



## **NEVADA LEGISLATURE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON CHILD WELFARE AND JUVENILE JUSTICE**

*(Nevada Revised Statutes 218E.705)*

### **SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT**

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The third meeting of the Nevada Legislature's Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice was held on Friday, June 24, 2016, at 1 p.m. in Room 2134 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The "Summary Minutes and Action Report," the "Meeting Notice and Agenda," and other meeting materials are available on the Nevada Legislature's website at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/interim/78th2015/committee/>. In addition, copies of the audio or video record are available through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (e-mail: [publications@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:publications@lcb.state.nv.us); telephone: 775/684-6835) and may be available online at <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/Granicus/>.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:**

Senator Scott T. Hammond, Chair  
Assemblyman John Hambrick, Vice Chair  
Assemblyman Philip (P. K.) O'Neill

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:**

Senator Joyce Woodhouse

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Senator Becky Harris  
Assemblyman James Ohrenschall

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:**

Patrick Guinan, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division

Bryan Fernley, Senior Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division

Michael Morton, Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division

Lisa Gardner, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

*Items taken out of sequence during the meeting have been placed in agenda order.*

#### **AGENDA ITEM I—OPENING REMARKS**

Chair Hammond called the meeting to order.

#### **AGENDA ITEM II—PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Hammond called for public comment; however, no testimony was presented.

#### **AGENDA ITEM III—APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 22, 2016, IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

**MOTION:** Vice Chair Hambrick moved to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2016, meeting held in Las Vegas, Nevada. The motion was seconded by Assemblyman O’Neill and passed unanimously.

#### **AGENDA ITEM IV—PRESENTATION ON PROJECT ONE AND OVERVIEW OF DUAL STATUS YOUTH IN WASHOE COUNTY**

The Honorable Egan Walker, District Judge, Second Judicial District Court, Department 2, Family Division, Washoe County, gave a presentation on Project One, a collaborative program that provides integrated judicial resources for dually adjudicated youth in Washoe County ([Agenda Item IV-1](#)). He explained the focus of the Project is to improve outcomes for crossover youth by: (1) streamlining court processes; (2) sharing information between parties; (3) informing practice with data; (4) coordinating care; and (5) providing innovative service options.

Judge Walker shared recommendations that would allow for the establishment of paternity through Chapter 432B (“Protection of Children From Abuse and Neglect”) of NRS ([Agenda Item IV-2](#)) and ([Agenda Item IV-3](#)). He pointed out the proposed language would address the needs of crossover youth by enabling paternity to be established through a judgement; currently, under statute, the only way paternity can be established is through a child support action, or an action under Chapter 126 (“Parentage”) of NRS.

In response to questions pertaining to the recommendations, Judge Walker clarified the following:

- The first proposal ([Agenda Item IV-2](#)) would involve the modification of a birth certificate to identify the father; this tracks Chapter 126 as it exists.
- The second proposal ([Agenda Item IV-3](#)) creates a “jurisdictional hook,” which would allow the “126 process” to occur within Chapter 432B.

- The Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Department of Health and Human Services, could pursue child support arrears through the recommended changes.

There was discussion concerning the following topics related to Project One: (1) other jurisdictions implementing similar programs for crossover youth; (2) the coordination of case management services at the courthouse; (3) combined docking; (4) an evening reporting program; (5) combined meetings; and (6) anecdotal evidence of positive outcomes.

## **AGENDA ITEM V—OVERVIEW OF PROCEDURES CONCERNING DUAL STATUS YOUTH IN CLARK COUNTY**

Brigid Duffy, Director, Juvenile Division, Office of the Clark County District Attorney; Jill Marano, Assistant Director, Permanency Services, Clark County Department of Family Services (DFS); and Brett Allen, Chief Probation Officer, Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS), gave a joint presentation on dual supervision youth in Clark County ([Agenda Item V](#)). They discussed: (1) definitions for the population; (2) pathways for entering the system; (3) DFS procedures for screening, identification, and case plan development; (4) DJJS placement numbers; (5) data pertaining to youth in DFS custody and DCFS youth parole; (6) next steps; and (7) the Juvenile Assessment Center.

Information was also shared regarding:

- Family interventions;
- A new criminal justice computer system;
- Communication involving cross-jurisdictional cases;
- The State’s child welfare data system—Unified Nevada Information Technology for Youth (UNITY); and
- Challenges for Clark County—identifying the number of youth touching both systems, increasing basic training across both systems, and developing a system to properly handle dual supervision youth.

## **AGENDA ITEM VI—PRESENTATION ON THE RECENT ACTIVITIES AND LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF THE CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY ALLIANCE**

Denise Tanata Ashby, J.D., Executive Director, Children’s Advocacy Alliance, outlined the activities and recommendations of various stakeholder groups concerned with the child welfare system in Nevada ([Agenda Item VI](#)). She commented on the legislative priorities of the Child Welfare Network, Senator Patricia Farley’s Child Welfare Advisory Group, and the Children’s Advocacy Alliance. Ms. Ashby highlighted a recommendation to replace the UNITY system with up-to-date technology for purposes of integrating data systems and

streamlining processes for the agencies. She also mentioned the Children’s Advocacy Alliance is developing proposed language to amend Nevada’s “Safe Haven Law” (NRS 432B.630); the Alliance believes there is a minor glitch concerning anonymity in the hospital setting.

There was discussion concerning: (1) possible legislation and advocacy efforts pertaining to LGBTQ youth; (2) the highest priorities for the Children’s Advocacy Alliance—establishing a strong child welfare data system and reviewing child welfare funding; and (3) a potential, future presentation on the UNITY system before the Committee

#### **AGENDA ITEM VII—PUBLIC COMMENT**

Donald S. Hackett, Jr., public citizen, remarked that Nevada should utilize federal funding available through Public Law 90-248, Section 210, to provide more services for children in the child welfare system.

Dave Doyle, Director of Operations, Eagle Quest, and Chair, Nevada Chapter, Foster Family-based Treatment Association, mentioned he was a member of Senator Farley’s Child Welfare Advisory Group and was in support of the recommendation to replace the UNITY system.

**AGENDA ITEM VIII—ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa Gardner  
Senior Research Secretary

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Patrick Guinan  
Principal Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Scott T. Hammond, Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## MEETING MATERIALS

AGENDA ITEM	WITNESS/ENTITY	DESCRIPTION
<a href="#">Agenda Item IV-1</a>	The Honorable Egan Walker, District Judge, Second Judicial District Court, Department 2, Family Division, Washoe County	Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation
<a href="#">Agenda Item IV-2</a>	The Honorable Egan Walker, District Judge, Second Judicial District Court, Department 2, Family Division, Washoe County	Handout with recommendation
<a href="#">Agenda Item IV-3</a>	The Honorable Egan Walker, District Judge, Second Judicial District Court, Department 2, Family Division, Washoe County	Handout with recommendation
<a href="#">Agenda Item V</a>	Jill Marano, Assistant Director, Permanency Services, Clark County Department of Family Services	Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation
<a href="#">Agenda Item VI</a>	Denise Tanata Ashby, J.D., Executive Director, Children's Advocacy Alliance	Handout on children's safety issues

The "Summary Minutes and Action Report" are supplied as an informational service. Copies of all meeting materials are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the Library at [www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm) or (775) 684-6827.