

**CLARK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES**

500 S. Grand Central Pkwy., 5th Floor
Las Vegas, Nevada 89155
(702) 455-7200

Jill Marano, Director

Wonswayla Mackey, Deputy Director • Margaret LeBlanc, Deputy Director
Patrick Barkley, Deputy Director • Lisa Martinez, Deputy Director

**Clark County Family and Juvenile Justice Services
Policy and Fiscal Affairs Board Minutes
Thursday, May 18, 2023 @ 12:30 p.m.**

- I. Call to order at 12:34 PM
- II. Public Comments – None
- III. Announcements – None
- IV. Approve August 11, 2022 minutes - approved
- V. Approve February 23, 2023 minutes – approved.
- VI. Election of New Officers.
 - i. Judge Gibson nominated Judge Forsberg as an alternate for the judges. The commissioners will submit their alternate once identified. Judge Wiese nominated Judge Gibson for chair with Commissioner Jones' second. Judge Gibson voted chair through unanimous vote. Commissioner Jones voted vice chair through unanimous vote.
- VII. Review and make recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) regarding the implementation of DJJS policy 6.02 regarding drug courts referrals.
 - i. Steve Grierson shared that this policy would help solidify the assessment portion for folks experiencing high-level of substance abuse and a high-risk to re-offend. DJJS proposes that this policy be mandated for those who fall under the guidelines that are established by best practices, to make referrals for drug court assessments.
 - ii. Judge Gibson clarified if this to be presented to the (BCC) as a recommendation as a direct DJJS reconstruction of their inter policy? Steve Grierson deferred to the ordinance. Judge Gibson quoted the ordinance 2.05050, sub-section F, number 7.
 - iii. Jack Martin shared that this has never been done before and does not feel it is necessary to do so. He met with Ms. Parker the day before and felt as if they made progress. DJJS has a follow-up meeting on Monday to discuss further. Judge Weise stated that the reason for creating a recommendation to the BCC is so that DJJS, DFS, and the courts can all be made aware of the change and apply the policy accordingly. Jack Martin asked for further clarification on the how it affects DFS and the courts. Judge Gibson shared that the board was created to recommend policy to the BCC for DJJS, DFS, and the courts.
 - iv. Judge Weise shared that he could see a huge benefit of this program. Judge Teuton asked if the policy, assessments, is not currently being done? Judge Gibson shared

that from his understanding, it is not being done now. Jack Martin shared that there is an inconsistent referral practice now.

- v. Judge Teuton moved to approve the policy recommendation as it is written. Judge Weise seconds. Unanimous vote for approval to submit recommendation to BCC.

VIII. Review and make recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the inclusion of the EMPOWER program referrals within DJJS policy 3.11.

- i. Denise Parker shared that they recently started the EMPOWER program which focus' on adolescent and family domestic violence. It is all based on best practices and a tool that looks at the different typology. What they are requesting is that every 3rd DV come through the assessment process for the EMPOWER program. Judge Gibson asked for Denise Parker to share the importance of the 3rd DV and the assessment tool. Denise Parker shared that program is funded with a grant and a large portion of the grant goes to the harbor crisis response team who primarily focus on the first two typology types. With the 3rd DV, you can show that there is a continuation and escalation of the behavior within the home and a need for the program.
- ii. Judge Bailey shared that she has a youth who had multiple adjudications of DV against his mother and since entering the program, they have not received additional charges and have improved their relationship with their mother.
- iii. Judge Weise shared that they had their first EMPOWER graduation with the parents praising the program.
- iv. Judge Teuton asked why the 3rd DV was selected instead of 2nd. Judge Gibson shared that 3rd DV referral demonstrates a higher-level of intervention and need.
- v. Judge Weise motions to approve, Judge Teuton seconds.

IX. Receive report from County management regarding DFS/DJJS budgets for Fiscal 2023-2024

- i. Deputy County Manager Abigail Frierson shared that the budgets are not finalized, and the tentative budget has been presented to the BCC. Nothing will be finalized until after legislation.

X. Discuss dual jurisdiction calendar/case's

- i. None

XI. Receive the Director's Report on the activities of the Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS). *John M Martin, Director*

- i. Jack Martin shared that for the first time ever, the DFS and DJJS CAC met and combined meeting to discuss resources and collaboration.
- ii. He shared that the detention population remains high with 155, about 30 higher pre-COVID. Additionally, they are down 47 JPO positions with 7 currently in the academy. The average of applicants is 60. DJJS is working with HR to streamline the hiring process.
- iii. Jack Martin shared that the State is refusing to take kids even with court orders. Detention has several girls with mental health needs. About 30% of the population are suicidal or has a history of suicide behavior.
- iv. DJJS did receive permission to open the 4th unit at Spring Mountain. They are slowly moving kids to the new facility.
- v. The pivot point program is open. It is their first program for girls.
- vi. They have an off-site residency for girls with mental health needs. It is located on Bonanza and Mojave. There are currently 5 girls there now.

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- vii. DJJS met with Dr. Jonathan Hilbert from UNLV who is conducting a third-party evaluation of the TPOP and Harbor data. TPOP is effective for the elementary and middle school kids but not much change for high schoolers. There is a 60% increase in school attendance.

- XII. Receive DJJS Citizens Advisory Report. *David Doyle, Chair*
 - i. Dave Doyle shared that the first ever dual DFS and DJJS CAC meeting was a success. The CAC continues to support the strategic initiatives of the department. He shared that The Harbor is approaching 30,000 families served with an 85% success rate.
 - ii. The CAC is keeping an eye on legislation, particularly the policy that can potentially make it easier to expel kids from school as young as 6 years old.

- XIII. Receive Administrators Reports on the activities of the Department of Family Services (DFS). *Jill Marano, Director of Family Services*
 - i. Jill Marano shared DFS is continuing to struggle with filling vacancies with around 130 vacant position and 75 of those support direct field work. The current academy has 16 new case workers.
 - ii. She shared that DFS has contracted with a national consultant to help with two types of recruitment. The first is generalized recruitment and the need for foster parents. The second is targeted recruitment which focuses on the special needs of the children. DFS will continue to develop and improve their policies and training.
 - iii. Several group home placements are open and accepting placements. Eagle quest opened the first CSEC specific home with 5 girls there now. The intermediate care facility is looking to expand. The County is continuing to work with the State on what that looks like.
 - iv. DFS started a program with Foster Kinship to provide post-permanent support services. There is an average of 100 youths surrendered to child welfare by their parents because parents can no longer handle their behaviors.

- XIV. Receive the DFS Citizens Advisory Report. *DaShun Jackson, Chair or Representative*
 - i. *No report out*

- XV. Identify emerging issues for the next meeting
 - i. Judge Gibson shared an update on the Outlying courts and the findings. Judge Bailey discovered that the total number of children served for 2022 was 2022. The 33 served are in Moapa, Boulder City, Searchlight and Laughlin. The courts did follow-up on if the Master's did receive adequate judicial training at the judicial colleges as it is required by statutes. Master Tune confirmed his training and Master Miller did not respond. Additionally, the investigation discovered that the finding of fact and conclusion of laws are not being prepared as directed by statute.

- ii. Judge Gibson shared the need to further discuss the vacancies and DJJS and DFS. Judge Teuton inquired if HR has conducted a class and comp study or if they are willing to conduct one.

XVI. Public Comment

- i. Kim Abbott shared her appreciation for the Board offering their support to help with vacancies since those issues trickle down and negatively impact the youth. She stated that the vacancies in DFS affect the older kids, specifically those with needs due to low independent living workers. In DJJS, there are reports of girls spending more time in their cell because of shortages with staffing which negatively affect their mental health.
- ii. Judge Gibson shared that the Board is required to meet twice a year in May and November however, they are scheduled to meet quarterly. During the February and August meetings, he asks that the Directors of both departments share with the board any updates on their vacancies as well as ideas for a resolution.

XVII. Next Meeting

- i. August 24, 2023

XVIII. Adjournment – 1:28 PM