

# Nevada Commission on Mentoring

Meeting Minutes  
Friday, October 15, 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:**

Chair Karl Catarata called the meeting to order on Friday, October 15, 2021, at 2:07 p.m.

## **Roll Call:**

Vice-Chair Katie Membreno conducted a roll call. **Quorum was established** (5 Members present).

## **Commission Members Present:**

Karl Catarata, Chair  
Katie Membreno, Vice-Chair  
Coleen Lawrence, (Could not Vote appointment expired)  
Dr. Douglas Garner  
Brigid Duffy  
Sebastian Cardenas

## **Commission Members Absent:**

Dr. Michael Maxwell  
Michael Flores

## **Others Present:**

Chris James, NDE Staff  
Rose Cota, NDE Staff  
Gabby Lamarre, NDE Staff

## **Approval of Flexible Agenda:**

**Motion:** Approve Flexible Agenda  
**By:** Douglas Garner  
**Second:** Brigid Duffy  
**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

**Welcome and Introduction (Mission Statement):**

Chair Catarata indicated his intent to continually develop NCOM and the different programs and possibilities in which NCOM can engage. Chair Catarata further indicated that it is part of NCOM's purpose to ensure that Commission positions are filled, as well as that new talent is utilized. Chair Catarata concluded by thanking the members for working together to accomplish the goals of the Commission.

**Approval of NCOM September 17, 2021, Meeting Minutes:**

**Motion:** Approve Meeting Minutes  
**By:** Katie Membreno  
**Second:** Brigid Duffy  
**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

**Public Comment #1:**

There was no public comment.

**Chair's Report:**

Chair Karl Catarata indicated the importance of ensuring an updated roster for the Commission as well as working on the updated member's sheet and priorities letter. Chair Catarata explained that he will be scheduling a meeting with Brigid Duffy next week to get that priorities letter out to Commissioners. Chair Catarata next discussed the annual summit and informed the Commission that the tentative date for the summit is January. Chair Catarata concluded the Chair's report by informing the Commission of his desire to invite guest speakers from the public to Commission meetings in 2022.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno informed Chair Catarata of her willingness to assist with the priorities letter.

Douglas Garner discussed the Young Men's Conference, informing the Commission that the conference has been well-attended and included great breakout sessions. Dr. Garner explained that the young men in attendance were engaged and that the keynote speakers were outstanding. Dr. Garner further indicated that many mentoring organizations were in attendance and informed the Commission of his intent to obtain the attendance sheet in the interest of adding to NCOM's directory.

## **NCOM Development Updates**

### **a. NCOM Applicants**

Vice Chair Katie Membreno requested that the applicants spend up to three minutes introducing themselves to the Commission, discussing what they have heard about NCOM, and explaining why they wish to join NCOM.

Chair Catarata asked the prospective Commissioners' specific positions would be designated on the roll call sheet.

Gabby Lamarre, NDE, indicated her belief that the positions on the Commission would be designated as appointed by the Commission rather than as NDE-facilitated, but indicated that she would do some research on this.

Chair Catarata indicated that the Commission will need to wait for the pathway to Commissioner to become clear for all of the candidates, explaining that this is dependent upon whether or not the Commission or the Governor does the appointing.

Brigid Duffy indicated that by statute, the Commission can have 13 members.

Chair Catarata confirmed that of the 13 members, two need to be representing specific entities such as a school district and the Nevada Training and Employment Organization, and that these two are Governor-appointed positions.

#### **i. Kamilah Bywaters - Commissioner**

Kamilah Bywaters informed the Commission that she grew up in Las Vegas, graduated from Rancho High School, and then went on to graduate from Howard University and the Howard University School of Divinity.

Ms. Bywaters informed the Commission that she holds a master's in education from UNLV and is currently working toward her doctorate in special education. Ms. Bywaters explained that she serves as the president of the Las Vegas Alliance of Black School Educators and that connecting the community with different opportunities is one of her goals. Ms. Bywaters indicated that she came upon NCOM in exactly this way and applied for a position on the Commission because of how much she values mentorship and her desire to give back to the community by helping to create innovative mentorship programs.

Nevada Commission on Mentoring Meeting Minutes (Continued)

Douglas Garner congratulated Ms. Bywaters on her doctoral work.  
Vice Chair Membreno thanked Ms. Bywaters for her enthusiasm.

**ii. Floyd Velasquez - Commissioner**

Floyd Velasquez informed the Commission that he was born and raised in Las Vegas and is currently a UNLV political-science student. Mr. Velasquez explained that for the past two years, he has been tutoring math to K-8 students through Mathnasium, where he currently helps to oversee education

as the assistant director. Mr. Velasquez informed the Commissioners that he learned about NCOM through his friend and classmate, Vice Chair Membreno, and expressed his interest to her about becoming more involved.

Mr. Velasquez indicated that interning for the Nevada State assembly is really what pushed him to become more involved because he saw the necessity and the ease of doing so. Mr. Velasquez explained his passion for opening up equitable and beneficial opportunities for people and informed the Commission of his plan to take a gap year following college graduation in order to become more politically involved and to prepare for law school.

Douglas Garner thanked Mr. Velasquez.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno thanked Mr. Velasquez.

Brigid Duffy explained that she had studied in law school to become a lobbyist but ultimately ended up a juvenile prosecutor. As such, Ms. Duffy indicated her ability to lobby for children's issues in the state legislature.

Chair Catarata thanked Mr. Velasquez and expressed appreciation for his civic engagement in keeping young Nevadans healthy, which he indicated aligns with good mentorship.

**iii. Alicia Pattillo - Commissioner**

Chair Catarata indicated that he would like to add Alicia Pattillo to the following NCOM meeting's agenda due to their inability to attend this meeting.

**iv. Dr. Laura Davidson - Commissioner, Washoe County School District**

Chair Catarata indicated that he would like to add Dr. Davidson to the following NCOM meeting's agenda due to their inability to attend this meeting.

**b. Vote on New NCOM Commissioners**

This item was tabled until clarification of the Commissioner-appointment statute could be confirmed.

**c. Full Commission Review on Members Sheet**

This item was tabled until clarification of the Commissioner-appointment statute could be confirmed.

**d. Letter on NCOM Priorities**

Chair Karl Catarata reiterated that he will be working with Commissioner Duffy to write up a letter to stakeholders on the priorities for NCOM. Chair Catarata indicated that this letter will be presented to the full Commission in the November meeting, and the letter will include statistics and figures of what NCOM requires to be successful in supporting mentorship programs, organizations, nonprofits, and groups in the state of Nevada.

**Agenda Item Considerations**

Chair Karl Catarata indicated his interest in having a guest speaker from a nonprofit address the Commission at its next meeting to discuss what work the nonprofits are doing out in the community. Chair Karl Catarata reiterated the plan to hear from the other two candidates at the next meeting. Chair Catarata invited the members of the Commission to email Rose Cota agenda considerations before the next meeting.

There were no additional agenda item considerations.

**Public Comment #2**

There was no public comment.

Dr. Douglas Garner thanked Vice-Chair Katie Membreno for passing the invitation on to Commission Members for participation in the Tyrone Thompson Inaugural Golf Tournament, which Dr. Garner indicated was a good event that was well attended.

**Adjournment**

**Motion:** Adjourn the October 15, 2021, NCOM Meeting at 3:06 PM.

**By:** Douglas Garner

**Second:** Sebastian Cardenas