

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

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DPBH COMMISSION ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
Annual Governor's Letter Subcommittee Meeting

MINUTES  
February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
3:00 PM

MEETING LOCATIONS:

In accordance with Governor Sisolak's Declaration of Emergency Directive 006; Subsection 1; The requirement contained in NRS 241.023 (1)(b) that there be a physical location designated for meetings of public bodies where members of the public are permitted to attend and participate is suspended.

Meeting link: <https://nvhealth.webex.com/nvhealth/j.php?MTID=m3937df767926605d534ae2d54c31437c>  
Meeting number: 187 300 0808  
Password: J8iBWJqHC82  
Join by phone: +1-415-655-0001 US Toll  
Access code: 187 300 0808

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Lisa Durette, M.D. (Chair), Tabitha Johnson MFT, (Phone), Gregory Giron Ph.D, Braden Schrag, Natasha Mosby, Jasmine Troop

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:

Barbara Jackson, Lisa Ruiz-Lee (Vice Chair)

Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) Staff:

Joseph Filippi, DPBH; Rex Gifford, DPBH; Christian Rivas, DCFS; Dawn Yohey, BBHWP.

Others/Public Present:

Susanne Sliwa, DAG; Julie Slabaugh, DAG; Valerie Balen

Chair Durette called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m. Roll call is reflected above. It was determined that a quorum was present.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Discuss, plan and assign tasks and due dates for completion of the next Annual Governor's Letter per NRS 433.314**

Chair Durette explained the meeting's purpose to the new Commission Members, Jasmine Troop, Dr. Gregory Giron, and Braden Schrag. Chair Durette explained that this is a letter and requested that Mr. Filippi read the Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) that explains and guides the Annual Governor's Letter to the meeting attendees and the new Commission Members.

Mr. Filippi read NRS 433.314 states that the Commission is required to report at the beginning of each year to the Governor and the beginning of each odd year to the Legislature. Since this year is an odd year, 2021, the letter would need to be directed to the Legislature. Within the letter it needs to include information concerning the quality of care and treatment provided for persons with mental illness, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with developmental disabilities, persons with substance abuse disorders or persons with reoccurring disorders in this state, and any progress made in improving the quality of that care and treatment in coordination with the department any recommendations from the regional behavioral health policy boards created pursuant to NRS 433.429 the report must include without limitation:

1. The Epidemiologic profiles of substance abuse disorders addictive disorders related to gambling and suicide
2. Relevant behavioral health prevalence data for each behavioral health region created by the regional health policy boards
3. The health priorities set for each behavioral health region

That is the statute. In the last two years, we have used the Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board annual reports to the Commission. Each Regional Board is required to submit a report to the Commission which has been used to compile a single letter discussing all of these topics for each region in the state of Nevada. Mr. Filippi sent an email stating that due to the COVID-19 pandemic the epidemiologic information was delayed being finalized, so the Regional Behavioral Health Policy Boards have yet to finalize their Annual Report to the Commission. They did state the report should be completed by the end of February and they do plan to present and discuss those reports to the Commission during the March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Commission on Behavioral Health Meeting for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH). The Regional Behavioral Health Policy Boards have offered to give their reports earlier without the epidemiological information.

Mr. Filippi continued stating that another email from Dr. Stephanie Woodard forwarded some information from the Office of Analytics that included the 2021 Behavioral Health Epidemiological Profile which is the information that the Regional Health Boards use in their reports, so technically if the Commissioners want to go to that link they could view that information there. Dr. Woodard also provided the link to the Problem Gambling Program and a link to suicide information as well. The information seems to be scattered, but there can be a Microsoft Teams link to all of these for the Commission.

Chair Durette shared her screen with the Commission and shared with the Commission that she gets updated epidemiology information from The State of Mental Health in America website in Washington D.C. It takes the information that the states provide and ranks the states. Chair Durette used this website for the Annual Governor's Letter before.

Chair Durette went through the website describing its features. Overall, according to the website, Nevada's rank is 42<sup>nd</sup>. The website gives both adult and child information. Chair Durette was going to share the link.

**Chair Durette made a motion to put all of this information into a google drive with the website link so that everyone has access. Commissioner Giron seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.**

Chair Durette explained how the Annual Governor's Letter was written in the past. She stated that every Commissioner had a section that they would contribute to the letter and at the end they would compile the letter.

Chair Durette asked the Commission if they wanted to section the letter by region and if so, that substance abuse and addictive disorders should be included. Chair Durette went through the regions in the letter. The reports would be from Northern Nevada, Washoe County, Southern Nevada, Rural Nevada, Children's Consortia, and Addictive Disorders. Chair Durette also explained that these reports are usually long so she suggested condensing them into a paragraph for the Annual Governor's Letter and bullet pointing the priorities with the goal of having an overview in the closing paragraph.

To create state priorities because each region has specific issues. Chair Durette then asked the Commission for their thoughts, ideas, or if they had a preferred region.

Commissioner Giron stated that he found the Annual Governor's Letter aspirational despite the state's ranking or needs, so that does not need to be worked on, there will be more of that. Commissioner Giron asked if this is what the letter is like, or does it make more specific recommendations. For example, Commissioner Giron lives in Carson City therefore there are issues with elderly and youth, can the Commission make recommendations like "internet for all" or better messaging about the vaccine and how well we are doing? Commissioner Giron asked if what the Commission is doing is making recommendations to the Governor or Legislature or can the Commission make these decisions.

Chair Durette answered Commissioner Giron stating that the Commission keep their recommendations to their ability to synthesize the information that is presented to the Commission by the reports from the region. Since we are in a legislative session the Commission has the ability to ask for the recommended changes at the end. If the Commission establishes common goals throughout the regions, then that would be the best way to conclude the letter. Chair Durette then asked the Commissioners what they thought.

Commissioner Schrag said that if the Commission is going to send a message it should be unifying. Commissioner Schrag suggested SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Reasonable, Timely). We have a chance to meet with the legislature and the issue of mental health is finally gaining the recognition both locally and nationally as it needs to. If the Commission has a common theme, even if there are other bills out there already the Commission could look into adding to those bills as well as standalone and reference the law maker and how many of the bill drafts have been created. Commissioner Schrag also reiterated that anything that goes out should be with the consensus of the board.

Chair Durette added that each of the Regional Boards put forth the BDRs, and that is assumed that the BDRs are in the Regional Reports, so this would be a good opportunity to emphasize and support them.

Commissioner Schrag asked if from a drafting perspective does the Commission take what others have completely done and add it to the Governor's Annual Letter or does the Commission come up with it from scratch?

Chair Durette stated that Mr. Filippi is going to compile the regional reports and gave an example of picking a region, such as Clark County. Then the Commissioner would take Clark County's report and condense the report down to a paragraph for the Governor's Annual Letter. Typically, the report from the region has a slide of all of their recommendations that is bullet pointed this should be included. It is important to have the regions recommendations that way the Commission can highlight common recommendations and support their recommendations in the Annual Governor's Letter.

Mr. Filippi asked the Commission if they would like him to reach out to the Regional Boards to see if they would be willing to send the Commission the draft of their reports to see what their recommendations are to help reduce the wait time for their completed reports, since the Commission has access to the epidemiological information. Chair Durette and the Commission liked Mr. Filippi's suggestion.

Chair Durette asked the Commission when they should expect to have a draft of their region completed? Commissioner Troop asked if there was a due date and Chair Durette said that there is not a due date. Commissioner Giron stated that he thought the due date was in May. Mr. Filippi clarified that the NRS states there is not a due date but the Commission in the past has tried to start it at the first of the year and usually finalized in May, but it is up to the Commission as to when their due date would be.

Chair Durette asked if there was a Mental Health Day at the legislature because they have had a Mental Health Day in the past. Mr. Filippi said he would find out by contacting Dr. Woodard or Ms. Yohey.

Commissioner Giron asked if the legislature is meeting via Zoom this year. Mr. Filippi confirmed the legislative session is being held virtually, but the legislators were meeting at the legislature building, but they would be the only ones.

Chair Durette stated that if there was a Mental Health Day, she would like to see the Annual Governor's Letter coincide with that day and have an opportunity for any of the Commissioners to present the letter. Commissioner Schrag agreed saying that since the legislature meets every other year if the Commission was to wait until May, they might miss the opportunity to be heard by the legislature. Commissioner Giron suggested giving the letter to the legislature after they have received the reports from the regions. Mr. Filippi suggested, if the Commission wanted to present the Annual Governor's Letter to the legislators, to pick a date as soon as possible. Commissioner Giron asked Mr. Filippi if the legislature has a copy of the last letter, the 2019 Annual Governor's Letter, Mr. Filippi was unsure, but he did not think that the legislature has a copy since the 2019 Annual Governor's Letter was presented to the Governor. Commissioner Giron stated that the 2019 Annual Governor's Letter has a lot of information that would help the legislators understand what the Commission's new letter for 2020 is about and comparing the contrast between the 2019 Annual Governor's Letter and the 2020 Annual Governor's Letter will help the Commission point out what has been accomplished or not accomplished between the time frames.

Commissioner Schrag asked Chair Durette how much time is needed for the letter to be completed. Chair Durette answered that writing the letter takes hours, and that if you can focus it takes weeks. The most important thing is for everyone to do the regional reports timely so the letter can be compiled and sent out timely.

Chair Durette informed the Commission that the Behavioral Health Day for the legislature was February 16th, 2021.

Mr. Filippi did state that he sent the Commissioners a guide explaining how to present to the legislature, however he was not sure about how to present to them and asked for advice from the Deputy Attorney General (DAG).

Ms. Slabaugh, DAG, explained that the presentation would have to be approved by the Commission and that they would be delegating someone to speak on their behalf. The problem for this meeting is that is not on the agenda. Mr. Filippi suggested creating a meeting and agenda, however Ms. Slabaugh said it would not be possible by February 16th. Mr. Filippi suggested that the presentation could be done another day or that it could be done during the public comment time period during the legislative meeting. Chair Durette agreed, especially if it came out of one of the regional boards.

Chair Durette asked the Commission to look at their calendars and suggest a reasonable time for the first draft that the Commissioners would like to set for themselves. Commissioner Schrag volunteered to do the Clark County region and set his deadline at February 26th, 2021. Chair Durette asked what the Commissioners thought of February 28th, 2021 being the deadline for the draft. Commissioner Troop suggested March 4th, 2021 because the end of the month is hectic, and March 4th, 2021 would be 3 weeks before the next Commission on Behavioral Health Meeting. Commissioner Mosby agreed with Commissioner Troop and seconded Commissioner Troop's suggestion.

**Commissioner Mosby made a motion that the first draft be submitted by March 4th, 2021. Commissioner Troop seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and approved unanimously.**

Chair Durette guided the Commissioners into selecting their regions that they would report on.

- Commissioner Troop, Substance Abuse Disorders and Problem Gambling
- Commissioner Schrag, Clark County
- Chair Durette, Children
- Commissioner Giron, Northern Nevada including Carson City
- Commissioner Mosby, Rural Nevada
- Commissioner Johnson, Washoe County
- Commissioner Ruiz-Lee, Synthesis and Editing

Mr. Filippi clarified that since Commissioner Jackson's membership will be decided at the next Commission on Behavioral Health Meeting that she would not be assigned a region for the Annual Governor's Letter. Additionally Mr. Filippi clarified that there would not be a Commission on Behavioral Health Meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, it is only the expectation date for all of the Commissioner's regional drafts for the letter to be sent to him so he can compile the regions into the Annual Governor's Letter and that it would be finalized in the Commission on Behavioral Health Meeting scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Chair Durette clarified that all of the Commissioner's regional reports would be due on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and sent to Commissioner Ruiz-Lee for editing and afterwards the Commission would be able to make any final edits to the overall Annual Governor's Letter before presenting it. Chair Durette asked Mr. Filippi to provide the link to the information as soon as possible so the Commissioners can begin working on their regions.

Commissioner Schrag requested a couple of years of the Annual Governor's Letters for reference as well. Mr. Filippi agreed to upload them into the Microsoft Teams link too.

Mr. Filippi explained to the Commission that this is the first time that the Commission will be reviewing the Seclusion and Restraint Reports electronically through Microsoft Teams. He clarified that there will be several months of reports in the electronic folders and wanted to make sure the Commissioners knew the expectations of the new system of receiving the Seclusion and Restraint Reports. If any of the Commissioners had any questions they are welcome to contact Mr. Filippi offline. Mr. Filippi also clarified that Kristen Rivas is also uploading reports from the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and that the adult reports are for the DPBH Commission on Behavioral Health Meetings are being uploaded into the same folder; therefore, the child reports are to be discussed at the DCFS Commission on Behavioral Health Meetings.

Chair Durette thanked Mr. Filippi and asked if there was any public comment.

### **Public Comment**

No Public Comments.

The DPBH Commission on Behavioral Health meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.