

# Nevada Department Of Education

Nevada Commission on Mentoring  
Grant Subcommittee Meeting  
Wednesday, May 18, 2022  
9:00 AM

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

### COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael Maxwell

Michael Flores

### DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

Rose Cota, 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 18, 2022 at 9:07 a.m.

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

Chair Karl Catarata led the Subcommittee in the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Catarata next recognized that the state of Nevada sits on indigenous land and honored and acknowledged the contributions of the indigenous partners in the state of Nevada.

#### 2. Public Comment

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

### **3. Approval of Flexible Agenda**

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

**Motion:** Approve Flexible Agenda

**By:** Karl Catarata

**Second:** Brigid Duffy

**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

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

Vice Chair Katie Membreno welcomed the members of the Subcommittee and reminded them of the important decisions needing to be made in today's meeting. Ms. Membreno indicated that when discussion begins, the Subcommittee will review each of the applications.

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

Chair Karl Catarata thanked Dr. Davidson and other members of the Subcommittee and NDE for sending out follow-ups and ensuring that the process was completed on time.

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

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that the Subcommittee would have a round-robin discussion regarding recommendations and considerations via an open dialogue.

Douglas Garner suggested that the Subcommittee go through each application individually

Brigid Duffy indicated that she has selected a top 4, a few wobblers, and then the additional ones that she felt did not answer the call regarding the grant.

Laura Davidson explained that she has broken down her selections in a similar way as Commissioner Duffy.

Chair Karl Catarata also indicating having broken down his selections similar to that of Ms. Duffy and Dr. Davidson and opened the floor to the Subcommittee as to the format by which they would like to have this discussion. Chair Catarata suggested going one application at a time

The first application reviewed was that of the College of Liberal Arts.

Dr. Douglas Garner indicated that this application had some good responses, but the application appeared incomplete.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno indicated that this could be a missing page and suggested requesting the missing information from the applicant.

Brigid Duffy indicated that this applicant was one of her middle-of-the road ones but suggested it would be unfair to other applicants who did submit all of the required paperwork.

Sebastian Cardenas concurred with Commissioner Duffy and added that in comparison to other applicants, this applicant has more ways to gather resources.

Douglas Garner asked if the Subcommittee was interested in providing minimal funding or no funding at all to this application.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated his openness to providing this applicant with minimal funding.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno concurred with Chair Catarata, indicating that the Commission would be helping a lot of young people get mentoring skills by providing this grant money.

Douglas Garner asked what amount.

Brigid Duffy suggested an amount around \$1,200 depending on what was left after funding the organizations that had provided complete applications.

Douglas Garner concurred.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno concurred.

The second application reviewed belonged to the Sports Association.

Douglas Garner indicated that this was one of his top choices.

Laura Davidson indicated that this was one of her top choices and recommended that this applicant should get the top amount of their fund request of \$2,750.

Brigid Duffy concurred, indicating that this was also one of her top four choices.

Sebastian Cardenas concurred.

Chair Karl Catarata concurred and asked what amount the Commission would feel comfortable offering to this application.

Sebastian Cardenas indicated his desire to provide the full amount.

Douglas Garner concurred with providing the full amount.

Laura Davidson concurred with providing the full amount.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno concurred with providing the full amount.

**Motion:** To recommend to NCOM for the upcoming meeting to be agendized to the amount of \$2,750.00 to the Greater Youth Sports Association in Nevada.

**By:** Karl Catarata

**Second:** Douglas Garner

**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

The next applicant for consideration was the Clark County Library District in the amount of \$10,000.

Douglas Garner indicated that this applicant did not address question 6.

Laura Davidson also indicated that she had noticed that in her review.

Brigid Duffy indicated that she could visualize what the mentors were doing from this application and noted that because it is a large ask, it might be one to which the Subcommittee might be able to devote some partial funding depending on where the other applications land.

Douglas Garner concurred.

Sebastian Cardenas concurred, reiterating that because this organization is missing a question and because it is a large ask, a partial funding of 3-4,000 might be more appropriate.

Brigid Duffy suggested that this one be put aside for the moment prior to voting on an amount following discussion regarding the other applications.

The next application up for discussion was that of Empowered to Endure in the amount of \$1,000.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that this particular application was not very specific regarding the impact and the data points and further indicated that in part 6, the organization describes itself as quite new and that this is their first grant application. As such, Chair Catarata recommended a partial or smaller amount for this organization along with an encouragement to continue applying in order for NCOM to see the fruits of the organization's labor moving forward.

Douglas Garner asked for Chair Catarata's recommendation for an award amount.

Sebastian Cardenas indicated that the website and application are very general and do not specify information on how many homeless youths are helped.

Brigid Duffy indicated that she had this one listed as a denial in her list with an encouragement to apply in the future when they are able to provide a little more insight into how they've actually impacted the community.

Laura Davidson concurred with Commission Duffy, indicating that this one had also been at the bottom of her list. Dr. Davidson further indicated that she would be curious regarding NDE review of the organization and whether they meet the standard for receiving donations or grant money. Dr. Davidson also recommended zero funding for this organization.

Douglas Garner concurred with Commissioners Duffy and Davidson regarding funding zero dollars for this organization at this time.

**Motion:** The amount of zero dollars to Gary House/Empower to Endure from the considerations of Commissioners.  
**By:** Karl Catarata  
**Second:** Brigid Duffy  
**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

The next application for consideration came from The Gathering Place in an amount of \$1,800.

Sebastian Cardenas indicated his belief that this is a strong application and commended the mental-health training, particularly for LGBTQ youth.

Douglas Garner concurred that the application was very sound and that the population asking for the funding is very much in need of the funding. Dr. Garner further indicated his belief that this was a reasonable ask.

Laura Davidson concurred.

Brigid Duffy concurred, indicating that in terms of needed services in the community, mental health was certainly critical, particularly since the pandemic.

Chair Karl Catarata discussed his comfort with the mention in the application of the different

training modules to gauge effectiveness of the training as well as the fact that they have received other donations, including from the Nevada Department of Behavioral Health.

**Motion:** To fully fund the application of The Gathering Place for \$1,800  
**By:** Karl Catarata  
**Second:** Douglas Garner  
**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

The next application for discussion was LIT (Leaders in Training).

Douglas Garner informed the Subcommittee that one of his areas of concern regarded providing data to indicate the need for investment, question 2 of the application. Dr. Garner further indicated that this particular application provided reference to the zip code area but did not provide data to support that.

Sebastian Cardenas pointed out that the usage of the grant money would be the most direct, second only to the mental-health grant on which the Subcommittee had already voted as the money would go to students interested in pursuing a trade who would not have the opportunity to do so otherwise. Commissioner Cardenas concurred with Dr. Garner regarding his concern of the application but indicated that because East Las Vegas is an area with which he is familiar, he is familiar with the population of these students as well as the organization itself. Commissioner Cardenas conceded that the application is missing the data, as noted by Dr. Garner, but further indicated that the website does show the data and as such, would recommend the \$3,000 in funding for this organization.

Chair Karl Catarata acknowledged the input of both Commissioners Garner and Cardenas and opined that after viewing the website himself and due to the short time period in which the grant money must be dispersed and used, he too is in favor of moving forward with full or partial funding for this organization.

Douglas Garner clarified that he would have liked to have heard more regarding the happenings in the area of the zip code on the application but concurred that the organization is deserving of funding.

Laura Davidson concurred, indicating that although the data question scored low, the capacity to use grant funds and the specific plan and timeline scored high. As such, Dr. Davidson indicated a high comfort level with knowing how the organization intends to implement the funding on the provided timeline and therefore recommended the full \$3,000 funding.

Brigid Duffy concurred with Dr. Davidson's remarks regarding scoring and added her support to funding the full amount requested.

**Motion:** Support the \$3,000 micro grant to Leaders in Training  
**By:** Brigid Duffy  
**Second:** Karl Catarata

**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

The next consideration undertaken was the application from TULIPS in the amount of \$6,000.

Brigid Duffy commented that the applicant clearly knows how to write a grant application, indicating that even with no familiarity with the organization, the application alone provides complete understanding. Commissioner Duffy commended the breakdown of the spending but questioned why half of the \$6,000 ask is going to personal expenses, indicating that perhaps this was for guest speakers. Regardless, Commissioner Duffy indicated her support for the full amount for TULIPS.

Chair Karl Catarata concurred that the funding application was very thorough and agreed with Commissioner Duffy regarding her concern about the funding for things like swag bags as well as concurred with providing full or partial funding.

Brigid Duffy indicated her concern that there is nothing to indicate how many children will be attending, and that raises the question about things like swag bags. However, Commissioner Duffy also noted that this is an organization with which she is familiar and that has received funding from other organizations, providing confidence that the funding will be used well.

Sebastian Cardenas concurred with both Commissioners Duffy and Catarata on all points, but suggested holding off until the end, along with the other two applications suggested, and providing partial funding from what funding is left.

Douglas Garner concurred with Commissioner Cardenas' suggestion.

Laura Davidson concurred with Commissioner Cardenas' suggestion.

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that based on the requests of the Commissioners, this application would be held to the side until all others were decided.

The next request came from Mastering Mindsets in the amount of \$30,000.

Sebastian Cardenas indicated that based on the ambiguity of the application, the amount requested, and the fact that what was provided was essentially nothing more than a mission statement, his recommendation was not to fund this request.

Douglas Garner indicated that for a request of this size, he would have liked to have seen a great deal more detail as to where the funding was intended to go.

Sebastian Cardenas raised concern regarding the amount of the request as it was significantly more than what was advertised as available via the grant funding.

Brigid Duffy concurred, indicating that based on the application alone, she felt that there was no indication of what the funding was actually for.

Laura Davidson concurred.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno concurred.

Douglas Garner indicated that he did have some familiarity with the organization and some of the work that they do but expressed concern that the application gave no information regarding intended usage of the \$30,000 funding requested.

Sebastian Cardenas indicated that NCOM helps organizations in other ways than just monetary and further indicated his desire to potentially reach out to organizations like this one and talk them through and help them develop the grant writing process.

**Motion:** Not to fund the grant application from Mastering Mindsets  
**By:** Sebastian Cardenas  
**Second:** Karl Catarata  
**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

Chair Karl Catarata indicated that the next application for review was that of Hip Hop Entrepreneurship. Chair Catarata further indicated that ne needed to step away from this particular one but would continue voting. As such, Chair Catarata passed Chair powers over to Commissioner Brigid Duffy.

As the Subcommittee transitioned the changing of chairs, Douglas Garner supported Commissioner Cardenas' suggestion of NCOM offering mentoring groups help in learning and understanding the grant writing process.

Brigid Duffy concurred that this could be helpful as part of a conference via a conversation or breakout session.

Chair Brigid Duffy discussed Hip Hop Entrepreneur, indicating that she has recently been introduced to this group and from her perspective, the organization appears to do good work. Chair Duffy indicated, however, that the application did not help her to understand on what the \$10,000 funding request would be used.

Douglas Garner informed the Subcommittee that he has been to at least one of their functions and was intrigued by the hip-hop business of music format utilized to draw kids in. Dr. Garner indicated, however, some issues with the last answers in the application and noted for the record that the organization has received funding from other organizations in the past but has not formally written a grant before.

Chair Brigid Duffy concurred, indicating that she was uncertain which goals the NCOM grant would help the organization to achieve and whether or not they'd be able to spend \$10,000 in the time allotted.



Sebastian Cardenas concurred. Commissioner Cardenas further indicated that he has not personally heard of this organization but is intrigued by the seeming genius of the program. However, Commissioner Cardenas explained that he does not feel comfortable giving the organization grant money based on the application and suggested encouraging the organization to apply for the next round of funding later in the year and include in the feedback changes the Subcommittee would like to see on their application.

Laura Davidson explained that this particular application was one of her lower-rated ones based on the answers to the last two questions of the application but did show support for the program, indicating that it is a program that is much needed. Nonetheless, Dr. Davidson recommended that this application not be funded.

**Motion:** Not to fund a grant for Hip Hop Entrepreneurship  
**By:** Karl Catarata  
**Second:** Sebastian Cardenas  
**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

The next application under consideration came from Sigma Omega Nu Latina Interest Co.

Chair Brigid Duffy indicated that she was unsure whether or not this was a mentoring group given that the organization wishes to spend the grant funny on graduation stalls, a conference, and national polos. Chair Duffy asked the members of the Subcommittee for anyone familiar with this group.

Laura Davidson recommended no money for this application because it did not seem like it fit the requirement of expanding mentoring programs.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno explained that she has seen the organization on campus but is unsure of exactly what they do. Ms. Membreno opined that based on the application, it did not seem that the organization understood the purpose of the grant funding. As such, Ms. Membreno also recommended that the application not be funded.

Douglas Garner indicated that he scored the organizations last three answers on the application as low and explained that he also has no familiarity with this organization.

Sebastian Cardenas concurred with the comments of the other Commissioners.

**Motion:** Not to award grant funding to Sigma Omega Nu Latina Interest Co. Inc.  
**By:** Brigid Duffy  
**Second:** Douglas Garner  
**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

The next application for grant funding review came from Sigma BECI.

Chair Brigid Duffy indicated that she had a similar feeling from this one as from Sigma Omega Nu in that she was unsure if this was a mentoring organization or a volunteer organization. Chair Duffy asked the members of the Subcommittee for anyone familiar with this group.

Sebastian Cardenas indicated that he did not have familiarity with this group, and even through investigation was unable to discern any more information than was provided on the application. Commissioner Cardenas indicated that it appeared the main argument for the funding was to get volunteers to help fundraise for other causes, which did not align with NCOM's funding objective.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno indicated her belief that this organization is looking for funding to help raise awareness for breast cancer, their philanthropy, and informed the Subcommittee that her understanding is that the organization works to hold events to help mentor new members of their organization to hold community events.

**Motion:** Not to award grant funding to Sigma BECI

**By:** Douglas Garner

**Second:** Laura Davidson

**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

The final application for consideration came from Morlon Greenwood Foundation for the amount of \$25,000.

Chair Brigid Duffy indicated that the purpose is not broken down in the application, there is no date listed for the free football camp, and although Chair Duffy supports the concepts of getting kids out and physically active, she is less supportive of paying for coaches' flights to come and hold the camp.

Douglas Garner indicated his belief that funding was requested to build the facility that was referenced in the application. Dr. Garner also commented on the travel for coaches mentioned.

Sebastian Cardenas indicated that he has worked with Morlon Greenwood in another capacity and as such, concurred with Chair Duffy in that this organization has enough capacity and resources outside of NCOM to cover this camp that are likely more aligned with the organization's objectives.

Laura Davidson concurred, indicating that even were NCOM to grant partial funding, she was uncertain what that funding would actually be used for other than the new building, which would likely be unable to be spent down prior to June 30.

**Motion:** Not to award grant funding to the Morlon Greenwood Foundation

**By:** Brigid Duffy

**Second:** Douglas Garner

**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

Chair Brigid Duffy listed the foundations that the Subcommittee has voted to support:

- LIT for \$3,000
- Greater Youth Sports (GYS) for \$2,750
- The Gathering Place for \$1,800

Chair Brigid Duffy next indicated the three off to the side for partial consideration: TULIPS, with an original ask of \$6,000; Clark County Library District, with an original ask of \$10,000; and the Liberal Arts College, with an original ask of \$6,000.

Laura Davidson indicated that if four of the five were fully funded, with the exception of the Liberal Arts College, this would bring the expenditure to \$13,550.

Chair Brigid Duffy indicate that because the library district does have a lot of private donors and funding, she would be comfortable with funding TULIPS at the full \$6,000 and suggested dividing the rest between the Library and Liberal Arts College.

Douglas Garner concurred with Chair Duffy and reminded the Subcommittee that TULIPS is doing great work and functioning in a facility that is the namesake of the founder of NCOM and supported fully funding their application. In addition, Dr. Garner recommended providing additional funds beyond the \$1,800 to the Gathering Place, indicating that resources and funds for their cause are much needed.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno asked for a repeat of what was being funded and how much.

Chair Brigid Duffy listed the following: LIT, \$3,000; Greater Youth Sports, \$2,750; the Gathering Place, \$1,800; TULIPS, \$6,000. Chair Duffy explained that this leaves an additional \$11,450. Chair Duffy reminded the Subcommittee that the Clark County Library District is asking for \$10,000.

Sebastian Cardenas reiterated that the final two applications were incomplete and both organizations have the ability to receive funding elsewhere. As such, Commissioner Cardenas indicated he would not feel comfortable funding either one at more than \$3,000, which is the average of what the Subcommittee discussed regarding funding other applications. Commissioner Cardenas further indicated that he did not feel right partially funding these applications beyond the other ones simply because they had a bigger ask.

Chair Brigid Duffy concurred.

Laura Davidson indicated the importance of spending all of the money because it could not be carried over. Moreover, Dr. Davidson expressed concern regarding overfunding organizations beyond their original ask because of the potential that the organization did not have a plan in place on how to use that funding, thus potentially providing them with the inability to spend down the funds by the June 30 deadline.

**Motion:** To fully fund the TULIPS grant application for the amount of \$6,000  
**By:** Sebastian Cardenas

**Second:** Brigid Duffy  
**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

Douglas Garner clarified that he did not realize that The Gathering Place had only asked for \$1,800 and as such, had made the suggestion to fund them further.

Sebastian Cardenas recommended funding both the UNLV College of Liberal Arts and the Clark County District Library \$3,000 in grant funds and rounding up the leftover amount among the strongest applications with a letter asking them to explain how this additional funding would be used to help their programs.

Douglas Garner concurred and offered his suggestions for extra funding: The Gathering Place and the Youth Sports application.

Brigid Duffy indicated that she would need to consult with NDE to find out if the Subcommittee could follow Commissioner Cardenas' suggestion of rounding up the funds on the strongest applications and asking the organizations to provide information on how they would spend the additional funds, and suggested making a motion in hopes of having an answer prior to bringing this to the full Commission on Friday.

**Motion:** To partially fund the College of Liberal Arts at \$3,000, to partially fund the Clark County Library District at \$3,000, and to take the remaining funds and divide them equally among the top four, fully funded organizations: LIT, GYS, The Gathering Place, and TULIPS  
**By:** Brigid Duffy  
**Second:** Katie Membreno  
**Vote:** Passed Unanimously

Chair Brigid Duffy asked Commissioners Catarata and Membreno to reach out to NDE to find out if this use of funding is appropriate prior to the full Commission meeting on Friday.

Vice Chair Katie Membreno indicated that she will have that prepare to send over to NDE.

Douglas Garner indicated his belief that the Subcommittee has created a good model for reviewing applications that can now be refined, and thanked Dr. Davidson for generating it.

Brigid Duffy needed to leave the meeting and Karl Catarata resumed his position as chair.

## 7. Agenda Item Considerations

Chair Karl Catarata asked the Subcommittee to provide any agenda item considerations.

Laura Davidson suggested agendizing documenting the review process at a future meeting.

Chair Catarata indicated that this would be added to the agenda of the next Subcommittee meeting.

**8. Public Comment #2**

There was no public comment.

**9. Adjournment**

Chair Karl Catarata opened the floor to public comment. There was no public comment. Chair Catarata adjourns the meeting 10:37am.