

# Nevada Department Of Education

Nevada Commission on Mentoring  
Grant Subcommittee Meeting  
Friday, May 11, 2022  
5:00 PM

Office	Mode	Platform
Department of Education	Teleconference/Livestream	Zoom

## SUMMARY MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING

### COMMISSION MEMBER PRESENT

Karl Catarata, Chair

Katie Membreno, Vice Chair

Douglas Garner

Brigid Duffy

Sebastian Cardenas

Laura Davidson

### DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

Gabby Lamarre, NDE Staff

Rose Cota, NDE Staff

Pamela Juniel, NDE Staff

### 1. Call to Order, Roll call, Pledge of Allegiance, and Land Acknowledgement

Chair Karl Catarata called the meeting to order on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 5:08 p.m.

Chair Catarata led the Subcommittee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

### 2. Public Comment # 1

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

### 3. Approval of Flexible Agenda

This item was skipped in this meeting.

#### **4. Welcome and Introduction (Mission Statement)**

Vice Chair Katie Membreno informed the Subcommittee of her happiness with the work being done as well as with the number of applicants. Ms. Membreno commemorated the May 4 anniversary of the passing of Tyrone Thompson by urging the Subcommittee to continue its important work.

#### **5. Chair's Report:**

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that there are a lot of applications needing review. Chair Catarata further informed the Subcommittee that the members' recommendations for funding amounts are welcome.

Douglas Garner asked how many applicants there were for the grant funding.

Rose Cota indicated that there were ten applicants.

#### **6. NCOM Development updates:**

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that he intended for the Subcommittee to go one by one with the different funding requests, beginning with The Gathering Place.

Chair Karl Catarata explained that The Gathering Place is a grassroots community, transitional age group comprised of older adults, veterans, and minority communities dedicated to improving health and human welfare and providing opportunities in Clark County to enhance the dignity and wellbeing of those who are served there, as well as providing a comprehensive assortment of services and resources that enrich social relationships, job readiness, workforce development, and physical and mental health. In addition, Chair Catarata indicated that The Gathering Place encourages hobbies and educational interests and promotes self-reliance. Chair Catarata informed the Subcommittee that The Gathering Place is requesting \$1,800 in funding for training an initial group of 30 mentors.

Chair Karl Catarata informed the Subcommittee that the second application for review is from the College of Liberal Arts from UNLV's Las Vegas Peer Mentoring Program. Chair Catarata indicated that the request is for \$6,000 for peer mentors in the sophomore mentoring program. Chair Catarata informed the Subcommittee that the COLA mentoring programs were created to support specific students and to promote their successful transition to UNLV by assigning them an experienced student peer or alumni mentor as a dependable guide for the semester.

Chair Karl Catarata informed the Subcommittee that application 3 is from Empower to Endure, the mission of which is to encourage one's own empowerment through solidarity, education, and the recognition of oneself. Chair Catarata indicated that Empower to Endure's grant request is for \$1,000.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that request 4 is from the Greater Youth Sports Association for \$2,750. Chair Catarata informed the Subcommittee that the mission of Greater Youth Sports

Association is to leverage the three core values of sports, education, and character to create an environment for youth that fosters growth, development, and success.

Chair Karl Catarata informed the Subcommittee that request 5 is from Leaders in Training for the amount of \$3,000. Chair Catarata indicated that the vision of Leaders in Training is to empower first-generation college graduates from diverse backgrounds to be the next generation of leaders who change the world by ending systemic and structural inequities as leaders in every sector, in every community, redefining leadership. Chair Catarata continued to say that LIT's mission is to ensure that Nevada youth from humble beginnings who would be first in their family to graduate from college have an equitable opportunity to achieve a post-secondary education if they choose to become leaders of their own communities.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that request 6 comes from the Clark County Library District Foundation for the amount of \$10,000. Chair Catarata informed the Subcommittee that the mission of the Las Vegas Clark County Library District Foundation is to expand and amplify the library's community impact by attracting new resources that support library programs and service innovations.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that request 7 comes from Mastering Mindsets for the amount of \$30,000. Chair Catarata explained that Mastering Mindsets LV is dedicated to being and displaying the change society wishes to see in its youth and is comprised of law enforcement, military professionals, entrepreneurs, community leaders, educators, and concerned parents in diverse professions and backgrounds.

Chair Karl Catarata informed the Subcommittee that request 8 comes from Sigma Omega Nu in the amount of \$2,000. Chair Catarata indicated that Sigma Omega Nu Latina Interest Organizations Foundation was built on academics, culture, and sisterhood with objectives of strengthening cultural, personal, and educational goals while promoting moral, academic, and family support. Chair Catarata indicated that through Mutual support and encouragement, Sigma Omega Nu instills the importance of education and academic success in the college environment.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that request 9 comes from the sorority, Sigma Theta Psi for the amount of \$1,000. Chair Catarata explained that the founding mothers of Sigma Theta Psi created the sorority in November of 1991 at San Jose State University to fill the void of multicultural awareness on their campus with the intent of creating a sisterhood that would embrace and celebrate cultural diversity rooted in the shared principles of respect, honesty, open-mindedness, loyalty, leadership, and academic excellence.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that request 10 comes from the Morlon Greenwood Foundation in the amount of \$25,000. Chair Catarata explained that the Morlon Greenwood Foundation Incorporated is a leadership and mentorship program for socioeconomic disadvantaged youth and adolescents whose mission is to raise up youth to become successful, socially responsible citizens through mentorship imparted to encourage the realization of their full potential while respecting diversity within the community with a motto of believe it and you will.

Chair Karl Catarata informed the Subcommittee of the receipt of one additional application from Hip

Hop Entrepreneurship Program via email that was not included in the presentation, a program that focuses on students who are underserved and underperforming in academics, in the amount of \$10,000. Chair Catarata explained that the program is offered to Las Vegas youth who have been identified by the Clark County School District (CCSD) as: being troubled students in lower-income communities who are not attending school; students with attendance issues; students with behavioral issues; students in need of gang intervention or avoidance; crime intervention; and students underperforming in the school district. Chair Catarata explained that Hip Hop Entrepreneurship uplifts the message of culture of hip hop music as we know it in modern day society while motivating students to improve their attendance and academic performance within a supportive infrastructure that strengthens communities by providing high-risks youth with the framework to build or create their vision, establish and/or support their dreams, and unlock their potential while contributing to the professional advancement of the arts.

Chair Karl Catarata informed the Subcommittee that the total requested amount from organizations equals \$92,550. Chair Catarata thanked all applicants and informed those in the meeting of the Subcommittee's intent to review the applications in a thorough manner.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno, indicated that some of the higher requests are for programs willing to work over the summer, and suggested taking that into account when providing funding.

Chair Karl Catarata requested that Vice Chair Katie Membreno forward the email with the applicants to Youth Commissioner Cardenas.

Dr. Douglas Garner asked how much time was allowed for review of the applications.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that today's meeting was scheduled for an hour, but that if Subcommittee members needed more time, a suggestion could be imposed that members take the next day or so to review the applications in entirety. Chair Catarata asked the NDE staff for a date by which the grants need to be finalized.

Brigid Duffy indicated her lack of familiarity with the majority of the applicants and asked Subcommittee members familiar with particular applicants to provide discussion to the rest of the group.

Dr. Douglas Garner indicated that he too is unfamiliar with many of them and suggested that the Subcommittee have a day or two to research the applicants and how they intend to use the funding in order for the Subcommittee to make an informed decision on how to award them appropriately.

Sebastian Cardenas reminded the Subcommittee of an earlier Commission discussion regarding the focus of NCOM being K-12 and indicated that because that distinction was not noted in the grant description, asked if the applicants outside that K-12 range would still fall within the scope of the grant. Commissioner Cardenas next reminded the Subcommittee of an earlier discussion suggesting the attempt to impact approximately five different organizations with the grant money in the form of micro-grants and as such, questioned if perhaps some of the requests for more than \$3,000 to \$4,000 should perhaps be capped. Commissioner Cardenas did indicate his support for limiting the scope of the grant to K-12 establishments as that is what aligns with the vision and mission of NCOM. Commissioner Cardenas further indicated that if an applicant has requested

more than \$3,000 to \$4,000, the Commission could relay back to the applicant that this is outside the scope but that a smaller amount could perhaps be determined.

Chair Karl Catarata added that a few applicants are college or university-based and that mentorship does provide to college or collegiate university students who are moving through the K-12 system into the system of higher education and as such, Chair Catarata would be open to providing grant funds to strong applicants in this age range. Chair Catarata further suggested that the Subcommittee look to the scope of the actual work of the mentoring groups asking for larger sums of money in order to determine what the specific amount would actually look like. Chair Catarata further reminded the Subcommittee that the grant application required specifics of the planned expenditures and as such, indicated that he would be more inclined to lean more towards organizations who have provided those specifics in their applications.

Dr. Douglas Garner concurred with the suggestions of Chair Catarata and reiterated the need to take a day to read through and study the applications.

Chair Karl Catarata concurred and reminded the Subcommittee of the need to notify the public seven days in advance of upcoming meetings per Nevada Open Meeting Law. In addition, Chair Catarata reminded the Subcommittee that the selected organizations must be notified early in order to report back expenditures by June 28 and spend their grant money in full by June 30. As such, Chair Catarata recommended another check-in for the Subcommittee prior to the full NCOM meeting on June 20 in order to discuss the distribution of the grant money so as to present to the full Commission at the June 20 meeting.

Sebastian Cardenas concurred with this suggestion and recommended setting a cap as to a maximum amount that would be distributed to each organization.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated his desire to research the applicants further and see how the grant money is intended to be spent prior to setting a cap.

Sebastian Cardenas asked for confirmation that the expectation for the next check-in would be for each Subcommittee Commissioner to suggest how they would like to split up the grant money among the organizations they deem deserving.

Chair Karl Catarata confirmed that this was the case.

Dr. Douglas Garner asked for a date for the recommended check-in.

Chair Karl Catarata suggested the afternoon of June 18.

Gabby Lamarre, NDE, reminded the Subcommittee that the statute is not prescriptive but does indicate that the Subcommittee engage in a competitive process. Beyond that competitive process, in which the Subcommittee is already engaging, Ms. Lamarre indicated that the Subcommittee has the freedom to determine what the rest of the process will look like and suggested creating a simple rubric to help scale and norm the scoring of the applications for recommendation of the allocation amount. Ms. Lamarre next reminded the Subcommittee that the

Student Investment Division, which is NDE's grants and fiscal team, will be doing a review of these organizations to ensure that they have met the state legal requirements in order to accept these funds, indicating that if anyone does not meet the requirements, the funds cannot legally be granted to them.

Dr. Douglas Garner asked NDE to provide the Subcommittee with a list of dos and don'ts in terms of acceptability when the Subcommittee reaches that point in the process.

Gabby Lamarre indicated that she is not completely certain of the process used by the Student Information Division but will see if she can determine this information and provide it to the Subcommittee.

Dr. Laura Davidson indicated her support for a rubric and volunteered to create one for the Subcommittee to use in its scoring process.

Sebastian Cardenas questioned the fairness of using a rubric created after the application process was completed without having provided the applicants with the rubric in the initial application.

Dr. Douglas Garner indicated his understanding that the rubric would provide a pathway for the Subcommittee to follow in terms of the selection process.

Dr. Laura Davidson indicated that the rubric could be limited to the information requested from the applicants at the time the application was submitted. Dr. Davidson inquired of the Subcommittee if feedback would be provided to applicants to whom funding was not distributed, citing the importance of clean note taking if this was the case.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno reminded the Subcommittee that the application itself did state requirements regarding nonprofit status as well as the fact that NCOM is offering micro-grants to mentoring nonprofit organizations and programs.

Gabby Lamarre confirmed Dr. Davidson's suggestion of clean notes given that any entity could do a public records request for information related to the competitive review process.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno asked for confirmation from NDE that an agenda for the check-in on the 18th could be approved in time if sent today.

Rose Cota, NDE, indicated that it could.

Chair Karl Catarata suggested that at future grant Subcommittee meetings applicants be prepared to do a short presentation regarding their program and application. Chair Catarata indicated that he could create a Word document with all of the 11 grants' organizations' names to send out to Subcommittee members prior to the end of the day both for members' notetaking as well as to be memorialized in NDE.

Dr. Douglas Garner concurred with Chair Catarata's suggestions regarding both the presentations

for future applicants as well as the document Chair Catarata volunteered to create.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno also concurred with Chair Catarata's suggestions.

Sebastian Cardenas also concurred with Chair Catarata's suggestions.

**Motion:** To create a document for open notes on selection of specific grants that will be memorialized should any members of the public wish to see it.

**By:** Karl Catarata

**Second:** Katie Membreno

**Vote:** Passed Unanimously.

**Motion:** To direct Commissioner Davidson to send out a rubric that will allow the Subcommittee to base off a score for the organizations that have applied

**By:** Karl Catarata

**Second:** Douglas Garner

**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

**Motion:** To direct NDE staff to schedule a Subcommittee meeting for May 18, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. and post it to the public prior to the closure of business week ending May 13, 2022.

**By:** Karl Catarata

**Second:** Douglas Garner

**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

## **7. Agenda Item Considerations**

There were no additional agenda item considerations.

## **8. Public Comment #2**

Chair Karl Catarata opened the floor to public comment.

There was no public comment.

## **9. Adjournment**

**Motion:** To adjourn the May 11, 2022 Meeting of the Grant Subcommittee at 6:13 p.m.

**By:** Karl Catarata

**Second:** Sebastian Cardenas