



THE HARBOR – EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

Juvenile Assessment Center Minutes

June 24, 2020 – 1:00 PM

The Harbor

861 N. Pecos Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89101

Minutes taken by Vikki Andrews

Present

Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services

John M. Martin, Director – *Board Member*

Cheryl Wright, Assistant Director

Vikki Andrews, Administrative Secretary

Clark County Department of Family Services

Abbie Frierson, Assistant Director – *Board Member*

City of Las Vegas

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

Sheena Mitchell

Clark County District Attorney's Office

Catherine Jorgenson, Deputy Civil District Attorney

Clark County Family Court

Judge William Voy, - *Board Member*

Clark County School District

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

Eagle Quest

Dave Doyle, Harbor Charleston

The Harbor

Cesar Lemos, Executive Director

Present By Phone

Clark County District Attorney's Office

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

Clark County School District

Bob Tartar - *Board Member*

Workforce Connections

Jim Kostecki, *Board Member*

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 March 25, 2020 minutes were approved.

IV. Approval of June 24, 2020 Agenda

The June 24, 2020 agenda was approved.

V. Update regarding The Harbor Expansion

Cesar Lemos, The Harbor, offers an update on The Harbor. On March 21, 2020, The Harbor Charleston was shut down due to Covid-19, and staff were temporarily absorbed by The Harbor Mojave; on June 08, 2020, The Harbor Charleston reopened. Hours of operation for both locations are 8am-10pm 7 days a week. The hope is to eventually get The Harbor Mojave back to 24hour operations.

Mr. Lemos offered updates on the future Harbor locations as well. The Harbor Flamingo is tentatively opening August 1, 2020 at the Greystone building on Flamingo and Spencer, and The Harbor North Las Vegas will hopefully be open by October. There are some IT and sewer issues that need to be worked out. There is conversation about opening a Harbor location in Henderson as well, with a possible location of Lake Mead and Water Street. There are really great providers in this area that The Harbor can partner with. There should be four Harbor locations up and running by the end of the year. John M. Martin, Department of Juvenile Justice Services, added that there were some CDBG dollars in the amount of \$3.2 million awarded for the Sunrise Community Center which will hopefully be a multigenerational partnership with Department of Family Services, Clark County School District, Social Services and several other partners at that location, but that is another large investment for the building that was recently secured.

VI. Covid-19 Response

Many things about The Harbor model had to change because of Covid-19. One of the things that changed was in-person assessments were replaced by assessments being done over the phone. The transition was smooth and families took well to the phone assessments. Since The Harbor reopened on June 8, 2020, families are not being given the option to either complete a phone assessment or make an appointment for an in-person assessment. If the family does decide to make an appointment for an in-person assessment, the Covid-19 guidelines are being followed: temperatures are being checked, masks are required, they are required to maintain social distancing of 6ft, and only parents and the specific youth are allowed to come in. Classes that were offered at The Harbor have been moved to ZOOM, which has been going very well and has been received well by the youth. Charleston Harbor reopened on June 8, 2020 however at this time they are unable to complete in-person assessments due to the current state requirements, but they are accepting them on a case by case basis. Many providers are moved to a telehealth model.

Ms. Duffy asks if there has been any delay in providing services because of the pandemic. There has been an incredible upswing of domestic violence youth being referred to The Harbor, who are then brought in again a week later on additional charges of domestic violence. Mr. Lemos states that there is not a delay from The Harbor, because things have slowed they are able to make contact with families immediately and

are connecting to families much quicker than they have before. Judge Voy asks that Mr. Lemos delve deeper into some of the youth who returned for domestic violence charges to see where the disconnect happened, and if the families were able to connect and engage with their referred resources. There are also questions as to whether the telehealth meetings and therapy are engaging and working for the youth.

VII. Executive Director Update

a. Discussion Regarding Sustainable Funding

Judge William Voy, Family Court, asks if there has been any word from the State and County at the executive level as to whether or not the anticipated substantial cuts budget reductions are going to affect their ability to staff The Harbor locations. Mr. Martin states that he spoke to DHHS Director Whitley and he is excited about the expansion. There is potential of tapping into the State Covid money and the writing of a grant is in process. AB309 funding has come through for the Truancy Prevention Outreach Program, and some funding for The Harbor was a part of this original request. Currently, The Harbor is trying to build a partnership with Nevada Community Foundation to use them as a 501c3 "catcher's mitt" so grants can start to be written for The Harbor; this will be a big piece in moving forward in finding sustainable funding. Director Whitley also spoke about possibly partnering with the Family Resource Centers as a different model and way to serve the community. Brigid Duffy, District Attorney's Office, mentions that at the start of The Harbor, she went through the statute on the Family Resource Center and discussed with the County Managers about possibly diverting some of the money going into the Family Resource centers; at the time it was not a very popular idea, but she believes that now there may be a much stronger argument thanks to the success that The Harbor is having. Dr. Malich added that with the current economic situation of the State and County, we are going to have to brave funding and combine programs. Mr. Martin added that he also spoke with Dr. Barton from CCSD about Title IV-B funding as well, which is early intervention money. DFS uses this money for the Safe at Home program.

Catherine Jorgenson, Civil District Attorney, spoke with John Brasco who is the CEO of Nevada Community Foundations, in regards to the agreement that we would enter into. The foundation would set up a fund for The Harbor that could accept donations. She reviewed with him the template he provided, and she is working on drafting an agreement and getting it back to them.

Mr. Lemos adds that the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) reached out to him and were interested in writing a grant on behalf of The Harbor. The grant request was submitted on June 24, 2020 for the amount of \$300,000.00 over the course of two years and it is hoping to be slated for specific programming of restorative circles. PERF would like to do a case study on The Harbor to present it as a national model and putting together some guidelines and best practices for juvenile assessment centers, and also bringing in new services and training community partners in mass so there can be some fidelity around the models being used for kids. Bob Tartar from CCSD has a resource who is very knowledgeable about restorative circles and is willing to assist free of charge.

Mr. Lemos presented the Executive Director's report to the committee. The total number of youth served are 14284; March saw high numbers of youth assessed with a decline in April and May after Covid began. Of the youth who have been assessed at The Harbor, 8% have escalated into the juvenile courts. The numbers for gender, race and top charges, and top zip codes have remained consistent. Many statistics and numbers have dropped off due to the Covid-19 closures.

At the last meeting it was asked that The Harbor look into if there are vetted providers located in the top 5 zip codes, and 3 providers were identified in the zip codes. It was clarified that all providers provide services to all the zip codes, so no matter where the youth resides, the selected provider will provide services.

There was a small disparity between the black youth who have escalated in comparison to other races. Black youth only represent 14% of the population. It was suggested that the statistics be looked at further to see the what, why and where the disparaged decision-making points were. It was also suggested to compare the citations between youth who went to The Harbor for misdemeanor charges compared to black youth who went to DJJS for the same charges, and what the circumstances around the instances were. Also, the statistics should be looked at to see what the original charge or offense for coming to The Harbor was, and what charge or offense caused them to escalate. Of all the youth who have escalated, 83% were law enforcement referrals who later escalated, 4% were school referrals and 12% were parent referrals. Cross referencing charges from The Harbor with the DJJS case management system is being worked out.

At the last executive meeting, it was asked the Mr. Lemos reach out to the high schools with the top offending numbers and ask how The Harbor could be of better support to them. Only two schools responded, Von Tobel, who asked for training, and the other school asked for a staff member to be on site. De-escalation training would be a good fit for all of the schools, with support for DJJS. Cheryl Wright, DJJS, added that Truancy Prevention Outreach Program(TPOP) is currently assisting the district with wellness checks and have seen many kids from Canyon Springs, and a relationship will continue to be built here.

Before Covid began, the school district referrals had really increased in a positive way. There is curiosity for how it will look in August and September. The Harbor will probably need to re-engage teachers, counselors and principals to get them back on board.

VIII. Informational Items

- a. Announcements: Next meeting September 23, 2020 at 1:00 pm, The Harbor – 861 N. Mojave Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89101
- b. Ms. Wright provided an update on TPOP. A small team has been put together and has begun collaborating with the school district on wellness checks and screenings. A referral program has been started, policies and procedures are being established, and trying to fill the gaps at The Harbor or expand on the services that are being provided is being worked on. TPOP youth will be able to access services from The Harbor. Dr. Malich recognized Ms. Wright for her hard work and vigilance in getting the program up and running.
- c. There are great concerns about the upcoming school district's distance learning model. The model will impact all government agencies and all are working on what can be put in place to help. There are concerns from law enforcement, CPS, DJJS and other agencies. There will be huge child care issues and it is a financial burden to all agencies following CDC guidelines. This is a new cost at a time that for many families is more devastating than usual. There are many unanswered questions remaining. This will impact youth and families for years to come. Mr. Martin asks how can we use The Harbor as a safe place for these kids and potentially setting up computer labs and hiring tutors; providing food and possibly physical/intramural activities to give kids support they need. If space for academic support can be found, youth will get chrome books to assist with academic support.
- d. Mr. Lemos met with school district police, and interim chief and captain. They have discovered that it's not necessarily patrol officers having a problem getting on board, it is the sergeants. Getting sergeants to understand that a School Justice Partnership warning is what they should be giving kids instead of citations is the challenge. Mr. Lemos will set up a time with Captain Young to have an open dialogue with all sergeants and officers in an effort to get them more on board.

IX. Public Comments
None at this time.

X. Adjournment