youth Camp and move youth and staff to Detention, the Evening Reporting Center has been closed, positions have had to be rearranged and roughly 65 positions have been lost. In addition, there are some programming dollars that have also been lost due to Covid-19. Mr. Martin adds that the educational platform the way it currently is brings up another world of challenges that were never expected.

Mr. Martin asked Punam Mathur, Parent Representative, about the Covid-19 response she has done in her work as being part of the governor's Covid-19 task force campaign called Connecting Kids. A priority from the task force was providing a device for every child that was part of distance learning; that each were supplied with reliable connectivity and a Chromebook. This is an ongoing effort for the task force. As of the date of the ESC meeting, there are 8,899 students currently enrolled in school that have still not made contact with CCSD to confirm connectivity and have not engaged for at least three days of the last week. Five weeks prior, the number missing on the roll call was 107,000. Of the 307,000 students that CCSD has

made contact with, 11,020 have said they are in need of connectivity, but it has not been confirmed if they have been provided with it; and another 1,150 have stated they have an expressed need for a device but don't yet have a Chromebook in hand. CCSD is also subsidizing connectivity for the school year for qualified families.

A virtual call center was set up by CCSD for families, the Family Support Center, which has been an anchor in getting youth connected. Ms. Mathur thanks the committee for all they have done thus far to help. Ms. Mathur recognized Ms. Wright and the TPOP program for their work in the anti-truancy objective that is the partnership between Clark County and CCSD around truancy and AB309.5. A training will be set up for those TPOP staff to be deputized Family Support Center agents which means they will have access to infinite campus, and will be able to make referrals for services and devices in real time as they do their door to door work. Ms. Mathur states that she is grateful to The Harbor for giving additional people to be able to go to people's doorsteps and meet families where they are. They will be able to real-time problem solve for families. The collaboration has the potential to be massively productive.

Brigid Duffy, District Attorney Juvenile Division, discussed an emergency meeting called by the Children's Commission to get an understanding of what child serving agencies in Nevada were doing to assist kids in this crisis. There is a push forward to open learning lab centers in the communities through the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority. The Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority has the funding and the desire to assist at-risk youth.

Ms. Mathur states the Municipalities have done great work in developing options for families to provide enrichment, recreation and academic supports. There were 5000 available slots that have not all been filled. Some barriers have been that there currently is a \$20 per day charge and barrier transportation. The municipalities are using C.A.R.E.S. Act money, and are ensuring that any family who has need will not be charged. The transportation issue can be solved if locations are not too far from families. Ms. Mathur asks if the housing authority locations are "bullseye" locations for the programs. Ms. Mathur's idea is to extend the services of one program rather than creating multiple separate programs. Dr. Malich added that the City of Las Vegas, Clark County, North Las Vegas, Henderson, Boys and Girls Club and YMCA have all stood up different programs offering full day care and distance learning support. Youth who cannot afford the daily cost are also being funded through C.A.R.E.S Act money and Urban League. All are collectively at 50% capacity or less, and even lower on subsidized families. Targeted outreach has been done to make sure that all families are aware of the options. In addition, Community Navigators have been in the field assisting families with distance learning and connecting them additional resources.

#### **VIII. Executive Director Update**

Mr. Jones believes an incentive program for employees should be put in place. The program would focus on values, initiative, peer interaction and customer services. He believes that with this type of work, the hardworking people should be recognized. Mr. Jones would like to create an atmosphere of enthusiastic teammates.

Mr. Jones hopes to make a big impact on the Las Vegas Valley community, and he is very excited about the work being done. He wants to be solution driven, and to solve problems on the spot if possible. He also believes that branding will be very important in creating a presence in the community.

At the previous meeting, there was a question posed regarding youth with domestic violence charges and if the resources are working, as many of these youth are returning to the system. A random sample of 20

cases was pulled, and it showed that only one of 20 youth did not complete what was asked of him; no other youth from this sample returned to the system.

Mr. Jones announced that The Harbor is approaching it's 4 year anniversary on October 17, 2020. Ms. Mathur stated what was initially envisioned as a diversion strategy, has expanded into four locations, and has become valuable to people who are not only in detention but in crisis.

**IX. Informational Items**

- a. Announcements: Next meeting December 16, 2020 at 1:00 pm, The Harbor – 861 N. Mojave Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89101
- b. Youth in attendance from Mission High School introduced themselves to the committee. One youth announced that he was seven months sober; the committee congratulated him on his accomplishment. Another youth began at Mission High School through The Harbor and has been sober for two months; the committee congratulated him as well. He believes his experience at The Harbor was very positive, and he didn't feel pressured or judged by staff for his experiences.
- c. Jennifer Bevacqua with Eagle Quest stated the they are honored and excited to be a partner with The Harbor. In the new North Las Vegas site so far to date they have served 22 youth and families. In the new East Flamingo location, they have had 27 youth and families come in, and have had their first law enforcement drop off by Henderson Police Department. The Harbor Flamingo has also had seven homeless individuals who they were able to provide resources to. Eagle Quest staff are doing a lot of community outreach to let the community know they are open that include tours, outreach to schools, and outreach to community agencies and Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department.

**X. Public Comments**

None at this time.

**XI. Adjournment**