

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

DRAFT COMMISSION ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
with the DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (DPBH)
MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2023
9:00 AM

This meeting was held online and by phone.

MEETING LINK:

https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_MGQ5N2EzOTctZjk3YS00M2MyLWFjInjEtZjY2OGRkMWVjZTc5%40thread.v2/0?context=%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: 155 896 386#

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.; Arvin Operario, RN; Dan Ficalora CPC.

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:

Jasmine Cooper, CPC; Lisa Durette, MD; Natasha Mosby, LCSW

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

Kelli Knutzon, Executive Assistant, DPBH; Sherry Stevens, Administrative Assistant III, DPBH; Ellen Richardson-Adams, Agency Manager, SNAMHS; Julie Lindesmith, Agency Director NNAHMS; Katie Martin Waldman, Clinical Program Manager II, Division of Family and Child Services (DCFS); Eduardo Acosta, Administrative Assistant II, DPBH; Roswell Allen, Health Program Manager III, Rural Regional Center, ADSD; Susan Lynch, Hospital Administrator, SNAMHS; Autumn Blattman, Regional Coordinator, ADSD; Rachel Isherwood, Quality Assurance Specialist III, Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention (BBHWP), DPBH; Gujuan Carver, Agency Director, Desert Regional Center, ADSD; Marina Valerio, Clinical Director, Desert Regional Center, ADSD; Caleb Vasquez-Stading, Public Information Officer, BBHWP, DPBH; Joseph Filippi, MA II, Directors Office, DHHS; Drew Cross, Agency Director, Lake's

Crossing Center, DPBH; Jessica Adams, Deputy Director, ADSD; Shannon Bennett, Bureau Chief, BBHWP, DPBH; Tiana Jones, Health Program Specialist II, BBHWP, DPBH

Others/Public Present:

Valerie Cauhape, Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board (RRBHPB) Coordinator; Linda Anderson; Elyse Monroe-Marsala; Elyse's recorder by Rewatch; Alex Tanchek; Mark Funkhouser, SRBHPB; Concepcion Martinez; Robin Reedy

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Schrag completed opening remarks and asked if there were any in attendance that would like to make public comment. None were heard.

3. Approval of meeting minutes from June 29, 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 June 29th, 2023, minutes.

COMMISSIONER FICALORA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE June 29TH, 2023 MEETING MINUTES, AS WRITTEN. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER OPERARIO. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Discussion and Possible Approval of the 2023 Commission Bylaws

Chair Schrag began the discussion regarding the Commission's bylaws by stating that he understood there were some disparities between Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) and the current bylaws particularly pertaining to elections.

Sherry Stevens, DPBH Administrative Assistant III, asked the Commissioners to review article two regarding Commission powers and duties. Ms. Stevens asked the Commission if they would prefer to have the powers and duties specified in the bylaws. The Commission agreed that a link to the NRS would be sufficient.

Ms. Stevens continued to Article Four bylaws. Ms. Stevens stated the bylaws stated that recommendations for Chair and the election of Vice-Chair should take place every two years on even numbered years.

The Commission discussed how terms should be defined for members and officers. Commission Ficalora stated that a person can remain a commissioner, but officers could be elected every two years. Ms. Stevens said that the statement was true, but it would only apply to the Vice-Chair because the Governor appointed the Chair for four years.

Chair Schrag stated he wanted to maintain the two-term limit on Officers but agreed the election and recommendation process should be the same at four-year term. Vice-Chair Ruiz-Lee and other members agreed as well. Chair Schrag asked for a motion.

VICE CHAIR RUIZ-LEE MADE A MOTION TO MODIFY BYLAWS ARTICLE TWO WITH THE NRS LINK, AND MOVED TO MODIFY ARTICLE FOUR TO ALLOW FOR ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR AND RECOMMENDATION FOR CHAIR TO FOUR YEARS TO BE CONSISTENT WITH NRS AND TERM LIMITS WILL REMAIN TWO TERMS IN OFFICE. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIRON. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Discussion and Possible Action regarding the Elections of the Chair and Vice-Chair in 2024

This agenda item was vacated after discussion regarding elections in the bylaws.

6. Discussion and Possible Approval of 2024 Meeting Schedule

Chair Schrag asked staff to begin the discussion on the possible 2024 meeting schedule. Sherry Stevens with DPBH stated the dates for 2024 would be February 15th, May 16th, September 19th, and November 21st. Commissioner Ficalora stated that in September the DCFS and DPBH meeting would be back-to-back weeks and suggested moving the meeting date to August or October. Chair Schrag stated that he agreed with Commissioner Ficalora and suggested moving the meeting to October. Ms. Stevens confirmed that the meeting would be moved to October 17th, 2024, and the September 19th meeting would be removed.

COMMISSIONER FICALORA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE WITH THE ADJUSTMENT OF SEPTEMBER'S MEETING BE RESCHEDULED TO OCTOBER 17TH, 2024. COMMISSIONER GIRON. THE MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Discussion and Possible Approval of the Consent Agenda

a. Agency Director Reports

Chair Schrag asked if any of the agency managers had any issues to discuss that were not presented in their written reports. No additional information that wasn't in the written reports was heard. Reports can be found here [COBH Agency Reports Packet 11.16.23 \(nv.gov\)](https://www.nv.gov/COBH-Agency-Reports-Packet-11.16.23)

Chair Schrag asked for a motion on the agenda item.

COMMISSIONER OPERARIO PROPOSED A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENCY REPORTS AS WRITTEN. COMMISSIONER GIRON SECONDED THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Update on the Implementation of the 988 National Behavioral Health and Suicide Crisis Line

Rachel Isherwood, Quality Assurance Specialist III with DPBH, provided the following presentation. [988 Presentation 2023 \(nv.gov\)](https://www.nv.gov/988-Presentation-2023)

Chair Schrag recommended that questions from Commissioners or agency heads be emailed and when Ms. Isherwood returns, she can have the answers prepared. Chair Schrag asked how the interagency cooperation was going with getting 911 and 988 working together. Chair Schrag also asked Crisis Intervention Training for 988 operators.

Ms. Isherwood said they are working on the line contracts, and they have been touring 911 dispatch. Ms. Isherwood said there is nothing set in stone, but they are working out the logistics with their partners. Ms. Isherwood stated that as far as intervention training is concerned, they are learning there are a lot of limitations with the designated mobile crisis model. Ms. Isherwood said they are working on needs assessments for each area needs.

Chair Schrag asked if there were any questions from the Commission about the presentation.

Vice-Chair Ruiz-Lee asked if there was an estimated time for the roll out date for the state plan amendment for crisis services.

Ms. Isherwood stated that she does not have a proposed effective date yet.

No further questions heard.

9. Update From Aging and Disability Service Division (ADSD)

Jessica Adams, Deputy Administrator with ADSD, stated that there has been a rate change that went into effect July 1st. Ms. Adams said the agency is now seeing providers getting those new funds and that providers are starting to hire more people. Ms. Adams said the agency will have to report to the legislature every six months beginning in January 2024, and that she will make sure a copy of the report gets sent to the Commission. Ms. Adams stated that the waiver is their biggest funding source and previously there were dollar limits for certain services. Ms. Adams said the agency has removed all the billable limits which

will allow people to get the amount of services they need. Ms. Adams stated they have also increased the amount for non-medical transportation needs and added two new services to the waiver which includes dental services. Ms. Adams said the new service in the waiver is for individual direct goods and services which could be used for things like gym membership, or like fees. Ms. Adams said the service was loosely written, but it was approved, and they can do much more with it. Ms. Adams said they can now pay legal guardians for some residential service which was not possible in the past.

Chair Schrag said he thought it was great that some quality-of-life services can be addressed with the changes. Chair Schrag asked the process ADSD went through that other agencies may be able to adjust their activities as well.

Ms. Adams stated that it was specific to waivers and their service system.

Commissioner Operario expressed kudos to ADSD for the programs and changes.

10. Presentation and Discussion on Aging and Disability Services and Identifying Gaps in Services
Autumn Blattman, Washoe County Regional Coordinator with ADSD, present the following presentation [Aging and Disability Services Division \(nv.gov\)](#) .

Chair Schrag asked if the Commissioners had any comments or questions and encouraged anyone with ideas or questions for Ms. Blattman to email her. Chair Schrag asked Ms. Blattman to leave her contact information in the chat. No questions or comments were heard.

11. Update on Seclusion and Restraint/Denial of Rights from ADSD

Marina Valerio, Clinical Director at Desert Regional Center, for ADSD, presented the agency's restraint and denial of rights presentation. [Seclusion and Restraint Report \(nv.gov\)](#) .

12. Update on Seclusion and Restraint/Denial of Rights from DPBH

Susan Lynch, Hospital Administrator of Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (SNAMHS), presented for DPBH. She presented the following presentation [Seclusion and Restraint Report \(nv.gov\)](#) .

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

No Recommendations.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments.

15. Adjournment of Session

Chair Schrag thanked everyone for their hard work and collaboration then closed the meeting at 10:44 a.m.