

Board, Commission or Committee

Application



General Information

Name of Board, Commission or Committee: Citizens Advisory Committee

Applicant Name: Christopher Merritt

Home Address: [Redacted] City: [Redacted] Zip: [Redacted]

Mailing Address: [Redacted] City: [Redacted] Zip: [Redacted]

Home Phone: [Redacted] Cell Phone: [Redacted]

Work Phone: [Redacted] Fax: [Redacted]

Email Address: [Redacted]

Employer: Clark County School District Occupation: Director II

Availability

Please provide the times you are available to serve on this Board/Commission/Council.

I am available Monday through Friday

Relevant Affiliations

Please list below any other committees you are currently serving on. Please list, if applicable, the jurisdiction and the term of appointment. If you were appointed by an individual and not by a local jurisdiction please include that information.

- City of Las Vegas My Brother's Keeper - Yearly
Cities of North Las Vegas and Henderson Hope Squad - Yearly
Clark County Children's Mental Health Consortium - Yearly
Hazel Health Inc. Advises Children Mental Health. Provides districtwide implementation and professional learning to staff. - Yearly
United Citizens Foundation Advises Children Mental Health. Provides districtwide implementation and professional learning to staff. - Yearly

Skills and Experience

Please provide a brief description of your qualifications; include any special skills, interests, experience or training which you possess that would benefit the work of this Board, Commission or Council:

I oversee the Clark County School District (CCSD) Wraparound Services Department. In this position, I supervise social worker liaisons, site social workers, safe school professionals, licensed clinical social workers, mental health professionals, marriage/family therapists, school counselors, school psychologists, lifeline, Care Solace, Panorama, Hazel Health, United Citizens Foundation, IMPACT, SISP 2.0, Secondary Summer School, ESSER III special projects, and support to schools. Each day I work closely with the school social workers and support schools for trauma telehealth services. I work closely with all schools and central office departments to ensure schools are supported. I serve as an instructional leader while implementing programs and practices that support the Clark County School District Board of Trustees' identifies strategic imperatives for student achievement and return on investment while working alongside community partners and the Nevada Department of Education. In addition to supervision, I provide administrative support and development of mental health resources and programming while providing a greater array of mental health resources and programming for students and families and ensuring proper staff is hired as applicable to the services.

I coordinate with other Clark County School District departments, community partners, and governmental agencies. I collaborate with school principals to hire school-based social workers and safe school professionals. Ensuring that all Clark County School District procedures are followed up to and including any discipline and termination of Clark County Scholl District employees and Clark County School District contracted employees

Please attach a required resume/letter of interest.

I certify that the information provided is true and accurate to the bet of my knowledge.

Signature

Date

07/22/2024

You may deliver this application to the Clark County Administrative Services Department, 6th Floor, Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway, or mail to the following address:

Administrative Services Department - 6th Floor Attn: Agenda Coordinator
P. O. Box 551712, Las Vegas - NV 89155-1712

(This document becomes a public record once it has been received by Clark County.)

I am interested in serving on the Citizens Advisory Committee as a representative from the Clark County School District because of the connections I have with social-emotional learning and mental health support. I have seen the impact when social workers and mental health services are used in conjunction with technology to address student mental health. I have worked with school social workers to utilize evidence-based and nationally recognized instructional practices to interface with the educational process and meet the needs of schools, students, and families in the Clark County School District.

The structures I have implemented focus on a strengths-based and system-wide approach. School social workers focus on prevention and interventions by facilitating engagement between schools, families, and the community. Using their training in systems theory, advocacy, cultural competence, and the Code of Ethics set by the National Association of Social Workers, school social workers address the District's Strategic Imperatives by providing direct services to students and families using SEL concepts and best practices. My professional development sessions help school social workers to link children, youth, and families to community agency resources, providing Response to Instruction (RTI) Intervention on all three (3) tiers and aligning services to meet the educational needs of all students.

My department is responsible for addressing the mental health crisis that Southern Nevada is currently experiencing. I have been successful with recruiting social workers for school site positions. Most of these schools are struggling with budget cuts. Once at schools, school social workers work with Lifeline (Mental Health Resources) to protect, fortify, and strengthen students' social and emotional well-being by identifying and seeing them in person, assessing their needs, and tailoring tiered interventions, responsively and proactively. School social workers believe that for all students to succeed, they must be safe and feel a sense of belonging. Working with Lifeline commits social workers to this outcome for all students by continuing to build and strengthen social-emotional skills.

I can use my experience and expertise to develop mental health guidelines that will help school districts and communities implement procedures to help all students. My experience with communicating with mental health companies to deploy resources to schools throughout the district has led to an increase in mental health referrals and a decrease in expulsions. As a result, my work would include, identifying problems in a child's living situation (home, school, and community) that may affect the child's adjustment, ability, and attendance in the educational setting, conducting home visits, and meeting with families regularly, developing and facilitating weekly support groups which provide students with strategies to cope with and overcome difficulties impacting school performance.

Christopher R. Merritt

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Educator with over twenty years of varied experience and a track record of success in public education. Experiences include classroom teacher, grant writer and administrator, and school and central office administrator.

Clark County School District

Director of Wraparound Services and Summer School Operations

November 2021 - Present

- Managed administrative oversight of mental health resources and programming
- Provided an array of mental health supports for students and families
- District Leadership liaison, responsible for coordinating Wraparound Services with other District departments, community partners, and governmental agencies
- Provided direction, oversight, and support for various specialized programs provided throughout CCSD
- District representative on various community service governing boards and advisory entities for Wraparound and Summer School services
- Supervised a department of 175 mental health professionals, including 35 Social Workers
- Administrator for a \$15 million Social Worker Grant and a \$47 million department budget
- Managed and implemented district summer school programs and budgets

School Administrator

December 2012 – October 2021

- Supervised: Curriculum, Activities, Athletics, Testing, ELL, and Facilities
- Grant writer
- Designed and implemented ELL structures and supports
- Supervised and provided training on Restorative Justice Practices
- Increased student participation in student club activities by partnering with local businesses
- Created and organized a dual-credit program for 11th and 12th-grade students
- Partnered with local businesses to raise funds to increase athletic participation
- Created an Athletic Scholarship fund to help low-income families purchase athletic gear

English Language Arts Teacher

August 2006 – December 2012

- Classes Taught: Broadcast Journalism, English 9 Honors, English 10 Honors, Journalism, Speech/Debate, and English 12
- Department Chair
- Project Facilitator - Striving Readers Grant

EDUCATION

M.Ed. Educational Leadership - University of Nevada, Las Vegas

September 2009 - December 2011

M.Ed. Curriculum and Instruction - University of Nevada, Las Vegas

September 2003 - May 2005

B.S. Communications - Oregon State University

August 1999 - May 2003

ACADEMY/CERTIFICATIONS

Education Finance Certificate - Georgetown University

2024

Instructional Technology Certificate - Boise State University

2023

Executive Leadership Academy - Howard University

2022

Performance Leadership & Change Management Certificates - Cornell University

2021

Grant Writing Certificate - University of Nevada, Las Vegas

2019

PERSONAL

Married; father of two children. Enjoys traveling, reading, music, and coaching youth sports.