

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

Policy and Fiscal Affairs Board Minutes December 3rd, 2020 - 12:30 pm

Present

Commissioner Justin Jones
Commissioner Lawrence Weekly
Judge William Voy
Judge Bryce Duckworth
Judge Robert Teuton

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
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
Assemblyman Jason Frierson

Chair: Commissioner Justin Jones

Vice Chair: Judge William Voy

I. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Commissioner Justin Jones with a quorum present at 12:36pm.
- II. Public Comments**
- a. None at this time.
- III. Approval of the August 27th, 2020 Meeting Minutes**
- a. Approved as written.
- IV. Approval of the December 3rd Agenda**
- a. Agenda approved as written.
- V. Dual Jurisdiction Calendar/Cases**
- a. The teamwork between departments has been phenomenal but we are still struggling with hard to place youth. Covid-19 has made efforts even more difficult. The group discussed finding a partner that can provide training for HLOC (higher level of care) youth.
- VI. Judge Voy to provide a report on current status of the State Juvenile Justice facilities-**The State is having issues staffing the limited amount of beds they have open. There has been no change or update to DJJS housing parole youth at DJJS detention center.
- 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. Keeping staff and youth safe remains a top priority for DJJS as well as the community we are in contact with. There are currently 2500 youth on probation right now. Maintaining contact and support is especially critical right now through this extended pandemic.
 - i. The group discussed Risk Management's procedures.
 - b. SMYC remains temporarily closed due to fires and COVID-19. The staff and youth remain in Detention to assist in containing the virus and its potential spread.
 - c. We are fortunate to expand Harbor locations through this tough time. There are now 4 locations throughout the valley. 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.
 - i. 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.
 - d. Detention population was at 90 today. The State has eliminated more bed space putting additional pressure on DJJS. That, with the closure of SMYC, and youth waiting for out of state placement is increasing our average population.
 - e. Once CCSO returns to classrooms, we plan on reopening SMYC.
 - f. Assessment team is up and running successfully. The assessment tool helps determine the risk of a child and is keeping decision points more consistent.
 - g. DJJS had its annual SWOT day for management. Below are a few focus points from the day:

- i. Equity for African American youth was number one. Harbor and TPOP has been a huge assist but we want to do more.
 - ii. Another focus of the day was strengthening supervisor core and skill sets. With succession planning, it is imperative to focus on their growth and development.
 - iii. Plans for the future SMRC home for girls.
 - iv. Strengthening bonds with our community partners.
 - v. QA team continues to check the quality of programs and resources for DJJS.
- h.** Mr. Wells and Commissioner Jones thanked Mr. Martin and Ms. Wright on the success of TPOP and the Harbor expansion. The community navigators are great ensuring kids have what they need to succeed.

VIII. Receive the DJJS Citizen’s Advisory Committee Report. *David Doyle, Chair* –

- a.** A Henderson Harbor location will be opening soon! Thank you to all those who have helped the Harbor evolve and expand during the pandemic. Youth and families need these services more than ever.
- b.** Thank you, Commissioner Kirkpatrick, for providing 200 Thanksgiving turkeys to families and assisting TPOP and Harbor in delivering those to front doors.

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.** Campus safety is always a priority. The covid-19 cases that has come to campus were not from youth but employee’s bringing it from outside of work.
- b.** With the current budget crisis, it is hard to commit to expand future programming.
- c.** Mr. Burch continues to keep caseworkers in the field and ensuring kids are being seen in their homes every month.
- d.** There are several policies and/or directives being reviewed: sibling placement, family court process, KinGAP, educational neglect, family engagement, and Juvenile mediation training.
- e.** CARES Act funding has provided assistance to facilitate telework and virtual visitation. DFS was able to obtain software to help manage and enhance call flow. New equipment including upgraded iphones, laptops, etc. will also assist in these efforts.
- f.** A CARA (comprehensive addiction and recovery act) grant was received as a one-time funding and will be used to build a plan of Safe Care Program support and services for the population in Clark County. DFS will establish a multidisciplinary team to implement CARA plans.
- g.** Overtime had been trending downward the last few months but has increased recently. Child Haven population and the struggle to place HLOC youth are two reasons why. HLOC agencies are also refusing to accept children with developmental delays. Covid-19 has also played a part.
- h.** Legislative priorities are listed in the Director’s report. Please check there for more information.
- i.** Strengthening relationships with CCSD and law enforcement.
- j.** Foster care recruitment efforts have increased and are bringing in more people interested in the process. There are virtual classes available to become licensed.

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

- a. Thank you, Mr. Burch, the DFS Management Team and the workers who are on the ground day-to-day, to deliver services to families and to ensure the safety and well-being of children. Workers are making the home visits and seeing kids monthly.
- b. While continuing to focus on our five priority areas, the CAC board has added a legislative priority on our agenda, so we can begin to discuss any bills that are being proposed that might impact child welfare agencies.
- c. A survey was sent out to stakeholders. Of the 50 responses received, the survey confirmed that there are ongoing concerns from stakeholders about the inability to reach caseworkers and how the department needs to better interact with community partners.
- d. One of our CAC members, Brian Adams, who is from CCSD, is now providing our committee with monthly updates about what CCSD is doing to ensure caregivers and children are receiving resources and support that they need. Our new CAC members have been very active and helpful.

XI. Announcements – NA

XII. Schedule 2021 meeting dates-February 25th, May 27th, August 26th, and November 18th. Approved.

XIII. Public Comments

- a. David Doyle mentioned the need to monitor 2021 QRTP's resources for our complex youth. This can offer a midlevel between foster care and specialized care. It is worth keeping on this board's radar.
- b. Commissioner Jones thanked Commissioner Weekly for the years of service on this board and for his service in Child welfare.
 - i. Commissioner Weekly also thanked board members, those who attend regularly, and department heads.

XIV. Adjournment – 2:02pm