

Steve Sisolak
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS
Director



**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Lisa Sherych
Administrator

Ihsan Azzam,
Ph.D., M.D.
Chief Medical Officer

DPBH COMMISSION ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

MEETING MINUTES

April 6th, 2022

9:00 AM

MEETING LOCATIONS:

This meeting was held online and by phone.

Join Online

Zoom Meeting link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84457419352?pwd=VnlhRzEyNHdESTZBeE1mZ1R1V3p1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 844 5741 9352

Passcode: 789165

Join by Phone

Phone Number: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 844 5741 9352

Passcode: 789165

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Braden Schrag (Chair), Lisa Ruiz-Lee (Vice Chair), Jasmine Cooper, LCADC, Natasha Mosby LCSW, Billie J. Miller, Gregory Giron Psy.D., Arvin Operario, RN

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:

Lisa Durette, M.D., Dan Ficalora CPC

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Staff:

Joseph Filippi, Executive Assistant, DPBH; Rex Gifford, Administrative Assistant III, Joanne Malay, Deputy Administrator, DPBH; Julian Montoya, Clinical Program Manager II, ADSD; Suzanne Sliwa, DAG; Roswell Allen, Recovery Manager, ADSD;; Amir Bringard, SNAMHS, DPBH; Amy Whalen, DCFS; Vicky Erickson, Clinical Program Manager I, ADSD; Kathryn Martin Waldman, Clinical Program Manager II, DCFS; Ellen Richardson-Adams, Agency Manager, SNAMHS

Others/Public Present:

Michelle Bennett, Clark County Regional Health Coordinator; Dorothy Edwards, Washoe County Health Coordinator; Fergus Laughridge, Ft. McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe; Lea Case, Belz & Case; Jeri Sanders; Valarie Haskin, Rural Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator; Julie Slabaugh, Senior Deputy Attorney General

Chair Schrag called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Roll call is reflected above. It was determined that a quorum was present.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Chair Schrag asked if anyone from the public had any comments. There were no comments from the public.

3. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discuss, plan, and assign tasks for the completion of the next Annual Letter, Per Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 433.314(4) – Commission:**

Chair Schrag explained that the Commission should follow the example of last year's Commission on Behavioral Health Annual Governor's Letter by breaking up the letter into individual Commissioner responsibilities.

Mr. Filippi gave the Commission an overview of how the Annual Governor's Letter has been drafted in the past. Mr. Filippi explained that in letters past the Commissioners would review the Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board Reports that were submitted. These reports cover the regions such as the Washoe, Rural, and Clark County reports which were presented during the March 24th Commission on Behavioral Health meeting. Yesterday, Mr. Filippi sent the Annual Children's Behavioral Health Consortia Report for 2021 which are also used to help draft the Annual Governor's Letter regarding children's behavioral health in Nevada. The discussion today is meant to discuss all the materials that have been presented to the Commission and for the Commission to divide up the reports into sections that the Commissioner may be willing to draft. Whether that may be a certain section of the letter such as children's behavioral health, or region that you would be willing to draft. There was also a discussion about the Licensing Board issues that were discussed last meeting, so that effort can be added.

Chair Schrag thanked Mr. Filippi and asked which Commissioner would like to draft the Licensing Board section and stated that he will draft the main body of the letter and work with Mr. Filippi during final editing.

Mr. Filippi let the Commission know that Commissioner Ficalora indicated interest through email that he would like to work on the licensing board section of the letter, even though that was not discussed publicly.

Commissioner Ruiz-Lee stated that she thought it is important that someone who is licensed work on the licensing board section of the letter because in the past the Commission has not really addressed the issue. This is a difficult task for a licensed Commissioner to take on because of the fear of repercussions later, but licensed individuals experience the challenges every single day whereas the rest of the Commission just hears about the challenges and do not understand why the licensing board behaves the way it does. Commissioner Ruiz-Lee reiterated that a Commissioner who is licensed would be the best person to take on the licensing board section.

Commissioner Giron said that he would like to be a part of this. Commissioner Ruiz-Lee reiterated that someone who is in licensing, who has co-workers whom they work with that have critiques that have experienced the licensing board and such issues as paperclips being in the wrong place when they submit their licensing. Those experiences matter and are meaningful.

Commissioner Giron stated that upon review of the question the Commission can suggest to the Governor that the licensing board support trainees and that he would like to help with that.

Chair Schrag mentioned that in the last meeting the Commission discussed more effective use of technology and other things in the current decentralized capacities and increase in telehealth. If we are able to add that then the Commission should look at that ability on a licensing board concerns such as supervising interns. Chair Schrag asked Mr. Filippi a procedural question as to if there needs to be a motion on the Annual Governor's Letter assignments, or can it just be assigned?

Mr. Filippi referred the question to the DAG (Deputy Attorney General) Julie Slabaugh or Susanne Sliwa.

Ms. Slabaugh answered that they can do a motion at the end and approve the assignments whole rather than one-at-a-time.

Chair Schrag directed Mr. Filippi to note that Commissioner Giron and Commissioner Ficalora will be responsible to for the licensing board section of the letter and asked him to direct Commissioner questions and comments about the licensing board to them.

Chair Schrag asked who would like to take the northern Nevada section of the letter and Commissioner Giron volunteered.

Chair Schrag asked who would like to take the Washoe County region and Commissioner Operario volunteered. He stated that he did not know much about Washoe County, but he is willing to learn. Additionally, Commissioner Operario expressed interest in helping with the licensing portion of the letter as well.

Commissioner Schrag stated that he took the Clark County region last year and he will take it again this year as well as gathering the information and writing the main body of the letter.

Commissioner Miller volunteered to help with the Washoe County region of the letter with Commissioner Operario. She stated that she didn't know much about Washoe County also, but she would be interested in learning about it.

Chair Schrag asked who would like to take the Rural Region and Commissioner Mosby wasn't sure if she had the Rural Region last year, but she would like to take it this year.

Commissioner Cooper stated that she is the substance abuse representative on the Commission and last year she did the substance abuse section and that she would like to take that section again this year. Chair Schrag confirmed that Commissioner Cooper can do that section and congratulated her on recent matrimony.

Chair Schrag asked whom would take the children's section. Commissioner Ruiz-Lee stated that Commissioner Durette had that section before and that she feels like Commissioner Durette would not mind doing it again, and Commissioner Ruiz-Lee was going to take that section too.

Chair Schrag asked Mr. Filippi if all the sections were accounted for. Mr. Filippi confirmed that all the sections of the Annual Governor's Letter were accounted for by the Commissioners.

Commissioner Schrag asked the Commission for suggestions about a realistic completion date. Mr. Filippi volunteered to upload all the regional reports into Microsoft Teams, so the Commissioners have one place to view the documents. Mr. Filippi also suggested a Microsoft Word document in Teams that the Commissioners can submit their drafts for their section of the letter and Mr. Filippi can add it to the letter body. With today's technology the Commission could work together on the same document at the same time if they wish through Teams. Mr. Filippi is happy to work with any Commissioner offline on anything specific. Mr. Filippi gave that suggestion as an option to the Commission. Chair Schrag stated that would be the best way to do the letter after seeing many of the Commissioners nod in agreement.

Chair Schrag noted that last year the letter took about three months before it was finalized, approved, and sent to the Governor. He asked the Commission if they would like to have the letter done by June 23rd, 2022 the date of the next Commission on Behavioral Health meeting with the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) for final approval by the Commission to have a signed letter be ready and sent to the governor?

Commissioner Cooper asked the Commission if there are any fiscal issues that may affect the timing of the letter since June is late for some folks fiscally. Additionally, Commissioner Cooper asked if there were any circumstances, like last year, where the letter needed to be done before the legislature disbanded and she asked Mr. Filippi if he knew of any of these? Mr. Filippi stated that he did not have any knowledge of the fiscal deadlines and reiterated that the timing is up to the Commission. Mr. Filippi also let the Commission know that even though the June 23rd meeting is with DCFS the Governor's Annual Letter approval could be on that meeting agenda.

Commissioner Giron asked if any of the Commissioners are going to the Governor's Health Summit on the 19th of May? If they are at the Summit the Commissioners could ask what would be timely for the Governor. He understands the urgency the Commission has to address the issues with the Governor and this Summit might be the way to prepare him for the legislature. Commissioner Mosby stated that she will be at the summit and also attending the same day the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) Behavioral Health Committee meeting. Chair Schrag stated that he will be traveling that day and he will not be able to attend.

Chair Schrag echoed Commissioner Giron's comment about wanting to get the letter done as soon as possible, but the Chair did not see an immediate need for a special session. Chair Schrag was concerned about having a realistic time frame for completion. Chair Schrag noted the end of the school year and the pressure those who have academic thesis' due might need more time as well as the beginning of summer. Chair Schrag would like to have the letter completed by the end of the school year. He then asked Mr. Filippi when the next non-DCFS Commission on Behavioral Health meeting would be. Mr. Filippi let the Commission know that the next adult focused Commission on Behavioral Health meeting will be May 19th, 2022.

Chair Schrag thought that from now until May 19th, 2022, would be too soon for a letter draft and he asked the Commission what they thought. Commissioner Miller said that she will be out of the country from April 26th to May 7th, and that she didn't feel that she would be able to give the support needed for her section of the letter and preferred a later date. Chair Schrag stated that he will be traveling internationally as well. Commissioner Mosby stated she will be traveling too. Commissioner Schrag stated that the best time for a letter review and approval would be the June 23rd, 2022, Commission on Behavioral Health meeting with DCFS and he asked Mr. Filippi if he could get the Governor's Annual Letter edits and approvals on the agenda. Mr. Filippi asked Chair Schrag if that was a motion? Chair Schrag stated that he wanted to recap everything first and in one motion.

Chair Schrag stated that all the sections of the letter were assigned, and that Mr. Filippi would put together all the documents in Microsoft Teams for the Commission as well as a tentative date. Chair Schrag asked if the Commissioners had any questions about the letter?

Commissioner Giron said that the reports received from the last session to the health of the state was very enlightening and worrying. From the disenfranchised to the poor, from gender, and race these are very trying times and he would encompass that in the report for northern Nevada. The letter must carry some weight because the need is great. We need to find solutions.

Commissioner Cooper asked Mr. Filippi if the Commission is going to discuss in the June 23rd, 2022 Commission on Behavioral Health meeting to have drafts done by that date to vote in that meeting to approve or to have a date of completion of the letter before the June 23rd, 2022 Commission on Behavioral Health meeting to vote on the letter in that meeting? Mr. Filippi answered that it would be helpful for him to know that the draft is final before it is posted publicly still in draft form, but it will need to be posted publicly as a meeting attachment on June 23rd for the Commissioners to discuss. Similar to how the Commission discussed meeting minutes prior to this meeting that document is still a draft, so it can be a final draft, but if discussion and edits come up during the June 23rd meeting, the Commission can discuss those edits before finalizing and submitting the Annual Governor's Letter to the Governor.

Commissioner Schrag asked Mr. Filippi when the next Commission on Behavioral Health meeting is after the June 23rd meeting? Mr. Filippi answered that the next meetings for both the regular Commission on Behavioral Health meeting and the Commission on Behavioral Health meeting with DCFS will be in September. Chair Schrag asked Mr. Filippi if the Commission needs a 2 week notice between reviewing a draft for submission to the June 23rd meeting, or could the Commission come together the week before or earlier just to make a motion to add that letter to the agenda and have a final approval on the June 23rd meeting? Mr. Filippi answered that in his opinion the Commission does not need to meet again prior to the June 23rd meeting to discuss it. If all the Commissioners are working off the same draft, or send their section to Mr. Filippi, he can compile them all into one document. That doesn't mean that it will be final and submitted to the Governor in that form, but the Commission can look at that final draft and discuss it during the public meeting on June 23rd. If there are edits still needed the Commission can vote that with these edits it is approved to submit, so there is no need for an

additional meeting unless you disagree. Chair Schrag agreed and said that with everyone's schedule and timing that is the most timely and efficient way, and the Commission will do it that way.

Chair Schrag asked the Commission if any Commissioner would like to make a motion to approve the authors of the various sections previously discussed and to set a date for the June 23rd Commission on Behavioral Health meeting with DCFS to have the draft completed by?

Commissioner Giron made a motion to approve the authors of the various sections previously discussed and that the draft Annual Governor's Letter will be completed by the June 23rd Commission on Behavioral Health meeting with DCFS. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moseby and unanimously approved by the Commission.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Schrag opened the meeting to public comments and reminded everyone that the public comment period is limited to 2 minutes.

Ms. Haskin, Rural Regional Health Coordinator, let the Commissioners know that the Board Chair Fergus Laughridge and herself would be available if there is any clarification needed on any aspect of their report, or licensure. This is much appreciated, and they are available.

There were no further public comments.

5. ADJOURNMENT:

The DPBH Commission on Behavioral Health Public Meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.