

Nevada Commission on Mentoring

Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 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 Lifesize.

Call to Order:

Chair Karl Catarata called the meeting to order on Friday, September 17, 2021 at 2:04 p.m.

Roll Call:

Vice-Chair Katie Membreno conducted a roll call. **Quorum was established** (6 Members present).

Commission Members Present:

Karl Catarata, Chair
Katie Membreno, Vice-Chair
Dr. Michael Maxwell
Michael Flores
Dr. Douglas Garner
Brigid Duffy

Commission Members Absent:

Coleen Lawrence
Dr. Beverly Givens
Sebastian Cardenas

Others Present:

Chris James, NDE Staff
Rose Cota, 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 thanked the Commission for attending the September meeting. Chair Catarata thanked Commissioner Duffy for the invitation to the Nevada Children's Commission and discussed the work the Commission is doing. Chair Catarata explained that the Chair of the Nevada Children's Commission had asked about the Mentoring Commission back in March and Commissioner Duffy at that time had discussed the budget cuts that did not allow NCOM to work to its full potential. Discussions then took place about future collaboration between NCOM and the Children's Commission. Chair Catarata explained that in this morning's discussion with the Children's Commission, he explained that NCOM is currently focused on the annual summit, funding, and membership standards. Chair Catarata indicated that he had also discussed ARP funding and the conversation with Nevada State Treasurer Zach Conine in the conversation with the Children's Commission.

Vice-Chair Katie Membreno explained that both the Children's Commission and NCOM indicated the need for more resources in the conversation with Treasurer Conine. Ms. Membreno informed the Committee that she had explained NCOM's mission to the treasurer, who responded to let Ms. Membreno know that there are resources out there, but conceded that these resources may not be doing a good job of spreading word of the organizations. Ms. Membreno indicated that following this email, she received an email requesting a follow-up with NCOM regarding the topics that were discussed at the meeting with the treasurer and indicating support in helping spread the word of NCOM's work.

Chair Karl Catarata asked if Treasurer Conine had made any mention of ARP funding for NCOM in the discussion.

Vice-Chair Katie Membreno indicated that the treasurer had requested that Ms. Membreno fill out a survey following the discussion they had, which Ms. Membreno did fill out on behalf of the NCOM and will share with the members. Ms. Membreno indicated that there is an application section in the survey for NCOM to fill out, as well, in order to potentially receive funding.

Chair Karl Catarata noted that the survey is in the email he sent preceding today's meeting and encouraged the commissioners to fill out the survey.

Dr. Michael Maxwell thanked the chair and vice-chair for representing NCOM in the conversations and asked if contact information had been received for the mentoring groups involved in the meetings that took place so that they could be updated on the asset map.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that the groups are The Guinn Center's Nevada 95 Youth Network and

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the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southern Nevada and ensured that they would be added to the mentoring asset map. Commissioner Brigid Duffy added that the Children's Commission will be sending a letter for their recommendations as priorities for the ARP dollar spending, one of which is to support NCOM and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) with funding.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that he intends to follow up with thank you notes to attendees of the aforementioned meeting for supporting NCOM and listening to Chair Catarata's presentation. Chair Catarata asked Commissioner Duffy if it would be prudent, because the Children's Commission is doing a letter of budgetary and financial priorities, for NCOM to do the same.

Commissioner Brigid Duffy suggested that NCOM also prepare a letter of budgetary and financial priorities.

Chair Karl Catarata questioned what the process of composing and approving that letter would look like and asked what processes the Children's Commission was using in order to complete their letter.

Commissioner Brigid Duffy indicated that the Children's Commission chairs are convening with the Supreme Court Justices and DCFS to draft the letter and provided to members of the Commission at the next meeting prior to being sent. Ms. Duffy indicated that she would check with Ross Armstrong of DCFS for information regarding where the letters should be sent. Ms. Duffy indicated that the monies could be used for public health emergencies, as well as secondary effects such as: mental and behavioral health; economics; secondary effects; infrastructure items; loss of revenue to specific people and businesses. Ms. Duffy suggested that NCOM request the monies on behalf of a loss of stipend from the statute and purposes of mental health for children.

Chair Karl Catarata asked if approval of the letter would require a vote from the Commission.

Commissioner Brigid Duffy indicated that it would.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that it would be wise to confer with NCOM's stakeholders on the issues at hand as well as on what should be included in the letter of priorities. Chair Catarata informed the Committee that NCOM is working with Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno and indicated that he would like her and Assemblywoman Neal's input, as well. Chair Catarata asked if Commissioners would be open to drafting a letter or setting aside time in the next meeting to discuss the top four or five priorities and then drafting the letter.

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Dr. Michael Maxwell suggested that because time is a factor, scheduling a special meeting to work on a draft so that a vote can be taken as a full Commission at the next scheduled meeting.

Chair Karl Catarata concurred with this suggestion and indicated that he could schedule time as early as next week to work on this.

Commissioner Brigid Duffy also concurred and offered to work with Chair Catarata, indicating that she too could make time in her schedule next week for this issue. Commissioner Duffy reiterated the fact that children's mental health is currently a priority and should take the front burner as one of the reasons to build up strong mentoring programs in the community.

Chair Karl Catarata asked Rose Cota and Chris James if this is an item that requires a vote.

Chris James, NDE, indicated that he was unsure of the answer and would follow up with Gabby Lamarre to find out.

Commissioner Brigid Duffy suggested adding this as an agenda item for the next meeting and then voting on it, opining that the Committee does not need to vote at today's meeting on whether or not she and Chair Catarata should meet to draw up a letter.

Dr. Douglas Garner concurred with Commissioner Duffy's suggestion.

Chair Karl Catarata also concurred but indicated his concerns about adhering to open-meeting law.

Vice-Chair Katie Membreno indicated that she had received a lot of feedback from youth as well and would like to be present for the meeting with Chair Catarata and Commissioner Duffy to incorporate that feedback.

Dr. Michael Maxwell suggested creating an official NCOM letterhead as there has never been one in the past. Dr. Maxwell further indicated that the state seal could be used on the letterhead should the Commission wish to do so, but could use NCOM's logo on the letterhead as well as potentially list the Commissioners.

Chair Karl Catarata concurred, indicating he would like the letterhead to show the Commissioners' names, the seal of Nevada, the NCOM logo, and the department under which NCOM exists.

Approval of NCOM August 20, 2021, Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Approve Meeting Minutes

By: Brigid Duffy

Second: Douglas Garner

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Public Comment #1:

There was no public comment.

Chair's Report:

Update on Partnership with The Guinn Center + Nevada 95

Chair Karl Catarata explained that Nevada 95 at the Guinn Center puts on a nice show and that he looks forward to partnering up with them again. Chair Catarata explained that the executive director at the Guinn Center, Nancy Brune, is advocating to Assemblyman Yeager for NCOM to be funded again. Chair Catarata next informed the Committee of his intent to have Andrea Martinez, project manager for Nevada 95, present to the Commission as a guest speaker in the future.

Chair Catarata reiterated to the Committee that he will be working on the letter for prioritization of funding as discussed earlier the agenda. Chair Catarata also informed the Committee that he will be following up with specific legislators regarding the location of the annual summit. Chair Catarata further explained that because January is National Mentor Month, he is working to ensure that appropriate events take place during that month.

Dr. Michael Maxwell indicated his support for preparing in advance for National Mentor Month in January and suggested creating an agenda item at the next meeting for this preparation. Dr. Maxwell mentioned that MBK will be holding a young man's conference but that he has not seen any correspondence regarding this conference.

Dr. Douglas Garner informed the Committee that the conference will be taking place in October but that MBK has not held any meetings. Dr. Garner explained that he has been corresponding directly with Wes Hall, who keeps him apprised of what is happening with MBK and its young men's conference.

Dr. Michael Maxwell opined that it would be good for NCOM to be involved with MBK and its young men's conference. Dr. Maxwell indicated that he is unable to attend the conference and in his stead, is requesting that the Commission be involved with the conference.

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Dr. Douglas Garner indicated that he will keep the Committee apprised of developments that arise regarding the young men's conference as he continues to communicate with Wes Hall.

Vice-Chair Katie Membreno indicated that she had received additional information from the City of Las Vegas' City Hall regarding the Young Men of Color Conference on October 9th at UNLV, including the request to be added into the loop of information regarding organizations at UNLV because the groups there that bring in the most youth will receive \$500 in spending for their clubs. Ms. Membreno indicated that she will be receiving flyer and the link once it is available, and informed the Committee that the conference is available for middle schools, high schools, and colleges.

Chair Catarata commended Commissioner Duffy for offering to earn community service hours for young men on probation to attend.

NCOM Development Updates

NCOM Applicants

Chair Karl Catarata informed the Commission that there is a wave of applicants interested in joining the Commission. Chair Catarata indicated that Vice-Chair Membreno had sent out emails prior to the meeting and requested that Commissioners review the applications.

Vice-Chair Katie Membreno read the names of two of the interested applicants to the Commission and gave background information on each applicant.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that Youth Commissioner Sebastian Cardenas was focusing on a youth commissioner from K through 12. Chair Catarata also indicated that the Commission needs to locate someone from the Washoe County School District to join the Commission and that he is still in conversations with the superintendent regarding this issue.

Dr. Michael Maxwell explained that Tameka Henry indicated that she wanted to be involved and was still waiting on the link from the state. Dr. Maxwell further indicated that Kassina Boone also may have expressed interest in joining the Commission.

Vice-Chair Katie Membreno indicated that Ms. Kassina Boone had informed her that she would be unable to be a part of the Commission. Ms. Membreno explained that Ms. Tameka Henry was interested but was first finishing up some other responsibilities she had in the community and appeared to need some additional time to be able to do so. Ms. Membreno also indicated that there were other folks whose applications she was awaiting.

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Vote on new NCOM Commissioners

Chair Karl Catarata requested of the Commission that the people still in the application process join the next meeting and then hold the vote at that time. Chair Catarata asked Rose Cota to send out an updated roster and asked Vice-Chair Membreno to resend the application to Commissioners in order for them to be able to reach out to the community with that application.

Rose Cota indicated that she is still compiling the roster to make sure all information is accurate prior to sending it out and posting it on the website.

Vice-Chair Membreno supported waiting to vote until the following meeting and indicated that she will email the interested applicants to invite them to the following meeting. Vice-Chair Membreno also indicated that she will set the deadline for applications of other interested applicants to be a week or two prior to the next meeting.

Dr. Michael Maxwell concurred with hearing the applicants speak at the next meeting prior to attend the vote.

Chair Karl Catarata commended the Committee on its productive energy.

Vice-Chair Membreno asked if all applicants should attend the same meeting or if they should be split amongst multiple meetings.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that he would like to have all applicants attend the same meeting the following month. Chair Catarata further indicated that he would like resumes and applicants' applications sent to Commissioners along with a reminder follow-up email.

Vice-Chair Membreno concurred.

Chair Karl Catarata reiterated that following today's meeting, applications would be sent out again, Rose Cota would work on the roster, and the Chair and Vice-Chair would continue to work with stakeholders regarding continuing recruitment.

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Agenda Item Considerations

There were no additional agenda item considerations.

Public Comment #2

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn the September 17, 2021 NCOM Meeting at 2:57 PM.

By: Karl Catarata

Second: Katie Membreno

Vote: Passed Unanimously