



THE HARBOR – EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

Juvenile Assessment Center Minutes

March 25, 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, Health Care Services Manager

Vikki Andrews, Administrative Secretary

Clark County District Attorney's Office

Catherine Jorgenson, Deputy Civil District Attorney

Eagle Quest

Diomar Chin, Harbor Charleston

The Harbor

Cesar Lemos, Executive Director

Present By Phone

City of Las Vegas

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

Dr. Michael Maxwell

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 Family Court

Judge William Voy, *Board Member*

Clark County Law Enforcement

Laz Chavez, Deputy Chief, *on behalf of Kevin McMahill, Undersheriff Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department – Board Member*

Captain Rob Hanks *on behalf of Captain George Middlebrook, North Las Vegas Police Department – Board Member*

James Ketsaa, Clark County School District Police – *Board Member*

Clark County School District

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

Bob Tartar

Department of Health and Human Services

Ellen Richardson-Adams, Outpatient Administrator, Department of Public and Behavioral Health Services, *Board Member and Vice Chair*

Eagle Quest

Dave Doyle, Director, *Board Member*

Workforce Connections

Jim Kostecki, *Board Member*

I. Call to Order

Dr. Tammy Malich, Clark County School District (CCSD) and Chair called the meeting to order, there was a quorum.

II. Public Comments

None at this time.

III. Approval of September 26, 2019 Minutes

The December 18, 2019 minutes were approved.

IV. Approval of December 18, 2019 Agenda

The March 25, 2020 agenda was approved.

V. Covid-19 Response

Cesar Lemos, The Harbor, informed the Executive Steering Committee (ESC) of the changes that have been made in response to the Covid-19 virus. The Harbor Charleston has temporarily closed, and the staff from that location have been absorbed by The Harbor Mojave. There have been staffing shortages at The Harbor Mojave as a result of the Covid-19 non-essential employee stay home order. The operating hours at The Harbor Mojave are temporarily 08:00 AM-10:00 PM, 7 days a week. Assessments are being done by phone, and law enforcement drop-offs continue to be accepted. Since these changes were implemented on March 21, 2020, 53 phone assessments have been completed and there have been four law enforcement drop-offs. Dr. Tammy Malich, the City of Las Vegas and Chair, thanks the agencies that have allowed their staff to continue to work at The Harbor during this time. Dr. Malich states that the City of Las Vegas Chief Officer, Dr. Lisa Morris-Hibbler, is going to push to have additional staffing approved.

Protocol have been put in place for staff to follow in accordance with the Center of Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. Masks have been purchased, and N95 masks have been donated by Eagle Quest and Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD); there is also a stock of gloves, and a handheld laser thermometer. The temperature is read for all law enforcement drop-offs and officers. There is a symptom questionnaire in place, and if youth or another person triggers on the questionnaire they are provided a mask. Social distancing is also being practiced.

VI. Discussion Regarding the National Assessment Center Association (NACA)

Mr. Lemos was contacted by Molly Baker who is the director of the NACA. She reached out to see if The Harbor would be interested in joining their association. She is currently getting the association up and

running and already has 46 juvenile assessment centers from 13 different states on board. There will be webinars and resources on best practices, performance measures, etc. There will be an annual membership fee that would be waived in the first year. There would also be national conferences to attend. John M. Martin, Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS), suggested that the City of Las Vegas and The Harbor host the first conference. The committee motioned and approved joining the NACA.

VII. Discussion Regarding Sustainable Funding

Eboni Washington, DJJS, and Punam Mathur, Community Parent Representative, have met with representatives from a few different organizations who could potentially act as a “catcher’s mitt” for funding of The Harbor. Working with one of these organizations would allow The Harbor to be successful in fundraising as it works towards becoming a 501c3 model, and will allow time for the paperwork and process to be completed. Mr. Martin conducted a presentation for the Nevada Community Foundation earlier in the month of March. The recommendation from the team at DJJS would be that the ESC partner with Nevada Community Foundations to be the catcher’s mitt for The Harbor. Judge William Voy agrees with the selection of Nevada Community Foundations, stating that they have been a presence in the community for a very long time and have been great partners in the past. The committee motioned and approved to partner with Nevada Community Foundations.

VIII. Update Regarding The Harbor Expansion

Dr. Malich updated the committee on the MOU data sharing piece. Unfortunately this is still sitting with Clark County School District (CCSD) Legal. There were concerns raised by CCSD in regards to data sharing and FIRPA. Cheri Wright, DJJS, responded to all questions and concerns CCSD had, and has since not received an update. Dr. Malich informed the committee that Dr. Barton of CCSD agreed that this agreement is necessary and needs to move forward. As long as the Super-intendent and the board agree, there shouldn’t be any issues. The issues seem to be raised by department staff and ownership of data as opposed to legal. These are typical arguments that have been heard in the past in regards to data sharing with CCSD. Mr. Martin states if CCSD can’t figure out how to share the data, this agreement could possibly not move forward.

There was a document that Counsel Jorgenson, Ms. Wright, and Ms. Washington and Dr. Malich worked on that was complete, but was then changed on the CCSD side. It went forward to the Board of Trustees before changes were noticed, and during briefings it was asked what would happen to funding if the agreement was not signed. Dr. Malich was clear with the people from CCSD that CCSD does not have the funding; the funding was given to DJJS, and it was made clear by Clark County Commission that they did not trust the school district and didn’t believe they would hold up their end of the agreement. The document is currently with CCSD Legal’s Patrick Murch sitting idle. Mr. Martin and Dr. Malich asked that Bob Tartar or Bob Weires reach out to someone in CCSD leadership to assist in pushing this agreement forward. Judge Voy states that under 62H, there is a FIRPA exception for FIRPA and judicial orders, as long as it’s a state law or valid court order the data should be sharable; Ms. Jorgenson clarified that this statute allowed DJJS to share with CCSD but did not state CCSD should share back. This is something that will need to be discussed and put into law at the next legislative session, and will be added as a work item in the legislative workgroup. Brigid Duffy, District Attorney’s Office, states that she will reach out to Patrick Murch to see what the delay may be.

IX. Executive Director Update

Mr. Lemos highlighted some key data points such as CCSD referrals received; there has been a huge increase of school district referrals in the past three months. School Justice Partnership referrals also increased, showing that the trend is moving in the right direction. Since opening, The Harbor has serviced 12,913 youth and families. The current escalation rate is at 5%.

At the last ESC meeting, Mr. Lemos was asked to delve deeper into the data to get some more information on the youth who have escalated. Mr. Lemos was able to break down the information by gender, race, zip code, top ten schools, and how they first came into contact with The Harbor (i.e. walk-ins, law enforcement, community referral). He found that African-American youth are escalating at a 10% higher rate than other races. There are culturally competent services that are vetted through the department that these youth can be connected to. 83% of the youth were brought into The Harbor by law enforcement contact, 12% by parents and 5% by schools. Mr. Martin stated that speaks volumes that if the majority of the escalated youth were originally brought in by law enforcement, they are already engaging in escalated behavior.

Mr. Lemos also found that there are no vetted providers in the zip code with the highest escalation rate. Ms. Wright explained that there may not be any mental health providers in that zip code, and often times there are providers closer to the family's residence within another zip code. In addition, most families prefer in-home services and there are many providers who offer this service. Mr. Martin asked to for some additional research to be done to see if there are any coordinated issues in each zip code such as charges coming from that area, the amount of resources in the area, or even things that are being done that are helping certain areas to be more successful; this would help the ESC see where more services are needed.

Mr. Martin asked if there was something that could be done in the top offending high schools on campus such as running groups to help support the youth with these issues. In the past, the Northwest Area Command Center with Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department would reach out and do groups with the youth who seemed to be escalating, and work with school principals. Dr. Malich suggested that if this idea is put into practice, it should be first tried at Centennial High School which had the highest escalation rate. Peterson Behavioral High School is nearby Centennial High School, where there is already a collaboration going and probation officers are on site; support from this program could be extended to Centennial High School as a trial. Bob Weires added that Equity and Diversity Education was doing some targeted intervention in the Northwest that included Centennial. The ESC found it troubling that in the top ten were two middle schools, which would be 11-13 year olds; this may be a great target area as there is a greater chance of making a difference in this age group. Mr. Martin and Dr. Malich ask that Mr. Lemos and Chief Ketsaa reach out to the principals of the top schools before the next meeting and try to strategize and ask what they believe are some possible solutions, come up with some ways The Harbor could offer assistance.

Mr. Lemos and The Harbor team also did a random sampling of 10% of the youth who escalated by calling their families to ask if they connected to The Harbor recommended services, and 79% of them answered yes. They were also asked if there was anything more The Harbor could have done to aid the youth, 47% said nothing else could have been done, 14% were unsure and others had various responses such as 3-5 day hold, a scared straight program, a GED program, and stricter programming.

Dr. Malich thanked Mr. Lemos and The Harbor for all the work they did in collecting the data. She asks if there is any plan in the funding coming forward to have an official or dedicated data person. Ms. Wright stated that a Management Analyst will be hired to focus solely on data. Mr. Martin added that he, Ms. Wright and Ms. Washington have been discussing contracting with Dr. Hilford of the Educational Psychology Department, Office of Learning Analytics of UNLV, to build a data model that would help to put a dollar sign on The Harbor. They would assist in looking at data such as where The Harbor is trending and how The Harbor is Trending. The long term goal is to have data and performance measures that can be maintained internally and posted to a data dashboard.

X. Discussion of The Harbor Annual

The 2018 Annual Report was completed, and copies were sent to all ESC members. Mr. Lemos thanked the school district for their work and contribution. Mr. Lemos is currently working on the 2019 Annual report, which covers the 2018-2019 school year, gathering data from the school district and The Harbor's case management system and will hopefully have a rough draft completed by the end of March.

XI. Informational Items

- a. Announcements: Next meeting June 24, 2020 at 1:00 pm, The Harbor – 861 N. Mojave Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89101
- b. Dr. Malich asked if Hazel Health was anywhere on the Horizon for working with The Harbor. Ms. Wright stated that she has been working with a contact from Hazel putting together an agreement, but that it is currently on hold because of Covid-19. Dr. Malich informed the ESC that Jody Patton who is an expert in Medicaid is now working with Hazel, and she will be a great resource.
- c. The first hire from the AB309 funding has been made; Ms. Wright was promoted from the Health Care Services Manager position to Assistant Director. Her position will be over all of The Harbor locations and the Truancy Prevention Outreach Program. The ESC congratulated Cheri on her promotion. Manager and Management Analyst positions are in the interview process at the moment.

XII. Public Comments

None at this time.

XIII. Adjournment