

Department of Juvenile Justice Services

Director's Office

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John M. Martin, Director

Michael Whelihan, Assistant Director • Eboni J. Washington, Assistant Director • Cheryl Wright, Assistant Director

Clark County Family and Juvenile Justice Services Policy and Fiscal Affairs Board Minutes September 2nd, 2021 - 12:30 pm

- I. Call to Order at 12:33 pm**
- II. Public Comments - NA**
- III. Approval of the May 20th, 2021, Meeting Minutes - Approved**
- IV. Approval of the September 2nd, 2021, Agenda -Approved**
- V. Receive report from County Management regarding DFS/DJJS budgets for Fiscal 2021-22.**
 - a. There are still many vacancies from employees that accepted the Voluntary Separation Program (VSP) in August 2020. HR is now moving forward with allowing those positions to be filled.
 - b. No supplemental positions were awarded in 2020 though now have adopted some with very little enhancement.
 - c. DFS started a new academy but may need a second one due to having over 100 vacancies. Looking at ways to provide funding for additional academies.
- VI. Discuss dual Jurisdiction Calendar/Cases-Dual calendar continues to make great progress. There are still a few youth that are stuck in Detention but their cases are reviewed and discussed in a more timely manner now. Judge Voy invited those interested to see how the dual caseload is handled.**
- VII. Receive a report from Judge Voy on the current status of the State Juvenile Justice facilities.**
 - a. Oasis closed doors and staff moved to Desert Willow. There is now no lower level of care facilities available in the valley.
 - b. DJJS Residential Center closed as well, May of 2020 due to COVID-19 and shortage of staff.
 - i. Though all agreed that reasonable efforts have been made over the years. the group discussed concerns around the shortage of available placement options in Clark County. The private sector does not seem to be interested. We will keep exploring networks and researching blended models until a solution is found.
- VIII. Receive the Director's Report on the Activities of the Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS). *John M. Martin, Director***
 - a. Collaboration with Boy's Town School Support-10 schools are on board! School Specialists will be in the schools to help with behaviors, de-escalation, and stopping students from entering our

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system. The ten schools are: Chaparral HS, Desert Pines HS, Desert Rose HS, Western HS, Von Tobel MS, West Prep MS, Woodbury MS, Jeffers ES, Lew E. Rowe ES, and Matt Kelly ES.

- b. Thank you, Eboni Washington and Mike Whelihan, for your work on the new and old Residential Centers. The new home will provide 12 beds for girls with programming that is trauma informed. The old home will be torn down and rebuild to provide an additional 12 beds.
- c. Probation is looking at the various worksites and discussing reallocation of staff as needed based on operation needs. Our Stewart location closed, and we plan on those officers being placed in schools as a support to youth and school staff.
 - i. This is one effort towards our goal of engaging families. Those chosen to relocate will have a special skill set and the passion needed to do this kind of work. They will get to know the students and help manage classrooms and engage families.
- d. The newest Harbor site opened July 1st in Henderson on the corner of Boulder Highway and Lake Mead Parkway. The City of Henderson has been very supportive of the development of a Harbor presence in the city. It is also helpful that many partners are in the same complex making it easier for families to connect.
- e. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) will deliver \$350 billion for State, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and bring jobs back. Clark County was awarded \$440 million. DJJS submitted applications to receive funding for the following programs:
 - 1. Harbor Crisis Response Services
 - 2. Vocational Programs
 - 3. Harbor Mobile and Rural Response
 - 4. TPOP Expansion
 - 5. Girls Programs

With the EDA's (Economic Development Administration) support and assistance, Jack Martin will lead Clark County with City of Las Vegas', Lisa Morris-Hibbler, in applying for these funding opportunities and grants. There are several other buckets of money that will soon be available. Finding the right projects to fund and the right grants to apply for is a large job.

- f. DJJS still has many vacancies from the VSP (Voluntary Separation Program) last year in August. Now that positions can be filled, we plan on adding team mates to our CQI division.
- g. Detention population is lower than normal but there are still youth detained with mental health issues. Due to those youth being untreated in Detention, there has been an uptick in use of force incidents and room confinements. We are aware of this problem and are finding creative ways to get them help. We have the same problem finding mental health professionals that want to work after hours and weekends.
 - i. Commissioner Jones has had conversations with the State regarding these concerns. He will invite necessary people from this meeting to the next scheduled call.

IX. Receive the DJJS Citizen's Advisory Committee Report-No report given.

X. Receive the Director's Report on the Activities of the Department of Family Services (DFS). *Tim Burch, Administrator of Human Services*

- a. Victims of Crime (VOCA) funding from the State will be drastically cut for fiscal year 2023. This effects many programs and 28 positions.
- b. There has been an outbreak of Covid-19 on Child Haven campus and therefor in foster care. There are now two quarantine/isolation cottages. There is a new process to test and quarantine all children entering the shelter for the first 48 hours.
- c. In-person visitation at Child Haven has been temporarily suspended in order to mitigate any spread of Covid-19. Visitation staff have also been relocated to Child Haven.
- d. Mr. Burch gave an update from the Program Improvement Plan for Nevada. There are several items Nevada still needs to meet benchmarks on.
- e. The department is moving towards a more data-driven approach and has developed 4 key agency results that will help guide the direction they want to go.
- f. The Department continues its advocacy at the state level for development of community-based services and access to residential programs provided by DCFS. Joint requests, from DFS and Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, to improve mental health services for children in Clark County.
 - i. The lack of mental health resources was discussed by all throughout the meeting and possible solutions.
- g. DFS is working with CCSD and TPOP on CPS reports regarding absenteeism. Beginning August 23rd, TPOP started to take a small percentage of educational neglect reports traditionally screened for a child welfare response.

XI. Receive the DFS Citizen’s Advisory Committee Report-No report given.

XII. Identify emerging issues for next meeting-NA

XIII. Announcements-NA

XIV. Public Comments

- a. Deputy DA Duffy further discussed youth stuck in Detention due to having no other placement options. There are at least 6 now. She is now having her delinquency deputies file motions to hold the State accountable at a fiscal level for not assisting on these cases. The DA’s office can use more support from the judicial side to hold the State in contempt. Youth should not languish in Detention.
 - i. The group discussed other possibilities that can help right now but we need to stay mindful and ensure we do not create another placement that is not wrapped in services. It needs to be staffed with appropriate caregivers, provide trauma-informed care, and apply evidence-based practices. Family setting is always most beneficial. The group discussed rallying stakeholders to brainstorm solutions.

XV. Adjournment-1:48