AN ACT relating to mental health; creating four behavioral health regions in this State; creating a regional behavioral health policy board for each region to advise the Division of Public and Behavioral Health and the Commission on Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services regarding certain behavioral health issues; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Section 5 of this bill creates the Northern, Washoe, Rural and Southern Behavioral Health Regions, each consisting of certain cities and counties in this State. Section 6 of this bill creates a regional behavioral health policy board for each of the four regions. Section 6 also provides that the membership of each policy board consists of 12 persons, including: 11 members appointed by the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services; and 1 member who represents the criminal justice system appointed by the Governor. Section 10 of this bill stagger the terms for the appointed members of each policy board.

Section 7 of this bill requires each policy board to: (1) advise the Department, the Division of Public and Behavioral Health and the Commission on Behavioral Health of the Department on certain regional behavioral health issues; (2) promote...
improvements in the delivery of behavioral health services in the behavioral health
region; and (3) coordinate and exchange information with the Department, Division
and Commission regarding behavioral health services in their respective behavioral
health region. Section 8 of this bill revises the requirements of the report submitted
by the Commission annually to the Governor and biennially to the Legislature to
include: (1) recommendations from each policy board; (2) the epidemiologic
profiles of substance use and abuse, problem gambling and suicide; (3) relevant
behavioral health prevalence data for each behavioral health region; and (4) the
health priorities set for each behavioral health region.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 433 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
thereo the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 7, inclusive of this
act.

Sec. 2. As used in sections 2 to 7, inclusive, of this act, unless
the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in
sections 3 and 4 of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in
those sections.

Sec. 3. "Behavioral health region" means a behavioral
health region created by section 5 of this act.

Sec. 4. "Policy board" means a regional behavioral health
policy board created by section 6 of this act.

Sec. 5. Four behavioral health regions are hereby created as
follows:

1. The Northern Behavioral Health Region consisting of
Carson City and the counties of Churchill, Douglas, Lyon,
Mineral and Storey;

2. The Washoe Behavioral Health Region consisting of the
county of Washoe;

3. The Rural Behavioral Health Region consisting of the
counties of Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Pershing and White
Pine; and

4. The Southern Behavioral Health Region consisting of the
counties of Clark, Esmeralda, Lincoln and Nye.

Sec. 6. 1. A regional behavioral health policy board is
hereby created for each behavioral health region.

2. Each policy board consists of 12 members as follows:
(a) Eleven members appointed by the Director of the
Department as follows:
(1) One member who is a health officer of a county or who
is in a position with duties similar to those of such a health
officer;
(2) One member who is a psychiatrist or doctor of psychology with clinical experience and who is licensed to practice in this State;
(3) One member who represents private or public insurers who offer coverage for behavioral health services;
(4) One member who represents the interests of behavioral health patients or the families of behavioral health patients;
(5) One member who represents providers of emergency services and who has experience providing emergency services to behavioral health patients, which may include, without limitation, a paramedic or physician;
(6) One member who represents law enforcement agencies;
(7) Two members who have extensive experience in the delivery of social services in the field of behavioral health, including, without limitation, directors or officers of social service agencies in the behavioral health region; and
(8) Three members who represent the interests of one or more of the following:
   (i) Hospitals, residential long-term care facilities or facilities that provide acute inpatient behavioral health services;
   (ii) Community-based organizations which provide behavioral health services;
   (iii) Administrators or counselors who are employed at facilities for the treatment of abuse of alcohol or drugs; or
   (iv) Owners or administrators of residential treatment facilities, transitional housing or other housing for persons who are mentally ill or suffer from addiction or substance abuse.
* At least one member of the policy board appointed by the Director of the Department for each region pursuant to this subparagraph must be a behavioral health professional who has experience in evaluating and treating children.
(b) One member who represents the criminal justice system, appointed by the Governor.

3. In making appointments, preference must be given to persons who reside in the behavioral health region served by the policy board.
4. Each member of the policy board serves without compensation for a term of 2 years and may be reappointed. The Director of the Department may remove a member from the policy board if the Director determines the member has neglected his or her duties. Any vacancy in the membership of a policy board must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.
5. On or before July 1 of each odd-numbered year, the Speaker of the Assembly shall designate one member of each
policy board to act as the Chair for the biennium. Each policy board shall meet at least quarterly at the call of the Chair.

6. As used in this section, “social services agency” means any public agency or organization that provides social services in this State, including, without limitation, welfare and health care services.

Sec. 7. Each policy board shall:

1. Advise the Department, Division and Commission regarding:
   (a) The behavioral health needs of adults and children in the behavioral health region;
   (b) Any progress, problems or proposed plans relating to the provision of behavioral health services and methods to improve the provision of behavioral health services in the behavioral health region;
   (c) Identified gaps in the behavioral health services which are available in the behavioral health region and any recommendations or service enhancements to address those gaps; and
   (d) Priorities for allocating money to support and develop behavioral health services in the behavioral health region.

2. Promote improvements in the delivery of behavioral health services in the behavioral health region.

3. Coordinate and exchange information with the Department, Division and Commission regarding behavioral health services in the behavioral health region.

Sec. 8. NRS 433.314 is hereby amended to read as follows:

433.314 The Commission shall:

1. Establish policies to ensure adequate development and administration of services for persons with mental illness, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with related conditions, persons with substance use disorders or persons with co-occurring disorders, including services to prevent mental illness, intellectual disabilities and related conditions, substance use disorders and co-occurring disorders, and services provided without admission to a facility or institution;

2. Set policies for the care and treatment of persons with mental illness, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with related conditions, persons with substance use disorders or persons with co-occurring disorders provided by all state agencies;

3. Review the programs and finances of the Division; and

4. Report at the beginning of each year to the Governor and at the beginning of each odd-numbered year to the Legislature on...
(a) Information concerning the quality of the care and treatment provided for persons with mental illness, persons with intellectual disabilities and persons with related conditions, persons with substance use disorders or persons with co-occurring disorders in this State and on any progress made toward improving the quality of that care and treatment; and

(b) In coordination with the Department, any recommendations from the regional behavioral health policy boards created pursuant to section 6 of this act. The report must include, without limitation:

(1) The epidemiologic profiles of substance use and abuse, problem gambling and suicide;

(2) Relevant behavioral health prevalence data for each behavioral health region created by section 5 of this act; and

(3) The health priorities set for each behavioral health region.

Sec. 9. The provisions of subsection 1 of NRS 218D.380 do not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

Sec. 10. As soon as practicable on or after July 1, 2017, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services shall make the appointments required by paragraph (b) of subsection 2 of section 6 of this act to each of the four regional behavioral health policy boards created by section 6 of this act. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 6 of this act, members appointed by the Director to serve on a regional behavioral health policy board must be appointed to serve the following initial terms:

1. Five persons for an initial term of 1 year.

2. Six persons for an initial term of 2 years.

Sec. 11. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2017.