



THE HARBOR – EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

Juvenile Assessment Center Minutes

January 25, 2023 – 1:00 PM

The Harbor

861 N. Pecos Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89101

Minutes taken by Vikki Andrews

Present in Person

City of Las Vegas

Dr. Tammy Malich, Director, Department of Youth Development and Social Innovation -*Board Member and Chair*

Clark County Department of Family Services

Wonswayla Mackey, Deputy Director – *Board Member*

Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services

Jack Martin, Director - *Board Member*

Cheryl Wright, Deputy Director

Eboni Washington, Deputy Director

Jessica Sasso, The Harbor, Manager

Vikki Andrews, Administrative Secretary

Clark County District Attorney's Office

Brigid Duffy, Deputy Juvenile District Attorney – *Board Member*

Clark County Family Court

Judge David Gibson – *Board Member*

Clark County Law Enforcement

Sgt. Mario Perez on behalf of Captain Adam Hyde, North Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department – *Board Member*

Chief Henry Blackeye, Clark County School District Police Department – *Board Member*

George Kurak, Clark County School District Police Department

Clark County School District

Robert Weires, Director of Psychological Services – *Board Member*

Chad Gregorius, School Counselor – *Board Member*

Yolanda Flores, Assistant Superintendent – *Board Member*

Community Representative

Amet Landry – Parent Representative – *Board Member*

Landynn Meyers – Youth Representative – *Board Member*

Eagle Quest

Jennifer Bevaqua on behalf of Dave Doyle, Director of Operations – *Board Member*

Workforce Connections

Dr. Ricardo Villalobos, Chief Program Officer – *Board Member*

Guests

Remi Rehmel, Mission High School

Dr. Lukas Carey, Educator and Researcher from Australia

I. Call to Order

Dr. Tammy Malich called the meeting to order, there was a quorum.

II. Public Comments

None at this time.

III. Approval of October 26, 2022 Minutes

The October 26, 2022 minutes were approved.

IV. Approval of January 25, 2023 Agenda

The January 25, 2023 agenda was approved.

V. Welcome New Harbor Manager, Jessica Sasso

Ms. Jessica Sasso was introduced and welcomed as the new Harbor Manager. Jessica is a Las Vegas native and has been involved in the community for many years, building strong relations within the community and school district. Jessica brings us her experience in contracts, grants, and program development.

Also introduced was Dr. Lukas Carey who is an educator and researcher from Australia who has come to Las Vegas to learn how The Harbor and DJJS approach diversion and prevention.

VI. Discussion Regarding On-boarding of New ESC Members

As Harbor locations have multiplied and the ESC has expanded with new members, a formal on-boarding process and presentation is recommended. This process will assist new ESC members in understanding The Harbor program, the efficacy of The Harbor model, the function of the ESC, and their role as an ESC member.

VII. Presentation of The Harbor Overview

A power point was presented to the ESC as an overview for The Harbor, the mission, partnerships, and program functions.

VIII. Discussion Regarding Updates/Modifications to The Harbor Interlocal Agreement

In the previous meeting, there was some conversation regarding Section 2 – Responsibilities and In-Kind Contributions, and Section 3 - Functions of the center, E and F. The current interlocal that The Harbor is operating under is in effect until December 2023. At that time, the interlocal will either need to be extended, amended, or a new interlocal put in place. Catherine Jorgenson has been working on the changes suggested by the ESC and she will be sending out the latest version prior to the next meeting for review, and a final discussion will take place at the next meeting.

IX. Discussion of Data Tracking

The Harbor has not had a dedicated data person. A supplemental request for a dedicated data person has been submitted. Data has been very challenging to obtain. The Harbor has always been very responsive to the ESC and data requests, however the data requests did become unmanageable. Testimonials from families and youth who have been involved with The Harbor have been some of the most pivotal moments and attestations to the program; the faces behind the program are impactful.

X. Discussion of Legislative Session

Following the early BDR's, it is very similar to the last session. There has been a lot of repealing of things put in place. Governor Lombardo called out the restorative plan of action statute AB168 and repealing the onerous sections, making it easier to expel kids with no age limits. This means that elementary ages students could be expelled. The piece that will need to be watched is what will happen having a Republican governor among a Democratic majority and how that will affect outcomes. Education bills will have a substantial impact on the youth that The Harbor interacts with. As bills are being reviewed in regards to children committing offenses, there needs to be a push for a parent level of services and accountability.

XI. Update on Hiring and Retention

There has been some progress in hiring administrative staff. There have been active discussions with partner agencies on staffing and the needs of The Harbor. Agencies across the valley in all sectors are having issues with hiring and retaining staff, and with employees being unwilling to work in person. Law enforcement has requested The Harbor Mojave location return to 24hour operations; Ms. Sasso will follow up on this.

There are challenges with referred providers as well. Wait lists are long across the valley, but The Harbor staff are doing their best to get youth and families seen by the best providers in the timeliest manner.

XII. Presentation of The Quarterly Manager's Report

The quarterly report was reviewed with the committee. Escalation rates of youth served by the harbor are at 9%, the top five offenses, male to female ratio and race demographics remain consistent. Numbers of youth served in the last quarter were lower, and this is mostly due to the holiday season. The Harbor is diligent in providing services and programming that fit the needs of youth corresponding to the top five offenses. The assessments that take place give The Harbor an understanding of what is driving the offensive behavior and what services will best fit the family. The Harbor is now tracking youth and clients who require additional support; this number reflects families who have already come to The Harbor but are returning on their own for additional resources or concerns. One of the main targets for this coming quarter is The Harbor marketing and outreach, attending events and sending a consistent message to the community. The committee complimented the presentation of the report and information provided.

There was a question regarding the percentage of escalation and how that number is determined. This number reflects youth who are being re-arrested. There was also a question regarding the percentage of families who choose to not engage in the program; Ms. Sasso will follow up on this request. Comparing the numbers of youth who refused to engage to the number of youth who did engage, and if either have escalated, would speak to the effectiveness of The Harbor.

There was a discussion regarding strictly defining low level offenses, and weapons charges and if they should be coming to The Harbor. There was also a discussion regarding a grant that addresses restitution issues; this grant should be further researched.

XIII. Informational Items

- a. Announcements: The next meeting date is April 26, 2023 at 1:00 pm at The Harbor Mojave.
- b. The link for the tape-recorded conference and materials for the Las Vegas My Brother's Keeper Annual Conference will be out within the next two weeks, and the visual notes will also be made available.
- c. Emerging issues – None at this time. If there is something that a member would like to have put on the agenda, please e-mail Vikki Andrews with your item.

XIV. Public Comments

None at this time.

XV. Adjournment