

Nevada Commission on Mentoring

Meeting Minutes
Friday, December 17, 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 Zoom.

1. Call to Order:

Chair Karl Catarata called the meeting to order on Friday, December 17, 2021, at 2:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Vice Chair Katie Membreno conducted a roll call. **Quorum was established** (7 Members present).

Commission Members Present:

Chair Karl Catarata
Vice Chair Katie Membreno
Michael Maxwell
Michael Flores
Douglas Garner
Sebastian Cardenas
Laura Davidson

Commission Members Absent:

Brigid Duffy

Others Present:

Rose Cota, NDE Staff
Gabby Lamarre, 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

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4. Welcome and Introduction (Mission Statement)

Chair Karl Catarata thanked the members for joining the meeting.

5. Approval of NCOM November 19, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Motion: Approve Meeting Minutes

By: Karl Catarata

Second: Katie Membreno

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:

a. Commission Membership update

Chair Karl Catarata reported that three commissioners are still questionable in terms of appointment to the Commission: Kamilah Bywaters; Coleen Lawrence; Floyd Velasquez.

Michael Flores asked if there was any interest in the youth commissioner position from the north in order to have representation of both the northern and the southern parts of the state.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that there was interest in having representation of both the northern and southern parts of the state and suggested that Commissioners Cardenas and Flores connect offline regarding publicizing the search for this position.

Sebastian Cardenas reminded the Commission that the age range for youth commissioner is 16 to 24 and suggested that someone on the younger side of that spectrum could be a valuable contribution to the Commission.

Laura Davidson indicated her willingness to work with Commissioner Cardenas in recruiting a youth commissioner in the northern part of the state.

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b. MENTOR affiliate

Chair Karl Catarata informed the Commission that he and Vice Chair Membreno are in regular contact with Jessica Silverman from the MENTOR National Affiliate and hope to bring the national folks to the annual conference as guest speakers in 2022. Chair Catarata did indicate that nothing concrete has yet come of these discussions, and it is the financial situation that is holding the Commission back. Chair Catarata indicated his hope that NCOM's legislative colleagues will assist with funding in order for the Commission to move forward with these conversations.

c. Grant Request for Application (RFA)

Chair Karl Catarata discussed a federal grant for which NCOM could potentially apply but indicated that he is unaware of the steps in the process as he is still learning the ropes of the role as Chair. Chair Catarata asked Rose Cota if there is a specific grant person that can assist the Commission in this process.

Rose Cota indicated that Gabby Lamarre could help point the Commission in the right direction in terms of a contact to help with the grant application process.

Chair Karl Catarata explained that the grant was flagged to him from one of the Congressional offices and indicated his hope that NCOM would be eligible to apply for this grant. Chair Catarata indicated that prior to delving deeply into the grant application process, he intended to send the application to and ask for the help of interested Commissioners.

8. NCOM Development updates:

a. NCOM Subcommittees

- i. Identification of a grant for NCOM to apply for funds**

b. Strategic Planning

- i. NCOM Grant Framework (Planning, Implementation, and Sustainability Granting)**
- ii. Guidance document**

c. Bylaws, Rules, and Procedures

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Rose Cota indicated that the three subcommittees identified on the agenda are the traditional ones that are normally created and for which Commissioners typically volunteer.

Chair Karl Catarata asked if these subcommittees are required by statute and explained that his prior observation of the subcommittees within NCOM was that they were less productive than when the Commission meets as a whole.

Gabby Lamarre explained that there is no legal requirement for subcommittees but that there is an allowability within the bylaws. In addition, Ms. Lamarre explained that the three described subcommittees were established approximately two years earlier.

Chair Karl Catarata reminded the Commission of the need to add three additional commissioners, the need to move forward with funding requests to legislators, and the planning for January as National Mentoring Month. As such, Chair Catarata questioned the effectiveness/efficiency of the Commission breaking out into subcommittees with so much still awaiting action. Chair Catarata indicated that he is certainly open to subcommittees moving forward but expressed concern over the timing of moving into subcommittees at this point in time.

Vice Chair Membreno concurred with Chair Catarata's suggestion to continue to work as a whole until the group is ready to break into subcommittees.

Douglas Garner concurred that for the time being, working cumulatively is better and that the Commission is not quite ready to break out into subcommittees.

Sebastian Cardenas indicated that the Commission is heading in a direction that subcommittees would be necessary in the future, potentially right after the appointment of the three additional commissioners and indicated the need to discuss the goals for the subcommittees themselves prior to appointing any commissioners to those subcommittees.

Chair Karl Catarata reiterated his position of openness to subcommittees in the future and asked Rose Cota if this agenda item could be tabled until February's meeting.

Rose Cota indicated that this item would be tabled and reagendaized for February's meeting.

Gabby Lamarre indicated that no vote was needed to table the item and reagendaize it for a later meeting as it is not a decision on the items themselves.

Chair Karl Catarata thanked the Commissioners for their time for the priority letter that had been written and asked if the Commission was able to review the letter or if a motion was needed to add that review as an agenda item.

Gabby Lamarre indicated that because a flexible agenda had been approved, discussion of the letter did not need to be added.

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Chair Karl Catarata thanked the Commissioners for their help in creating the letter and requested that the Commission to review the letter collectively. Chair Catarata further indicated that he will send the letter to NDE with the NCOM letterhead and template in order for it to be available as public record. Chair Catarata explained that in paragraph 2 a change had been made to note that NCOM is now codified as NRS 385.750-780. Chair Catarata further indicated a change in paragraph 3, discussing the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the mental health of Nevada's children, which has rendered the work of NCOM more important than ever. Chair Catarata thanked Commissioner Cardenas for helping locate bill numbers within the legislative priorities including: education; workforce development; budget from NDE; criminal justice; health and wellness. Chair Catarata indicated a change brought forth in November's meeting regarding the statewide annual conference on mentoring wherein the requested funding was changed from \$5,000 to \$10,000. In addition, Chair Catarata indicated the inclusion to carbon copy Governor Sisolak, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Ebert, and NDE Title I Director and Federal Liaison Gabby Lamarre. Chair Catarata explained that the letter is dated January 3, 2022, and indicated his intention to send out the letter in meetings and utilize it as a reference.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno praised the work of the Commissioners on the letter.

Sebastian Cardenas indicated that upon reviewing the legislative priorities, he saw an opportunity to include support for mentorship for older individuals, citing people transitioning out of the justice system and into civilian life as an example, and asked the Commissioners if NCOM has a priority for adult mentorship as well as for youth mentorship.

Douglas Garner indicated his belief that NCOM is currently focused on children and adolescent mentoring programs, but that adult mentorship may be an area on which NCOM could focus in the future given that those populations are not getting the support and mentorship that they deserve.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno concurred with Dr. Garner's suggestion, indicating her agreement that NCOM's focus is currently on children but that there will be room for NCOM to expand upon support and mentorship for adult populations following the mentoring conference and the receipt of additional funding.

Douglas Garner indicated that some of the adolescent populations upon which NCOM focuses are transitioning from incarceration.

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Sebastian Cardenas indicated that his reasoning behind the question is for purposes of future fundraising, future NCOM outreach, as well as future legislation, and suggested revising the criminal justice piece within the letter to include this.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated his openness to this suggestion and asked if an amendment needed to be made for the letter or if it is good as written.

Sebastian Cardenas indicated his belief that the letter is good as written.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno asked for clarification from Commissioner Cardenas as to whether he was looking to expand the piece on criminal justice.

Sebastian Cardenas indicated that at this time he merely wanted to open the discussion, indicating that the priority currently encompasses this, but wanted to clarify this piece regarding NCOM's scope of work and focus for future reference.

Laura Davidson indicated her belief that there is benefitted to keeping the letter focused on the clear population group for the moment given that funding is currently tight and highly competitive among different groups, and opined that the letter focuses on disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline with a focus on at-risk youth but does not clearly indicate already-incarcerated youth and their transition back to the student population.

Sebastian Cardenas suggested drafting an additional bullet point to include this piece under that section and bringing it to the Commission for a vote.

Douglas Garner indicated his support for Commissioner Cardenas' suggestion.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that he would note that Commissioner Cardenas will add the third bullet point on the letterhead for criminal justice and that this would be presented to the Commission for a vote on the letter as a whole at the January meeting.

9. Agenda Item Considerations

a. NCOM Mentoring Spotlight for 2022

Chair Karl Catarata asked the Commission for recommendations on which organizations they would like to see recognized and uplifted following the creation by the governor of a proclamation for January to be named National Mentor Month. Chair Catarata suggested including Leaders in Training (LIT) and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Michael Maxwell suggested including Gentlemen by Choice.

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Vice Chair Katie Membreno supported Commissioner Maxwell's suggestion of Gentlemen by Choice and suggested TULIPS.

Sebastian Cardenas recommended looking into organizations out of northern Nevada and then recognizing them, as well.

Michael Maxwell thanked Dr. Laura Davidson for becoming a member of the Commission and requested that she help the Commission with identifying and recognizing northern Nevada organizations given her location in Washoe County.

Laura Davidson indicated that the Boys and Girls Club in Reno is very active in mentoring and informed the Commission that she will do some research on organizations in northern Nevada in other counties outside of Washoe.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that he will follow up with the Commissioners regarding the existing list and suggested having the groups ready to bring forward and recognize at January's NCOM meeting. Chair Catarata further indicated that he will be working with Commission members and council members in southern Nevada to create proclamations of January as National Mentoring Month, followed by emailing the Office of the Governor.

Douglas Garner recommended Commissioner Michael Flores' group for official NCOM recognition provided that this recommendation was not a conflict of interest.

Chair Karl Catarata concurred with Commissioner Garner's recommendation and indicated he did not know whether or not this was a conflict.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno indicated her belief that recommending Commissioner Garner's group from within the Commission did not create a conflict of interest.

Michael Flores indicated his honor and appreciation for the recognition of his group by NCOM.

Douglas Garner recommended the recognition of Hip Hop Entrepreneurship by NCOM.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that he will be reaching out to Commissioners via email regarding contact information for the recommended organizations.

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Vice Chair Katie Membreno volunteered her help in contacting the recommended organizations once the contact information has been updated. Vice Chair Membreno further suggested the creation of a flyer to commemorate National Mentoring Month and volunteered to create a flyer that includes all of the recommended organization and asked if this required approval.

Chair Karl Catarata explained that if NCOM were funded, they would have the ability to employ a graphic artist, but given that they were not currently funded, the vice chair could move forward to create that flyer herself.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno indicated that she would send out the flyer to Commission members for suggestions and/or approval once it was finished.

Chair Karl Catarata asked NDE representatives if NCOM could include recognition of organizations as a ceremony item on the agenda for the January meeting.

Rose Cota indicated that she would add this agenda item for January's meeting and indicated that she would send the agenda to Chair Catarata for layout approval.

b. NCOM meeting Dates for 2022

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that the next two meeting dates would be at 2 p.m. on Friday, January 21, 2022 and February 18, 2022.

10. Public Comment #2

Chair Karl Catarata opened the floor to public comment.

Kamilah Bywaters informed the Commission that she was in attendance of the meeting by phone and reiterated LIT as an organization for NCOM to recognize. Ms. Bywaters further offered her help in creating flyers should it be needed.

11. Adjournment

Chair Karl Catarata adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m.