



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

### **Juvenile Assessment Center Minutes**

**April 28, 2021 – 1:00 PM**

The Harbor

861 N. Pecos Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89101

*Minutes taken by Vikki Andrews*

#### **Present in Person**

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

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

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

Abigail Frierson, Assistant Director – ***Board Member***

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

Cheryl Wright, Assistant Director

Jeff Jones, The Harbor

Yolanda Bennett, Manager

Vikki Andrews, Administrative Secretary

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

Catherine Jorgenson, Deputy Civil District Attorney

##### **Clark County Family Court**

Judge William Voy – ***Board Member***

##### **Clark County Law Enforcement**

Deputy Chief James LaRochelle, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department – ***Board Member***

Captain Adam Hyde, North Las Vegas Police Department – ***Board Member***

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

Robert Tartar, Assistant Super-intendent, Educational Services Division – ***Board Member***

##### **Eagle Quest**

Dave Doyle, Director of Operations Eagle Quest – ***Board Member***

Jennifer Bevacqua, Director of Program Development

Diomar Chin, Manager, The Harbor Charleston

##### **Workforce Connections**

Ana Chavez

Irene Bustamante

**Guests**

Barbara Collins, Mission High School  
Magdalene McCarthy, Mission High School Student  
Landynn Meyer, Mission High School Student

**Present By Phone****City of Las Vegas**

Lee Quick, Principal Policy Analyst  
Sheena Mitchell

**Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services**

Eboni Washington, Assistant Director

**Clark County District Attorney's Office**

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

**Clark County School District**

Bob Weires, Director of Psychological Services – *Board Member*

**Community Representatives**

Punam Mather, Parent Representative – *Board Member*

**Workforce Connections**

Jim Kostecki - *Board Member*

**Guests**

Amanda Haboush-Deloye, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

**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 April 28, 2021 Minutes**

The April 28, 2021 minutes were approved with the correction of adding Bob Weires, Clark County School District, to the attendance list.

**IV. Approval of July 28, 2021 Agenda**

The July 28, 2021 agenda was approved.

**V. Presentation of 2020 Annual Report and The Quarterly Report**

In an effort to streamline the 15page annual report, Ms. Cheryl Wright, Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) and Mr. Jeff Jones (DJJS) created a one-page document highlighting the most informative data. The success rate of The Harbor remains steady at 93.4%. with only 6.6% of youth escalating to the juvenile justice system. There has been a decrease in offending black youth in 2020, and an increase of Hispanic youth; the percentage of change is equal at 3%. The top five offenses remain the same, however domestic violence has become the top offense at 43%. In the previous year, possession of marijuana was the highest offense. There has been a shift with Covid-19 and families spending more time together at

home that can be linked to the increase in domestic violence offenses. The zip codes with the highest offenses are serviced by The Harbor Martin Luther King location. In the year 2020, The Harbor serviced a total of 3,731 youth and families which is a record number compared to previous years. The quarterly report is reflective of the 2020 annual report.

Judge William Voy posed the question of how long youth are tracked for recidivism; youth are tracked for 36 months from the referral date. Judge Voy stated that there is no recognized standard for recidivism tracking in the juvenile justice world. Every agency uses different standards, and there have been efforts made towards having this standardized for many years.

A youth testimonial was included in the quarterly report. The youth who is unnamed in the report, is a 16-year old youth who came to the Martin Luther King Harbor location due to a domestic violence offense. He is currently attending the horticultural program through The Harbor, has completed critical think and anger management classes, has started therapy and has stated that he enjoyed a great evening with his family at the recent Eagle Quest Adventure Program event. He enjoys going to The Harbor, and his family has stated that they have seen a positive difference in his behavior. Kudos to the Martin Luther King Harbor staff for their impact on the family.

The committee motioned and approved to approve the 2020 annual and quarterly reports.

**VI. Legislative Session Update Regarding The Harbor**

Senate Bill 132 makes an appropriation from the State General Fund to the Eighth Judicial District for the funding to support services to The Harbor to students through CCSD. This is a ten million dollar ask. This money can fund Harbor mobile response to schools. There has been no movement on the bill to date but it is being tracked. In addition, a recent evaluation of The Harbor by the National Counsel of Juvenile Family Court Judges was sent to several legislators. Dr. Malich asks everyone to become familiar with the bill and let their voices be heard.

**VII. CCSD Reopening Response**

In response to CCSD returning to in-person learning, Mr. Jones believes there needs to be a push to administrators in schools who have high arrest rates. He wants to reach out to the top five schools and ask what The Harbor can do to help them lower their numbers.

Mr. Jones was told that up to 100 administrators could be replaced come fall. The Harbor will need to engage the new administration and begin planning a new marketing campaign. The push of The Harbor should be multi-modality using podcasts, LifeLine, Vegas PBS, virtual meetings and in person meetings, and a link to The Harbor website should be added to school websites. Judge Voy suggests getting information on pre-school year meetings so The Harbor can present before the school year begins. Dr. Malich will work with CCSD Voting members on these items.

**VIII. Update Regarding The Harbor Expansion**

The Harbor Henderson is set to open on July 1, 2021. This will be the fifth Harbor location in five years. This location is easily accessible from Boulder Highway and Lake Mead Parkway; the facility shares the building with community providers that The Harbor partners with.

**IX. Executive Director Update**

Since December of 2020 holiday donations were brought in by the District Attorney's Office, North Las Vegas Police Department, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, and Masonic Lodges. These donations helped many families who didn't know they would have a Christmas. During this time, The Harbor also collaborated with Help of Southern Nevada. The Harbor team has been working hard to connect and engage with the community by doing outreach with the Clark County School District,

conducting clothing and food drives, offering vaccines, and other offerings that are beneficial and engaging to the community.

Ms. Wright is now a member of the National Assessment Center Association (NACA). The NACA is currently getting frameworks and best practices for assessment centers in place. Through this board there was potentially an opportunity that would help streamline the evaluation process. Ms. Wright volunteered for The Harbor to be a potential site in researching the evaluation process; because of Covid-19 this initiative has slowed down, however The Harbor will remain available if and when it comes back around.

**X. Provider Feedback and Resource Allocation**

On March 25, 2021 DJJS met with valued stakeholders to discuss the topic of family engagement and obtain honest feedback about how The Harbor is doing and to develop strategies on how to improve. There was feedback from CCSD on the Mojave location housing a multi-disciplinary team and how locations operated by Eagle Quest do not have the same staffing structure. All locations operated by Eagle Quest have access to resources offered at Mojave. The Harbor Charleston does house State staff and have immediate access to the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services as well as the Mobile Crisis Response Team who are on the same campus. The Flamingo and Martin Luther King locations have had resilience ambassadors at both sites, and through the summer Martin Luther King and Flamingo will have Safe School Professionals available. Based on the feedback, having the substance abuse provider who is currently housed at Mojave rotate between locations is being considered.

**XI. Introduction of Marketing Sub-committee for The Harbor**

Ms. Wright was tasked with developing a Harbor marketing workgroup. Since the last meeting, the group has met two times. One of the things discussed was billboards; a digital billboard was rented for two weeks in the most traveled areas of the 95 and I-15 freeways, but they unfortunately did not drive any traffic to The Harbor. Other things are being looked at such as placing ads in Urban Voice and tracking how people are hearing about The Harbor so marketing adjustments can be made accordingly.

Specific to LVMPD, information about The Harbor has been provided to be shared at briefings, and the Director of Information for LVMPD has been in contact with the Clark County Office of Public Information so they can discuss a variety of ways of information sharing such as with events. A barbecue will be hosted for the officers at The Harbor to provide tours and information. Ms. Wright attended the South Central area command community engagement event and The Harbor and Truancy Prevention Outreach Programs will continue to go to these events with them to provide resources to the community.

Ms. Wright also provided tours for the Chief of Public Safety and Chief of Fire and Rescue who are both new to their roles.

**XII. Discussion Regarding the Naming of The Harbor locations “In Honor of”**

This item was presented to the committee in regard to The Harbor becoming its own 501c3 and fundraising efforts that would follow. Having the naming rights of a large benefactor during fundraising events could be valuable. Creating a 501c3 is still in the process of being worked on and there are hopes that there will be an update on this at the next meeting. Judge Voy stated that he knows lawyers who may be interested in assisting in the 501c3 efforts pro bono.

Ms. Amanda Haboush-Deloye, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, asked for clarification if the only way for the department to accept money would be to make The Harbor a 501c3. Catherine Jorgenson, Deputy Civil Attorney, stated that donations can be made to the County, however whether it is deductible would need to

be researched with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). If it is being donated for a public service, it is generally deductible; but the County will not provide a letter stating that it is a deductible donation. The donation can be specified as to where the donation should go. The County as a local municipality is not prohibited from fundraising, however it is not the best vehicle for fundraising as there are many gray areas. The Board of County Commissioners has the authority to accept donations. There is a policy that allows DJJS to accept donations up to \$2500.00; anything greater than that would need to go to the Board for approval of acceptance.

Dr. Malich asked if there is a naming rights policy. Ms. Jorgenson is unaware of a specific policy; she would have to look into this further. Even if The Harbor sets up a 501c3, the allowance of a fundraiser for naming rights would still be in question. As long as the facilities are county owned, they would need to go through the county processes.

Ms. Punam Mathur, parent representative, motioned this item will be taken off today's agenda and tabled for a later time. The committee approved the motion.

### **XIII. Discussion Regarding the replacement of the Clark County Association of School Administrators Position**

This position was named as a voting member. The individual who was in the position has not attended any of The Harbor meetings since being appointed. The position is currently in transition to the new Executive Director. Dr. Malich asks how the committee feels about having this position as part of the ESC, and if so how to engage the new person who will be seated in this role. Ms. Barbara Collins, Principal of Mission High School, believes this it is very beneficial to have this position as part of the committee. Principals as the head of their schools are the conduit to getting to other school staff such as teachers and counselors, and this position would play an important role in having the schools on board.

Dave Doyle, Eagle Quest, stated that because of Covid-19 he has not seen the desired engagement from schools and principals, but he believes once school is back in session in September, a lot of progress will be seen. Efforts will be made to re-engage all the schools.

Dr. Malich suggests reaching out to the Clark County Educators Association lead for their interest participating on the ESC. This item will be added to the next agenda. Ms. Collins offered to attend counselor's and curriculum meetings to share information of The Harbor.

### **XIV. Informational Items**

- a. Announcements: The next meeting date is July 28, 2021 at 1:00 pm at The Harbor Mojave.

Ms. Wright shared a letter from Mr. Jack Martin, DJJS. Mr. Martin requires Mr. Jeff Jones in another position of DJJS. He thanks Mr. Jones for his role at The Harbor and the incredible things he accomplished in such a short time. Ms. Wright will be taking over operations of The Harbor effective Monday May 3, 2021. Ms. Wright adds that Mr. Jones has been her friend and colleague for 25 years and she is thankful to have known him and worked along side with him. Dr. Malich adds her appreciation in working with Mr. Jones and the relationship they have built.

Mr. Jones announces that he will be retiring in August. He will continue to support The Harbor and DJJS in any way he can. He hopes his Harbor staff can continue to grow and involve themselves within the community.

- b. Dr. Malich encourages the committee to review SB354 which provides protections to homeless youth and youth in the foster care system. This bill has made its way through the Senate and is currently with the Assembly. She also asks the committee review AB67; this is a Nevada Department of Education bill that has passed through the Assembly and is currently with the Senate. If this bill passes it will allow a true permanent expulsion for students in the State of Nevada for the first time in the State's history. It will also negate the requirement of the current statute for parents to enroll their kids in an alternative school when suffering long-term removal.

Mr. Doyle shares that the Eagle Quest Adventure Program had a grand opening recently. Eagle Quest Adventure Program is offering recreational activities, camping trips, educational activities, and other events that will thank the kids for their progress and reward them. There will also be family centered events where parents and other family members can participate. Mr. Doyle thanks Clark County for supporting the program and allowing them to give back to the community.

There were two youth in attendance from Mission High School who have gone through The Harbor Program. They are celebrating their long-term sobriety and are thankful to The Harbor for the resources and opportunities that were provided for them.

- c. Ms. Wright informs the committee that The Harbor Interlocal Agreement expires this year. The document will be sent to the ESC members for review, comments and edits.

**XV. Public Comments**

**XVI. Adjournment**