

Nevada Department of Education

Nevada Commission on Mentoring

Thursday, November 30, 2023

2:00 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

Dr. Laura Davidson, Commissioner

DEPARTMENT STAFF PRESENT

Sarah Thomas, NDE Staff

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

Vice Chair Membreno called the meeting to order on Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Membreno conducted a roll call. **Quorum was established** (3 Members present).

Chair Catarata led the Commissioners in the Pledge of Allegiance and acknowledged the land.

2. Public Comment # 1

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

3. Approval of Flexible Agenda

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

Motion: To approve a flexible agenda

By: Karl Catarata

Second: Laura Davidson

Vote: Passed unanimously

4. Welcome and Introduction (Mission Statement)

Vice Chair Katie Membreno thanked the Commissioners for attending and noted her enthusiasm for the large number of applicants.

5. Chair's Report:

Chair Karl Catarata skipped the Chair's report in favor of moving forward into Agenda Item 6.

6. NCOM Development updates:

a. Review NCOM Grant Application FY24-25

Vice Chair Katie Membreno reiterated her enthusiasm for the large number of applicants for this year's grant funding.

- Academy of Learning
 - Dr. Davidson did not recommend funding for this one due to lack of detail about the budget requests.
 - Vice Chair Membreno did not recommend funding for this one due to lack of specifics.
 - Chair Catarata concurred with both Commissioners.
 - Funding was not provided to this organization.
- Battle Mountain High School
 - Battle Mountain High School is a for-profit charter school and therefore ineligible for this grant funding.
 - Funding was not provided to this organization.
- Board of Regents Desert Research institute
 - Dr. Davidson scored this one highly and recommended funding, but did question if things like the field trips for STEM activities could be considered mentoring and as such, whether or not this aligned with NCOM's mission.
 - Vice Chair Membreno also scored this one highly and indicated that this was a program that was funded the previous year, and did present to NCOM how their funding was used. The Vice Chair did express some concern around the ages of the mentees in this program, noting that they are college-aged.
 - Chair Catarata noted his belief that some of the students are freshman and sophomore range, which does fall into the age range of programs available for grant funding.
 - Vice Chair Membreno indicated that because of the high ask, the Commission would be unable to provide the program with as much funding as requested.
 - Dr. Davidson concurred, noting that this program could be partially funded.
 - This organization received \$5,000 in funding.
- Board of Regents Nevada Afterschool Network
 - Dr. Davidson scored this one highly.

- Vice Chair Membreno also scored this one highly but noted her concern regarding the request for travel costs on the application.
- Dr. Davidson concurred, noting that the Commission should perhaps fund a portion of the request, but not include funding for the travel.
- This organization received \$2,500 in funding.
- Boys and Girls Club of Mason Valley
 - Dr. Davidson did not recommend funding due to the lack of details about campus tours, professional visits, and the amount per student or mentor, as well as a lack of spend-down information, but commended the great work done by the Boys and Girls Clubs.
 - Chair Catarata concurred on the great work done by this organization as well as that more specificity was needed on the application.
 - Funding was not provided to this organization.
- Boys and Girls Club of Western Nevada
 - Vice Chair Membreno suggested picking a few things from their request list to fund and noted that she would have liked to see more details, particularly to question 9, which pertained to COVID-19 efforts.
 - Dr. Davidson indicated that this organization scored high for her, noting that they are serving a particularly high-needs group in a rural area, an area that NCOM has not traditionally funded in the past.
 - Vice Chair Membreno reiterated the possibility of partial funding as well as explaining the areas of the application that could have used more strength to the organization.
 - This organization received \$500 in funding.
- Code Switch Restorative Justice for Girls
 - Vice Chair Membreno indicated her support for this application and for the work that they are doing and suggested partial funding of this request.
 - Dr. Davidson also indicated her support, but recommended the organization for full funding as the request was for a small amount but serves a huge need.
 - Chair Catarata concurred with Vice Chair Membreno regarding partial funding for this request, noting the lack of detail regarding how the restorative justice mentorship training will impact the mentees.
 - This organization received \$2,500 in funding.
- Donna Street Community Center
 - Vice Chair Membreno indicated that this organization had reached out to her directly for advice on how best to complete the application and indicated her support for at least partial funding of this organization.
 - Dr. Davidson indicated that she had scored this organization lower given their

lack of specificity regarding needs and costs but noted that she did have them mid-range in her list.

- Chair Catarata deferred to the comments of the other two Commissioner.
- Funding was not provided to this organization.
- El Shaddai Refuge Homes
 - Dr. Davidson did not recommend this organization for funding, citing a lack of detail in the application.
 - Vice Chair Membreno noted her belief that the application was incomplete and that little effort was put into the completion of the application. The Vice Chair suggested reaching out to this organization to help them put together a better application for the next cycle.
 - Funding was not provided to this organization.
- Essential Center of Behavioral Health and Wellness
 - Essential Center of Behavioral Health and Wellness is a for-profit organization and therefore not eligible for funding.
 - Funding was not provided to this organization.
- Gandhi Worldwide
 - Dr. Davidson cited a lack of detail in this application and as such, did not recommend them for funding.
 - Vice Chair Membreno concurred, and also questioned if because this is a worldwide organization, this funding would be used solely to help students in Nevada.
 - Chair Catarata added the fact that the ask was excessive, and noted that he would have liked more detail regarding which specific Nevada high schools are being targeted for outreach.
 - Funding was not provided to this organization.
- Greater Youth Sports Association
 - Chair Catarata commended the application, noted that this organization did apply the last grant cycle, and indicated his belief that the funding request makes sense.
 - Vice Chair Membreno concurred with the Chair and recommended this organization for funding.
 - Dr. Davidson indicated that this organization was mid-range for her, and noted that their math was off in their budget description as well as confusion regarding when the program would run and how many kids it would serve. Dr. Davidson further noted her desire to hear more in question 1 about what is actually done at the schools that this organization serves.
 - Funding was not provided to this organization

- High Sierra Area
 - Dr. Davidson indicated her confusion as to what the training would accomplish, who the population was, and the age of students or youth being served. Dr. Davidson further noted that no prior grant access was described on this application. As such, Dr. Davidson did not recommend this organization for funding.
 - Vice Chair Membreno indicated her belief that the application was disorganized and concurred with Dr. Davidson's concerns. The Vice Chair did note that she was happy to see that this was a northern Nevada organization, citing the importance of NCOM reaching organizations state wide.
 - Chair Catarata encouraged the organization to reach out to the Commission for help to apply again for a future grant cycle, and concurred with the points made by Dr. Davidson and the Vice Chair.
 - Funding was not provided to this organization.
- Incline Education Fund
 - Dr. Davidson noted her high score for this organization, but did question if academic tutoring falls under mentoring.
 - Chair Catarata cited the desire for some more specificity on the application but otherwise commended the organization and the application.
 - Vice Chair Membreno concurred that this was a strong application and in response to Dr. Davidson's question, noted that tutoring may not be mentorship, per se, but that funding could be used for supplies to support their students. The Vice Chair suggested more specificity in future applications as to the definition of mentorship. Vice Chair Membreno pointed out that this organization also resides in northern Nevada.
 - This organization received \$500 in funding.
- La Voz - Latino Law Student Association
 - Dr. Davidson noted that this was a well-written application and supported partial funding for this request.
 - Vice Chair Membreno concurred.
 - Chair Catarata concurred, but raised potential concern regarding the age requirement.
 - Vice Chair Membreno clarified that the organization supports high school students, who receive mentorship from law students and undergraduate students, as well as undergraduate students under the age of 24, who are paired with a law student and an attorney for mentorship.
 - This organization received \$4,800 in funding.
- Las Vegas Clark County Library
 - Dr. Davidson questioned whether dropping into tech centers and tech classes

- qualifies as mentoring but supported the application for partial funding.
- Vice Chair Membreno concurred, noting that this application scored high for her.
- Chair Catarata indicated that this organization had been funded the previous year and provided a showcase following funding to show how the monies had been spent. Chair Catarata concurred with partial funding.
- This organization received \$3,200 in funding.
- Mater Academy East
 - Mater Academy East is a for-profit charter school and therefore ineligible for this grant funding.
 - Funding was not provided to this organization.
- Premier Basketball Club
 - Vice Chair Membreno noted the importance of defining mentorship and indicated that this organization did not do this in their application.
 - Dr. Davidson concurred and added that they also did not have prior experience with grant funding. Dr. Davidson further indicated the need for more detail regarding serving youth specifically impacted by the pandemic.
 - Funding was not provided to this organization.
- Reno Inspiring Connections Outdoors
 - Dr. Davidson indicated the need for more detail in this application regarding field trips and did not recommend funding.
 - Vice Chair Membreno noted her appreciation for what the organization is doing, but indicated her confusion regarding certain areas of the application, which made her hesitant to recommend funding.
 - Funding was not provided to this organization.
- The Diamond Foundation
 - Dr. Davidson indicated the need for more clarity around application fees and bus passes in this application, as well as the need for more clarity regarding how the funds would be used.
 - Vice Chair Membreno indicated confusion with some areas on the application and cited the need for clearer responses. The Vice Chair indicated that her recommendation would be to grant partial funds, if any.
 - Chair Catarata concurred with both Dr. Davidson and the Vice Chair.
 - Funding was not provided to this organization.
- UNLV - Oganessian
 - Dr. Davidson indicated that this organization scored high on her list and noted that because of the large ask, the Commission could likely fund half the number of mentors requested.
 - Chair Catarata concurred, and indicated that this organization did showcase the

results of the last grant cycle's funding. The Chair described this application as perfect.

- Vice Chair Membreno concurred and also suggested funding half the mentors.
- This organization received \$5,000 in funding.
- UNLV - Tuman
 - Dr. Davidson questioned the age range of those being served by this organization.
 - Vice Chair Membreno indicated that this application scored high for her, and indicated that the majority of those being supported are undergraduate students.
 - Chair Catarata noted that this one was a yes for him given their successful, specific targeted project for which funding would be utilized. The Chair further indicated that this organization also showcased the funding received the previous cycle.
 - This organization received \$1,000 in funding.
- Young Life NV20
 - Dr. Davidson indicated that organization was not in her top list and noted that she wanted more detail around prior grant funds awarded, as well as worried about the timeline, citing the fact that June 14 would be too late to spend down the funds.
 - Chair Catarata noted his appreciation for their application and encouraged them to be more specific on future applications.
 - Funding was not provided to this organization.

7. Agenda Item Considerations

Chair Catarata indicated that today's items will be presented to the full NCOM for a vote at the December 15 meeting.

8. Public Comment #2

Chair Catarata opened the second period of public comment. There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the November 30, 2023 NCOM meeting at 3:52pm.
By: Karl Catarata
Second: Katie Membreno
Vote: Passed unanimously