

# Nevada Commission on Mentoring

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## Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 4, 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 Morris asked Dr. Maxwell if he should run the meeting because Dr. Maxwell was under the weather, and Dr. Maxwell said yes, please. Commissioner Morris called the meeting to order on Friday, October 4, 2019 at 2:15 PM.

## 2. Roll Call

Ms. Cota conducted a roll call. **Quorum was not established (2 Commission Members present)**

**Commission Members present in Las Vegas:** Michael Maxwell

**Commission Members present in Carson City:** Matt Morris

**NDE Staff Present in Las Vegas:** Yvonne Morris, Rose Cota

**NDE Staff Present in Carson City:** Chris James

**Others in Attendance:** Deputy Attorney General David Gardner, Assemblywoman Dina Neal, Coleen Lawrence, Cameron Miller, Kim Flowers, Byron Stringer, Keith Stark

## 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 – **Moxy Up and Toe Tags Monologues.**

Ms. Coleen Lawrence from Moxy Up said that their organization is a little bit different of a mentoring program. They are a targeted outreach program for teens and young adults. They target for 13 and older, and what they really work on is what they call social and health determinants. That means that they focus on a comprehensive and holistic approach to those teens and young adults. They don't just focus on job skills or their school work; they put in an entire program for them.

Ms. Lawrence explained their program has three pillars. The first one is called Moxy Up Space. It is exactly what it sounds like – it is a safe space. Moxy Up has been designated as a safe place in Douglas County where teens and young adults can just come and be. They can get food; they can have shelter during the day, and they can hang out. The Sheriff's Office, the Probation Office and their Social Service Offices work very closely with them so that the kids can just come and hang out. It's in Moxy Up Space that they work on job development skills, resumes, and leadership development. Ms. Lawrence said she is a Certified Coach through the Franklin Covey Foundation, so they can teach them everything they need from the Franklin Covey Foundation. They can do positive socialization. Ms. Lawrence said Moxy Up Space provides on-site psychiatric services for young adults and their families. They have full access to psychiatry services at any time.

The second pillar is Moxy Up Groups. Moxy Up Groups offer certified volunteer mentors to lead group activities. Mentors are certified through the National Alliance for Mental Illness, and UNR's CASAT's program. Groups are formed by age appropriate groups, age appropriate times and specific focus groups (i.e. re-entry from prison, substance abuse, etc.)

The final pillar is Moxy Mixers. Mixers are Karaoke Nights. They put on Open Mic Nights, Mocktail Nights, and other themed nights as suggested by the students. Everything has a leadership focus, so when the kids come in, they ask them, what are you going to do to become a leader in your community? And then they go from there. Commissioner Morris thanked Ms. Lawrence for her presentation and asked her what the Commission could do to help them reach their goals and serve the kids that they are reaching out to?

Ms. Lawrence said what the Commission could do is set the precedent, set the standard for Nevada. It is vital to set these standards to ensure that everyone has a platform that is vetted, safe and standardized.

Dr. Maxwell asked if Ms. Lawrence could share some Moxy Up demographics?

Ms. Lawrence said the kids that come into them are not just kids that are part of the criminal justice system. There are kids from the Juvenile Justice System, but there are also straight A students having extreme anxiety because of

the pressures of school. Moxy Up does not limit the kids that are coming into the center for mentoring. They come from rich families, poor families, and no families. Moxy Up serves approximately 200 students per month.

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

Commissioner Morris thanked Ms. Lawrence again and said next up was the Toe Tag Monologues presentation.

Ms. Kim Flowers said the Toe Tag Monologues group has been performing throughout Clark County (CCSD, churches, theaters, colleges) for the last eleven years. Scripts are written by retired LV Metro Police Officer Byron Stringer who served over 27 years on the force. The Toe Tag Monologue Live presentations are young people performing for other young people with stories that are taken from real life and give a kid a chance to take a moment and reflect on their own lives. In addition to the live presentations, they also have a Second Chance job skills workshop partnering with 13 McDonalds and a program called Follow My Lead.

Mr. Byron Stringer told the group that his many years at Metro provided the basis for the substantive stories he has written for the Toe Tag Monologues. He said he realized a long time ago that if you're on the wrong channel, the people that need to hear you the most can't hear you. Adults are trying to communicate to kids and get them to hear and to understand, but the adults are on the wrong channel or the wrong frequency. By using theater arts, Toe Tag actually gets kids to think outside the box to look at their situations and to use critical thinking to make better choices. And because of that, Toe Tags has been able to change lives.

The Follow My Lead Program is a program where kids who need to be mentored, kids who sort of fall in-between and they don't really fit into any of the other programs, but they need to kind of see the world and have somebody to talk to back and forth. That's the Follow My Lead Program. They're going to take students to different employers and show them different job opportunities, walk them through the universities, and just let them know that they're okay and that adults are here for them and there to mentor them. Mentoring is more than just a word. Mentoring is showing up. Mentoring is listening. Mentoring is effective communication. And mentoring also involves patience. With that, there was a presentation of one of the monologues from the Toe Tag Monologues called "Drive By." An actor named Keandre gave a powerful performance.

After "Drive By" Mr. Stringer explained that the purpose of theater, of drama, is to get kids' attention. When they start doing something like this, when they use kids' peers, it's peer to peer, and it makes the kids listen. Adults are not going to be effective mentors until they can break through that teenage wall. They may not have been the ones who built the wall, but there's so many people in so many situations that have added brick after brick after brick and it's going to take time to tear it down. That's why they have to think outside the box. And most importantly, that's why they have to be on their frequency. They are the Toe Tag Monologues.

Ms. Flowers said the collection of monologues includes bullying, drug abuse, human trafficking, and more. And in every monologue, Mr. Stringer has what's called a teachable moment. In that teachable moment, kids are able to receive what he's saying because now their attention is right there. After the performance, kids line up to come and tell them what's going on in their world. They have a group of people helping them now and they like to call them "listeners" and they've been trained to just be there until the kids can see a social worker.

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

Mr. Stringer said the Toe Tag Monologues are like a mirror and it makes kids look at themselves in their own situations and then it gives them the courage to start talking about those situations. And that's how they will save this generation. It empowers kids to want to make a difference and to reach out and help other people and that's important, too.

Commissioner Morris thanked Ms. Flowers and Mr. Stringer and asked if there was anything that the Commission could do specifically to help their organization? Were there any current issues that they might be able to assist with or anything like that?

Ms. Flowers responded that like all non-profits, they always need financial assistance, but they also could use help getting in to perform at schools. Going into more schools would be perfect for them.

Mr. Stringer said because they're broadening themselves so much they really need funding to expand and get more bodies to help them reach out and make a difference in these young people's lives.

Mr. Keith Stark said he actually has seen the Toe Tag Monologues and has seen the effect it has on students. As a therapist, he has talked to students afterwards and this program has a profound influence on audiences. It is unique and it's something that will "change the lives of so many people that a lot of people have written off."

Dr. Maxwell echoed the words of Mr. Stark. He then asked about the students who participate in the Monologues. How do they mentor the kids that are in the Monologues?

Mr. Stringer said the kids that are a part of the Monologues travel with them all over the country. The adults have time to sit with them and to talk with students and to help build them. They're just like any other kids. They have issues just like everybody else.

Ms. Flowers said they have worked with some kids starting as young as five or six. They have kids that are graduating now that have been with them for over a decade. They're at the top of their class, they're straight A students and they love doing this. As a matter of fact, they have labeled them "ambassadors" for the Toe Tag Monologues and when they perform, they speak to the audience, they speak to the kids, and they participate in the Life Skills Workshop when they break up in groups. And young people want to hear from these kids because all of a sudden, they see someone who looks like them, sounds like them, and they speak from the heart. And they're able to tell why they've been doing Toe Tag Monologues, how it's changed their lives and how they are on a mission to help every other young person.

Ms. Cameron Miller said she also has seen Toe Tags in Atlanta, Georgia, when they performed in front of 2,000 youth from around the country for the Boys and Girls Club. She said transformation happens right before your eyes. Mentoring through the arts is one of the most valuable ways to impact somebody's life.

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

Ms. Flowers said even though they are headquartered in Nevada, they have never gone to Reno. She would love to take Toe Tags to other parts of the state in the future.

Ms. Lawrence, Executive Director for Moxy Up, said she will absolutely reach out to Toe Tags as a northern partner in mentoring and they'll set something up. Moxy Up would love to partner with Toe Tags.

## **7. Public Comment #1**

None.

## **8. Approval of NCOM Logo (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Morris said all the sample logos have been sent around and he thinks some of them really capture what the mission of NCOM is all about. Until they have a quorum, they can't actually approve a logo.

Commissioner Morris said it might be a good idea for the Commission to narrow down the list to maybe three or four and then somehow tie that into a social media campaign where members of the public can weigh in and express their interest and help the Commission to pick a final logo. That might increase awareness and increase engagement with the public.

Ms. Yvonne Morris said she would start working on communicating with the Commission so they can narrow the choices down to three or four logos.

Commissioner Morris said he wants to make sure they do that in compliance with the Open Meeting Law and maybe they can work through one of the subcommittees or something like that. He thinks all the choices are great, so they just need to just take final action and pick something and move forward.

Dr. Maxwell said he liked Commissioner Morris' suggestion of getting some input from the community by using social media, basically a vote through social media.

## **9. Mentoring Affiliate Update (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action)**

Dr. Maxwell said he spoke with four representatives from Mentor earlier in the week. He reminded everyone that they were all thinking and talking about a \$250,000 amount that they thought was going to be required to become a Mentor affiliate. It turns out that this is not the case. The \$250,000 amount is the suggested amount of money to actually run a Mentor affiliate optimally and have an Executive Director and funding for operations of an affiliate. It was not \$250,000 that would actually go to Mentor to become an affiliate. And so, one of the great things that came out of the conversation was that they want to work with NCOM as far as becoming an affiliate. It will not cost anywhere near the \$250,000 or even the \$100,000 range to become an affiliate. They would like to present at one of the next meetings, so Dr. Maxwell hopes it will be on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Mentor provides technical assistance and a number of services to help affiliates go through the process of structuring organizations and making sure that they set up policies and procedures that are in the best interest of the organization or the affiliate.

## **9. Mentoring Affiliate Update (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action)**

Dr. Maxwell said he thinks it's really important for them to move forward with the Mentor affiliation process, and the first step will be having Mentor staff come to the next NCOM meeting. They said they would send a representative or two to come out in person to meet with them at a future meeting, either the 18<sup>th</sup> or the following meeting after that.

Commissioner Morris said he agreed. It would be terrific for Mentor to be able to come to the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> if possible, and the only suggestion he would have is that if they're going to present, have them explain what progress has been made towards the affiliate process now that Assemblyman Thompson's bill has been passed. That was

the whole point of that legislation. And it's great to hear that there's not as much of a price tag, but definitely have them come in and explain where NCOM is at and what they need to do to move forward.

Dr. Maxwell said the Mentor staff wants to expedite the process by outlining what it is that NCOM will receive as an affiliate, what they need to do as an affiliate locked down, and the fees for becoming an affiliate or the cost of becoming an affiliate.

Commissioner Morris said that was awesome and he thanked Dr. Maxwell for his work moving the process forward.

## **10. Future NCOM Coordinator Funding (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action)**

Dr. Maxwell said he did not have any updates as far as funding for the coordinator. Dr. Maxwell spoke to Commissioner McClinton and the Commissioner said that there is philanthropic support and corporate support that is available to support NCOM. The Commissioner said he would start working on that as soon as the Commission has a description of what NCOM is going to do for mentoring in the state, or in other words, NCOM's strategic plan. That in itself could have a great impact on the funding for or to support the coordinator position.

## **11. Subcommittee Update (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action)**

Commissioner Morris gave a quick recap of the three subcommittees. They approved their by-laws on the September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, and then at their last meeting they went ahead and appointed members to the Strategic Planning Committee and the Fiscal and Grants Subcommittees. They did not appoint anyone to the By-laws, Rules and Procedures Subcommittee. Most of the heavy lifting on the By-Laws Subcommittee has been done so there's not an immediate need to get members appointed to that subcommittee. However, Commissioner Morris thinks it would be prudent when they have a quorum next and they can take action, they should just go ahead and check that box and appoint some members to the By-Laws Subcommittee.

Dr. Maxwell stated related to the subcommittees is getting their appointments and reappointments to NCOM. He said he spoke to Speaker Frierson and he said that he was going through the process to reappoint Dr. Maxwell as his appointee to NCOM. He also said that he forwarded the letter that Dr. Maxwell sent back on September 11<sup>th</sup> about reappointments and appointments. He said he forwarded that letter to the LCB (Legislative Council Bureau) and they were going to reach out to the different legislators who were supposed to make appointments, so they were going to provide that letter so that they could go ahead and make their appointments.

## **11. Subcommittee Update (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action) (continued)**

Dr. Maxwell said they have to have those appointments before they can go through the additional appointments such as the four appointments that the Commission themselves make. The superintendents, their appointments are already in place with Dr. Barton and Kristen McNeil.

Dr. Maxwell said once they have those appointments done, then he thinks they'll really be able to make some progress as far as having a Full Commission which would allow them to form subcommittees. Right now, all they have is six active Commissioners, and they split those six Commissioners between those three committees. Once appointments are made, they can flesh out the subcommittees and really start getting into the mini-grant process, formulating the strategic plan (which they want to have done before February) and everything else that they've set their goals on for the Commission.

Commissioner Morris said he was happy to hear that news.

## **12. Review Action Items**

Commissioner Morris and Dr. Maxwell agreed that this Agenda Item should be tabled since they didn't have quorum and they don't have everybody's insight that's not here today.

## **13. Agenda Item Considerations;**

Date, time and location for next meeting (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action)

Commissioner Morris said they plan to hold their next meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup> and hopefully they'll have Mentor there to participate and kind of give them an update, and then if there are any other local groups that would like to present under the Mentorship Spotlight, they'll try to get them on the Agenda. They've had some discussions about maybe helping groups streamline their presentations and get materials posted, things like that, so they'll work on that for the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **14. Public Comment #2**

None.

## **15. Adjournment**

Commissioner Morris thanked the organizations that were represented under the Mentorship Spotlight. He said they are really making a difference in their communities. He thanked the NDE team. He wished Dr. Maxwell a speedy recovery. The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 PM.