

Nevada Commission on Mentoring

Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 21, 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.

1. Call to Order:

Chair Karl Catarata called the meeting to order on Friday, May 21, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Rose Cota conducted a roll call. **Quorum was established.** (Five members present.)

Commission Members Present:

Dr. Michael Maxwell

Michael Flores

Dr. Douglas Garner

Katie Membreno

Karl Catarata

Commission Members Absent:

Coleen Lawrence

Brigid Duffy

Dr. Beverly Givens

Others Present:

Sebastian Cardenas

Rose Cota, NDE Staff

Gabby Lamarre, NDE Staff

Sarah Nick, NDE Staff

3. Approval of Flexible Agenda (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action)

Dr. Douglas Garner made a motion to approve a flexible agenda. Vice Chair Katie Membreno seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Welcome and Introduction (Mission Statement)

Chair Karl Catarata informed the Commission that he is looking forward to where the Commission is moving forward in regards to legislative session. Mr. Catarata explained that the mission statement rests upon the late Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson goal to increase the number of mentees being connected with a mentor throughout the state of Nevada. Mr. Catarata informed the Commission that he is looking forward to potential future Commissioner Sebastian Cardenas joining the Commission as well as more Commissioners coming on board in order to help fix some of the roadblocks currently hindering the Commission.

5. Approval of NCOM April 16, 2021, Meeting Minutes (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action)

Vice Chair Katie Membreno moved to approve the NCOM April 16, 2021, meeting minutes. Dr. Douglas Garner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Public Comment #1

There was no public comment

7. Chairs' Report (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action)

Chair Karl Catarata informed the Commission that an NCOM and NDE executive meeting took place earlier in the business week at which time, there was discussion regarding the vision for NCOM and moving forward.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno indicated that after June 7th, the Commission will get started on the Commission standards and continue to follow those that are currently on the mentor website. Ms. Membreno informed the Commission that additions are needed to the existing standards. Ms. Membreno next informed the Commission that the next step will be to list tours with and communicate with mentoring organizations regarding those standards and reflect on any provided recommendations as well as discuss the certification process NCOM would like to start. Ms. Membreno indicated that the first few organizations with whom NCOM works will have first chance for the certification process. Ms. Membreno informed the Commission that at the next meeting a discussion needs to take place of the one-pager that Dr. Maxwell sent as well as a discussion of budget.

Chair Karl Catarata confirmed that the budget discussion would focus on the budget sheets provided by Late Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson. In addition, Mr. Catarata indicated that he had met with MENTOR, the national mentoring association, and MENTOR had shared some imagined/reimagined proposals of what a new budget for NCOM might look like. Chair Catarata further indicated that he would like to continue on with working/focus groups for proposal of specific items not bound by open-meeting law.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno suggested setting aside time during regular meetings to continue with working groups in order to minimize rescheduling due to conflicts. Ms. Membreno suggested setting aside the first half of the meeting for agenda items and then the second half of the meeting for working groups. Ms. Membreno clarified that breakout rooms were a possibility in the future, but for the time being, given the low number of Commissioners, her suggestion involves all Commissioners working together as a working group in the same Zoom as the regular NCOM meeting but moving into a separate, working-group agenda, following completion of NCOM agenda items.

Dr. Douglas Garner asked Ms. Membreno to clarify if the working group would follow adjournment of the scheduled NCOM meeting.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno confirmed that Dr. Garner was correct in his understanding of her suggestion.

Chair Karl Catarata confirmed with Vice Chair Membreno that she would like to put up for vote her recommendation that the NCOM open meeting take 60 minutes of allotted time and working groups would then take the final 30 minutes allotted.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno indicated that she would like all Commissioners to review this idea as well as potential new Commissioner, Sebastian Cardenas, prior to voting and suggested calling a vote on this suggestion at the following meeting.

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Chair Karl Catarata suggested emailing Vice Chair Membreno's idea to all Commissioners, present and not, and then voting on the suggestion at the next meeting. Mr. Catarata reminded Commissioners that there should be no email discussion threads regarding this suggestion as this would be a violation of open-meeting law.

Ms. Gabby Lamarre, NDE, indicated that this would be appropriate and also indicated that should NCOM choose to do so, it would also be appropriate to include working time for the workgroup in the NCOM meeting agenda rather than a post-adjournment meeting.

Dr. Michael Maxwell suggested following Ms. Lamarre's suggestion of adding the working group in as an action item on the NCOM agenda meeting so that if quorum has been established, a vote can be taken if necessary on any items brought forth by the working group. Dr. Maxwell further indicated that a second, non-executive forum meeting can give the impression of NCOM wanting to hold discussions without the public's inclusion or NDE's input.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno concurred with Ms. Lamarre and Dr. Maxwell's suggestions of including the working group as an agenda item on the NCOM meeting.

8. NCOM Development Updates (Information/Discussion/For Possible Action)

a. Discovery on Meeting Minutes History

Vice Chair Katie Membreno informed the Commission that after she and Chair Catarata reviewed past meeting minutes, errors were found. Thus, moving forward, Ms. Membreno indicated that meeting minutes should be carefully reviewed prior to meetings for accuracy in order to provide an accurate historical record.

Dr. Michael Maxwell indicated his support for Commissioners carefully reviewing meeting minutes prior to meetings for accuracy in order to move forward with a vote in a timely manner.

Chair Karl Catarata moved for a vote on agenda item 8a, discovery meeting minutes history. Dr. Douglas Garner seconded the motion. Motion passed.

b. Resignation of Commissioner, Courtney Moore

Chair Karl Catarata announced the resignation of Commissioner Courtney Moore and asked the Commission to direct interested applicants for the vacant seat to himself, to Vice Chair Membreno, to Rose Cota, and/or to NDE staff. Chair Catarata suggested finding a Commissioner that is not a youth Commissioner given that Mr. Cardenas would likely be voted in as a youth Commissioner in item 8c.

c. New Commissioner Sebastian Cardenas - 1 of 2 Member Representing Nevada aged 16-24

Mr. Sebastian Cardenas introduced himself to the Commission. Mr. Cardenas informed the Commission that he is a development coordinator at the Public Education Foundation and does a lot of work with CCSD. Mr. Cardenas is also studying to become an educator and credits his ability to pursue post-secondary education to the help of mentors in his life. Mr. Cardenas discussed the importance of becoming a Commissioner and indicated that if voted to the Commission, he was excited to work toward getting every child in Nevada, not just the lucky ones like he himself was, the opportunity for mentoring in order to provide them with everything needed to become their best selves.

Ms. Gabby Lamarre, NDE, expressed her excitement at Mr. Cardenas choice to pursue

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a career as a teacher.

Mr. Sebastian Cardenas indicated that he is in the process of his last practicum but will elongate it a bit with an anticipated graduation date of May rather than December in order to focus on his work at the foundation, especially through summer school as he wishes to ensure that every student and every teacher has what they need for success. Mr. Cardenas informed the Commission that he is currently teaching at Desert Pines and has had the opportunity to teach virtually in Chile. Mr. Cardenas discussed his love for seeing the passion of students wanting to better the community.

Dr. Douglas Garner welcomed Mr. Cardenas and thanked him for his interest in joining the Commission and for entering into the noble profession of teaching.

Chair Karl Catarata informed the Commission that he has worked with Mr. Cardenas in a collegial capacity in the past in terms of youth-related items and as such, is looking forward to Mr. Cardenas bringing his skills to the Commission as the potential next youth Commissioner.

Chair Karl Catarata moved to bring on Mr. Sebastian Cardenas as a youth Commissioner for the Nevada Commission on Mentoring as prescribed by the bylaws. Vice Chair Katie Membreno seconded the motion. Motion passed.

d. Committee Updates by Commissioner Dr. Douglas Garner and Coleen Lawrence

Dr. Coleen Lawrence was not present at this meeting, but Dr. Douglas Garner indicated that discussion had taken place about adopting and modeling the mentor standards and adapting those standards to NCOM's needs. Dr. Garner indicated that it continues to be a work in progress to create those standards and adapt them the Commission's needs.

Chair Karl Catarata made a correction from the last meeting based on his previous suggestion to do away with committees. Mr. Catarata indicated that the committees were included in NCOM's bylaws and as such, committees would continue.

9. Agenda Item Considerations (Information/Discussion/Possible Action)

a. Development of NCOM Mission/Vision Statement

Vice Chair Katie Membreno questioned if it would be possible, due to the low number of Commissioners, to have one committee on which all Commissioners would serve.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that in order to eviscerate the multiple committees and just form one, he believed that the bylaws would need to be changed.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno clarified that she did not intend to change the bylaws, but rather focus on one committee rather than all three and to include all Commissioners in the one committee at a time so that all are working toward the same goals together.

Gabby Lamarre, NDE indicated that she believed that this could be worded as having one large committee and that this would not require a change to the bylaws but Ms. Lamarre did inform the Commissioners that they do have the option to make a change to the bylaws if they so wish.

Chair Karl Catarata suggested tabling this agenda item for further discussion to occur prior to rendering an official decision.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno indicated that the specific subcommittee to work on now

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would be the strategic planning standing committee, and then if the bylaw or grant committees needed to meet later, those committees could then meet.

Dr. Douglas Garner moved to table this agenda item to the next meeting. Vice Chair Katie Membreno seconded the motion. Motion passed.

b. Youth Commissioners Application Period Opening

Chair Karl Catarata indicated his intention to open the application process for a second Youth Commissioner to join newly appointed Commissioner Sebastian Cardenas to replace Chair Catarata and Vice Chair Membreno as youth commissioners. Mr. Catarata requested Commissioner Cardenas' input into the process. Mr. Catarata indicated his desire to post the position on social media and to reach out to Nevada community leaders as well as to respected, already-mentoring non-profits in the community for interested candidates in hopes of having another candidate join Youth Commissioner Cardenas in time for a vote for consideration at the June 2021 NCOM meeting.

Youth Commissioner Sebastian Cardenas suggested opening up the application to high-school aged folks to incorporate their perspective into the Commission.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno indicated her support for Mr. Cardenas' suggestion to include a younger Youth Commissioner as part of NCOM.

Chair Karl Catarata moved to vote for a Youth Commissioner's application period opening for a second Commission member in the State of Nevada, age 16 to 24. Vice Chair Katie Membreno seconded the motion. Motion passed.

10. Public Comment # 2

There was no public comment

11. Adjournment

Chair Karl Catarata moved to adjourn the May 21, 2021, Nevada Commission on Mentoring meeting. Sebastian Cardenas seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10PM.