

**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STATEWIDE SCHOOL SAFETY TASK FORCE COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY APRIL 20, 2022
3:00 P.M.**

Summary of Minutes of the Regular Meeting

IN ATTENDANCE via videoconference

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Vice-chair Anthony York
Gregory Cole
Megan Hall
Laura Hutchinson
Dave Jensen
Ryan Miller
Leon Ravin
Joseph Roberts
Shawina Tims

SENIOR DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

David Gardner, Senior Deputy Attorney General

DEPARTMENT STAFF

Christy McGill, Director, Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment
Elizabeth Gray, Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 3:06 p.m. by Vice-chair York. Quorum was established at 3:12 p.m.. Vice-chair York led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT #1

Written public comment was present. *(Copy of written statement available in Appendix A)*

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Meeting minutes from March 16, 2022 were motioned and approved.

4. NEVADA 988-CRISIS RESPONSE OVERVIEW

Kelly Marschall from Social Entrepreneur, Inc. gave an overview of Nevada's implementation of the 988-crisis response hotline which will provide a direct line of trained behavioral health and suicide prevention specialists. The overview also reflected the need for the continuum of care. Question and answer session was held immediately following. Overview will be made available to the public and committee members.

5. SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH RATIO UPDATE

Director Christy McGill, Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment gave the committee an overview of NRS recommended ratios for Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISP) availability in Nevada schools. Director McGill proposed to committee members to add the recommendation to increase the needed SISP ratios pertaining to school safety and school-based mental health. Examples of strategies needed to implement this recommendation included prioritizing how Medicaid funding is drawn-down to the districts.

- Tonya Hernandez, Division of Child and Family Services presented the committee with district mapped chart reflecting the process of Medicaid funding distribution for services within school districts. Also reflected were the implementation of the training and salaries needed in order to increase SISP ratios.
- Director McGill proposed prioritizing the following items in order to carry this recommendation forward:
 - Examine the strategies and encourage school districts to bill Medicaid.
 - Continued collaboration between the Department of Education (DOE) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) in finding solutions for an electronic system and training.
 - Prioritizing the method in-which Medicaid funding is drawn-down to the districts.
- Member Hutchinson made a motion for the following addition to the list of Task Force recommendation items: Consider the methods for improving SISP ratios, and implementing the proposed strategies for directly allocating its funding. Vice-Chair York seconded the motion and committee members unanimously agreed on the motion.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT UPDATE

Director Christy McGill, Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment provided committee members with the recommendation to begin drafting the language for each item with focus on the previous presentations brought forward and capturing the needs and improvements needed for Nevada schools.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Focus on Recommendation Report
- Adding new Task Force Committee Members

8. PUBLIC COMMENT #2

No public comment present.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:00 P.M.

APPENDIX A

OFFICIAL BARGAINING PARTNER TO CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, REPRESENTING MORE THAN 18,000 LICENSED PROFESSIONALS.

April 20, 2022

Statewide School Safety Task Force Committee

Re: Public Comment #1 for Statewide School Safety Task Force Committee Meeting 04-20-2022.

Good afternoon, Committee Members,

For the record, my name is Marie Neisess, President of the Clark County Education Association (CCEA). CCEA represents the over 18,000 licensed educators in bargaining with the Clark County School District, and we are the largest independent teachers' association in the state and the country.

CCEA appreciates the hard work of this committee, and we look forward to a thorough discussion on the status and needs of school-based mental health. However, as we conduct ourselves in this meeting, we cannot forget the safety of our educators. Violence against educators and violence in schools has escalated and our biggest concerns about previous restorative practice bills has happened. Previously, at every legislative meeting, CCEA cautiously supported the passage of restorative practice bills. Our caution, stemmed from the lack of foundation of restorative practices in the school district, and the lack of robust supports that include training and coaching for proper implementation. Our teachers currently feel that the implementation, or lack thereof, of restorative practices is so varied that it fails to get to the root cause of the issues to provide healing and coping mechanisms for children. Instead, many of our processes implemented are reactive instead of proactive when behavior escalates. The lack of consistent implementation across schools leaves students with the sense that there are no rules to speak of, resulting in the escalation and severity of incidents. Additionally, the lack of accountability that has accompanied previous bills has prevented our educators from buying into the idea of restorative practices.

We do not have time to risk the lives of our educators to determine if our trial-and-error implementation of restorative practice is working. It is clear, they are not and instead we must work together to provide safety to our educators through legislative and regulatory changes that fund all schools with the resources, including human capital, to improve our mental health programs for our staff and students.

CCEA appreciates the work and dedication of this committee, and we stand ready to assist in whatever way we can to bring our state forward.

Respectfully,

Marie Neisess, President
Clark County Education Association