

Nevada Commission on Mentoring

Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 18, 2019

2:00 PM-3: 30 PM

Meeting Locations:

Video Conference

OFFICE	LOCATION	ROOM
Department of Education	2080 E. Flamingo Road Las Vegas, NV	Las Vegas Board Room
Department of Education	700 East Fifth Street Carson City, NV	Carson City Board Room

1. Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Matt Morris called the meeting to order on Friday, October 18, 2019 at 2:04 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Cota conducted a roll call. **Quorum was not established (4 Commission Members present)**

Commission Members present in Las Vegas: Michael Flores, Dr. Douglas Garner

Commission Members present in Carson City: Matt Morris, Dr. Kristen McNeill

NDE Staff Present in Las Vegas: Dr. Will Killins, Yvonne Morris, and Rose Cota

NDE Staff Present in Carson City: Chris James

Others in Attendance: Deputy Attorney General David Gardner, Lindsay Harper (Core), Jennifer Jeong (Core), Jerry Holliday (Uplift), Damon Hodge (Uplift)

3. Approval of Flexible Agenda (For Possible Action)

Commissioner Morris said since they did not have quorum, they could not take any action on Agenda Item 3.

4. Welcome and Introduction

Commissioner Morris said since they did not have quorum, they could not take action on any of the Agenda Items. He said they would run through the informational items on the Agenda in order.

5. Approval of September, 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)

Because there was no quorum, this Agenda Item was tabled until the next meeting.

6. NCOM Mentoring Spotlight (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action)

Commissioner Morris stated there would be two presentations for this Agenda Item – **Core Academy** and **Uplift**.

Ms. Jennifer Jeong, the Volunteer and Mentor Coordinator for Core, presented an overview of the Core organization. She detailed the hard copy documents included in the Board packet and said there was a link to a new Core video that is “a great testimonial to how impactful mentorship can be to both the scholars and volunteers who are part of the program.”

Ms. Jeong explained that Core is a long-term holistic collective impact model serving under-resourced students in southern Nevada. Core’s mission is that they believe all children and families have the right to reach their full potential and pursue individual success. Their mission is to empower, enrich, and educate underserved families and children to lead choice filled lives.

The Core model starts at the end of the Grade 5 and follows scholars all the way up until 12th grade. Students participate in after school, weekend and summer programming provide by Core. Two years beyond high school graduation Core continues to follow-up with scholars to ensure that they still receive support and guidance as they transition into adulthood, higher education and employment.

All the programs and services offered to scholars and families fall under three pillars: educate, enrich and empower. Under educational programming, Core scholars receive academic and workforce developmental support to not only graduate, but have a plan in place after graduation as well. So that includes academic success planning and credit tracking. Core has an academic advisor who works with scholars one-on-one to set academic goals and make sure that students are on track to pass their classes, move on to each grade level and have a plan to pursue higher education or enter the workforce.

Core does have scholars who may have certain learning differences that require 504s or IEPs in the classroom as well, so the Core academic advisors attend those meetings too, along with the parents, to make sure that there is a plan in place to provide accommodations for those differences.

Core provides after school tutoring with tutors specializing in math and English or science, and they’re available every single day after school to provide academic support for students. Core also offers more individualized and one-on-one tutoring as well.

Another part of Core’s education pillar is their “Career We Can” curriculum. It’s a program that prepares scholars for a higher education and career, so what Core does is help their scholars identify what their strengths and interests are so that the career advisor can align those characteristics with the future career path. If the scholars are interested in learning more about or entering a specific industry, Core tries to provide as many opportunities as possible to expose them or familiarize them with that industry. That includes tours of companies and organizations who partner with them, guest speakers who meet with the scholars and speak to them about their careers, job shadowing opportunities, as well as project-based mentorship programs.

6. NCOM Mentoring Spotlight (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) (continued)

Under Core's enrichment pillar, scholars get opportunities to develop strong social skills, build self-confidence and learn how to manage health and mental health as well. Some workshops include something they call SPRAT in which artists come in and facilitate artistic workshops with the scholars and senior citizens in the community so that they can create a more inter-generational dialogue and for seniors and scholars to learn from each other.

Core has also partnered with the House of Straus Foundation to provide art education through painting, collage, and printmaking so that students can learn different methods of creative self-expression. Another program also is called "Ladies in Training" which is an etiquette program for young ladies to develop self-confidence, growth and social graces.

And on top of all that, Core does quarterly wellness workshops that include yoga, healthy eating, healthy relationships, meditation and such so that scholars can learn different methods to reduce stress and develop healthy habits and learn how to better manage themselves as well.

Under the empowerment pillar, scholars also learn how to advocate for themselves, make positive choices and strive for personal and professional growth. And on top of that, families are given resources and tools needed for basic need support. Core has a social worker who works in-house with staff and scholars and families. What Core does is identify the needs in the household for scholars and families by performing needs assessments and home visits to get that context of what their scholars' lives are outside of school. Once Core identifies those needs, the social worker then refers families to community partners who can fulfill access to those needs, and then follow-up to make sure that those needs have been met and that they can also help families build long-term, sustainable solutions to the challenges that they may be going through. So that may include getting access to food on a daily basis. That may include health and wellness examinations. That may include mental health counseling for students and families who may need it.

Core also provides a lot of opportunities for advocacy trainings through networking and public speaking and research opportunities so that their scholars can learn how to advocate for themselves and identify social issues that are important to them and their communities. In the past, Core has done workshops and speaking series with the ACLU, Battle Born Progress and the Anti-Defamation League.

A big part of the Core model is the character education lab. This is a curriculum that is specifically developed to be relevant, age appropriate and impactful for scholars. Scholars take this class after school twice a week. In that class they learn about important characteristics and traits and learn about self-control, gratitude, growth mindset and empathy to really develop interpersonal strengths and emotional intelligence.

A big component of Core's character education curriculum is a community service piece. Core scholars are required to perform at least 25 hours of community service per semester, and in character education, they really identify what community issues students are interested in themselves, whether it is homelessness, whether it is animal rescue or environmentalism, they plan group outings and community service outings related to those areas that they are interested in so that they are empowered to make a difference in their own way towards the community.

6. NCOM Mentoring Spotlight (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) (continued)

Core's character education curriculum has been very successful and they have partnered with West Prep Academy to create a pilot program this year for West Prep students who are not in Core to attend that class. It is now an elective class for West Prep students who have been identified by school administrators to have leadership potential. The class is called the Emerging Leaders Lab and in the Emerging Leaders Lab, they have character education, but also guest speakers who come in and they also participate in community service as well and make sure that that program is also really rooted in restorative justice practices.

Core's empowerment pillar houses their mentorship program, which matches community members to provide one-on-one pair or group mentorship guidance for scholars as they are emerging into young adulthood. Core mentors and mentees are paired together for a minimum of one year and meet for a minimum of four hours a month. Currently Core has about 45 active mentors and counting, and more than half of the mentor/mentee pairs have been together longer than the one-year requirement.

Mentoring provides scholars an opportunity to receive personalized and individualized guidance from upstanding community members. And it's especially beneficial for scholars who may not get that type of support at home, whether it's because the scholars are in single parent households or they have an absent parent in their lives or for whatever reason.

Core mentors and mentees also receive training orientation to shape their expectations of the program and prepare them for the mentorship experience. They're paired based on similar interests, personalities and goals to lay a strong foundation for more natural connection to develop. And they establish the relationship by setting goals and action plans to guide the mentoring experience and the time once they meet.

One of the reasons Core's mentorship program has been so successful is due to the flexibility and freedom that they provide for mentors and mentees to grow relationships. The mentors and mentees have the power to choose a time that they want to meet, choose what they want to do together on their own time and in their own way. And that has really allowed for bonds to really thrive and strengthen. There are some pairs who have been together 6-7 years! Mentors and mentees receive ongoing support from all the staff at Core. Mentors are able to collaborate with Core staff as well as community partners whenever a challenge arises with the mentees.

Core has some amazing project-based mentorship programs in force. One is called a "Child to the Core" and it's headed up by Chef Natalie Young. Chef Young has been working with Core scholars for three years to really teach them the ins and outs of the culinary industry from food prep to culinary skills to customer service. Students learn it all by working directly with Chef Young in the kitchen. Another program is the Young Executive Scholars Program which is Core's partnership with UNLV's International Gaming Institute. It's a four-week rigorous summer program where scholars learn various aspects of the hospitality industry. They take in field trips to the Forum Shops to learn more about the retail side of hospitality and go to the backstage of the KA show at MGM to learn about the entertainment side. They get into groups to build and design their own versions of a Las Vegas resort as a culminating activity of their four-week project. Their design projects are actually presented and judged in front of hotel executives who give authentic feedback. This program is an incredible way for scholars to be exposed to all the different possibilities and opportunities that there are in the field of hospitality, which they may never have been exposed to, and never have considered for a future career option.

6. NCOM Mentoring Spotlight (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) (continued)

Ms. Jeong provided some data in terms of the background and success rate for scholars:

- All the scholars and their families that Core has served have lived below the poverty line.
- Core thus far has served 142 scholars. They are poised for the following school year to take on 130 more scholars and their families to be a part of the program in 2020.
- Core thus far has served 131 families. Average family size is five.
- Of the past class that has just graduated, 100 percent of them graduated to the next grade level each class year and 100 percent of them also graduated from high school.
- 85 percent retention rate for scholars and families from sixth grade to high school graduation
- 95 percent of scholars have received college acceptance. The other five percent have been for vocational programs such as U4 Institute or to gainful employment.
- 100% of students left the program with a specific plan, whether that was higher education in college, or pursuing a vocational program or going into gainful employment.
- On average per year, each Core scholar performed at least 50 hours of community service, but many logged many more hours on top of those 50 hours.
- Approximately 700 hours are invested in each scholar and their family annually.
- The average level of education completed by scholar parents is fourth grade.

Ms. Jeong said the Core staff believes their success rates have been made possible due to four key benefits that their model provides. There is long-term comprehensive support following students year-by-year, grade-by-grade, and mentors are able to stay with students as they're going through particular challenges. Core is able to provide access to resources to help with those. Core also looks at each child with a whole child approach. It's not just a one-size fits all with their program. They really individualize what each of their students need to get to that next grade level or to get to graduation and really help them think about what their future is looking like. And then on top of that is their character education and leadership development in providing the tools and strengths needed to develop that positive attitude and skills to cope with whatever challenges that our scholars and families may face down the road.

Core is poised to emerge as more of a two-generational model in terms of not only uplifting their scholars educationally, but their families as well. Right now, they are currently based at West Prep Academy, but recently they purchased land that is a stone's throw away from West Prep. Their plan is to construct a building there within one year to expand the reach that they have for scholars and families and for West Prep as well. That building will be turned into a full-on resource center with a clothing closet and food pantry for parents who are in need of extra help. There will be a computer lab as well as extra classroom space for not only scholars, but for parents who are searching for resources like GED certification or ESL classes. Once the Core building is up and running in 2020, they'd love to partner with other mentoring agencies to make use of that facility to provide more of those opportunities for the families that Core serves, but also for the families that those programs serve as well and really make it a collaborative space.

6. NCOM Mentoring Spotlight (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) (continued)

Ms. Jeong closed by inviting Commission Members to come and observe their West Prep Academy afterschool program in session to see their model in action and meet their scholars and staff. She said something to keep in mind also is they do have a White Paper being written to analyze even more data that they have on Core scholars and the families and the impact that the program has made, and really evaluate how they have served the families that are in the program. Once that White Paper is written, they'd love to share that with members of the Commission as well as the general public.

Ms. Jeong asked if there were any questions and there were.

Commissioner Flores asked two questions: how many mentors do they currently have working within the program and how could the Commission best help and support the work they are doing?

Ms. Jeong said currently they have 45 active mentors and counting who are paired with mentees. And the best way the Commission can help them is just identifying like-minded organizations and continuing to keep them in any discussions for collaboration so that they can really expand their reach in terms of how they can make an impact on the community. Also, Core would be eager to help the Commission's efforts if they can be of service.

Dr. Garner asked if Core scholars officially age out upon graduation? Ms. Jeong said yes, they do. They still follow up with them even after graduation. They have an alumni coordinator who is still following up even to this day doing one-on-ones with those scholars as they're navigating through the process of college or post-graduation because that transitional period can be tough, and it can be a big indicator of whether that student will continue to pursue higher education. So even though they are not part of the after-school program after graduation, Core still provides the support and resources they'll need.

Commissioner Morris thanked Ms. Jeong for her presentation. He said it was awesome. He also thanked her for her offer of having the Commission participate in a tour and meet some of their staff and some of the scholars. If they can coordinate that, they will reach out to her and see if something can be put together. It's clear that Core has a lot of experience and expertise, and so the Commission definitely appreciates that offer.

Commissioner Morris asked for Core's website address for the record. Ms. Jeong said Core's website is: **corewecan.org**.

Dr. Killins said Core's programs sound extremely robust and they are covering a plethora of activities with the students. So, how are they funding this? Is this something that is funded from the school budget that they're partnered with or do they have a philanthropic partner?

Ms. Jeong said they do have philanthropic partnerships. So their full name is "Core Powered by the Rogers Foundation" so they have partnered with the Rogers Foundation since 2015 and they have generously offered to pay and cover their administrative costs. Every other dollar that they raise is through private funding and goes directly into the scholars and to families and the programs that they provide.

6. NCOM Mentoring Spotlight (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) (continued)

Dr. Killins said he understood that this meant Core is actually doing the work, and they are able to apply for philanthropic dollars that come in and they can, within the parameters of the grant that they've written, operate. Was that correct?

Ms. Lindsay Harper, Executive Director and Founder of Core, explained that Core is actually completely privately funded. They go after only two grants: the CDBG grant every year and then also a grant through the county which they actually apply to one of their multigenerational art programs. Every dollar that they fundraise for outside of that is actually through private individuals.

Commissioner Morris thanked the Core ladies for their presentation, their hard work, and their passion for mentoring. He said next up would be the **Uplift Foundation of Nevada**. Uplift Foundation of Nevada was represented by Jerry Holliday, President, and Damon Hodge, Secretary.

Mr. Hodge explained their mentoring program is called the Omega Gentlemen's Club. It was founded in 1989 in North Las Vegas at the Boys and Girls Club. And it was really a result of community interest, especially the mothers of boys who had to navigate violence on the streets and a lack of positive male role models in their lives.

So, three gentlemen created the Omega Gentlemen's Club to essentially create what was called "manhood training," teaching young boys proper etiquette, teaching them how to behave in personal professional settings and also teaching them how to navigate high school life and also college life.

Since 1989, about 1,500 young men have come through the program. They mentor boys in the 6th through the 12th grades. They do everything from leadership and character development to financial literacy to college and scholarship applications and career exploration. They have a base of about 10 to 12 gentlemen in their fraternity (Omega Psi Phi) who provide the mentoring and the mentorship through the Omega Gentlemen's Club.

The Omega Gentlemen's Club is a year-round program because summer is the time when children have nothing to do, no school to go to, and they tend to get into more trouble. So they meet with their boys throughout the entire year, twice a month for a minimum of two hours every two Saturdays.

The Club delivers a broad range of support to mentees. They focus on their social and emotional health as well as their personal and character development. They bring in guest speakers to address all manner of topics. They work closely with the school district and their academic support and community services center to provide supplementary education for their students, as well as any supports for whatever they need in their various classes.

Mr. Holliday gave an overview of some of the ongoing programs they offer. One of their longest-running programs is the Economic Summit and Student Leadership Conference which is held in December. This year's conference is December 7th at the UNLV Student Union. They are anticipating 220 to 230 sixth to 12th grade students plus their parents.

6. NCOM Mentoring Spotlight (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) (continued)

The Economic Summit and Student Leadership Conference is in its 21st year, and what they are attempting to do is expose these students, not only the kids that attend our Omega Gentlemen's Program, but the students throughout the Clark County School District, information focusing on STEM, financial literacy, and economics. This year they will have a gentleman coming in from Houston, with NASA. He's going to talk about engineering opportunities working within NASA.

The Conference will feature workshops covering credit management, financial aid, college admission and vocational trades. The trade's workshop will have a panel representing plumbers, electrical, and carpentry and as an extra bonus, Assemblywoman Dina Neal, a champion for youth, will moderate that workshop.

The Omega Gentlemen's Club has a very good scholarship program. Over the last 10 plus years they have given out about \$150,000 in scholarships to primarily African American male students within Clark County. Within the Omega Gentlemen's Program, there's approximately a 95 to 96% graduation rate. A majority of the kids are African American males coming from the west side and areas that are low and moderate income.

Omega Gentlemen's Club has been working with H. P. Fitzgerald for several years, and they have the ability to be a catchall and do small things that make a big difference to the students. For instance, there was a situation a few years ago where Mojave had 300 percolators, but no batteries and no budget. Omega bought the batteries. They just recently supported Rhodes Elementary and the program for their students. They're also supporting the A. D. Guy Knowledge Center, which is operated by the University of Nevada, Reno Extension and they are supporting the families over at Marble Manor.

Mr. Holliday announced the Omega Gentlemen's Club Golf Tournament on November 9th. They have been very fortunate to get support from a lot of sources and that results in a great number of prizes, raffle prizes, and prizes for the winners.

Mr. Hodge said their organization is 100% all volunteer. All the mentors have jobs and lives, but they give what's left to this organization that's very important to them. They would love to be able to scale up one day to a Core Academy and to have paid staff.

They are in the process of having outside reviews done on some of their programs. They recently had students of UNLV's MBA program do an evaluation on Omega Gentlemen's Club to see where they are strong, and where they're weak and how they can get better. One of the things that they talked about is trying to provide things to the mentees, but also to the community to help fill in the gaps. An example of this would be the Youth and Justice Forum, and what it is a forum to bring cops, kids and the community together for constructive solutions-oriented dialogue to reduce negative outcomes, interactions between cops and kids. And that's been a very successful program. They've worked with Metro as well as NHP and the FBI and they have the National Bar Association as a partner in that program as well. They teach kids their rights and responsibilities when it comes to interacting with youth. So mentees gets the direct benefit of all these programs like the Youth and Justice Program and Economic Summit, but they're also open to the entire community as well.

6. NCOM Mentoring Spotlight (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) (continued)

Mr. Holliday said it's also important that their young men have some fun. Not only do they monitor their grades at every meeting, but they expose their mentees to activities they might not normally do, such as bowling and roller skating. They've gone to Gravity, a trampoline park, and they might introduce ice skating this year as a tie-in to the Golden Knights. They are taking a group of kids to southern California for the Youth Conference that has been going on there for about 21 years. They have sent students to college tours in Arizona and to a student conference in New Orleans. They want to make sure their students have a well-rounded experience and exposure to things that will allow them to grow personally and hopefully down the road professionally. Mr. Holliday said he and Mr. Hodge would be happy to answer any questions.

Commissioner Morris thanked both gentlemen. He said he appreciated the information and the work that Uplift is doing. He asked does the organization have a sort of systematic partnership with employers to expose some of the kids that they serve to the different career paths or do they have more of a focus on academics and scholarships?

Mr. Hodge responded that it's a mixture of both. Their primary avenue for exposure for their mentees and the community is their Economic Summit Student Leadership Conference. They tend to look at the 21st Century careers that they need to be thinking about as well as those careers where there's growth opportunity. The other part they focus on is those ancillary careers that are adjacent to what students want to do. Some of them want to be athletes or they want to be in the music industry, and only a small portion of them will ever make it. But they don't have to be the actual athletes. They can be the sports trainer, the agent, or the physical therapist. And the same with music; there are ancillary careers in the industry other than being the performer on stage.

Mr. Holliday said they require that students obtain a certain GPA and that they meet certain qualifications. Most of that is just learning basic information. They teach students a lot of things that are outside of the normal curriculum like Roberts Rules of Order and how to be able to effectively run a meeting and other related kinds of skills.

Dr. Killins said he has had the opportunity to be involved in one way or another with Uplift Foundations from Wisconsin to Houston to Mississippi, and now is getting to see how the Nevada Foundation makes their mark on the mentoring community. There is a difference between some of the Uplift Foundations around the country in terms of the people driving the work and it is very apparent that the Nevada Uplift Foundation is doing it right. Dr. Killins said they are "moving and grooving and doing some things, so to the men of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, very dear to me, very good job. Thank you."

Commissioner Morris asked if the gentlemen could share any more details about their Economic Summit coming up in December?

Mr. Hodge said the Economic Summit is the first Saturday in December, December 7th. It will be an all-day event at the UNLV Student Union. It is free and open to the public. They provide and take care of all the expenses related from breakfast to lunch. They give out approximately \$1,000 in gift cards randomly to the kids. There's a competition in the afternoon and the winning team also is recognized, and they're given something. They have some very nice registration prizes, including pen and pencil sets from the Oakland Raiders.

6. NCOM Mentoring Spotlight (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) (continued)

Commissioner Morris thanked the gentlemen again and said he agreed with what Dr. Killins had said about them, especially in light of the fact that everyone in the organization is a volunteer. They are having a huge impact on the community. He said if there's anything that the Commission can do as they move forward, please don't hesitate to reach out to them.

7. Public Comment #1

None.

8. Mentoring Affiliate Update (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action)

Commissioner Morris said there was no update because Dr. Maxwell was attending the summit. There would be an update next meeting.

9. Appointments to NCOM Update (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action)

Dr. Killins reported that the Speaker of the House is actively pursuing the letter of request with regard to the appointments. Dr. Maxwell has officially received his appointment from the Speaker of the House.

Commissioner Morris said Rick Combs [phonetic] is the Director there and he said they're going to be checking in with the different Legislative appointments. Assemblywoman Neal has been pretty engaged on that as well and he is grateful for her assistance with the appointments.

10. Subcommittee Updates (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action)

Commissioner Morris reminded Members that at their last meeting, they formally selected members to serve on the Fiscal and Grant Subcommittee and the Strategic Planning Subcommittee. Each of the subcommittees are provided for in the bylaws and the leadership for each one is in the bylaws.

There were no updates from the three subcommittees.

11. Approval of NCOM Logo (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action)

Commissioner Morris said the proposed logo samples were circulated a few weeks ago. He said he thought they all captured what the Commission is supposed to be doing, and if there's a way that they can figure out how to take the process of picking a logo and engaging the public, maybe engaging some of the organizations that have presented during our mentoring spotlight, he thinks that would be great.

Dr. Killins said their decision was an opportunity to fulfill the requirements of AB 235 and create a protocol for that. It doesn't have to be something incredibly complicated, but just a protocol for going through. He said he would take a stab at that and run it past the Commission for approval.

Commissioner Morris said it's going to actually be kind of hard for them to pick one, but they'll kind of leave that until they have quorum. They'll have to come up with a way to narrow them down, three or four, maybe five, and then have the Full Commission work on selecting one. And this might be something that the Strategic Planning Committee can do.

12. Future NCOM Coordinator Funding (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action)

Dr. Killins said in terms of the position, one of the things that he's doing from the NDE side to help the process is trying to put together a proposal to submit to NDE leadership trying to tie the position into some of the school improvement efforts at the Department. He said he could not promise with any type of certainty that that's going to work, but at least it's taking a stab at trying to make sure that this critical need is filled and tied into opportunities to align to some funding sources here at the Department.

Commissioner Morris said currently this position is funded from HHS grant funds, is that correct, from Health and Human Services?

Dr. Killins said yes, he believed so. But they are going to have to go to the Interim Finance Committee to work with them. Dr. Maxwell plans on taking this on. There is now an urgency because this position goes to the end of December, so they are effectively at the turning point here in October.

Commissioner Morris asked is that a function of the Commission in terms of getting that on the agenda for IFC or Is NDE going to tee that up?

Dr. Killins said it is a function of the Commission. But he's going to try to do whatever he can from the NDE standpoint to run ideas past the leadership to try and tie it into some type of position that can add value to school improvement.

Commissioner Morris told Dr. Killins that if there's anything that he can do to help or if they need help from Commission members in terms of getting something ready for IFC or trying to get on the agenda, let them know.

13. Agenda Item Considerations, Date, Time and Location for Next Meeting (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action)

Commissioner Morris said they've got to pick a new location or a different time for the March 20th and May 15th 2020 meetings because all of the spaces at NDE are being used.

Dr. Killins said it might be an opportunity for the Commission to go on a retreat to work with some of the new grantees that will be onboard at that time. It might be an opportunity too, to fulfill one of the requirements in AB 235 with regard to a state summit, even though that would be small, but it might be an opportunity.

Commissioner Morris said he loved that idea of a retreat. He'd like to get the organizations that have presented at the last few meetings in a room and maybe do a roundtable type thing and just do some brainstorming about what the overall needs are in terms of mentorship programs. They've all sort of identified as a general theme, funding, staffing, capacity building, all those types of needs that are probably common to most mentoring organizations, but maybe for one of these dates they can invite those organizations to brainstorm with the Commission and get everybody in the same room and just kind of talk about some stuff like that.

Commissioner Morris said he also liked the idea of taking the Commission to an on-site tour of the Core program at West Prep Academy.

13. Agenda Item Considerations, Date, Time and Location for Next Meeting (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) (continued)

Commissioner Morris said alternatively, there might be other locations, other state facilities, that can host public meetings. They might be able to reach out to the system of higher education or to the Grant Sawyer Building, some other locations that can facilitate board meetings and video conferencing and things like that if they want to hold those meetings.

Commissioner Morris said this would be a good time to remind Members that attendance at meetings is really critical. One of the things in AB235 was requiring attendance and the two consecutive absences kind of creates a problem. They need to hold each other accountable on the Commission. If the folks from Uplift can do what they're doing sort of on a volunteer basis with the leftover time that they have, then that should challenge them to do all they can to just be engaged.

Commissioner Morris said for their next meeting on November 21st they've got a packed agenda. They'll try to do the Mentorship Spotlight again. And they also need to do housekeeping items, approve minutes, things like that, and then they really need to start moving forward with the grant process. Dr. Killins has been doing a ton of work on that. And then the last thing they need to remember is that in February they have a report that's due to the Governor and to the Legislature and so they're going to need to start thinking about what is going to go in that report. So, they've got a lot of work to do. They may want to do a quick inventory and kind of see where they are on the attendance and maybe do some outreach and see if they can do maybe a little better job of getting everybody at the meetings. That will be something for them to discuss the next meeting.

Another thing that Commissioner Morris would like to put out as an action item for the November meeting is the question about the NCOM website and the social media engagement and things like that. There's been kind of a question about the website and whether or not NDE is or can or should host the NCOM materials. They may want to hammer that out because they can enhance their engagement if they can get a social media account going.

Commissioner Morris asked Ms. Morris what her thoughts were on the social media topic? Ms. Morris said she could create different social media accounts and work to manage them. She said there is an abundance of research material and news from the different mentoring organizations. Once she is able to figure out the best way to proceed, then she can go ahead and do it.

Dr. Killins said he needed to set the record straight. NDE and the Commission are separate. NDE has probably 13 to 18 different commissions that it's working with, so housing the emails and doing the websites for the commissions would be something that's not practical. Currently NCOM has one web page on the NDE website. Dr. Killins personally went out and purchased a domain to offer the Commission. And the question came up was whether it needed to be ADA ready. The Attorney General said ADA is great, but not necessary right at the start. It just is now dependent on the Commission Members to say yea or nay. They can do their own domain and own the process. Dr. Killins said he would continue to hold this for the Commission for another period of time should the Commission say they'll accept that in-kind donation for a year and have a free hosted website, which can get started tomorrow. It's just a matter of the Commission saying they want to do it.

13. Agenda Item Considerations, Date, Time and Location for Next Meeting (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) (continued)

Commissioner Morris said obviously something that they will have to do when they have a quorum is settle this issue. He asked Ms. Morris to put this topic on the Agenda for November and just have it relate to the Commission's web page/social media outreach. Hopefully they'll have quorum and they can maybe make some progress on that.

Commissioner Morris said he took a look at AB 235 before the meeting and Subsection 7 kind of requires them to work with NDE in terms of administrative support. So they might have their Counsel look into that and see if they're mandated to use the website or if they can do these in-kind donations. Section 3 and Subsection 6 of the bill requires the Commission to develop public relations and marketing campaigns for the purpose of increasing public awareness regarding existing mentorship programs and the value of mentorship programs. So, the Commission has that mandate to try to engage the public and raise awareness. Social media fits in pretty nicely into that mandate.

14. Public Comment #2

None.

15. Adjournment

Commissioner Morris thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 3:25 PM.