

# Nevada Commission on Mentoring

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## Meeting Minutes

Friday, July 17, 2020

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; Pledge of Allegiance** Dr. Maxwell called the meeting to order on Friday, July 17, 2020 at 2:00 PM.

**2. Roll Call** Ms. Cota conducted a roll call. **Quorum was established** (6 Members present in the beginning of the meeting) (decorum was recognized after agenda item #7 by Dr. Maxwell)

### Commission Members Present:

Dr. Douglas Garner  
Dr. Michael Maxwell  
Ms. Katie Membreno  
Mr. Michael Flores  
Ms. Coleen Lawrence

### Others in Attendance:

Deputy Attorney General David Gardner  
Mr. Nathan Holliday  
Ms. MaKenzy Smith

### Joined later during meeting:

Mr. Matt Morris  
Ms. Gabby Lamarre

### **3. Approval of Flexible Agenda**

The Commission did not acquire quorum therefore we could not vote on approval for any objective in this meeting.

### **4. Welcome and Introduction**

### **5: Approval of May 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

The Commission did not acquire quorum therefore we could not vote on approval for any objective in this meeting.

### **6. Public Comment #1**

**Deputy Attorney General David Gardner:** reminded the head chair of public comment.

**Dr. Maxwell:** opened floor for those who had a public comment.  
No public comment was made.

### **7. NCOM Mentoring Spotlight**

Dr. Maxwell started this agenda item by introducing Michael Flores to present his mentoring spotlight on the Nevada Youth Network.

**Michael Flores:** started his own nonprofit organization about 10 years ago. It is one of his proudest achievements in his life. In college he had written a book about a woman named Ruby Duncan who was a civil rights and welfare rights pioneer in Las Vegas. She fought for low income children living in public housing and single mothers on welfare. In honoring her legacy because of her lack of recognition, Flores worked to get a school named after her which is Ruby Duncan Elementary. In celebration of this achievement, there was a block party which was located by where Ruby Duncan recently worked. The housing authorities at the block party asked Flores if he would be willing to open up a youth center in that location/area. Through lots of work and volunteerism, Flores was able to open his youth center which was open two days a week before COVID hit. This youth center did not only provide food for hungry children but overall a safe environment for them to be at. Flores describes this area to be very dangerous with gangs, the average income in the neighborhood is about \$9,700 a year. This center gives kids who are dealing with trauma the tools to use their anger or to process their anger in a positive way.

**Dr. Michael Maxwell:** expressed gratitude towards Mike for presenting and giving the commission valuable information for Youth Network and with hope that we are given the opportunity to obtain income for this fiscal year and how to support this great non-profit. \*Questions were taken after the presentation.

\*Additional information on Youth Network, Mr. Michael Flores email is included in our commission email list.

Dr. Maxwell moved to introduce Alesia Learn Corporation with presenters Nathaniel Holliday and MaKenzy Smith.

**Nathaniel Holliday:** shared his screen to the commission because the presentation was a pre-recorded video.

**Alesia Learning Corp Video (summary):** Officially established in May 2020 as a 501c3 non-profit organization. Committed to using all of their resources to achieve their mission to provide tutoring and mentoring services for all ages. Their focus of work will be developing individualized curriculums for each student in the areas of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics. Other goals at Alesia include building healthy and progressive mentor relationships. Microsoft granted Alesia 100 Microsoft education accounts along with Microsoft HoloLens Two which will provide the ultimate foundation of Alesia's online classroom communication and collaborations. Their goal is to use teams as an easy way for the student to use no matter where they are to conduct virtual tutoring, chat meetings and along with navigation organizational tools. Microsoft HoloLens Two will keep Alesia's promise to have an enriching learning environment. These wireless and instinctual glasses are ergonomic which help provide comfort for the users and prolonged use. They will help save time and money to put towards strengthening our priority of focusing on each student's individual needs.

Team Alesia- "Journey with us as we refine what is to learn."

\*Questions were taken after the presentation.

**\*Motion Made for Flexible Agenda by Dr. Garner and Mr. Matt Morris seconded\***

## **8. NCOM Development Updates**

**Dr. Maxwell:** mentioned we would usually have a lot more listed in this section such as subcommittee updates, the commissioners report or update. For this meeting, he has suggested that we condensed it into one. As far as budgeting, he mentioned if the

commission was aware of what was happening through bill AB3.

**Ms. Katie Membreno:** mentioned how she viewed the session on AB3 and submitted her public comment as a UNLV and representative of NCOM. She asked for my feedback on what it meant for our budget with NCOM as the bill stated that our funding would ultimately be taken away.

**Dr. Maxwell:** Ultimately stated that the money that was appropriated by AB235 was taken. So, currently there is no budget. However, the Department of Education posted a notification for a competitive grant. There are different categories for eligibility. After conversing with Mentor, we are putting forward an application for the grant. The grant is the last opportunity for NCOM to receive any funds to be able to support the work we are supposed to be doing. He did make a comment that if we do not receive this grant he sees the dissolution of NCOM. Mentioned the difficulty for NCOM to continue without any financial support.

**Ms. Coleen Lawrence:** mentioned how mentoring organizations do much better and are more sustainable, when they are underneath standards and it's been proven with organizations such as Mentor. Understanding the frustration because of having money swept or the lack of the momentum to carry forward but I still think that there's other ways to find funding within our state more on the private side or the foundation side. Ultimately, the cause of having somebody such as Mentor and having an affiliate process is well worth the need, versus having individual organizations out there without any standards. So, she believes that the cause is still greater versus a disillusion concept.

**Dr. Maxwell:** stated how the grant process will be taken on 90% by Mentor. Our only job is to create a roadmap on deadlines for not only when the grant has to be submitted but our own deadlines on which sections should be completed before the deadline to keep us on track.

## **9. Annual Governors Report**

**\*did not get information for this agenda item in**

## **10. Agenda Item Considerations**

**Dr. Maxwell:** agreed that it is best to not put out focus on keeping track of the commissioner's attendance and actually allow more flexibility when it comes to attending the meetings. The grant writing process and just overall allocating funds

should continue to be NCOM's priority in order to even committee to our commission's goal.

**11. Public Comment #2:**

There was no public comment.

**12. Adjournment**

Dr. Maxwell asked if there were any final comments or questions, and there were none. He said he would accept a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 PM.

**Motion: Adjourn the July 17, 2020 NCOM Meeting**

**By: Mr. Michael Flores**

**Second: Ms. Katie Membreno**

**Vote: Passed unanimously**