

Department of Juvenile Justice Services

Director's Office

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John M. Martin, Director
Patrick Schreiber, Assistant Director

Policy and Fiscal Affairs Board Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2014 - 12:30 pm

Joshua Conference Room - Sixth Floor
Government Center
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Present:

Commissioner Susan Brager
Commissioner Lawrence Weekly
Judge Robert Teuton
Judge William Voy

Clark County Management

Jeff Wells, Assistant County Manager
Catherine Jorgenson, Deputy District Attorney
Brigid Duffy, Deputy District Attorney

Department of Juvenile Justice Services

John M. Martin, Director
Patrick Schreiber, Assistant Director
Tom Maroney, CAC Representative
Carol McWaters, Executive Assistant
Dr. Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Chief Operations Officer – DJJS – CAC

Department of Family Services

Lisa Ruiz-Lee, Director
Kristi Jourdan, Management Analyst
Donna Smith, DFS - CAC Representative

Guests:

Yesenia Amaro, LVRJ Reporter
Lauren Rozyla, 8 News NOW Reporter

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Commissioner Brager with a quorum present.

I. Review & Approve the minutes of the May 1, 2014 meeting.

The minutes were approved as written.

II. Approve the Agenda

The Agenda was approved as written.

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

Due to the schedules of Assistant County Manager Jeff Wells and Director Lisa Ruiz-Lee, Mr. Wells requested the items on the Agenda be taken out of order.

VI. Receive the Director's Report on the Activities of the Department of Family Services (DFS) and Direct Staff Accordingly

Director Lisa Ruiz Lee discussed the population of Child Haven as ranging from 35 – 45 youth daily. A licensing increase for Child Haven was finalized in July. The campus is now licensed for 70 children. To address the population issues DFS continues to work with community stakeholders.

Child Protective Services (CPS) Intake calls are up 13 percent, CPS investigations are up 14 percent and the number of children served by CPS is up 37 percent. This increase also impacts the Courts and the District Attorney's office. The department was awarded 47 new positions by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) in May 2014. A majority of the new staff will enter the new hire training academy on September 2nd.

The Department has started a Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI). The QPI subcommittees continue to work on the development of policy and practice changes that will benefit children and caregivers. The Foster Friends program conference will be in September. The purpose of the program will be to increase community awareness and support of foster parenting and children involved in the child welfare system.

Judge Teuton discussed the increased size of families that are in the foster care system as well as the adoption program. Larger families are harder to place intact.

Commissioners Brager and Weekly mentioned the need to keep abreast of the caseload numbers and the staff. Assistant County Manager, Jeff Wells, mentioned Alice Bolin in County Administration is already working on the upcoming legislative session bill drafts. A discussion was held regarding the ratio of Managers to staff between the two departments. A review of the staff ratio might be of assistance.

Patrick Schreiber, DJJS Assistant Director and Michael Knight, DFS Assistant Director are meeting to discuss building better case management and protocols for youth touching both systems.

Commissioner Brager requested the Directors each prepare a list of "Needs" that will assist them in accomplishing their work in a more timely and efficient manner. Judge Voy mentioned that the opening of the 24 Assessment Center would be of major assistance.

VII. Receive the DFS Citizen's Advisory Committee Report

Donna Smith, Chairman of the DFS Citizen's Advisory Committee, reported the committee is fully staffed at this time since the approval of new members at the July BCC Meeting. The Committee is creating an Action Plan and re-evaluating the Initiatives and

are very excited about the QPI subcommittees that are championing the Foster Friends Program.

The members participated in the Back to School Back Pack Event at which 250 youth were given back packs for the upcoming school year.

IV. Receive the Director's Report on the Activities of the Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) and Direct Staff Accordingly.

Director Martin discussed the department is moving forward on the Evening Reporting Center (ERC). The next Peace Officers Standards Training (POST) Academy will begin in October of 2014. There were over 1100 Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO) applications submitted. Of those applications, there are 96 candidates to interview.

The annual Spring Mountain Forestry Picnic will be held on August 8th at 11:00 am. This is the 44th year the department has worked with the Forestry Service. Youth, on an average, hike between four (4) and five (5) miles a day, and then work hard to build and maintain trails. Monies accrued by the youth during the program are used first to pay any restitution owed.

The 2014 Football season will begin August 29th with an away game in Yucca Valley, California. The Commissioners expressed appreciation for the work the Football coaches and the positive interaction between parents, youth and coaches when involved in this program.

Commissioner Weekly requested regular reports on what the department is doing and what is needed to accomplish their goals to keep moving forward. Commissioner Brager expressed concern that youth are not judged on one mistake or lack of judgment. The youth that are between the ages of 18 – 21 are lost in the system. They are no longer considered juveniles, but should not be combined with the adults. Commissioner Weekly discussed the Line Cook program at the Red Rock Academy. Both Commissioners expressed their appreciation for Director Martin's community work after the 5:00 pm work day is finished.

The realization of the 24-Hour Assessment Center is to connect youth immediately into programming and assistance so families do not feel they are catapulted into a quagmire when becoming part of the juvenile justice system. The 24 Hour Center will be open 24/7 – 365 days a year. This will require a cultural shift on how we look and do business. Commissioner Weekly suggested this type of community involvement and ability to help youth and families will go a long way toward changing the nation's perception of life in Las Vegas.

Mr. Weekly requested the department prepare an Agenda item to update the Commissioners on the progress of this Center and the needs that have not been met so they can, as a whole, support the development.

V. Receive a report from the DJJS Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC)

Mr. Tom Maroney, President of the Citizen's Advisory Committee discussed the vacancies the committee is experiencing. The Open Meeting Laws surrounding the scheduling of subcommittee meetings has been making it difficult to get together. Members are working with the Children's Service Guild to assist in making the Assessment Center a reality. Ms. Tiffany Tyler, Chief Operations Officer for Nevada

Partners agreed that incarceration is not the answer to achieving lasting changes in a youth. The amount of positive energy at the DJJS – CAC meetings is incredible.

VII. Public Comments

No comments.

IX. Schedule next meeting

The next meeting will be held November 6, 2014 at 12:30 PM in the Joshua Conference Room. It was suggested that a different date or time might be more beneficial for some members to be able to attend. If members would like to change the date or time, they are to contact Mr. Martin prior to the Agenda being prepared for the November meeting.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.