

Joe Lombardo  
Governor



Richard Whitley,  
MS  
Director



Cody Phinney,  
MPH  
Administrator

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

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COMMISSION ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
with the DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (DPBH)  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 15, 2023  
9:00 AM to Adjournment

**Meeting Locations:**

This meeting was held online and by phone.

**Online Meeting Link:**

[Click here to join the meeting.](#)

**Phone Conference Number**

(775)321-6111 Phone Conference ID: 426 900 638#

1. **Call to Order/ Roll Call – Braden Schrag, Chair**

**Commissioners Present:**

- Braden Schrag, Chair
- Lisa Ruiz-Lee, Vice Chair
- Lisa Durette, M.D.
- Natasha Mosby, LCSW
- Gregory Giron Psy.D.
- Jasmine Cooper, CPC
- Arvin Operario, RN
- Dan Ficalora, CPC

**Others in Attendance:**

Kelli Knutzon; Brianna Anderson; Kayla Villegas; Dr. Leon Ravin; Drew Cross; Julie Lindsmith; Susan Lynch; Shannon Bennett; Ellen Richardson- Adams; Margaret Moe; Marina Valerio; Gujuan Caver; Dorothy Edwards; Kathryn Martin; Maek Funkhouser; Dawn Yohey; Jessica Adams; Debra DeCius, Julia Peek; Joan Waldock; Margaret Moe; Elyse Monroy- Marsala; Sabrina Schnur.

2. **Public Comment:**

There was no public comment at this time.

3. **For Possible Action:** Discussion and possible approval of meeting minutes from November 16, 2023 – *Commission*

Chair Schrag asked for a motion of approval for the minutes from the Commission on Behavioral Health meeting, held on November 16, 2023.

**MOTION:** Jasmine Cooper

**SECOND:** Dan Ficalora

**PASSED:** Unanimously

4. **For Possible Action:** Discussion and possible approval of the following consent agenda items –  
**Commission**

a. Approval of agency director reports

1. Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS)

Please see the report at the following link:

<https://dphh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dphhnavgov/content/Boards/CBH/Meetings/2024/NNAMHS%20Agency%20Director's%20Report%20-%20Oct%202023%20-%20Dec%202023.pdf>

2. Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (SNAMHS)

Please see the report at the following link:

[https://dphh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dphhnavgov/content/Boards/CBH/Meetings/2024/SNAMHS%20Agency%20Report%202023\\_01-2024.pdf](https://dphh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dphhnavgov/content/Boards/CBH/Meetings/2024/SNAMHS%20Agency%20Report%202023_01-2024.pdf)

3. Lakes Crossing Center

Please see the report at the following link:

[https://dphh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dphhnavgov/content/Boards/CBH/Meetings/2024/Agency%20Director's%20Report%20-%20Jan2024%20\(002\)%20with%20update.pdf](https://dphh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dphhnavgov/content/Boards/CBH/Meetings/2024/Agency%20Director's%20Report%20-%20Jan2024%20(002)%20with%20update.pdf)

4. Desert Regional Center

Please see the report at the following link:

<https://dphh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dphhnavgov/content/Boards/CBH/Meetings/2024/Desert%20Regional%20Center%20-%20Agency%20Managers'%20Report.pdf>

5. Rural Regional Center

Please see the report at the following link:

<https://dphh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dphhnavgov/content/Boards/CBH/Meetings/2024/Rural%20Clinics%20Agency%20Director%20Report%201-2024.pdf>

**MOTION:** Lisa Durette

**SECOND:** Natasha Mosby

**PASSED:** Unanimously

5. **For Possible Action:** Discussion and possible action regarding the creation of and possible appointment of chair for the annual Governor's letter sub-committee per Commission on Behavioral Health Bylaws, section VI #2. a – *Commission and Support Staff*

Chair Braden Schrag opened this agenda item stating that a Chair for the Governor's letter sub-committee needed to be established today. He explained that this committee will work together to create the annual letter, using the one from last year as an example.

Commissioner Jasmine Cooper volunteered to be chair for the Governor's letter sub-committee.

Dr. Gregory Giron made a motion to appoint Jasmine Cooper as the Chair for this sub-committee.

**MOTION:** Gregory Giron

**SECOND:** Lisa Durette

**PASSED:** Unanimously

6. **For Possible Action:** Discussion and review of materials regarding the drafting of the Governor's letter for 2024 – *Commission*

Chair Braden Schrag opened this agenda item with a recommendation to give each commissioner a section of the letter to complete, like it was done the year prior. Chair Schrag asked to change this item to informational and make decisions for this at the next meeting.

Chair Schrag requested to have a meeting with Jasmine Cooper, Kelli Knutzon and Brianna Anderson to solidify a plan for the letter. This item was closed with no further discussion.

7. **For Possible Action:** Review and possible approval of Substance Use Disorder Screening Policy – *Dr. Leon Ravin, Statewide Psychiatric Medical Director, DPBH*

*This agenda item got taken out of order and reviewed after agenda item 3.*

Dr. Leon Ravin, Statewide Psychiatric Medical Director for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, introduced himself and explained that he is going to give a presentation on a new policy that will enhance the screening of patients in hospitals and Doctors offices.

Please see the policy presented at the following link: [Microsoft Word - DRAFT\\_DSM-5 Level 1 and Level 2 Cross-Cutting Symptom Measures \(formatted\) \(nv.gov\)](#)

Chair Braden Schrag asked for a motion to approve the contents of this policy, with the final draft being completed and sent to the Commissioners.

**MOTION:** Lisa Durette

**SECOND:** Lisa Ruiz- Lee

**PASSED:** Unanimously

8. **For Possible Action: Review and possible approval of Sliding Fee Scale Policy – Ellen Richardson-Adams, Clinical Program Manager, SNAMHS**

Please see the presentation at the following link:

<https://dpbh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dpbhnavgov/content/Boards/CBH/Meetings/2024/Policy%20Sliding%20Fee%20Scale%202023.pdf>

Chair Braden Schrag asked for questions, upon receiving none, he asked for a motion of approval.

**MOTION:** Lisa Durette

**SECOND:** Jasmine Cooper

**PASSED:** Unanimously

9. **Informational Item: Update on NRS 433.710 Report – Shannon Bennett, Bureau Chief, DPBH**

Please see the report at the following link:

<https://dpbh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dpbhnavgov/content/Boards/CBH/Meetings/2024/NRS%20433.710%20Report.pdf>

Chair Braden Schrag asked Shannon Bennett how the 70% call answer rate compares nationally.

Shannon Bennett replied to Chair Schrag explaining that Nevada is on the lower end for call answer rates but that she anticipates the request for proposals will be published and they will start to accept bids. This will help to establish call centers and the appropriate technology to eventually have higher in state call answer rates.

Chair Braden Schrag responded to Shannon Bennett asking how the transfer relationship between the 911 number and the 988 number, he said he understood that there were issues with the integration.

Shannon Bennett thanked Chair Schrag and explained when the request for proposal is published the current system, that has gaps between the transfers, will be fixed. She explained that something her program has been working hard to do is create good relationships with the 911 centers in the State of Nevada. She anticipates that she will have more answers for his concerns and questions by summer 2024.

10. **Informational Item: Update on Behavioral Health Programs from Aging and Disability Services Division – Jessica Adams, Deputy Administrator, ADSD**

Jessica Adams, Deputy Administrator for Aging and Disability Services Division gave an update explaining that the vacancy rate at their agency has been lower in comparison to other years. She says that she is working with her budget to see how she can turn unpaid internships into paid externships, to create solid relationships with those individuals in hopes they may come back for a vacant position in the years after they leave the externship.

Jessica says that something her program has been anticipating is their rate changes that will be happening April 1, 2024. She says that this will hopefully create more flexibility for both the staff and the patients.

No questions were heard.

11. **Informational Item: Update on Seclusion and Restraint/Denial of Rights, ADSD – Marina Valerio, Agency Manager, Desert Regional Center, ADSD**

Marina Valerio, Agency Manager of Desert Regional Center gives her report that only one restraint has been issued since her last report given at the previous Commission meeting.

Chair Braden Schrag asked her why she thinks the number of restraints has become lower, Marina responded to him and explained that the staff have been quicker to use the blocking pads for patients versus using restraints right away.

No questions were heard.

12. **Information Item: Update on Seclusion and Restraint/Denial of Rights, DPBH – Susan Lynch, Hospital Administrator, SNAMHS, DPBH**

Susan Lynch, Hospital Administrator at Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services expresses that she is pleased to share with the Commission that the use of restraints has decreased since October 2023 for Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (SNAMHS) and Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS). Susan explains that NNAMHS had a small spike in October, along with SNAMHS who

had a spike in September of their use of restraints. NNAMHS has now gone back to their previous number of zero, and SNAMHS has gotten their number down as well.

Susan also explained that the length of stay has decreased in the recent fiscal years, and that the forensic waitlist has grown, along with the statewide long term inside commitments. She says that this has spiked a conversation for how to increase bed capacity.

No questions were heard.

**13. Informational Item: Fund for Resilient Nevada discussion – Dawn Yohey, Clinical Program Planner, DHHS**

Please see the report at the following link:

INSERT LINK

**14. For Possible Action: Discussion, Identification, and Possible Approval of Future Agenda Items – Commission**

Chair Braden Schrag asked the committee if they had any agenda items for future meetings, and none were heard.

**15. Public Comment: Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for a later meeting.**

No public comment was heard at this time.

**16. Adjournment of Open Session – Braden Schrag, Chair**

Chair Braden Schrag adjourned the meeting at 10:58am.