



Executive Order 2013-26

ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS COUNCIL

WHEREAS, behavioral health conditions affect individuals, families, providers, communities, the State of Nevada, and the nation as a whole;

WHEREAS, a comprehensive and effective system of support services that facilitates and improves the quality of life, safety, and independence of people living with behavioral health conditions is needed in Nevada;

WHEREAS, there is a need to examine relationships between the state and local behavioral health providers, law enforcement agencies, and interrelated community providers;

WHEREAS, there is a need to facilitate cooperation amongst states to collaborate in our respective efforts to improve behavioral health services;

WHEREAS, there is a need to examine regional differences and requirements of each community to evaluate, establish and coordinate methods of care and services which are accurate, helpful, and individualized to those living with behavioral health conditions;

WHEREAS, there is a need to determine the most effective use of state and local resources so as to better serve those living with behavioral health conditions, their family members, and providers;

WHEREAS, an analysis was recently conducted to identify gaps in the delivery of behavioral health services, and which provided recommendations to improve the delivery and availability of high-quality behavioral health services to individuals, their families, providers, communities, and the State of Nevada as a whole;

WHEREAS, the Governor's Behavioral Health and Wellness Council shall assist in closing these gaps in services, shall examine ways of improving and strengthening the systems of support and delivery of services, and shall offer key policy recommendations to help improve the quality of life, security, and independence of those living with behavioral health conditions; and

WHEREAS, Article 5, Section 1 of the Nevada Constitution provides that, "The Supreme Executive Power of this State, shall be vested in a Chief Magistrate, who shall be Governor of the State of Nevada."

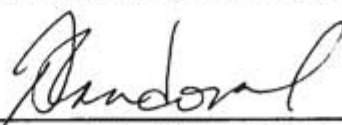
NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of Nevada, I hereby direct and order as follows:

1. The Governor's Behavioral Health and Wellness Council ("Council") is hereby established.
2. The Council shall create a strategic plan to provide a cohesive and comprehensive system for delivery of services to those affected by behavioral health conditions. The Council shall address any gaps in the delivery of behavioral health services and shall make recommendations to improve how our communities, state, and nation implement and deliver services.

3. Members of the Council shall be appointed by the Governor and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The Council shall include no more than 20 members and be composed of the following:
 - The Director of Health and Human Services;
 - The Administrator of the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health;
 - Members of the Legislature;
 - The Director of Veteran's Services;
 - Individuals, who have in the past, or are currently receiving behavioral health services in the State of Nevada, or their families;
 - Providers of private behavioral health services in the State of Nevada;
 - Providers of public behavioral health services in the State of Nevada;
 - Providers of substance abuse prevention and treatment programs;
 - Providers who are recognized experts in the field of behavioral health;
 - Representatives from the criminal justice system;
 - Representatives from the juvenile justice system;
 - Representatives from a national organization with a focus on behavioral health;
 - Members of the judiciary with a focus on specialty courts;
 - Members of law enforcement and/or the correctional system;
 - Representatives from county social service programs;
 - Members who the Governor deems necessary, which may include representatives from other states or jurisdictions.
4. The Council shall be headed by a chair and vice-chair to be appointed by the Governor.
5. The Council shall meet no fewer than six times annually and shall also be divided into regional subcommittees. Each subcommittee shall meet and report to the Council no fewer than three times annually. The Governor shall appoint leaders of each subcommittee.
6. These meetings shall be subject to the Open Meeting Law as codified in Nevada Revised Statute Chapter 241.
7. The Council shall submit a report to the Governor on or before May 31 and December 31 of each year, which shall include, but is not limited to, recommended policy for youth, community needs for services, veterans, education, public safety, long-term care, employment, independence, substance abuse, Legal 2000 holds, forensic hospital needs, societal impacts, delivery of care, available services, collaboration between local communities and other states, and any other areas as proposed by the Chair of the Council or by the Governor.
8. All records documenting the Council's activities shall be retained and transferred to the State Archives for permanent retention in accordance with the State record retention policy.
9. The Department of Health and Human Services shall provide administrative support. The Department may hire or retain contractors, sub-contractors, advisors, consultants, and/or agents, and may make and enter into contracts as necessary, in accordance with relevant statutes, rules, and procedures of state regulations.

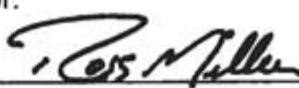
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this thirteenth day of December, in the year two thousand thirteen.





Governor of the State of Nevada

By the Governor:



Secretary of State



Deputy Secretary of State