

# Nevada Commission on Mentoring

Meeting Minutes  
Friday, March 19, 2021  
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

*Meeting Location: Due to the COVID-19 response and in accordance with Governor Sisolak's Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 1, this meeting was conducted via Lifesize.*

## **Call to Order:**

Dr. Maxwell called the meeting to order on Friday, March 19, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

## **Roll Call:**

Rose Cota conducted a roll call. **Quorum was established** (8 Members present).

## **Commission Members Present:**

Dr. Michael Maxwell  
Michael Flores  
Dr. Douglas Garner  
Coleen Lawrence  
Akita McCulloch in for Dr. Beverly Givens  
Katie Membreno  
Courtney Moore  
Karl Catarata

## **Commission Members Absent:**

Ben Hayes  
Dr. Beverly Givens  
Brigid Duffy

## **Others Present:**

Rose Cota, NDE Staff  
Gabby Lamarre, NDE Staff

## **Approval of Flexible Agenda:**

**Motion:** Approve Flexible Agenda

**By:** Karl Catarata

**Second:** Douglas Garner

**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

## **Welcome and Introduction:**

Dr. Michael Maxwell welcomed the Committee to the meeting.

Nevada Commission on Mentoring Meeting Minutes (Continued)

**Approval of February 19th, 2021 NCOM Meeting Minutes:**

**Motion:** Approve Minutes with revision to Matt Morris' name to include two Ts.

**By:** Katie Membreno

**Second:** Courtney Moore

**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

**Public Comment #1:**

Rose Cota Stated there are no public comment at this time.

**Chair's Report:**

Chair Michael Maxwell reminded the Commission that in January, the Commission was supposed to vote on new leadership for the Commission, including a new chair, vice chair, and secretary. Chair Maxwell indicated that the procedures for this vote are not clearly defined.

Mr. Michael Flores congratulated Chair Maxwell on a job well done and nominated Karl Catarata for the position of Chair, citing the late Assemblyman Thompson's vision of young people leading the Commission .

Dr. Douglas Garner concurred with Mr. Flores and also expressed his support of Karl Catarata's nomination for Chair.

Ms. Coleen Lawrence concurred with both Mr. Flores and Dr. Garner and further offered her support to young people in learning how to navigate a Commission.

Ms. Katie Membreno indicated her thanks for the work Dr. Maxwell has done and expressed her support of Karl Catarata's nomination for Chair.

Ms. Coleen Lawrence reminded the Commission of the necessity of continued support from the private sector.

Mr. Karl Catarata thanked Dr. Maxwell for his work on the Commission, thanked the members of the Commission, and formally accepted the nomination for Chair of the Commission.

The members of the Commission voted Mr. Karl Catarata in as the new Chair of Nevada Commission on Mentoring. Courtney Moore abstained from the vote.

Mr. Courtney Moore indicated his belief that NDE should dissolve the Nevada Commission on Mentoring as a result of inaction on the Commission's part. Mr. Moore cited lack of attendance and the struggle to achieve quorum as indications of this lack of action. Mr. Moore further indicated that the June deadline is an unreasonable timeline by which to recruit and onboard new members.

Nevada Commission on Mentoring Meeting Minutes (Continued)

Mr. Michael Flores commented that being part of an organization also requires having the tools needed for success and suggested that NCOM has not been given the tools to be completely successful. Mr. Flores further indicated his initial surprise at the NDE bill and discussed his time spent lobbying NDE in order to rewrite the bills and change the legislation. Mr. Flores further indicated his belief that NCOM is now in the position to refocus and decide best strategies and a vision for moving forward. Mr. Flores indicated his understanding of Mr. Moore's concern and also indicated his own desire to see NCOM continue moving forward, citing the opportunity to do some very good work while still being mindful of the obstacles and challenges of the past year.

Mr. Courtney Moore concurred with Mr. Flores' belief that NCOM was not set up for success. Mr. Moore reiterated to the Commission the numerous conversations that have taken place regarding access to funds and budget and how COVID has impacted re-appropriation of money and rephrased his concern in the form of a question: what can the Commission realistically accomplish in the limited time frame it has?

Mr. Karl Catarata indicated his agreement with Mr. Moore and discussed the two different avenues he sees in relation to the bill in question: if the bill moves forward, the Commission becomes a standalone Commission able to conduct business in the community and move forward with its desires regarding programs; if the bill dies, the Commission needs to navigate a relationship with an agency that has not provided specific parameters regarding resources and guidance. Mr. Catarata expressed his gratitude for having mentors in the legislature and in elected positions to help with guidance regarding the different avenues the Commission can take moving forward. Mr. Catarata further acknowledged Mr. Moore's frustration and indicated that in his role as Chair moving forward, one of the tasks in the upcoming business weeks will be to figure out the role of the Commission and the different parameters it needs to operate moving forward. Mr. Catarata also discussed the role of quorum, indicating that if the bill passes, quorum will no longer be a requirement, thus eliminating that concern, but if the bill does not move forward, quorum will still be required and need to be figured out moving forward. Mr. Catarata further indicated his excitement in working with Dr. Garner, Ms. Lawrence, and Mr. Moore moving forward as to what will come next for NCOM and also indicated ultimately the fate of NCOM as either a standalone Commission or not will come down to what happens with the bill in NDE, the deadline for which is May 31, 2021.

Dr. Douglas Garner expressed his frustration regarding the issue of the Commission's future as well but did inform the Commission that there may be future funding available from Congress. Dr. Garner further indicated that he would also like to see the Commission continue to move forward and is on board with continuing to work to serve within the Commission.

Mr. Courtney Moore agreed with the challenges with regards to funding but also indicated his concern that there did not appear to be urgency for action within the Commission, citing the mentorship standards that have yet to be identified, aggregated, and documented and the development of the differential value proposition, which has not yet been completed. Mr. Moore indicated that these tasks are not dependent on financing and can be accomplished with the current Commissioners and thus expressed his frustration at the lack of movement on the part of the Commission in accomplishing tasks. Mr. Moore concluded his statement by indicating the necessity for the Commission's readiness to tap into opportunities that present themselves.

Chair Michael Maxwell indicated that although there is not a vote to dissolve the Commission at this time, the Commission does need to come to a consensus on its future. Chair Maxwell further indicated his

Nevada Commission on Mentoring Meeting Minutes (Continued)

belief that the Commission can move forward and be successful regardless of the route it takes provided that the Commissioners put in the effort to bring about progress. Chair Maxwell opined the need to bring new Commissioners on board who are willing to make moves quickly in order to ensure the success of the organization.

Ms. Coleen Lawrence asked for Mr. Maxwell to clarify whether when discussing the Commissioners coming on in June, the Commissioners vacating their posts were included in the count.

Chair Maxwell indicated that the Commissioners vacating their posts were not included in the count and informed the Commission that it's possible, if the other three Commission seats were not filled by June, that there could be five potential open Commission seats at that time.

Mr. Karl Catarata assured the Commission that his intention as incoming Chair is to ensure all positions are filled, that quorum is consistently met, and asked for recommendations for other candidates. Mr. Catarata further informed the Commission that he will be reaching out to NDE and to the governor's office regarding regulations. Mr. Catarata further informed the Commission that there are youth expressing interest in serving as Youth Commissioners as well as interest from mentorship organizations in applying for NCOM.

Mr. Michael Flores reminded Mr. Catarata that he and Dr. Maxwell have worked with the Commission for a long period of time and encouraged Mr. Catarata to use them as resources.

Chair Michael Maxwell concurred and further commented that Mr. Catarata has shown and voiced determination regarding the Commission moving forward and being successful. Chair Maxwell tasked Mr. Catarata and Ms. Membreno with removing the word "youth" from their title as they are not Youth Commissioners, per se, but Commissioners who represent youth.

Mr. Karl Catarata nominated Katie Membreno for Vice Chair of NCOM citing her commitment to her role as Commissioner.

Chair Michael Maxwell seconded the nomination of Katie Membreno for Vice Chair of NCOM.

Ms. Katie Membreno formally accepted the nomination of Vice Chair of NCOM.

The members of the Commission unanimously voted Ms. Katie Membreno in as the new Vice Chair of Nevada Commission on Mentoring.

Ms. Katie Membreno nominated Dr. Douglas Garner for the position of secretary of NCOM.

Mr. Douglas Garner respectfully declined the nomination, stating that although he is not leaving Commission, he sees a need to make way for younger people to step into the leadership positions of NCOM.

Chair Michael Maxwell nominated Coleen Lawrence for the role of secretary of NCOM through to the end of her term in June.

## Nevada Commission on Mentoring Meeting Minutes (Continued)

Ms. Coleen Lawrence respectfully declined the position stating that she is responsible for the building of a new health center and is unable to take on more responsibility at this time.

Chair Michael Maxwell suggested leaving the secretary position vacant for the time being and filling it later.

Mr. Karl Catarata concurred with the suggestion and also indicated his interest in hearing Dr. Ben Hayes', who was not at the meeting today, input regarding the position of secretary.

Ms. Katie Membreno agreed with the idea of tabling the vote for secretary until the next meeting and offered to work with Rose Cota to fulfill the duties of secretary until the position was filled.

### **NCOM Development Updates:**

There was no discussion of RACI project management due to minimal movement regarding this topic, but Chair Maxwell indicated that he would like to meet with Karl Catarata and Katie Membreno to discuss things for the future of the Commission and also informed the Committee that with just the three of them participating, there would not be a quorum so there would not be discussion of any public items, thus there would be no concern of violating public meeting law.

There was no discussion of the sharable updated asset map and stakeholder map at this meeting.

Karl Catarata informed the Commission that in regards to youth testimonials, the stories are all in a Google Doc in a Google Form Repository and can be used when talking with stakeholders. Mr. Catarata further informed the Commission that colleagues from Touro and Roseman Universities had shared their youth testimonials as healthcare workers during the COVID pandemic, which were included in that document, as well. Mr. Catarata informed the Commission of his openness to any creative ideas regarding the testimonials and explained how he had shared some of those stories in his testimony. Mr. Catarata explained to the Commission that these stories should be utilized to build up the Commission.

Dr. Douglas Garner indicated that he had shared out the asset map with the executive committee of My Brother's Keeper, who in turn shared it out at their conference and made some additions.

Chair Michael Maxwell indicated that he would share out his incomplete document, which includes the introductory paragraph, on the differential value proposition with Karl Catarata and Katie Membreno. Chair Maxwell also indicated his desire to share the document out with Mr. Courtney Moore to confirm that it is addressed and tailored to the right audience.

### **Agenda Item Considerations:**

Mr. Karl Catarata thanked Dr. Douglas Garner for recommending candidate Tiffany May, whom Mr. Catarata contacted via text regarding her interest in serving on the Commission.

Nevada Commission on Mentoring Meeting Minutes (Continued)

Ms. Katie Membreno asked Chair Maxwell where the application for future members could be located.

Chair Michael Maxwell indicated that he would need to reach out to the governor's office for clarification regarding the location of the application as the link he had received and given out was broken.

Ms. Gabby Lamarre, NDE, indicated that NDE could offer support with the necessary links and suggested that Ms. Membreno work with Rose Cota to obtain the correct link.

Chair Michael Maxwell explained that the faster the correct link can be distributed, the faster future Commissioners can be located. Chair Maxwell further indicated that it appears that there will be enough people interested in serving on the Commission to address the issues coming down the road regarding the upcoming end of Commissioner's terms.

Dr. Douglas Garner indicated his belief that the Commission is currently in a good and positive place and made up of good people. Dr. Garner thanked Dr. Maxwell and Mr. Michael Flores for their previous and ongoing leadership and indicated his own willingness to serve as an asset for the new leadership.

**Public Comment #2:**

There was no public comment.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion:** To adjourn the March 21, 2021 Nevada Commission on Mentoring Meeting

**By:** Karl Catarata

**Second:** Douglas Garner

**Vote:** Passed Unanimously