

Nevada Commission on Mentoring

Meeting Minutes
Friday, July 16, 2021
2:05 PM – 2:57 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.

Call to Order:

Chair Catarata called the meeting to order on Friday, July 16, 2021, at 2:05 p.m.

Roll Call:

Chair Catarata conducted a roll call. **Quorum was established** (7 Members present).

Commission Members Present:

Karl Catarata, Chair
Dr. Michael Maxwell
Michael Flores
Dr. Douglas Garner
Coleen Lawrence
Sebastian Cardenas
Brigid Duffy

Commission Members Absent:

Katie Membreno
Dr. Beverly Givens

Others Present:

Chris James, NDE Staff
Gabby Lamarre, NDE Staff

Approval of Flexible Agenda:

Motion: Approve Flexible Agenda

By: Karl Catarata

Second: Sebastian Cardenas

Welcome and Introduction (Mission Statement):

Chair Catarata informed the Commission that there are guest speakers who will be speaking during different agenda items in today's meeting. Chair Catarata further informed the members that he would defer the rest of his time to any other members of the Commission who would like to speak during this agenda item.

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Dr. Michael Maxwell commended Chair Catarata on the work that he has been doing in his position as Chair.

Approval of NCOM June 18, 2021, Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Approve Meeting Minutes

By: Karl Catarata

Second: Sebastian Cardenas

Vote: Passed Unanimously

Public Comment #1:

There was no public comment.

Chair's Report:

a. TULIPS Awardees and Recognition

Former Assemblywoman Kasina Douglas-Boone explained that TULIPS is an organization that focuses on mentorship for girls between the ages of 10 and 21 and stands for Teaching and Uniting Ladies to Inspire Positive Success. Ms. Douglas-Boone thanked everyone who attended the Mentoring under the Moonlight Event, which she equated to the Oscars of mentoring organizations, and includes awards in the following categories: mentoring through community organization; mentoring through sports organization; mentoring through arts; mentoring through education; mentoring through STEM; and mentoring through entrepreneurship. Ms. Douglas-Boone further indicated that the categories also include mentor of the year and mentee of the year, as well as a new category entitled the Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson Super Stardust Award, won by Michael Garrett. Ms. Douglas-Boone further informed the Commission that Commissioner Brigid Duffy won the Mentor of the Year award prior to giving Ms. Duffy the floor to discuss her experience.

Commissioner Brigid Duffy expressed her gratitude as being selected as the recipient of the TULIPS Mentor of the Year award and indicated her pride in being a part of the Commission. Commissioner Duffy further commended Chair Catarata for his work in saving NCOM.

Dr. Douglas Garner congratulated Commissioner Duffy and indicated his belief that the award is well-deserved.

Dr. Michael Maxwell concurred and in addition thanked and acknowledged former Assemblywoman Douglas-Boone as a mentor, informing the Commission that she is the

type of solid mentor needed by young folks.

Former Assemblywoman Douglas-Boone thanked the Commission and informed them that the date has already been chosen for the following year's TULIPS and that there will be a mentoring mix and mingle the night before. Ms. Douglas-Boone further acknowledged the work of the late Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson, indicating that mentoring is often more than a nine-to-five job as young people sometimes need help outside of normal working hours. In addition, Ms. Douglas-Boone invited the members of the Commission to visit Ty's Place, named after the late assemblyman, and tour the facility.

Dr. Michael Maxwell suggested purchasing a table at TULIPS when the Commission receives some additional funding.

Chair Catarata concurred with Dr. Maxwell's suggestion and indicated his belief that NCOM should be in the space and have a table at the event. Chair Catarata further indicated that his nominee, Alex Bybee, who had been Chair Catarata's mentor, had also won an award.

b. Meeting with Henderson Mayor Debra March

Chair Catarata updated the Commission on his meeting with Henderson Mayor Debra March. Chair Catarata informed the Commission that he had briefed the Henderson mayor regarding potential meeting spaces post-COVID, given that meetings will likely once again be held in-person at that time. Chair Catarata informed the Commission that there are several locations that partners across Southern Nevada would open up to NCOM for the Commission to conduct meetings, events, and workgroups. Chair Catarata concluded the agenda item by informing the Commission that the meeting with the mayor was essentially a quick, 25-minute meet-and-greet.

NCOM Development Updates

a. Deliverables: Annual Summit

Chair Catarata discussed the annual summit and indicated his hope that the summit would bring together mentorship organizations across the state to discuss things like the trends in mentoring; how to better the mentorship organizations; where these organizations may need help; the common trends and differences that the organizations may be seeing. Chair Catarata suggested a one to three-day summit for the Commission in partnership with folks doing mentoring work such as former Assemblywoman Douglas-Boone and Ms. Erica Mosca. Chair Catarata further indicated his willingness to hold a workgroup/work session regarding this summit in order to incorporate the suggestions and opinions of the Commission. Chair Catarata next discussed NCOM's affiliation with Mentor National and indicated that a team from Mentor National in Washington DC are open and willing to visit Las Vegas to

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conduct workshops that can help to support organizations who might have a mentorship idea or mentorship program.

Dr. Douglas Garner indicated his support for a summit as well as the construction of a workgroup to put forward ideas and thoughts for breakout sessions.

Dr. Michael Maxwell indicated his support for the summit, as well as bringing in mentoring organizations such as My Brother's Keeper for the summit. Dr. Maxwell indicated the importance of NCOM being strategic in how to develop this summit and suggested creating a shared Google Document to begin gathering ideas from the Commissioners for the summit. Dr. Maxwell further indicated his belief that the summit should be a working summit so that attendees can walk away with resources.

Commissioner Sebastian Cardenas concurred with Dr. Maxwell's suggestion of a working summit. Commissioner Cardenas further indicated his belief that this should be strategic, per Dr. Maxwell's suggestion, and the focus of a working group in which the members should consider extending invitations to those in the Nevada community who already have interests aligned with mentoring.

Commissioner Coleen Lawrence indicated the importance of the timing of the summit, particularly if NCOM intends to partner with MENTOR given that their large summit takes place at the end of January/beginning of February.

Dr. Michael Maxwell concurred with Commissioner Lawrence and added that MBK's conference tends to be at the end of February/beginning of March. As such, Dr. Maxwell suggested that NCOM hold the summit in May/June in order to build off of the conferences held by MENTOR and MBK.

Dr. Douglas Garner concurred with this suggestion.

b. Deliverables: Statewide Standards

Chair Catarata indicated his understanding that Commissioners have noted the importance for standards. Chair Catarata reminded the Commission that NCOM does already have the standards from MENTOR National but that they need to be focused in on and made Nevada-based. Chair Catarata indicated that his thought process regarding creation of the statewide standards is to be inclusive of the mentor organizations and hearing their suggestions at the summit and then piecing together the standards. Chair Catarata indicated his understanding that this would be a long, thought-provoking process but also expressed confidence in the Commission's ability to get the standards done in the upcoming year.

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Commissioner Colleen Lawrence asked for clarification, questioning if Chair Catarata intended for the Commission to modify the national standards.

Chair Catarata explained that in past meetings, the Commission had specifically stated that the national standards were great, but had heard feedback from the community, as well as from Commissioners, that they would like the standards to be attuned to the evidence-based items that Nevada might face as mentees in Nevada may be facing different issues than folks in another state.

Commissioner Colleen Lawrence indicated her belief that for the standards to stay evidence-based, you have to state the fidelity of the program. Therefore, Commissioner Lawrence indicated, the standards can't be called evidence-based and then modified. Commissioner Lawrence explained that if you come up with state-specific standards that do not fall underneath the existing evidence-based standards, you are no longer in compliance with the fidelity of the program, thus necessitating alignment with the existing standards in the mentor handbook.

Chair Catarata concurred with the advice and suggestions of Commissioner Lawrence and asked if she and other members of the Commission would be open to writing up the standards and bringing them to the summit so that things could be added or subtracted in the goal of creating a final piece.

Commissioner Lawrence indicated her willingness to do so.

Dr. Douglas Garner concurred with Commissioner Lawrence's suggestions and indicated that if MENTOR will be coming and providing facilitators, this would be one of the items NCOM would want help facilitating with some in-depth guidelines and practices.

Dr. Michael Maxwell suggested bringing in elected officials or members of higher-ed institutions that have information on capacity building in order to help with this process. Dr. Maxwell further indicated that NCOM can still provide other information and it doesn't have to be in conflict with MENTOR in the way it is presented; it just needs to be presented as different or separate information.

Chair Catarata indicated his belief that the next logical step would be for Chair Catarata to work with Commissioners Lawrence, Garner, and Maxwell to put the standards on a sheet and then present them at the next NCOM meeting to work with staff, after which NCOM will present them at the workshop at the summit to break down and move forward.

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c. Deliverables: Grants for Mentorship Organizations

Chair Catarata indicated that in terms of grants, NCOM is waiting to receive the money in order to be able to give out grants to organizations and programs in Nevada who are doing mentoring work.

d. Follow-Up: Commissioner Vacancies

Chair Catarata informed the Commission that three individuals have submitted resumes to serve as Commissioners: Donche King, who is still on the Commission, but with whom the Commission needs to reengage; Tameka Henry and Tiffany May. Chair Catarata explained that at the next meeting, the Commission will have the opportunity to receive these resumes and to hear what these potential Commissioners are doing out in the world of mentoring. Chair Catarata also informed the Commissioners that he has reached out to the Washoe County School District superintendent for suggestions to replace the late Ben Hayes; the superintendent will be providing a name to NCOM. In addition, Tameka Henry has also expressed interest in serving on NCOM.

Commissioner Sebastian Cardenas informed the Commission that he has reached out to high schools in northern and central Nevada in search of youth Commissioners but indicated that he has not had much luck given that students are currently on summer vacation. Commissioner Cardenas indicated that he would continue to try to find applicants in time for the next meeting.

Agenda Item Considerations

Chair Catarata indicated that he will continue to leave agenda items for the annual summit, statewide standards, and grants on upcoming agendas.

Dr. Douglas Garner indicated that the school districts are beginning discussions on how the upcoming \$770 million in Federal funds will be distributed, and it would be good for NCOM to keep an ear out for those conversations.

Commissioner Sebastian Cardenas informed the Commission that the Public Education Foundation and Opportunity 180 have sent out a community form for people who are interested and are recommending that community meetings be held to summarize those forms. Commissioner Cardenas indicated that he would follow up with the links and sign the Commissioners up for updates.

Chair Catarata congratulated Commissioner Coleen Lawrence on opening new mentorship spaces in Minden, Hawthorne, and in Gardnerville.

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Commissioner Coleen Lawrence explained that two new mentoring spaces are incorporated with mental-health and substance-use clinics, allowing youth and families to come in and have a safe space while at the same time providing psychiatry services, mental-health counseling, substance-use counseling, peer-support services, and workforce development. Commissioner Lawrence explained that the organization with which she has partnered to open these spaces is CPLC Nevada. Commissioner Lawrence further explained that the clinics were built with a large, \$4 million influx of Federal funding.

Public Comment #2

There was no further public comment.

Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn the July 16, 2021, NCOM Meeting at 2:57pm.

By: Karl Catarata

Second: Dr. Michael Maxwell

Vote: Passed Unanimously