

# 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

### **Policy and Fiscal Affairs Board Minutes** **November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 - 12:30 pm**

Joshua Conference Room  
Sixth Floor  
**Government Center**

**Chair:** Commissioner Justin Jones

**Vice Chair:** Judge William Voy

#### **Present**

Commissioner Lawrence Weekly

Judge William Voy

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

Eboni Washington, Assistant Director

David Doyle, CAC Chair

Shannon Freire, Administrative Secretary

#### **Department of Family Services**

Timothy Burch, Administrator of Human Services

Judy Tudor, Assistant Director

Sheila Parks, CAC Chair

#### **Guests**

Judge Bryce Duckworth

Michelle Maese, SEUI Representative

Heather Jordan, SEIU Representative

#### **I. Call to Order**

- a. The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chair, Judge William Voy with a quorum present at 12:31pm.

#### **II. Public Comments**

- a. None at this time.

#### **III. Approval of the May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Meeting Minutes.**

- a. August 22<sup>nd</sup> minutes approved as written.

#### **BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

MARILYN KIRKPATRICK, Chair • LAWRENCE WEEKLY, Vice Chair

LARRY BROWN • JAMES B. GIBSON • JUSTIN C. JONES • MICHAEL NAFT • TICK SEGERBLOM  
YOLANDA T. KING, County Manager

- IV. Approval of the November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Agenda.**
- a. Agenda approved as written.
- V. Judge Voy to provide a report on current status of the State Juvenile Justice facilities**
- VI. Receive the Director's Report on the Activities of the Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) and Direct Staff Accordingly. *John M. Martin, Director***
- a. **Community Issues** - The BCC board approved a one-eighth of a percent sales tax increase to fund the Truancy Prevention and Outreach Program (TPOP) and other social service initiatives. This will create 12 full-time limited perm positions (1 AD, 2 Managers, 4 management analysts, 3 PO's, 3 clerical staff) and 60 PTH's. DJJS is working with partners (CCSD, City of Las Vegas, Nevada Department of Education, RTC, etc.) on details of the program and how it will work. This will also expand the Harbor program from 3 locations to eventually 5! We are currently scouting for possible Harbor locations and where they will best intertwine with the community and school system. Once our new data system is live, we are hoping to show a decrease in referrals to the Juvenile Justice system.
- b. **Juvenile Detention** - Detention's average population is 135. We are seeing more youth with acute mental illnesses. Today there was 21 youth on suicide precaution after completing the MAYSI II assessment and 4 at UMC that are being housed temporarily until stabilized because of an acute mental health episode.
- c. **Special Projects**
- i. The Halfway house is moving quickly, but it is still two phases: Demolition and Construction. We are currently in the demolition phase and concurrently working on architectural design using an identical footprint as the boy's residence. The group made some decisions for Brett to pass along to RPM on design ideas. Cameras will be recycled from the old residence new residence.
- ii. Flamingo Harbor location will be located at 2000 E. Flamingo Rd. and we are working with RPM on the scope of the project tenant improvements. An aggressively optimistic schedule would be August 2020.
- d. **Harbor**-Our two locations have served over 11,000 families with a recidivism rate under 5%! Three million dollars was allocated to the expansion of the Harbor from the Nevada Legislators. With that assistance, we plan to develop and or provide more programming for elementary school youth. At the request of legislators, we are trying to set up the next Harbor within the district of the late Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson's. Mr. Martin is meeting with Councilman Scott Black on a possible location near MLK and Brooks. There are many possibilities within the old firehouse currently there.
- e. **Health Care Services** - Changes to NRS passed during the most recent legislative session are forcing us to change the way we assess or evaluate youth in our system. As a result, we will be moving clinical staff in our Health Care Services division and updating our policy and process. This will benefit the high number of youth on suicide watch in our facility.
- VII. Receive the DJJS Citizen's Advisory Committee Report. *David Doyle, Chair***
- a. The DJJS CAC committee has their goals aligned with the agency's strategic goals of:
- i. Increase programming to improve client outcomes, using evidence based practices and measuring performance.
- ii. Reduce disproportionate minority contact through the use of targeted strategies and programs.
- iii. Post juvenile justice transitional services. Improve facilities to provide increased security and increased rehabilitative and vocational opportunities.
- b. Harbor Charleston celebrated their 1 year anniversary recently on 10/22/19. They have serviced 2800 youth and families with less than 5% recidivism rate! The CAC was excited and supportive of future Harbor Expansion and having additional locations placed

strategically throughout the city. Also, supportive of the Harbor being a hub to address chronic absenteeism throughout the CCSD school district.

- c. The CAC has expressed concern surrounding the State Plan Amendment (SPA) for specialized foster care. The State and Medicaid (DHCFP) announced that DJJS youth residing in specialized foster care would not be covered under the new SPA. The CAC expressed concern that DJJS may have to continue funding this least restrictive service if DJJS youth were not covered under the newly proposed SPA.

**VIII. 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***

**a. Foster Parent Recruitment/Retention**

- i. The Department had the opportunity to present to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the newly launched recruitment campaign, and is appreciative of the multiple recruitment opportunities that have arisen since the presentation. Partnerships and presentations have included McCarren airport, DJJS Supervisor presentation, multiple commissioner newsletters, and multiple presentations in District F.
- ii. **Faith-based Organizations** - DFS has reached out to faith based organizations to assist with recruitment for foster care. Licensed homes would work similar to a respite home but make the process easier for families. The programs intention is to keep children out of the foster care system. We also presented the program to NON faith based organizations.

iii.

**b. Family Engagement**

- i. The agency would like to promote effective communication and contact with families. We need to increase family engagement between the caseworker, the family and service providers. It is also important to ensure a proper assessment was completed on the youth and family and resources are wrapped around the unit.

**c. Permanency**

- i. Children need legal permanency and stability in their home lives and continuity of family relationships and preserving those connections. There must be trauma informed communication

**d. C-Sec**

- i. Kick off was September 1<sup>st</sup>. Next session will offer a full service ray proposal.

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

- a. DFS CAC remains supportive of the efforts being made by the Department on Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention.
- b. CAC currently has one vacancy that needs to be filled.
- c. Ms. Parks will join Tim Burch and a representative from Legal Aid Center of SN to create a video on their new Sibling Separation Policy. This video will be used to educate DFS staff, CAP Attorneys, CASA volunteers, and foster parents on the new policy.
- d. CAC is also working with DFS on finalizing the stakeholder's survey.

**X. Schedule next meeting will be *November 7, 2019, in the Joshua Conference Room, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Govt. Center.***

**XI. Announcements - NA**

**XII. Public Comments - NA**

**XIII. Adjournment – 1:22pm**