

Nevada Commission on Mentoring

Meeting Minutes
Friday, August 20, 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 Catarata called the meeting to order on Friday, August 20, 2021 at 2:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Rose Cota conducted a roll call. **Quorum was established** (6 Members present).

Commission Members Present:

Karl Catarata
Katie Membreno
Michael Flores
Douglas Garner
Sebastian Cardenas
Brigid Duffy

Commission Members Absent:

Coleen Lawrence
Michael Maxwell
Beverly Givens

Others Present:

Rose Cota, NDE Staff
Chris James, NDE Staff

3. Approval of Flexible Agenda:

The Commission **did acquire quorum** and therefore could vote on approval for any objective in this meeting.

Motion: Approve Flexible Agenda

By: Karl Catarata

Second: Douglas Garner

Vote: Passed Unanimously

4. Welcome and Introduction (Mission Statement)

Chair Karl Catarata praised the work of the Commission, noting that Commissioner Flores had hosted an event at Matt Kelly Elementary School, Commissioner Duffy's work in Clark County keeping communities safe, Commissioner Cardenas' work at the Public Education Foundation, Commissioner Membreno's work mentoring young people at a large conference, and Dr. Garner's excellent support of the community in Southern Nevada. Chair Catarata next introduced Jessica Haggett Silverman from Mentor National to the Commission.

Jessica Haggett Silverman, Affiliate Expansion Director at Mentor National, introduced herself and her company to the Commission, explaining that Mentor is a national organization that helps to elevate and support the mentoring field through training, research, technical assistance, advocacy, policy work, as well as celebration and convening. Ms. Silverman expressed her appreciation of NCOM's leadership role in helping to create a united field for mentoring organizations and indicated her excitement in exploring needed infrastructure and partnerships to understand the assets of the mentoring field to help bring Mentor to Nevada.

Chair Catarata informed the Commission that he and Vice Chair Membreno are meeting monthly with Ms. Silverman to ensure a feasible relationship between NCOM and Mentor National. Chair Catarata explained that there are still monetary issues that need to be resolved in terms of landscape analysis as well as a feasibility statement in order to affiliate with Mentor National and indicated that the eventual hope is to fund a staffing position, as well.

Jessica Silverman clarified the costs about which Chair Catarata spoke, indicating that there is likely a budget in the minutes from November 2019 that presented the ways these monies would be invested directly into Nevada.

Chair Catarata assured the Commission that if the initiative moves forward, all considerations and budgetary constraints would come before the Commission for a vote.

Brigid Duffy asked why the prospective partnership had been derailed between 2019 and the present.

Jessica Silverman explained that transition of NCOM leadership played a role as well as the pandemic as the pandemic derailed the funding and the momentum, but now that new leadership is in place, the meetings have restarted, and things are moving forward.

Chair Karl Catarata informed the Commission that he would like Ms. Silverman to give a presentation on what Mentor National can provide to the state. Chair Catarata further explained that there are two specific items that must be signed and paid for, but the Commission currently does not have the money in the budget.

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Jessica Silverman explained that this shortfall in the budget is something that can be remedied by fundraising and expressed her excitement at the potential partnership between NCOM and Mentor National.

Chair Karl Catarata suggested an action item of sending notification to Commissioners of the next meeting he and Vice Chair Membreno have with Ms. Silverman. Chief Catarata recognized the importance of cognizance of open-meeting law and the inability to have quorum for these meetings and as such, the meetings would need to be scheduled accordingly and include fewer members than would constitute quorum.

Jessica Silverman indicated her willingness to schedule one-on-one meetings with Commission members.

Douglas Garner questioned whether or not conventions would still occur and whether or not they would be face-to-face.

Jessica Silverman explained that Mentor's national mentoring summit was scheduled to take place in January. The summit in January 2021 had been virtual due to COVID but Ms. Silverman explained that the January 2022 conference would be hybrid, with an in-person component in DC as well as an option for virtual attendance. Ms. Silverman informed the Commission that she would drop the link for the conference in the meeting chat.

Chair Karl Catarata recognized Commissioner Michael Flores for his work at Matt Kelly Elementary School.

Michael Flores described the back-to-school event to the Commission, indicating that the focus of the event originated with the fact that many children in the area around Matt Kelly Elementary do not have positive male role models in their lives. Commissioner Flores indicated that among the men who attended the event were the governor, the superintendent, as well as other community leaders. Commissioner Flores explained that this year's event included mindfulness of distancing due to COVID but the free event was rooted in the idea of positive mentors for students. Commissioner Flores informed the Commission that keeping attendees engaged and serving as mentors at future events is always a challenge and something that the school needs help with and indicated his belief that this is an opportunity for the Commission to be creative to support schools with similar problems as this involves minimal cost but strong commitment. Commissioner Flores acknowledged the need for better communication regarding the event and explained that this year the event was last minute given COVID.

5. Approval of NCOM July 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

Vice Chair Katie Membreno noted that Ms. Tameka Henry's name was misspelled in the meeting minutes. Brigid Duffy indicated that the minutes incorrectly noted her as absent at the meeting.

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Motion: Approve Meeting Minutes with two amendments

By: Karl Catarata

Second: Brigid Duffy

Vote: Passed Unanimously

6. Public Comment #1

Chair Karl Catarata opened the floor to public comment. There was no public comment.

7. Chair's Report:

Chair Karl Catarata explained that he is steadfast on ensuring the existence of an annual summit for NCOM. Chair Catarata explained that he is also is steadfast in ensuring speaking with legislators regarding NCOM getting back its funding. Chair Catarata discussed his meetings with officials around Clark County and relayed the willingness of these local entities to help NCOM with the annual summit.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno informed the Commission that from her participation in community events, it appears that people are more aware of NCOM, are hearing good things about NCOM, and wanting to stay updated on NCOM's efforts.

Brigid Duffy requested the Vice Chair Membreno continue to inform the Commission of community events, like the TULIPS event, in order for Commission members to attend if they are able to do so.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno informed the Commission of her awareness of some events in the upcoming months and assured the Commission that once she had final confirmation of these events, she would notify Commission members.

Sebastian Cardenas informed the Commission that the Public Education Foundation has been involved with CCSD's Focus on the Future process and that this is still an ongoing process. Mr. Cardenas explained that an advisory council is being convened in order to review funding options and that he will update Committee members via email.

Douglas Garner updated the Commission on the Young Men's Conference being spearheaded by Wes Hall, with whom Mr. Garner has been meeting regularly. The Conference will be a face-to-face event held on October 19th on the university campus. Mr. Garner asked Commissioners who might be interested in serving on panels and breakout sessions to contact either him or Wes Hall.

8. NCOM Development updates:

a. Annual Summit

Chair Karl Catarata informed the Commission that in the upcoming days, he will be meeting with multiple people who had expressed interest preliminary to discuss: where the summit can be held; programming for the summit; the breakdown of programming items for the multiple days and time periods of the summit; food for the summit; what components will look like for students and nonprofit leaders at the summit. Chair Catarata reiterated that the conference is still in development. Chair Catarata indicated that the My Brother's Keeper Alliance had wanted a two-day event including a welcome day, and then a day of studying trends. A third day has also been proposed with a focus on young people/students.

Brigid Duffy questioned if this would actually be a two-day MBK conference with a third day added for NCOM.

Chair Catarata indicated that he is not yet sure of what the event will look like.

Michael Flores described an initial mentoring event two years earlier with Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson that had taken place in January to correspond with mentor month, following which, MBK began holding their summit in January as well in order for everyone to coordinate. Mr. Flores further discussed the funding for events such as these that was included as part of the formation of NCOM and questioned whether or not that funding could help contribute to the conference. Mr. Flores also questioned if the conference would also be scheduled to take place in January.

Chair Karl Catarata responded that he will get an answer to those two questions for Commissioner Flores and further explained that Youth Commissioner Cardenas had flagged the federal funding from American Rescue Plan money, which NCOM would look into. Chair Catarata further indicated his support for holding the conference in January but conceded he was not sure of the feasibility of doing so.

Michael Flores indicated that UNR, where he works, would like to be helpful in this regard as well as contribute to the statewide mission. Mr. Flores acknowledged that MBK is held primarily for the southern part of the state but opined that there is an opportunity to bring in the north for these types of events, as well.

b. Onboarding New Commissioners:

Chair Karl Catarata informed the Commission of a resume from a woman named Alicia, who works for a nonprofit, and would like to be part of the Commission. Chair Catarata informed the Commission that he would be forwarding her resume to Commission members for consideration.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno informed the Commission that Taylor Finelli Kamilah Bywaters had expressed interest in joining the Commission. Vice Chair Membreno reiterated the interest of Tameka Henry in joining the Commission and asked Chair Catarata to send over the information for the woman named Alicia who had expressed interest so that Ms. Membreno could send her the initial questionnaire, which included things like background information, company affiliation, and an overview of the Commission.

Chair Karl Catarata requested that all resumes be sent to all members of the Commission to be reviewed at the September meeting as a group. Chair Catarata further indicated that time could be set aside at the start of the September meeting to hear from the candidates themselves.

Sebastian Cardenas informed the Commission that he has continued to try and contact Washoe County School District and explained that it has been difficult to contact students during the summer months. Mr. Cardenas expressed his hope that now that school is back in session, he will have more success in recruiting a youth commissioner from the north.

9. Agenda Item Considerations:

Chair Karl Catarata asked for requests from the Commission for guest speakers for the September meeting.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno suggested a member of Ty's Place to come and speak about upcoming events.

Chair Karl Catarata explained that he will reach out to Richard Jack and Kasina Boone from Ty's Place.

10. Public Comment #2

Chair Karl Catarata opened the floor to public comment.
There was no public comment.

11. Adjournment

Chair Karl Catarata adjourned the meeting at 2:44pm.