

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Richard Whitley,
MS
Director

**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**



Cody Phinney,
MPH
Administrator

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

COMMISSION ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
with the DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (DPBH)
MEETING MINUTES
June 29, 2023
9:00 AM

This meeting was held online and by phone.

MEETING LINK:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_MDAyY2E4OGMtMGMtNi00MzlmLWEzZWYtZjYzMjc2MDI1MTE1%40thread.v2/0?content=%7b%22id%22%3a%22e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%22faba961c-6d7e-488b-8c7c-60c19eff2cbd%22%7d

Meeting Phone Conference:

775-321-6111 Phone Conference ID Number: 592 522 036#

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Braden Schrag (Chair); Lisa Ruiz-Lee (Vice-Chair); Gregory Giron, Psy.D.; Natasha Mosby, LCSW ; Arvin Operario, RN; Dan Ficalora CPC.

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:

Jasmine Cooper, CPC; Lisa Durette, MD

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Staff in Attendance:

Cody Phinney, Administrator, DPBH; Kelli Knutzon, Executive Assistant, DPBH; Sherry Stevens, Administrative Assistant III, DPBH; Kayla Villegas, Administrative Assistant III, DPBH; Ellen Richardson-Adams, Agency Manager, SNAMHS; Julie Lindesmith, Agency Director NNAHMS; Dr. Leon Ravin, Statewide Psychiatric Medical Doctor; Katie Martin Waldman, Clinical Program Manager II, Division of Family and Child Services (DCFS); Eduardo Acosta, Administrative Assistant II, DPBH; Julian Montoya, Clinical Program Manager II, Sierra Regional Center, ADSD; Roswell Allen, Health Program Manager III, Rural Regional Center, ADSD; Nathan Orme, Public Information Officer, DPBH; Kelcy Meyer, Regional Coordinator, ADSD; Susan Lynch, Hospital Administrator, SNAMHS

Others/Public Present:

Dorothy Edwards, Washoe Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board (WRBHPB) Coordinator; Teresa Etcheberry, Clark Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board (CRBHPB) Coordinator; Valerie Cauhape, Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board (RRBHPB) Coordinator; Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, Northern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board (NRBHPB) Coordinator; Linda Anderson, Vanessa Dunn; Regan Hart; Brandon Ford

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair recognized Valerie Haskin, Coordinator for the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board, for public comment.

Ms. Haskin updated the Commission that Behavioral Health Policy Board has approved the report they provided as a draft. Ms. Haskin said only minor changes were made to the report such as names and titles, but none of the changes altered the body of the report. Ms. Haskin also shared that the Rural Board's Assembly Bill 37 passed and was signed by Governor which will help with some of the workforce issues.

3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Approval of meeting minutes from May 18, 2023

Chair Schrag asked if there were any comments on the draft minutes. With none heard, Chair Schrag asked for a motion to approve the May 18th, 2023, minutes.

COMMISSIONER FICALORA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 18TH, 2023 MEETING MINUTES, AS WRITTEN. MOTION SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR RUIZ-LEE. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Review of Annual Reports from Regional Behavioral Health Policy Boards

Chair Schrag asked if the Commission had any questions or needed clarification on anything within the policy board reports.

Commissioner Dr. Giron asked if an update on the 988 roll out could be included in the Governor's Letter. Dr. Giron also stated that he had read an article on childhood obesity and behavioral health concerns for children, and he wondered if any of the policy boards had looked at it.

Chair recognized Valerie Haskin, Coordinator for the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board, to respond to Dr. Giron's question. Ms. Haskin stated she did receive something from Dr. Giron to read and that the Rural Regional Board has not investigated childhood obesity directly because it is more abstract and would fall under prevention type funding which is largely underfunded. Ms. Haskin said that in looking at alternative forms of activity for families when looking at both mental health and substance abuse, they should look at physical activities as well.

Chair recognized Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, Coordinator for the Northern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board, to provide input on Dr. Giron's questions. Ms. Rahr-Wood stated she did receive something from Dr. Giron as well regarding childhood obesity. Ms. Rahr-Wood stated the Northern Regional Board has not investigated it either but will be a question she will take out to the coalitions and behavior health task force to see if it is something on their radar. Ms. Rahr-Wood also commented that the 988 program has been slow to push out in their region. Ms. Rahr-Wood stated they believe it has to do with staffing and resources.

Cody Phinney, Administrator of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, was recognized to provide comment on the 988 program. Ms. Phinney said 988 is being rolled out by the Bureau of Behavioral Health, Wellness and Prevention. Ms. Phinney stated that the Bureau has completed a request for information and that will allow the Division to now complete the request for proposals to purchase the Care hub system. Ms. Phinney stated the Division has ongoing discussions on how it will interface with the 911 systems in various regions. Ms. Phinney said that Crisis Care Services of Nevada are currently answering the 988 lines, but it is the Care Hub they need to make it more than just a hotline. Ms. Phinney

also shared that Senate Bill 237 passed in session which finalized the Division's ability to collect the fees that will pay for the program. Ms. Phinney stated the Division has one stabilization center in Carson City and they are in discussions with Reno and Clark County community partners that are interested in standing up those crisis stabilization services. Ms. Phinney said the Governor's Office is aware as the office receives regular reports from the executive branch structure. Ms. Phinney offered a standing agenda item for the Commission on the progress of the 988 program and requested for feedback on what type of information they would like to hear regarding the subject.

Dorothy Edwards, Coordinator for Washoe Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board, was recognized by the Chair to provide comment. Ms. Edwards stated that she had given overview presentations on the 988 program with the guidance of the State as they are overseeing the rollout. Ms. Edwards said regarding childhood obesity, Washoe County Policy Board supports CHIP (the Community Health Improvement Plan) that is put out by Washoe County Health District and has done for many years. Ms. Edwards said the policy board supports all the behavioral health focus understanding the nexus between physical health and emotional and behavioral health. Ms. Edwards concluded by stating that while they have not singled out childhood obesity, they have added it to their priority list and may be reflected in their next annual report.

Commissioner Ficalora was recognized for comment on the 988 program. Mr. Ficalora said that the last time the Commission heard from leadership from that initiative, the call answer rates was approximately 50 %. Mr. Ficalora said the Commission is looking for an update on about how many of the calls that are going into 988 from Nevada are getting answered. Mr. Ficalora also asked about the other areas of the system such as when someone is needing referrals, where those referrals go. Mr. Ficalora stated that being in Southern Nevada at a large behavioral health agency, he has not seen referrals come from the 988 system, so he would like an update of where the referrals go and who is responding.

Cody Phinney, Administrator for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, responded to Commission Ficalora. Ms. Phinney stated that a report will be given to the Commission and the goal is to get 90 percent of calls answered, though the calls may not be answered by someone in Nevada. Ms. Phinney also stated that a report on where referrals are going will be provided. Ms. Phinney stated there will be standing agenda item for updates on the system. Ms. Phinney urged the Commission to send their questions, concerns, and opinions to the Division as it is valuable and needed feedback.

5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Review and/or request of Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board Information or Any Other Source Material Needed, Possible Sub-Committee Formation, or Other Action as Determined by the Commission to be Necessary for the Successful Drafting of the Commission's Annual Letter to the Governor

Chair Schrag introduced agenda item #5 and asked for a summary of the notes taken at the May 18th Commission meeting regarding the Annual Letter to the Governor.

Sherry Stevens, Administrative Assistant III for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, provided verbal notes to the Commission. Ms. Stevens stated that the Chair confirmed to provide the introduction for the Governor's letter as well as work with the Clark Regional Policy Board. Ms. Stevens also stated that Commissioner Cooper agreed to provide report on substance abuse and gambling, Commissioner Giron agreed to work with the Northern Regional Policy Board, and Commissioner Operario would provide report with the Washoe Regional Policy Board.

Vice Chair Ruiz-Lee reminded the Commission that she would be working with Commissioner Dr. Durette on the children's mental health report.

Commissioner Ficalora reminded the Commission that he would be working with the Rural Regional Policy Board.

Commissioner Operario stated there is a licensure section of the letter and asked the Chair if he could provide report on the Nurse Licensure Compact as the Assembly Bill 108 failed.

Chair Schrag answered in the affirmative.

Chair called on Commissioner Mosby for their collaborative report topic. Chair Schrag and Commissioner Mosby agreed she would work on the workforce portion of the letter.

The Commission agreed on a collaborative approach to the drafting of the letter and that all portions would be due to staff by July 28th, 2023. Chair Schrag recommended a tentative meeting for August 11th, if possible, for the approval of the letter.

Chair Schrag asked for a motion to move forward with the letter and dates as recommended.

COMMISSIONER FICALORA MADE A MOTION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH DATES, AS RECOMMENDED. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIRON. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion, Identification, and Approval of Future Agenda Items –
Commissioners

No Recommendations.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments.

8. Adjournment of Session

Chair Schrag thanked everyone for their hard work and collaboration then closed the meeting at 10:02 a.m.