PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

LCB FILE NO. R073-18I

The following document is the initial draft regulation proposed by the agency submitted on 04/17/2018

NRS 388.253 requires the Department to develop a model plan for the management of a crisis or an emergency that involves a public school, including, without limitation, a charter school, or a private school and that requires immediate action.

NRS 388.255 requires the State Board of Education to adopt regulations setting forth requirements for the plan required to be developed pursuant to NRS 388.243, which are those that are developed by boards of trustees of school districts and governing bodies of charter schools and which must meet the minimum requirements set forth by the model plan which has been developed by the Department. The regulations adopted by the State Board must also include requirements for reviewing and approving a deviation pursuant to NRS 388.251 as well as requirements concerning training and practice in procedures for responding to a crisis or an emergency.

During the 79th Session of the Nevada Legislature there were two bills that require the Department to make revisions to the model plan.

AB 221 requires that the model plan include procedures for evacuating pupils from charter schools to public middle, junior high, or high schools in the event of a crisis or emergency and ensure that any such public school is prepared to accommodate the charter school in such an event.

Senate Bill 212, commonly referred to as Safe To Tell, also made several changes to the requirements of the model plan, most notably the inclusion of suicide in addition to crisis and emergencies in the plans developed by the department and subsequently by boards of trustees and governing bodies. There are also additional requirements in the process by which the development committees create their crisis, emergency, and suicide response plans in that the development committee must consult with their local social services agency and must determine which persons or organizations in the community could be made available to students and staff for recovering from a crisis, emergency, or suicide, including a state or local agency which provides mental health services, that the names of those persons or organizations are included in their EOP, as well as a plan for making those services available to students and staff following a crisis, emergency, or suicide must be included in the plan developed by the committee.

This office did consult with the division of emergency management, district emergency managers, and other relevant experts to propose the adoption of the FEMA Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans, which was approved by consent agenda by the State Board in June 2016.

In consulting with the emergency managers from both Clark and Washoe counties since the passage of SB 212, and in accordance with federally recognized best practices, it is suggested that the inclusion of suicide in the model plan be done by adopting the suicide postvention plan that has been developed in collaboration with the DCFS as an annex to the FEMA guide which has already been approved by the State Board.

The OSRLE was created in 2015 as part of the revisions to the state's antibullying laws, which came out of a tragedy in which Nevada lost one of our own students to suicide. Her parents, and many others who also lost their children to suicide, turned that tragedy into advocacy so that no parent would have to suffer the way they did. However suicide continues to impact schools across the state and the inclusion of suicide in the crisis and emergency response plans further deepens the states commitment to ensure the physical and emotional safety of our children.