

Memo

Date: August 13, 2013

To: NCPDV Sub-Committee members – Henna Rasul, Kareen Prentice, and Jennifer Kandt

From: Judge Mike Cowley, Meadow Valley Justice Court; Judge Nola Holton, Pahrnagat Valley Justice Court; Maxine Lantz, Victim / Witness Services Program

CC: Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto

Subject: NRS 200.485 para 3(a), NRS 228.470 para 2 & 3, NRS 33.018

Domestic Violence Convictions Requirement for Batterer's Treatment and Batterer's Accountability in Rural Nevada Proposal for Change

Rural isolation has been a standing problem for Justice Court Judges in compliance with ordering Batterer's treatment in cases of domestic battery convictions for first and second offenses. There are no resident programs available. There is no readily available public transportation. Most often the batterer has no reliable personal transportation to metropolitan/urban areas where certified programs exist.

Presently, justices order the counseling with a caveat that if the program becomes available or the offender moves into an area where the program is available, then the offender must attend and send compliance to the court. Since justice courts only have three years of jurisdiction over the convicted person, few to none of the offenders attend the Batterer's Treatment program during that time.

Justices in Lincoln County have taken alternate approaches whenever substance abuses are linked to the crime. Often, the judge orders a substance abuse evaluation and compliance with the evaluator's recommendations. Judge Cowley requires the evaluation within ten days and monthly updates from the offender to the court. He also has the offender sign a HIPPA information release for the Judge to speak to the counselor. The main goal is offender accountability.

To increase offender accountability, the justices in Lincoln County are willing to pilot a new approach to getting more convicted domestic violence defendants into counseling in the hope of reducing repeat offenders in Lincoln County. If successful, providing leadership to other rural jurisdictions in Nevada.

We have proposals for your consideration and support:

The first is to have the involvement of Rural Health Services (RHS). If RHS counselors are certified as appropriate to run the rural Batterer's Treatment, there would be a two-fold positive outcome: One, offender accountability in attending the sessions, and two, ensuring funding to keep RHS available. Each year there is serious discussion on reducing budgets to RHS services. Most RHS centers have only one counselor available. So, it would be necessary to use telecommunications for the second counselor, perhaps through video conferencing or Skype. This could be done through offering the course twice a month at two sessions at the RHS. The cost would be in supplying the RHS locations with communication equipment. If RHS is not open to this approach, perhaps New Frontier, a substance abuse program, could be used in the same fashion. New Frontier currently provides counseling in Nevada rural counties and is based in Fallon.

The second is to have an online Batterer's Treatment course similar to the current LRS Anger Management I and II courses. The offender would be required to do the course at the courthouse, similar to the current approach to DUI Victim Impact Panel session. The offender would check into the Court to be logged on by the court clerk. Compliance reports should be supplied to the Court by the provider. Maxine has contacted Zachery Larson of LRS. Zach responded with a program proposal. It is attached for your convenience, along with the LRS brochure. LRS was contacted because it has the Batterer's Treatment program in Las Vegas, and is a Nevada-based company. The cost would be in equipment for the courts to have a dedicated online access computer.

A combination of both proposals may be more effective. The offender could do three weeks of online training and be required to attend the video conference at least once a month. The resident counselor could then observe any positive/negative effects on the offender and update the Court as to status. The judge could then set status hearing to adjust sentencing to the individual's compliancy needs.

Success can be measured by tracking repeat offenders within the seven years of the conviction. A program evaluation can be created and completed by the offender at the end of the course as to attitudinal changes or impacts. Judges can require a status hearing for the evaluation and completion of the course. Failure to attend / appear by the offender would be assessed as a negative result. There could be quarterly status hearings in which the offender can reflect on the course to the judge and the responses compiled for success measurement.

The cost to start-up this pilot program would be in LRS program initiation cost after State approval of the program, two computers with internet access (one at the two justice courts or both at the Caliente Mental Health facility. Please note that Caliente is the most central residential community in Lincoln County. Both rural mental health and New Frontier services are available in Caliente.)

The bottom line is that all of us want offenders to stop offending.

Please feel free to contact Judge Cowley, Judge Holton, or Maxine Lantz if you have questions or concerns.

Thank you.

Proposal for LRS participation in a Pilot Domestic Violence Offenders Program for Rural Nevada



Brief description of LRS Systems: LRS Systems is a Nevada owned company that has over a 14 year history of providing court ordered education to courts throughout the state both in live and online environments. On average over 100 new clients enroll in the LRS batterers intervention program each month. LRS is committed to providing education solutions to the courts that are effective and affordable.

Proposal

Synopsis: An online course using the existing approved LRS 26 week course would be developed by LRS. This course would include text and video and have the ability to limit how many lessons are completed on a daily, weekly or monthly basis based on the disposition of the court. The location of course completion could be limited to the courthouse or other court approved location if desired. Timers can be set up to ensure a minimum required amount of time is spent on each important concept or topic. In addition clients can work with their local mental health or similar social service offices to have monthly check-ins and evaluations. If such services are not available the client could also video conference on a monthly basis to process and demonstrate learning with a licensed LRS counselor.

Costs: LRS would develop the course at their expense and could provide it to clients at a cost of \$280-\$480 depending on the reporting, security measures the court wanted in place, and use of counselors via video conferencing. Other costs involved would be setting up a computer with internet and providing monitoring if required. While LRS could provide these, it would be more cost effective for the courts involved to use existing computers or obtain computers for this purpose and reallocate existing staff.

Summary: This proposal would provide a cost effective program that would also monitor and require effort and participation over time from the defendants. In addition to the online learning modules it provides for interaction with a professional counselor or mental health practitioner and can be done in a secure manner allowing for assurances of the client's participation.

Alternative Proposals

A virtual online classroom could be set up that allows students to video conference in on a weekly or monthly basis and participate live with two counselors in a classroom environment. The major downsides to such a proposal would be the costs (equipment and counselor fees) and the lack of flexibility with class days and times.

While the above proposals are being submitted by LRS as the best in practice, LRS remains open to additional suggestions and committed to helping to find and provide an effective option for providing educational options to rural area Domestic Violence offenders without damaging the existing live programs offered in major population areas.

Thank you, to all of those who have used our services in the past. Your continued support and patronage is important to us. For those who haven't worked with us before, I'd like to take this opportunity to invite you to consider our convenient solutions for your clients.

At LRS Systems we strive to stay on the cutting edge in both treatment theories and technology. Currently we offer not only many live classes but also a growing number of **internet** and **correspondence** courses when appropriate. In addition to our growing number of courses, to better serve you and your clients, all classes are offered in both **English** and **Spanish**.

As a long time member of this community and someone with many years of experience in working with both the justice system and counseling, I understand the importance of finding the right fit for all sides involved. At LRS Systems our goal is to make this process as beneficial, simple and efficient as possible for everyone.

We can work together in finding solutions for your clients. Thank you again for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact any of my staff or me with questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Richard Vincent
President, LRS Systems

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Systems

*Providing the solutions
you need to move your clients
quickly and effectively
through their court mandated
educational requirements.*



LRS
SYSTEMS
Ltd.

LRS Systems Ltd. is licensed by the State of Nevada to provide the following classes;

EFFECTIVE CHOICE SERIES:

- **Anger Management Levels I & II (Impulse Control)**

Technique taught on how to recognize and defuse anger.

- **Petty Larceny**

Class emphasizes positive personal changes involving decision making, self evaluation and making positive plans.

- **STD-AIDS Awareness**

Addresses AIDS awareness, prevention, protection and general sexual health, including types of STD's and their effects.

- **Drug & Alcohol**

Short term course designed for low-level offenders.

TRAFFIC SERIES:

- **Online Victim Impact Panel (VIP)**

Course consists of video segments of those who have been injured, lost loved ones or otherwise had their lives drastically affected by a DUI incident. Clients are required to participate in interactive quizzes following each video segment.

- **DUI School**

Class is licensed by the State of Nevada DMV and meets all Federal and State requirements.

- **Traffic School**

Curriculum is approved and licensed by the State of Nevada DMV.

- **Teen Driving School (15 and 30 hour course)**

Class is licensed by the State of Nevada DMV and meets educational requirements for teens to receive a Nevada drivers license.

OTHER COURSES & SERVICES:

- **Domestic Violence**

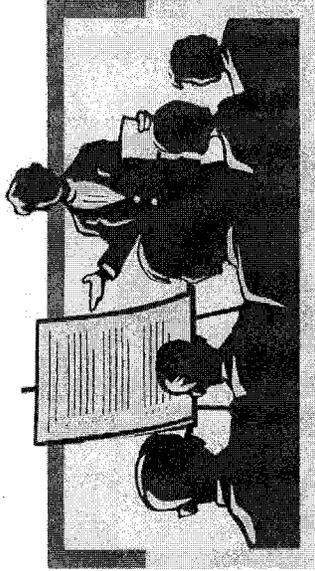
Addresses control issues and encourages participant to make necessary life changes.

- **Drug & Alcohol**

Participants learn specific behaviors and to accept personal responsibility. Duration of classes can be determined at the discretion of the court. (Normally done in 3, 6 or 12 month increments.) -BADA Certified/State Certified.

- **Drug Testing**

Onsite swab test, done as a convenience for the court.



All classes available in English and Spanish.

All classes, except Domestic Violence are available online, by correspondence and in the classroom.

Domestic Violence classes must be taught in the classroom as dictated by State Law.

Court and attorneys receive notification of client status prior to the return to court date.

Classes are available 7-days a week.

Office is open 7a.m. to 7p.m. each weekday and 7:30a.m. to 4p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Online classes can be accessed through our website: www.lrsystems.com.

Sign up for all correspondence courses at our office located at 2077 East Sahara.