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Las Vegas, NV 89118  
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Brian Sandoval  
*Governor*

James Dzurenda  
*Director*

**State of Nevada**  
**Department of Corrections**  
**RE-ENTRY TASK FORCE**

**Minutes of Meeting December 12, 2017**

**Meeting Location:** Laxalt Building  
2nd Floor Chambers  
401 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

**Video Conference:** Grant Sawyer State Office  
Building, Suite 5100  
555 East Washington Ave.  
Las Vegas, NV 89101

- I. **Call to Order:** Director James Dzurenda called the meeting to order at 1:09 PM

**Roll Call:** Director James Dzurenda, asked Sheila Lambert to do the roll call.

**Members Present:**

James Dzurenda-Director NDOC  
Denise Everett, Ridge House  
Terrance Hubert – Ridge House / UNR  
Jon Ponder – CEO Hope for Prisoners  
Don Soderburg – Department of Employment Training and Rehabilitation  
James Wright – Director DPS  
Elizabeth Coleman Dixon- Coleman - NDOC Statewide Re-Entry Administrator

**Members absent:**

William Teel – LVMPD Specialty Courts  
Steve Canavero – DOE  
CJ Manthe – Division of Housing  
Katherine Miller – Veterans Services  
Tyrone Thompson – Assemblyman  
Richard Whitley – Director DHHS

**Verification of a Quorum:**

Legal Counsel Heather Zana, Deputy Attorney General, stated “Pursuant to Elizabeth Coleman Dixon-Coleman being the NDOC Statewide Re-Entry Administrator and a member of the board”, there is a presence of a quorum with seven.

**Others Present:**

Sheila Lambert, NDOC Policy and Grant Administrator, Mae Thomas-Worthey, Affordable Housing Advocate, Robyn Feese, NDOC Substance Abuse Director, Fred E. Wagar , Deputy Director NDVS, Roni Dahir, Director GSCVS UNR, Jennifer Lanterman, UNR, Amy Roukie, DHHS

\*Please note that all attendees may not be listed above.

**II. Public Comment.**

Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for action at a later meeting.

Mr. Fred Wagar Deputy Director for NVDS stated he was present in the place of Kathrine Miller, Director of NVDS.

No other public comment from Las Vegas.

No Public comment from Carson City.

**III. Acceptance and Approval of Minutes – July 11, 2017 (For Possible Action).**

Terrance Hubert requested the minutes to be distributed a week earlier if possible and he did not see the need for any changes and motioned to accept the minutes as submitted, Director Jim Wright seconded the motion.

Minutes of the meeting held on July 11, 2017, for the Re-Entry Task Force was approve and accepted with a unanimous vote.

**IV. Statewide Presentation Meeting – January 30, 2018, Second Chance Act Statewide Adult Recidivism Reduction Grant – Sheila Lambert. (Discussion).**

Sheila Lambert, from Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) under the office of the Director

Award - Sheila Lambert reported to the Re-Entry Task Force, that as of the last meeting we were in application status for the second year of the SRR Grant and NDOC was awarded nine hundred and ninety nine thousand for year two. Each year we are evaluated based on our deliverables, our competency and our ability to track programs in progress. As part of that award we have all of our similar partners and we are also extending partnership to Freedom House in Southern Nevada. Ridge House and Freedom House are both our community partners for a warm hand off for substance abuse.

Deliverables – As one of our major deliverables is the Resource Manual, which has been distributed, as well as an evaluation report that was completed by the University Nevada Reno (UNR). In that evaluation report it contains all of our strategic priorities that are to be accomplished over the three years and where we are at with those objectives. The evaluations report also gives recommendation for improvement in areas of expanding communication and collaborations, and there are areas where we may focus on additional policy. There is a lot of information on our Nevada Risk Assessment System (NRAS). The Re-Entry Task Force members were given an example of the prison intake tool NRAS, this assessment will be given upon intake to determine what kind of programing the inmate will need while inside the system and to target the criminal genic areas needed as they release to Parole and Probation.

The evaluation report includes the validation process which UNR worked hard to get the information required. Sheila Lambert stated that if anyone had any questions on the plan, it will be posted on the NDOC programs website by the end of the month. It shows we have made significant progress and

for year one, Nevada was recognized as the top performing state. The Bureau of Justice asked that NDOC now be a lead trainer for other states and we have completed the training webinar.

Year two (2) activities – As part of the recommendation that came up on the evaluation, NDOC are having a statewide collaboration meeting in the north and south on January 30, 2018, to present the information and more specifics on the Second Chance Act Grant and to get community input. Part of that will also provide information on programs we are looking at and all the major accomplishment.

Moving forward, year two will be case planning where Parole and Probation will have twelve (12) seats with their embedded specialist as part of the case planning team, which will help us work on connectivity.

Sheila Lambert stated that if there were any questions, she or Elizabeth Coleman Dixon-Coleman in Las Vegas who was also available, can answer any questions.

Terrance Hubert asked if the document on hand is the instrument developed to be used upon intake.

Sheila Lambert stated, “Yes, we are currently in the validation process”. UNR is working to obtain all the NRAS data to look at and evaluate recidivism. NDOC Mental Health professionals will provide this tool to the inmates upon intake to determine what the level of needs and criminal genic areas to focus on. There are two other NRAS tools known as the RT and the SRT.

The NRAS just went live last week and by the next meeting in July we will be able to provide statistics that includes statewide information as to where the offenders are at with their risks and needs.

Mr. Hubert also asked if this evaluation would be given to the existing population as well as those upon intake.

Sheila Lambert explained NDOC will apply this intake tool to the intake population which will be approximately five hundred to six hundred a month, and then we are looking at those who are asking for programmatic assistance in Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Re-Entry programing, and make sure the NRAS data is in the file. We will be doing this for educational, vocational, for every programing to retroactively catch up from the back end and meet in the middle.

Elizabeth Coleman Dixon-Coleman commented and gave an explanation on the RT and SRT, the two other components of NRAS. She said it focuses on those inmates who have already been incarcerated anywhere from twelve months up to four years and beyond. Each inmate will be evaluated based on the time they have been incarcerated. For clarification due to audio difficulties, Sheila Lambert gave an overview of the statement back to the members.

Sheila Lambert also said that Robyn Feese, Substance Abuse Director for NDOC, is also available to answer questions specific to the substance abuse R.I.S.E program. What we are trying to do with the R.I.S.E program is to minimize the amount of time spent with an evidence based substance abuse program, and get the same results within a six to nine month process. What that would do is to be more efficient and effective within our substance abuse with limited state funds.

James Dzurenda stated on page fifteen of the evaluation process it starts off with a number of performance measures. Who is doing the performance measuring, where do they go and what happens if we are not in compliance?

Sheila Lambert stated that the Bureau of Justice is receiving the evaluation from UNR based on what we are submitting, UNR, are the evaluators who are keeping us true. Every part of the NDOC implementation plan we have identified as bench marks, and UNR evaluates NDOC and determines if we meet them. We wanted to make sure we have an outside partner that would come in and look at Parole and Probation, NDOC, and Community Partners objectively.

Director Dzurenda asked if any committee members had any other questions. There were no other comments or questions.

V. **Strategic Plan – Presented by Sheila Lambert. (For Possible Action).**

Sheila Lambert stated based on recommendations, we wanted to provide to the committee members a copy of the five (5) year strategic plan recommendations. It was also recommended that we do a regular evaluation update.

UNR had recommended that all representatives have a copy of the five year strategic plan to get community updates, and their input on or before the January 30, 2018, kick off meeting, so that the working groups and our community partners will have the information going forward.

Sheila Lambert stated, “At the end of the 5 year plan, each of those deliverables should be completed. We do have some work left and as of year two we are ahead of the curve and are very excited about it.”

Director Dzurenda stated this is an action item and asked for a motion to accept the five year strategic plan as presented by Sheila Lambert.

Director Jim Wright moved to accept and Terry Hubert seconded the motion.

The 5 year strategic plan was unanimously accepted as presented.

VI. **Family Involvement Workgroup – Presented by Elizabeth Coleman (Discussion).**

Elizabeth Coleman Dixon-Coleman stated we have made significant progress on five out of the eight deliverables goals within our timeline. We have increased community partners and have included a community partner, Freedom House in the South, who is now on contract for wrap around services. We have provided and delivered more on our faith base involvement within Re-Entry and fostering family engagement through those committee pieces.

NDOC has two major events planned for the month of December and are looking on to some programming events for the spring, which involve some of our outside community partners. We are having the second Hope for Prisoner’s holiday family unification with twenty inmates and families. There will, also, be an All Is Bright Celebration party with sixty seven families to celebrate the holiday spirit and family reunification and connectivity.

NDOC are looking to expand our behavioral health services linkages. We have provided several links on NDOC website, Aha Parenting by Dr. Laura Markham, Divine Family Resource Center as well as Sesame Street, Incarcerated Youth linkages to help with the family connectivity. We are working out

the three other deliverables with a plan. Elizabeth Coleman also stated that we are excited to provide the opportunity for both the family and the inmates with making that connection when they are discharged and return to our community.

Director Dzurenda stated what a great job with the support groups and getting connectivity back to the families and the offenders discharging.

Director Dzurenda asked if anyone had any further questions or comments on the Family Involvement work group update. There were no other comments or questions.

Director Dzurenda thanked Elizabeth Coleman for her great efforts, and improvements.

**VII. Public Comment.**

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No Public comment from Las Vegas

Public comment from Carson City

Sheila Lambert wanted to add and share with the board, further information will be delivered by summer, on the efforts by Elizabeth Coleman and her team to transition our inmates into working on the Stadium in Las Vegas and that there are significant arrangements and agreements that are preliminary. If there are any efforts on behalf of the board that can help support us as we continue on providing those jobs.

Elizabeth Coleman stated we are working in a group effort with Jon Ponder, Hope for Prisoners, who also serves on this committee. He has received some funding and is working with the labors union in order to have our inmates coming out of Casa Grande with living wage jobs that hopefully will turn into a certificate programs so that they have some sustainability when released that will help with the reduction of recidivism.

Mr. Jon Ponder stated he is very encouraged with the partnership with the Labors Union Local 872 and working on the apprenticeship program with FMWCC and HDSP and soon will be added to the CGTH facility. In that partnership with the labors union 872 once the inmates get released the Union will fast track them into the jobs over at the Stadium. This is a very good partnership with NDOC, the Labors Union, and Collage of Southern Nevada that creates a win win on both sides of the equation.

Director Dzurenda said it was a great Job for everyone, and to continue with the efforts and great information.

Jim Wright, wanted to thank all those involved; Sheila Lambert, University of Nevada Reno and the Re-Entry Task Force Members. We have been recognized and we are helping others. That is special for Nevada. Thank you for all your hard work and making all this happen.

There were no other public comments.

**VIII. Adjournment.**

Motion to adjourn by Terrance Hubert, seconded by Denise Everett, from Carson City  
Director James Dzurenda adjourned the meeting at 1:34 PM.

Note: Any agenda item may be taken out-of-order; items may be combined for consideration by the public body; and items may be pulled or removed from the agenda at any time. The Task Force, within its discretion, may allow for public comment on individual agenda items. Public Comment may be limited to three minutes per speaker at the discretion of the Task Force Chair. Members of the public are encouraged to submit **written comments** for the record.

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for attendees with disabilities. Please call [\(702\) 486-9941](tel:7024869941), in advance, so that arrangements can be made no later than 4:30 PM on July 7, 2017

Supporting materials may be obtained by contacting Darla Steib at (702) 486-9941 or [dsteib@doc.nv.gov](mailto:dsteib@doc.nv.gov) and are available at Nevada Department of Corrections, Re-Entry Department at 3955 W. Russell Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89118

**NOTICES FOR THIS MEETING HAVE BEEN POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH NRS 241 AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:**

Office of the Attorney General, 100 N. Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701

Office of the Attorney General, 5420 Kietzke Lane – Suite 202, Reno, NV 89511

Casa Grande Transitional Housing, 3955 W. Russell Rd. Las Vegas, NV 89118

The Laxalt Building, 401 North Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada, 89701

The Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Suite 5100, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89101

The State of Nevada Website ([www.notice.nv.gov](http://www.notice.nv.gov))

The Department of Corrections Website ([www.doc.nv.gov](http://www.doc.nv.gov))

The Department of Public Safety Website ([www.dps.nv.gov](http://www.dps.nv.gov))