



**STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF SENTENCING POLICY**

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**NEVADA LOCAL JUSTICE REINVESTMENT  
COORDINATING COUNCIL  
MINUTES DRAFT**

**Date and Time:**

**August 28, 2024 1:30**

**Location:**

**VIRTUAL ONLY**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Demar Dahl  
Dylan Frehner  
McKinzie Hilton  
Clinton Hohenstein  
Brenda Ingram  
Eric Kern  
Chelsea Mazza  
Julia Murray  
Garrit Pruyt  
Dorothy Rowley  
Stephen Rye  
Clinton Zens  
Denni Byrd -- Chair

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Michael Chopp  
Bill Ferguson  
William McCurdy II  
James Phoenix  
Bryce Shields

**STAFF**

Jorja Powers, Executive Director  
Jenna Buonacorsi, Deputy Director  
Marie Bledsoe, Management Analyst III  
Erasmus Cosio, Management Analyst II  
Jose Sepulveda, Management Analyst I  
Hunter Jones, Administrative Assistant III

## 1. Call to Order / Roll Call

**Chair Denni Byrd:** Welcome everyone. I will now call to order the August 28, 2024, meeting of the Nevada Local Justice Reinvestment Coordinating Council. Good afternoon it's good to see all of you and welcome to those who are viewing the meeting on the Department of Sentencing Policy's YouTube channel. This is our fourth meeting of our 2023 to 2025 meeting cycle. I will now ask Director Powers – INAUDIBLE –

**Director Jorja Powers:** Thank you, Chair.

(ROLL CALL IS CONDUCTED BY DIRECTOR POWERS; QUORUM IS MET)

**Chair Byrd:** Thank you.

## 2. Public Comment

**Chair Byrd:** All right. I will now open agenda item number two. This will be the first period of public comment. There are two periods of public comment, one at the beginning of the meeting and one at the end. Members of the public have two options for submitting public comment. First, members of the public may do so in writing by emailing the Department of Sentencing Policy at [sentencingpolicy@ndsp.nv.gov](mailto:sentencingpolicy@ndsp.nv.gov). Public comment received in writing will be provided to the Council and be included by reference in the minutes of the meeting. Members of the public who wish to testify may do so by telephone. Due to time constraints, public comment will be limited to two minutes. Any member of the public that exceeds the two-minute limit may submit your comments in writing to the Department of Sentencing Policy. Callers, as a reminder, please mute the device on which you are watching the meeting. All sound will come through your telephone. At this time, I will ask staff to manage and direct those who wish to testify by phone. Ms. Jones?

**Ms. Hunter Jones:** Thank you, Chair. Members of the public who would like to testify by phone press star nine to raise your hand. When it's your turn to speak, press star six to unmute, then please slowly state and spell your first and last name. And we have no one who would like to participate in public comment.

**Chair Byrd:** – INAUDIBLE – All right. Thank you, Hunter. I will close the first period of public comment.

## 3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Nevada Local Justice Reinvestment Coordinating Council held on May 29, 2024.

**Chair Byrd:** Moving onto agenda item number three. Members of the Council have been provided copies of the minutes from the May 29th. Corrections to these minutes – INAUDIBLE – hearing none, I will now entertain a motion to approve the minutes from the May 29, 2024, meeting.

CLINTON ZENS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 29, 2024, MEETING.

DYLAN FREHNER SECONDED THE MOTION

MOTION PASSED

## 4. Grant Discussion

**Chair Byrd:** Okay. I will now open agenda item number five – oh wait, my pages got moved, sorry – agenda number four, "Grant Discussion". This is the cumulation of what we have been working towards. The Council was created to determine the need in our local communities and grant funds to assist with those in need to curb recidivism. AB 388 in the 2023 session gave us \$3 million to allow us to begin to fulfill this mission. The Nevada Department of Sentencing Policy has been working to get the funds out the door and we will now hear from staff regarding the result of all of our work up to this point.

**Ms. Marie Bledsoe:** Thank you, Chair. I'm going to go ahead and share my screen at this time. All right, can I just confirm that you guys can see my screen?

**Chair Byrd:** I can, yes.

**Ms. Bledsoe:** Okay. Perfect, thank you. So, good afternoon, I'm Marie Bledsoe, I'm the management analyst with the Nevada Department of Sentencing Policy and I'm going to be walking the Council through the Nevada Local Justice Reinvestment grant awards for 2024.

What we will cover is an overview of the grants that were awarded in rounds one through six, a look at the funding distribution across the state, then, we will take a deeper dive into what was funded, we will look at the future reporting NDSP will provide to the Council and hopefully, the Council will have additional ideas of what you would like NDSP to report on, and finally, we will wrap up by thanking the Council members who assisted in this process.

Let's start with rounds one and two of the grant, which was from March 15th through April 26, 2024. A quick reminder, about the chronology of this grant, the award period opened March 15th and was originally supposed to close April 12th. In that period, we only received five grant applications for a total of about \$450,000 in state funding requests. This was well short of the \$3 million that was available, so the Department of Sentencing Policy created five more grant rounds and re-opened the grant application period. Grant applications were received at two-week intervals through June 21, 2024. So, in round one, we received five grant applications, as mentioned, and in round two, we didn't receive any grant applications. So, in round one, the Peer Review Committee or PRC, chose three applications for funding. They were the Nonprofit Partnership Douglas County in Douglas, Lyon County Human Services in Lyon County, and Humboldt County Human Services in Humboldt County. So, in this graph, the first column, the awarded dollar amount is the state amount plus whatever required match there was. The state of amount column is the amount taken from the \$3 million that was available. Then, in the case of two governmental entities, there was a required 30% match. In this round, Humboldt and Lyon counties contributed an in-kind match, which is also listed here. The state amount awarded in round one was, \$341,797 and the total of the match was \$87,527 for a total of \$423,252 in benefits to these counties. All three of the awarded recipients in this round will be making presentations about their programs later in the meeting.

We'll move onto rounds three and four, which was April 27th through May 24th. In round three, two applications were received, but one of those applications did not move onto the Peer Review Committee for review. We were not going to convene a PRC for just one application, so the remaining application from round three was moved into round four. The round four, Peer Review Committee had five applications to review, and the committee chose four applications for funding. Three of the applications selected were nonprofits and one was a governmental entity. In Nye and Esmeralda Counties, we had the Nevada Outreach Training Organization or NOTO, which is a victim services nonprofit, in Mineral and Storey Counties the grantee is Community Trust Incorporated, which operates in two counties, and then, finally, the Las Vegas Municipal Court in Clark County. The total state amount awarded was \$309,804 and the match amount was, just over \$43,000 from Clark County for a total of \$353,000 in benefits to these counties. I would like to mention that the \$43,000 match that was made by the City of Las Vegas was a cash match, and it was not an in-kind match. Cash matches are very rare, so this was an extra benefit to our target population for Clark County. The grant recipient from Nye and Esmeralda County, NOTO, will be our fourth presenter later in this meeting.

May 25th through June 7th was round five, and four applicants were received with one application not moving on to the peer review committee. So, of the three applications that were reviewed only one was selected for funding and that was the Carson City Justice and Municipal Courts in Carson City. This grant award was \$81,986 from State funds and \$26,832 in match for a total of \$108,818.

Finally, June 8th through June 25th was round six. Six applications were received, and they all moved forward to the Peer Review Committee. The PRC selected these three applicants for funding. Two grantees were nonprofits, and one was a governmental entity. In descending order, the first Clark County recipient was the Foundation for an Independent Tomorrow or FIT, in Washoe County the grantee was Ridge House Incorporated, and finally, in Clark County, again, the City of North Las Vegas was the final grantee. In this

round, the remaining \$2,266,413 was awarded, along with the \$136,461 in matching funds for a total award to these counties of \$2,402,874.

When all of this is totaled together, the funding distribution for Nevada Local Justice Reinvestment Grant looks like this; seven rural counties received 21% of the funds or \$632,837 from the \$3 million that was available, Washoe County received 26% and Clark County received 53%. So, this ends our broad overview of the grant funds.

So, this next section is going to be an executive summary, but also a deeper dive into what was funded. I want to note that there are two sides to any grant award, there's the fiscal side, which is what we are going to be covering today and there is the programmatic side. For example, how many people were assisted, and we will cover the programmatic side of all grants in the next meeting. So, on the fiscal side the two biggest categories to receive funding were personnel costs at \$1,111,987, this category is for staff at each of the eleven organizations that received state grant funding. The second biggest funding category was contractual and consultants at \$1,747,933. Then, in descending order, we've got indirect funds at \$62,000, supplies and operating at \$41,460, travel got just over \$26,000, and staff training at \$10,255.

So, just like peeling back an onion, let's go one level deeper. Here's an even closer look at the personnel section, which totaled \$1,111,987. The good news here is that the largest portion of the personnel funding was \$398,612, paying for community health workers, therapists, counselors, and case managers. An additionally, large amount of money, \$268,800 was for peer recovery support specialists. When these two lines are combined together, and the associated tax, and fringe benefits are also included, these services amount to \$805,196, which is 72% of the personnel and fringe category. These staff members are providing direct services to our target population.

Our second biggest category was contractual and consultants, and the category has been broken into two sections. So, the top or light gray section is additional funding for personnel, while the dark gray bottom part is direct services to our target population. And there's more good news, in the top portion, this \$155,000 paid for more counseling and therapists, while \$99,840 went to an additional resource for peer recovery support specialists. So, these two lines added is \$255,446, leaving just over \$42,000 for the remaining line items which are, executive directors, suicide prevention training, and personnel for technical assistance in program evaluation. Now to the bottom part. So, these top three lines at the bottom, represent services like local pharmacies, staff who provide transportation for clients. And then, in the direct services for re-entry, we have things like, clothing, birth certificates, phone cards, and identification cards for our population in re-entry. The really exciting stuff is at the bottom of the section \$146,750 toward mental health housing for folks needing acute attention, \$120,965 for housing assistance, which is primarily in the form of rent, \$139,800 which is going towards supportive services, like childcare, and then, finally, \$1,018,279 is to directly pay for training and tuition for people in re-entry or as diversion from recidivism.

The remaining sections of our deeper dive, we'll just touch briefly. So, the travel section and the other training section here are for staff at the funded organizations. Here we have eight staff members attending conferences and trainings out of state. The grant funds are paying for their travel and registration expenses to go to those events. Grant funds are also being used for in-state travel to meet with clients who may be in crisis at their homes.

Under supplies and operating, we had grantees request assistance with mental health screening supplies along with drug testing supplies, and then, organizations also requested to purchase everything from toilet paper to new computers, office supplies, and filing cabinets. That all came to \$30,605 across eleven organizations for a total in this category of \$41,460.

Our final deep dive category is indirect costs. So, five of our grant recipients included indirect costs with their applications. These costs are generally a percentage of their operating expenses, and this category came to just over \$62,000.

So, that wraps up the programmatic, or uh financial part of this reporting. So, when it comes to future reporting, as I mentioned for this meeting we were just focusing on the financial portions of the applications and the next

meeting, we will focus on the programmatic outcomes at the grant recipients plan to achieve and how they will have an impact on re-entry, and recidivism in their communities. We also want to take a deep dive into the applications that were rejected and what went wrong. I should mention, we received 20 applications in all for a total in funding requests of over \$9 million dollars. So, clearly the Peer Review Committee had to drastically cut more than \$6 million dollars to get the request that we received down to the \$3 million that was available. Still, there are some interesting applications and opportunities the Council may want to consider in the future. We also want to look at the future of this funding, and apply lessons learned from the applications, and we want to do a look at the peer review process, and make sure that was working well for us. Finally, NDSP will continue to report on the progress being made by the class of 2024 grant recipients, in our next meeting, we will also include more presentations from these recipients.

The Council would not be seeing this presentation today if it was not for the work of the Peer Review Committee. There were four Committees in all, and their work was meant to be anonymous, but I checked with everyone to see if they were okay with us thanking them in an alphabetical order.

So, the Peer Review Committee members from the Council were Denni Byrd, Brenda Ingram, Chelsea Mazza, Julia Murray, and Jorja Powers. We had three additional Council members who wish to remain anonymous. We also had two people from outside of the Council, they were an under-sheriff in a rural county and a planning specialist with the Nevada Department of Corrections. Thank you so much for everyone's help, we could have not done this without your expertise and participation.

And that concludes my presentation, if anybody has any questions?

**Chair Byrd:** Thank you very much, Marie. As she said, is there any questions at this time that we can answer or address? Hearing none, I will close this agenda item.

## 5. Grant Presentation

**Chair Byrd:** Moving onto agenda item number five, I will now open it. Now that we have heard about the process and the outcome, we are pleased to welcome four of the NLJR grant recipient programs for overviews of their program and goals for their funding. First, we will hear from the Humboldt County Human Services, Re-Entry Services for Humboldt County and that would be myself.

So, I'm going to share a little bit about our program, and how we got to where we did, and why we requested the funding. We were very honored to be offered some of the grant funding. When I first started this process – INAUDIBLE – being part of this Committee, I had just come from creating a pre-trial services supervision program that came – INAUDIBLE – with me under my human services – INAUDIBLE – umbrella and therefore, there was a lot of flow of people – INAUDIBLE – and one of the things that I saw that I couldn't assist in the way that I have end up back in the criminal system. And that was folks that had either been incarcerated for an extensive period of time in the jail or they were returning back to our community from a prison sentence. And the last thing I wanted them to do was to come back from their stay and then, just start back into the criminal justice system again because then, I was dealing with them on the pre-trial side. And I had limitations within the funding of what I could do to help somebody that's in an indigent state and so, when this grant fund became available I thought it would be a great opportunity to try to target the population that was re-entering our community to help them get their feet under them with a roof over their head, help them get their documents that they needed in order to get a job, and get stabilized in order to then, send them off into the community to try to do differently, and maintain staying out of the criminal justice system. So, that's where the vision came from. I already have staff in my department that deals with the populations whether we can help them or not. And so, I did not have to ask for any personnel, but our goal was that when these individuals came in, and ironically, before the grant award was announced, the week before that I had a lady come into my office that fit the description of what I was looking for and all I could offer her was a clothing voucher at that time, so that she can could try to get a job. So, with that being said, now that we do have funding, she's come back into the office and we've been able to house her, we gave her a month at a time. Some of the housing funds were pretty gracious in this grant and so, that's one of the hardest things in our community is housing.

We don't have many options for safe sober housing and so, it's a very big challenge, but I was able to look at her and say, "I will pay for a month's worth of rent while you try to get a job and do some of these other things", and then, I can assess it as she goes through the process to see if she's still committed to what she's trying to do and staying on the right track. One of the things that we wrote in as part of our match was to be able to drug test them. I think accountability -- if you're going to help someone at this level -- holding them accountable to doing their part is a big part of that. I already drug test up my pre-trial population and so, that was a service that I could incorporate into the accountability part for this population as well. Some of the other things is a lot of them don't have a phone and in order to look for a job, you almost have to have a phone or access to them being able to reach you and so, phone cards are something that we want to be able to provide to people. A lot of them come without an ID, or their social security card, or birth certificate, and so, they're starting from scratch. So, we expect them to come back and be contributing members of society, but they don't have a way to get any of those documents. So, those are things that we will also assist them with; work clothes, clothing, a lot of them when they left, come back and have nothing, if they don't have family that stored or kept anything from them. Our community is really bad about taking advantage of each other when somebody else is in jail. So, they come out and don't have much. So, that's the other area we will help them with. Right now, we're just kind of getting started with this and so, right now we only have two individuals that I'm working with, one has been housed, but they've both been given housing help, and a phone card was given to one and so, we're just kind of getting started in being able to assist these individuals. The hope is that if we can house them and give them that basic need, that will help them get situated enough to get the job and become a contributing member of society. So, that will be part of the data tracking that we're really looking at is if that's benefit to this population. That's kind of where we're at with the program, I'm sure in a couple of months there will be some twists to it or things that we've had to adjust and change, but right now, that's where we are headed. So, I would be happy to answer any questions anyone may have for me.

**Mr. Demar Dahl:** Can you hear me?

**Chair Byrd:** Yes.

**Mr. Dahl:** This is Demar Dahl.

**Chair Byrd:** Yes.

**Mr. Dahl:** And then, things went dead again.

**Chair Byrd:** We can hear you. I can't see you, but I can hear you, Demar. Is it me he can't hear? Jorja, do you want to see if he can hear you?

**Director Powers:** Mr. Dahl, can you hear me at this time?

**Mr. Dahl:** There, I can hear you. Yes. Okay. It's been cutting out. It goes out, in and out. Can you see me?

**Director Powers:** We cannot see you. We can hear you though.

**Mr. Dahl:** Okay. Why can't you see me?

**Chair Byrd:** Do you have a question for me, Mr. Dahl? Since we can hear you.

**Director Powers:** Mr. Dahl, can you hear Chair Byrd, or can you only hear me? He may just be having difficulties.

**Chair Byrd:** Okay. I wasn't sure if it was my internet or his because we have a lot of internet issues in my office. Have you been able to hear me okay, Jorja?

**Director Powers:** You were glitching in the beginning but then, it all cleared up.

**Chair Byrd:** Okay. Well, if he comes back, I will be happy to entertain any questions he may have –  
INAUDIBLE –

**Director Powers:** Now, you're frozen Chair.

**Chair Byrd:** – INAUDIBLE – does anyone else have questions? While we wait for him to get connected.

**Director Powers:** You were glitching again, Chair, I don't know if maybe we should turn off the video.

**Chair Byrd:** Okay, we will try this. Hearing no other questions. If Mr. Dahl comes back, I'm happy to answer questions if he has one. If not, I'm going to go ahead, and move on, and we're going to hear from Lyon County Human Services about their re-entry support. So, I'd ask Shayla Holmes to present, please.

**Ms. Shayla Holmes:** You'd think I'd have unmute figured out by now. Hello, Shayla Holmes, Director of Lyon County Human Services. I'm going to share my screen. Similar to Ms. Byrd, I figured I would share where we've been with our program thus far so you can understand why our request to expand from you guys came from. Are you guys seeing it? Hopefully so.

**Ms. Bledsoe:** Yes, I can see it.

**Ms. Holmes:** Fabulous. Okay. So, we're going to start with a quick history of Lyon County's Forensic Assessment Services Triage Team, we call it lovingly, FASTT, this is the services we provide within the jail in regard to re-entry. It spawned from a 2014 Training and Capacity Building Grant that we received where SAMHSA GAINS center came out and did a sequential intercept mapping, facilitated sequential intercept mapping, for all of Lyon County was a several stakeholders from both the Human Services, our politicians, our commissioners, our district attorney, and our sheriff at the time.

And FASTT was born out of that sequential intercept mapping session. So, we were touching on the model intercepts three and four, so really focusing on when they come into jail and what the re-entry into the community piece looks like.

I'm preaching to the choir, I believe, but really what this has come from is that individuals with behavioral health challenges are at a much higher risk on recidivism and cycling back through the system over and over again without ever actually having their needs met. So, we wanted to be able to intervene and put a wrench in that cycle at that re-entry point to get them connected to the right services to ensure that they don't come back.

This was a regional effort, so our Regional Behavior Health Coordinator at the time was Ms. Jessica Flood and she was able to work to get this implemented in a variety of different fashions, we all do it a little bit different, but within the northern region, which is Lyon, Douglas, Carson City, Storey, and Churchill. Our Regional Behavior Health Coordinator now, Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, is also fantastic and has continued the mission to ensure that we get consistent, she's working on a Forensic Assessment Services Triage Team handbook.

So, what this looks like in Lyon County is it's focused on identifying criminogenic risk and conducting an evidence-based assessment, which then, leads to a re-entry plan tailored to that individual.

Just a quick touch on the criminogenic risk because not all individuals have that background. A lot of times, we go back and forth between criminogenic model or a medical model, we utilize the criminogenic model. So, we're looking at dynamic risk factors that have been shown through research to prevent an individual from not recidivating. There's also the responsivity, which is tied to that, which are different barriers to treatment. Things such as, their intelligence, reading ability, social barriers, child-care, and being able to identify both their criminogenic risk, and their responsivity allows our case managers, and our FASTT team to be able to tailor a plan really specific to that individual to prevent them from coming back in through the justice system.

For that, we utilize the evidence-evidence based assessment tool that ORAS, which is the Ohio Risk Assessment System. There's I want to say, six or seven assessments to choose from.

We utilize the Community Supervision Screening Tool, that's a quick five-to-ten-minute tool that allows you to identify low, moderate, or high risk as far as criminogenic and responsivity issues. And then, for individuals that rank moderate to high, we then do the complete Community Screening Tool, which is the CST and that takes about 45 to 60 minutes to complete for an individual and that's where you get that full picture as far as, what we need to address in a re-entry plan.

It was in the fiscal year 2021 that we shifted from a panel model. When we first launched in 2016, we were limited in our capacity, we brought in partners from our Substance Misuse Treatment Facility from our mental health partners, we had Lyon County Human Services at the table, we had Veteran Services at the table. It was a panel of five to six professionals sitting in the room as inmates were brought in to meet with the panel to go through the full CST. We found that we were limited in our ability to reach the full population that could benefit from those services by having that model. So, what we did was we made a shift in 2021, and we shifted to a model where we have a community health worker and a case manager.

So, a community health worker does that quick five-to-ten-minute CSST, identifies if that individual is going to be moderate to high, and then, the case manager does the full moderate to high and then, we have a certified alcohol and drug counselor part of the team who is able to do a full substance use assessment if that is an issue identified from the CST. That significantly increased the number of individuals we were able to see, the number of individuals we were able to assess and complete those full re-entry plans for.

Just a quick side note as far as a community health worker, they're a lower-level certified professional who is able to serve as a liaison between social services and the community – I apologize for my background noise, that will stop in a moment – but community health workers are highly trained and understand the services available within their community, where these individuals are re-entering to, which is critical for being able to get them connected to the right service for their issue.

So, the services that we provide currently prior to funding through the Council was, the ORAS is completed, then we also offer evidence informed groups from the University of Cincinnati Criminal Institute where cognitive behavioral therapy is the foundation for those group for change, we also have those drug and alcohol assessments and then, connection to treatment and services upon re-entry.

A critical thing to note is that evidence and research has shown that if you provide services to an individual who is not moderate or high on those risk assessments, you're potentially actually doing more harm. So, for individuals that are low on their criminogenic risk and responsibility, we only provide them a list of community resources, we don't want them to leave empty handed, we want them to have some support, but we leave it up to them to advocate for themselves and continue on in the community. It's the individuals that are moderate to high that get the full re-entry plan, which is why we've been able to really reduce the number of clinical professionals on the panel, utilize lower-level professionals to be able to see a higher number of people, and do more good, get better outcomes.

So, on that note, what the outcomes we've seen thus far, so you can see in 16-17, when we first launched, we saw 123, and really between 123 and 145, that was when we were utilizing that panel approach. So, switching to the lower-level professionals, we were able to almost double. Well, now that you see in 23-24, we have doubled the amount of individuals that we've been able to see, and assist, and serve. Through this time -- and I think this is perhaps something that's on your guys' radar, it's something that's on our radar – I serve on several other boards and committees where we talk about defining recidivism and that's for some reason, actually really complicated, sounds simple, but it's a complicated issue and when it comes to our Forensic Assessment Services Triage Teams, it's really important that we figure that out, so that way we can actually improve our outcomes. So, all of these years, 16 through 23-24, recidivism is actually only based upon individuals returning into the FASTT program in Lyon County within that year. And when we first started in 16-17, we had an 82% success rate, 23-24 we've made it up to 87% success rate. So, tiny chips off the block, but we've steadily increased our ability to reduce recidivism when using that very narrow definition of within the same year to our jail. What we know as a region, is that individual's typically get arrested, or re-arrested, or re-offend regionally. So, we don't have anyway of know if somebody's been arrested in Douglas County versus Lyon County, it's something that we are working on, on a few different levels and something that we're making recommendations for through the substance use working group with the Attorney General's Office as well. So, we need to get better at defining recidivism and that way, these programs can actually show better outcomes or know a better ideas as far as, if we're making the true bigger impact that we're hoping for.

So, we're going to hop into what we're utilizing the reinvestment dollars for, which is super exciting for us because one thing that we've have not had the funding to be able to do is, post jail exit. So, once somebody actually re-enters into the community our FASTT team services stop. We can make that service plan and then,



we release them into the community in hopes that they get connected. We do warm handoffs, we set up treatment beds, but from there, we lose them.

And so, what we've been able to do or what we're excited to be able to do because our award was fully executed July 1st, so we haven't done much yet, we're working on getting our sub-contractor for our Peer Support Specialists signed and approved now, but one thing we're going to be instituting is Peer Recovery Support Specialists upon re-entry. So, they're going to these low-level professionals, the PRSS's are going to be able to meet with individuals that are identified as having substance use or mental illness as a need for re-entry and these individuals will be able to meet them while they're in jail, most likely via telephonically or tele-health through zoom, create that relationship while they're incarcerated, and then, upon re-entry be able to connect with them, and help them actually make that service plan happen, and reduce those barriers.

Peer Support Recovery Specialists are individuals that have lived experience from substance use problem, gambling, mental health and/or co-occurring challenges. Many of these individuals have experienced incarceration themselves and so, understand what that looks like on the road to recovery and are really able to help see individuals through to success. So, we are hopeful that these are going to really kickstart those outcomes from the high 80s to hopefully the 90s in regard to recidivism when using that one-year definition.

The other piece of that is, that we're also, some of the funding was provided for us to be able to house folks temporarily because one thing that we see are individuals being released and their treatment bed not ready yet. So, if they're at the need for having inpatient services, we're not able to just seamlessly get everybody from jail exit to treatment facility, there's typically a time in between. And we know that when an individual leaves incarceration and goes back to their prior environment, we're more likely to lose them. So, if we're able to house them temporarily, where their peer can check in on them daily, until their treatment bed is ready, then we're able to hopefully have better success as far as them actually going into that treatment facility and then, being successful with it. Future expansion dreams – always thinking of the future – one piece that is missing as well from our Forensic Assessment Services Triage Teams, is the mental health supports while incarcerated. So, we do have some jail medical staff, we don't do full mental health examinations for individuals and we're not able to provide that clinical level support for folks while they're incarcerated and we would love to be able to get to that point, but the missing piece for this program for a very long time has been services upon re-entry and so, that's what we are really excited to get started with in regard to the funding from the Council.

So, with that, I am open to any questions and again, we're very appreciative of this funding opportunity.

**Chair Byrd:** Thank you so much, Shayla. So much of that makes sense and gives me more ideas.

**Mr. C.J. Zens:** Sorry. I just had a couple of questions for you Shayla, if I may?

**Ms. Homes:** Yeah.

**Mr. Zens:** So, my background is in mental health, and I'm very interested in the program that you put together, and I guess just a couple of questions; the first is, you know, using CADAC's for your drug and alcohol assessments, but I'm curious if you at least have an LALDAC that's overseeing your CADAC's.

**Ms. Holmes:** We do not have an LDAC at this time. Our KDAC is through our partnership with Healthy Communities Coalition and so, they are contracted, they're not in house, but I do not have an LDAC at this time.

**Mr. Zens:** Is that a plan for the future for you guys?

**Ms. Holmes:** You know, potentially expansion, there's so many different ways of which we can continue to better enhance this program and expand it. The KDAC was a newer edition about two years ago with the – INAUDIBLE -- funding that we were able to infuse into the program, but yes, absolutely.

**Mr. Zens:** Okay. And I only ask just, I mean at a very minimum from a liability standpoint, not you know, not to be able to have an LALDAC oversee at least just a supervisory role, you know, for your own protection. And then, for your Peer Support Specialists, I'm familiar with the service and I'm wondering if you have somebody, a direct supervisor for them that they report to or do case management with?

**Ms. Holmes:** So, we're contracting for the peers, we haven't hired them yet, but that is what we're able to do with the funding that has been provided by the Council and I do have in house a licensed clinical professional counselor who just recently just went and got his peer certification or peer supervisor certification completed – excuse me – so, yes, I do now have that and I'm very excited to have that prior to having the peers on board.

**Mr. Zens:** Great. All right. That's great news. Thank you.

**Chair Byrd:** Any other questions for Shayla? All right. Again, thank you very much, Shayla, that was great information and like I said, it has given me ideas. All right. Our next presentation is going to be from Nevada Outreach Training Organizations, NOTO for short, No to Abuse. And Kathie McKenna is going to be our speaker. So, Kathie, I'll turn it over to you.

**Ms. Kathie McKenna:** Thank you very much. So, Kathie McKenna, Nevada Outreach. Not sure how many people know of Nevada Outreach; we have been in existence since 1995, so we've been doing this close to 30 years now. It started out as No to Abuse, which is now a program under Nevada Outreach. The other program that we actually also offer -- which isn't under this funding, but just so you know -- if a Family Resource Center and so, we work a lot with those that need a hand up that are impoverished in our community as well. But we were funded under the domestic violence portion of this grant and so, that is what our No to Abuse program actually is, it's our domestic violence program.

So, under there we help those that have been victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, trafficking, and then, we also under that same program have the Children's Advocacy Center located at our facility as well, where we do forensic interviews for children who are under the age of 18, who have either been sexually abused and/or criminally physically abused. And so, to start with the No to Abuse program, we will see roughly 175 individuals in a calendar year. A lot of times it will start with a hotline call, which our hotline is available 24/7, it could mean that we meet in the field and actually, pick up that victim and take them to Las Vegas for a SANE examine, which is a sexual assault exam. Sadly, we do not have a facility yet in Nye County that will provide those services and for our No to Abuse program we do serve all of Nye and Esmeralda counties. So, if we get a call in Tonopah – which we do have an office in Tonopah – that usually means a three plus hour drive from Tonopah to Las Vegas for an actual SANE examine. So, if and when that all happens, we start working with that client for a case plan. So, we do our best to stabilize those individuals. That individual will sit down with an advocate; they will actually work together on their goals of what they want to accomplish. Sadly, not everyone leaves their abuser. It's tough. There are a variety of reasons why victims will not leave their abusers, but it does happen. We of course support them in what their decision actually is. Sometimes, we also are required to do emergency shelter. We have an extremely small shelter; it has eight beds. So, I don't know if we can really call it an emergency shelter, but it is a place that we can temporarily place those individuals who have experienced domestic violence, sexual assault, that need to be away and does not have a safe place to actually be, without going back home to their abusers. Sometimes, there are family or friends here in the community, but what we find a lot of times is individuals have been brought here because they do not have family or friends and so, there is nobody here to actually support that victim and what they're going through.

So, we work with those individuals very closely as I said, with a case plan. We provide stability services for them for housing, so if housing is a problem, we will do what we can to actually get them a voucher for housing, if that's what is necessary. A lot of times our victims have not had jobs for years, so we will work with local resource that provides workforce development through our Family Resource Center. We can also provide them with things like clothing. A lot of these victims and their families, children, leave the home, and they leave everything. Kind of like, Chairperson Byrd mentioned you know, they leave with nothing, they might not have birth certificates, driver's license, social security cards. So, we do work hand and hand with our Family Resource Center to provide whatever they need to get them back on their feet to be sustainable, so that they can get a job. So, we do work with getting all those necessary ID documents. Transportation is one of our largest problems here in Nye County. We do have a transportation service that is very limited, and a lot of these victims are leaving without a vehicle. So, we do find that there's quite a bit of transportation assistance needed, whether it be our Front Valley Transportation, getting rides that way. They will also pick them up and take them to court, they'll take them to doctor's appointments, whatever we need to do to get them stabilized.

So, in these situations as well, a lot of times there needs to be a temporary protection order put against the perpetrator. So, we work with those victims through the online help for them to be able to fill out those required documents and then, take them to court so that they can file them, and the advocate actually will go with them. In many cases, there is a case that is brought against the perpetrator. If there is a case that is, our advocates will go with them to court, they are their support system.

We do have a domestic violence support group that meets weekly, it fluctuates and changes. We have new faces come in; we'll even have old faces who've been away for a while that come back. A lot of them with success stories to encourage those individuals who have just recently left that, "Hey, yeah, you can do this, you know, hang in there and keep it going."

We work with them closely with budgeting, a lot of times because they don't have jobs, they also don't have budgeting skills, so we work with them on budgeting skills as well. So, although we see roughly 175 new clients a year, there's about another 175-200 people that are ongoing from previous years that we're also helping. We do not close our case till the client decides that they no longer need our assistance. So, we've had some that have been with us for over two years, still maybe coming in for support group, maybe coming in for budgeting assistance again because they get out in the real world and then, too many credit cards and they end up needing help again to, "Hey, can you help me get my budget back on straight." Maybe they've lost their housing for some reason, maybe they've lost a job. So, we provide that support to our clients until our clients decide they no longer need assistance from us.

So, we also provide a lot of resources. We do find that a lot of times there's mental health issues, as well as substance abuse issues that the family has experienced due to the trauma that they have received. So, we do our best to be able to provide those resources. As well as we try to help them with finding a legal attorney if there is a case of divorce or maybe custody with the actual perpetrator as well. We will help with medical services, a lot of times after a domestic violence assault or a sexual assault, they are in need of medical services so, we help them with those as well. And they may also require assistance with getting VOCA assistance, so Victim of Crime Reimbursement whether it be for mental health services or gas to get to and from because this is a traumatic time, so we do find that the victims could spend a lot of time not, having to take off from work to be able to go to doctor's appointments, visiting attorney, mental health, and so, we try to help them with that as well.

On the children side because this grant is allowing us, primarily it is our staffing, which is great. So, it pays for 10% of our supervisor and two of our domestic violence advocates, as well as our child and family advocate that works with Nye County Children's Advocacy Center. So, that's another one that a lot of times will start in the middle of the night. We do have a 24/7 hotline for the Children's Advocacy Center, which is separate from the domestic violence. So, we do have two hotlines that we actually run. They may go directly to the scene, if it's something that's happened, they may show up and go directly to that person's home, if that's required or wherever that child and family may be. If required, a SANE exam may be required with that child as well. With them, we have acute exams and not acute exams. Acute exams are immediate, if it's just happened, we want to try and get that child to see a SANE exam as soon as possible to collect any forensic evidence that there may be.

We will also try to do a forensic interview as rapidly as possible because our children's minds are much different than ours and so, four days in a child's life is a long time ago. So, trying to have them recall what actually happened or occurred to them, we sadly try to get that as soon as possible because they do forget and it's just part of children. So, we do have an MDT team that is comprised of DCFS, the Sheriff's Department, the District Attorney's Office, and then, we have our forensic interviewer, and our child and family advocate. And so, we work as a multidisciplinary team to work on these cases when they interview the child, we have forensic interview equipment that records. Used to be it was on DVDs that could get lost, we've actually had them lost, so that when it went to trial, they didn't have any evidence of the forensic interviews, so now all that is stored in the cloud securely. Which allows them to also have the ability to each different group in the MDT can actually reach out and look at that video, so if the Sheriff's Department is still investigating, they'll be able to see it, if it's the DA, it's now been turned over to the DA, the DA can watch that, they can also send it to the defense attorneys if there is a case that's going to be prosecuted.

So, our advocate plays roughly the same role that our domestic violence advocates do as well. So, they provide a lot of resources, a lot of therapy resources for here. We do not have a lot of therapists in Nye County that actually deal directly with children who have been sexually abused. Some of those children do end up going to Las Vegas if it is severe enough that they need a specialty therapist, but a lot of them do see therapists here in Pahrump. We also will help them with assistance as far as funding for transportation, they may need money to help them with transportation to go to medical doctors, to go to the therapist, so we'll help provide them with transportation vouchers to get to and from. Though the child and family advocate also will stay with this case throughout because they actually develop the relationship with the child and so, when it's time to go to court, they know that person, they have a trust in that person, and so, they will actually attend court with the child. Our judges here in Nye County do allow the advocate to actually sit with the child on the stand if that's something they want, if the child asks for it. So, our judges in our court system have been very lenient when children do have to testify in these cases. But the child and family advocate will do the exact same as far as if we need a TPO or an EPO against the perpetrator.

Sadly, in most of these cases, it is a family member or friend, it's not a stranger and so, that creates even more problems because a lot of times, if it is a parent, we do have to remove those children from the home. There may or may not be DCFS involvement and that's one of the things they look at when they are doing the forensic interview, is we are seeing that parent is protecting that child or not and if not, DCFS will look to remove those children actually from the home.

We see roughly 100 to 120 children a year for forensic interviews sadly, and we deal with about ongoing, usually about 125 family units in a year. Sometimes, we have seen where we do have multiple children in a household, we also find that these cases do take a while. We have some cases that have lasted so long that child is no longer a child, they're actually now an adult over 18 before the cases are actually prosecuted. So, it is a little frustrating to see sometimes in the court system it does take a while, but that's why our advocates keep touch with those children until that court case is done. So, there are some kids that we'll have on for four, five, six, seven years before their case comes about and so, our job is to help keep a touch point on that child, keep that relationship going, so if the court system does decide to have them testify that it's not going to be a stranger that is sitting there working with that child.

So, this grant was very helpful in helping to pay for those staff members that work with both adults and children. We have seen probably like most nonprofits that a lot of our major grants, such as VOCA, such as Marriage License, that help pay for these services have declined through the years and so, these funds allow us to continue having an adequate caseload to hopefully to be able to handle it. We could probably use double the staff because it seems like our office is fairly busy, but we do with what we can. And as I said, we have offices both Tonopah and Pahrump and we do serve all of Esmeralda County. We also have MOU with Lincoln County, which we also help them, should they need any help when it comes to forensic interviews or if they need any help with their domestic violence victims. So, with that, does anybody have any questions?

**Chair Byrd:** Thank you very much, Kathie. Any questions for Kathie? Marie has one. She's got her hand up.

**Ms. Bledsoe:** Hi, Ms. McKenna.

**Ms. McKenna:** Hi.

**Ms. Bledsoe:** It's great to meet you. We've been working together of course on getting these grant funds out.

**Ms. McKenna:** We have.

**Ms. Bledsoe:** One thing I wanted to mention, and highlight is that your forensic interviews are recorded as you'd mention and so, some of the grant funds are being used to upgrade that equipment.

**Ms. McKenna:** Yes.

**Ms. Bledsoe:** Is that still on track? Great. And so, I just wanted to point out to the group that these interviews that are done on video, one of the exciting things from your grant application was that children especially, only

have to do the interview once. And so, I just wanted to highlight that because I thought that was really quite striking and I appreciated that.

**Ms. McKenna:** People will, actually attorneys when they're actually trying to cross examine a child, a child may remember something that they had forgotten or forgot something that they remembered. I mean, that's just part of a child's brain and so, the attorneys will look and say, "Oh, see, he's not reliable." This way when we do the interview, that child no longer has to do that over again, and it makes such a difference in that child, a huge difference. Plus, we have the ability to control the access of that child's interview, so no one happens to come across the DVD and see a child's interview on it, which has happened before, and that was one of the strong suits to get that equipment.

**Ms. Bledsoe:** Great. Thank you very much.

**Chair Byrd:** Great, thank you. Any more questions for Kathie? All right. Thank you. We're going to move onto –

**Ms. McKenna:** We appreciate it.

**Chair Byrd:** Yes. Thank you. – INAUDIBLE – will move onto our final speaker today and FASTT Program Expansion is what she's going to share with us today. Daria, it's your turn to speak.

**Ms. Daria Singer:** Awesome. Thank you, everyone. My name is Daria Singer, and I am the Executive Director of Partnership Douglas County, and we serve Douglas County Nevada. Our agency is one of ten local substance prevention coalitions, and our mission is to connect a healthy community through education and resource connection. So, our primary role is doing prevention within our schools and our community, and then, we also support additional programs such as MOST and FASTT.

So, I'm going to talk about the FASTT program first since Shayla, Dr. Shayla Holmes, actually just shared a lot about FASTT, so it's fresh in your mind. We run the program very similarly here in Douglas County, our FASTT program began a little after Shayla's in 2017 using the exact same response need, responsiveness the RNR model – I apologize – and we are serving our Douglas County Jail population. We do have a substation up in Lake Tahoe, where we also have a jail, but we typically only see one to two individuals in that jail at a given time. So, we focus a majority of our efforts down at our substation in Carson Valley. With our FASTT program it is voluntary and so, we work with anyone that is interested in the program, and typically what we do is our contractor will go in, and we'll see who our new bookings are from there, bring them in, interview them, see if they're interested in being a part of their program, and if not, we still offer to connect them to services, and that is what this grant is supporting.

Under our FASTT funding we have through the State of Nevada, which is liquor tax dollars, we are only working with our high-risk offenders that are eligible and wanting to be in the program. With this money we are able to work with our low-risk and connect all of them to services. So, what we found is by not working with our low-risk offenders, we are seeing them over time elevating their risk factors, and re-offending, and coming back into our jail. So, by trying to address it early on, we're hoping to combat a good chunk of that.

Similar to Shayla's program, we also started out with a large panel of individuals that would go in, and interview potentially only one to two inmates at a time and looking at that we were not as effective as we could've been. It spent a lot of time; it was really hard to be effective and each member of the team had to get approved by the jail prior to going in. So, now we have two individuals that go in; we have our contractor through Community Counseling Center, they're based in Carson City and are a community behavioral health center, but they also provide services to Douglas County, and then, we have someone from Douglas County Social Services go in as well. When we meet with our individuals we use the exact same tools, the community service tools, the CST, CSST, we do the brief jail mental health screen, and then, identify what their needs are. If they are on the low-risk side, we will connect them social services and our partner there will work with them to make sure they have all the services they need prior to release.

Some similar barriers to Lyon County are once they are released from our jail; it is very hard to do any follow-up with them. The only ones we've been able to do some level of follow-up are those that actually go to social

services to continue on with their case plan or those that go to Community Counseling Center, if they were going to be connected to them for drug and alcohol counseling or mental health counseling. Outside of that, it's really hard to keep track of everyone, so we're hoping that over time as we grow this program, we'll be able to see a greater reduction in recidivism.

Douglas County is also unique because we have Lake Tahoe and so, we have a lot of individuals that get arrested in Tahoe that are not from the State of Nevada. So, kind of unique when they're in our jail. If they are not local to the State of Nevada or if they're an arrestee from Nevada Department of Public Safety, so Nevada Highway Patrol or through the Washoe Tribe, they're eligible to get connected to services, but we may not make them a FASTT client because typically they're going to be brought into Washoe County or going to Tribal Court.

So, that's a little bit about our FASTT team and what we're hoping to expand on through this funding and our other program is our MOST team which is the Mobile Outreach Safety Team. MOST was founded in Douglas County in 2016 after the IHOP shooting in Carson City and after, Carson City created their MOST team. Our team is a licensed clinician, so we have a marriage and family therapist, we have a clinical social worker, and we have an LDAC. So, we have three different ones that will rotate on our team and then, we also have a deputy that is trained in Crisis Intervention Training. Their primary goal is to do that diversion and deflection, so make sure that they're reaching those individuals prior to them going to the hospital or getting arrested and divert them to other services.

Douglas County we have an aging population, and we have seen that over the last couple of years, over 33% of our population is 65 years or older, and so, we are seeing an increase in dementia, and that is not something our MOST team works on. If they get a call for a dementia-related incident, they will connect them to the Department of Aging and Disability Services.

So, when I wrote the proposal for MOST, we're looking at adding another clinician onto our team. We originally started just one day a week in 2016, expanded to two days a week in 2020, and are hoping to move towards five days, maintaining those five days, and eventually moving toward a 24/7 system. We may not be able to do multiple teams like Carson City or Washoe County does, but we're hoping we'll be able to build an on-call system, so that clinician can be called out and go with the deputy that is trained in Crisis Intervention Training, CIT, and be able to act as a mini-MOST team until the regular MOST clinician is back on time.

With that, we have seen an increase in calls. In the proposal I wrote in fiscal year 23, we saw 968 calls for service for our MOST team. At the end of fiscal year 24, we saw 750, which sounds like a decrease, but it was actually an increase because we looked at our calls in 23 and we saw that a lot of them were relating to dementia. And so, instead of no longer addressing those dementia calls and connecting them to services, we're able to work more with our individuals experiencing a mental health or substance use related crisis.

With this funding we also are looking at partnering with our local Suicide Prevention Network Agency and having them go into our jail and provide some clinical therapy sessions for our inmates. In Douglas County, we've had three suicides to date, which is the lowest we've had in a period of time. Last time this year, we averaged eleven and we see it primarily with our male population in their 40s to 60s. Being in jail is really hard and so, we want to make sure that we can have someone going in that is not you know, part of the jail staff, that can offer them some tips and coping strategies while they're in there. So, we're excited to be able to bring that to our jail through this grant funding. And that is all I have at the moment, are there any questions?

**Chair Byrd:** Thank you very much, Daria. That's great.

**Ms. Singer:** Thank you.

**Chair Byrd:** Any questions for Daria? All right. Hearing none, that concludes our presentation. So, we will now close this agenda item.

## **6. Discussion of Potential Topics and Dates for Future Meetings**

**Chair Byrd:** I will now open agenda item six. The dates for the meetings for the rest of the year are provided in the agenda. Our next meeting will be October 16, 2024, at 1:30. When you do get the meeting invite again, if you could please confirm your attendance or not. So, that Jorja and them can follow if we'll have a quorum or not, that is really important. Our staff is already working on more topics and items for the discussion of the future meetings. Marie shared some of those today, but does anyone have anything they want to be considered for future meetings? Hearing none. If you think of anything that you would like to be considered for an agenda or for a future meeting, please contact myself or Director Powers, we'll be happy to consider that and look at seeing how we can accommodate.

## **7. Public Comment**

**Chair Byrd:** All right. I will now open the second period of public comment. Just as we did during the first period of public comment, those who wish to testify may do so by telephone. Due to time constraints, public comment will be limited to two minutes. Any member of the public that exceeds the two minutes may submit their testimony in writing to the Department of Sentencing Policy at [sentencingpolicy@ndsp.nv.gov](mailto:sentencingpolicy@ndsp.nv.gov). At this time, I will ask staff to manage and direct those who wish to testify. Ms. Jones?

**Ms. Jones:** Thank you, Chair. Members of the public who would like to testify by phone, press star nine to raise your hand. When it's your turn to speak, press star six to unmute then please slowly state and spell your first and last name. And we have no one would like to participate in public comment.

**Chair Byrd:** All right. Thank you, Hunter. That concludes our second part of public comment.

## **8. Adjournment**

**Chair Byrd:** Great work everyone. Thank you to the staff and members of Council and our presenters. We have accomplished a lot today and I look forward to seeing you in October to continue with our efforts. This meeting is now adjourned.