

**THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATE PROGRAM FOR WELLNESS AND THE PREVENTION OF  
CHRONIC DISEASE**

**MINUTES**

**JANUARY 18, 2018**

**1:00 p.m.**

The Advisory Council on the State Program for Wellness and the Prevention of Chronic Disease held a public meeting on 1/18/2018, beginning at 1:07 p.m., at the following locations:

Division of Public and Behavioral Health  
4150 Technology Way  
Room 303  
Carson City, NV 89706

Bureau of Health Care Quality & Compliance  
6161 West Charleston Blvd.  
West Hall Conference Room  
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Division of Health Care Financing & Policy  
1010 Ruby Vista Drive  
Suite 102  
Elko, NV 89801

Sierra Regional Center  
605 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Room 124  
2667 Enterprise Road  
Sparks, NV 89531

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Tom McCoy, JD, Chair  
Ihsan Azzam, MD  
Janae Ballingham, MAT  
Stacy Briscoe, RD  
André DeLeón  
Christina Demopoulos, DDS, MPH  
Erin Dixon, MS  
Assemblywoman Amber Joiner, MA  
Chris Needham, MBA  
Ben Schmauss, MPH

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Jacquie Ewing-Taylor, PhD  
Julia Peek, MHA, CPM  
Erin Russell, PhD  
Rebecca Scherr, MD  
Senator Joyce Woodhouse

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF PRESENT**

Karissa Loper, MPH, Deputy Bureau Chief, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)  
Jenni Bonk, MS, Section Manager, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP), CFCW, DPBH  
Kristi Robusto, PhD, MS, Quality Improvement Manager, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
David Olsen, MPH, Policy and Systems Manager, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

Lily Helzer, MPH, Comprehensive Cancer Program Coordinator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Rose Sutherland, School Health Coordinator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Rae Waddington, MPH, Community Health Worker Program Coordinator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Jeanne Broughton, Administrative Assistant III, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Christopher Bartoni-Rojas, Administrative Assistant II, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Katie Charleson, Administrative Assistant II, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Nicole Bungum, Supervisor, Southern Nevada Health District  
Christine (Chris) Syverson, BS, Nevada Business Group on Health  
Sandy Wartgow, RN, BSN, Carson City Health and Human Services  
Abby Wheeler, Elko County

**1. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken and it was determined a quorum of the Advisory Council on the State Program for Wellness and the Prevention of Chronic Disease (CWCD) was present, per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 439.518 § 2.

**2. Vote on minutes from the October 19, 2017 meeting**

Chair McCoy asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the October 19, 2017 meeting.

**CHAIR MCCOY ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH TWO (2) CORRECTIONS. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY STACY BRISCOE. BEN SCHMAUSS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

**3. Nominations for Committee Openings**

Chair McCoy stated there were three (3) openings on the CWCD. A resumé was received from Christine Syverson for the membership of “representative of private employers in the State who has experience in matters relating to employment and human resources.” Chair McCoy invited Ms. Syverson to speak about her qualifications for the membership.

Ms. Syverson discussed her background. She has been in human resources since she was 19 years old. She has worked for public and private employers. Currently, she is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Nevada Business Group on Health with 12 voting board members, she has been in the role for almost two (2) years.

Chair McCoy stated there was only one (1) application submitted for the membership which needed to be approved by the CWCD. Chair McCoy thanked and excused Ms. Syverson, if she wished to leave, so a vote could be taken. Ms. Syverson chose to stay on the line.

Chair McCoy commented Ms. Syverson has a diverse human resources background and experience relevant to the membership. Ms. Briscoe commented she agreed with Chair McCoy, and she saw an extensive human resources background listed on Ms. Syverson's resumé.

**CHAIR MCCOY ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF Ms. SYVERSON FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF "REPRESENTATIVE OF PRIVATE EMPLOYERS IN THE STATE WHO HAS EXPERIENCE IN MATTERS RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES." A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY ANDRE DELEON. Ms. BRISCOE SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Chair McCoy noted Ms. Syverson's membership recommendation must now be approved through the administrative offices.

Chair McCoy stated he recently learned of Ms. Deb Williams' retirement from the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) and resignation from her CWCD membership representing Local Health Authorities (LHAs). He wished Ms. Williams well and spoke about her great contributions to the CWCD and his own positive interaction with her over the years.

Chair McCoy stated a resumé was received from Ms. Erin Dixon as a replacement for the LHA membership. He asked if members had any comments regarding Ms. Dixon's application.

Ms. Briscoe stated she has been in the dietetics field since 2008, and Ms. Dixon's name had come up frequently. After reviewing her resumé, she believed Ms. Dixon to be an excellent candidate for LHA representative.

Assemblywoman Amber Joiner stated she was thrilled to see Ms. Dixon's interest in the membership. She has worked with Ms. Dixon in many different capacities in the public health field over the last decade. Ms. Joiner stated Ms. Dixon is amazing and would be a great asset to the CWCD.

Dr. Ihsan Azzam stated he has also worked with Ms. Dixon for many years in different capacities, and she is extremely qualified and would be a great asset.

Mr. Schmauss asked if the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) would no longer have a representative on the CWCD. Chair McCoy responded Southern Nevada will still have a representative from SNHD providing the regular local updates during the meetings.

Chair McCoy invited Ms. Dixon to speak about her qualifications for the membership.

Ms. Dixon did not have anything to add to her resumé, but thanked everyone for the kind comments. She stated she was looking forward to moving forward with CWCD as the LHA representative. She also stated the LHA Chronic Disease Prevention Directors meet regularly,

and she will be representing all the health districts in her membership, not only Washoe County.

Chair McCoy thanked and excused Ms. Dixon so a vote could be taken.

**CHAIR MCCOY ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF Ms. DIXON FOR THE MEMBERSHIP OF A “LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY.” A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY DR. AZZAM. MR. SCHMAUSS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Chair McCoy thanked the board members for their commitment and commended the amount of expertise being represented for CWCD.

#### **4. Present Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP) Section Updates and Program Reports**

Jenni Bonk introduced new CDPHP staff members: 1) Rae Waddington, MPH, Community Health Worker Program Coordinator; 2) Katie Charleson, Administrative Assistant II; and 3) Chris Bartoni-Rojas, Administrative Assistant II. Ms. Bonk presented the CDPHP Section Update. ([CDPHP Report](#))

Chair McCoy asked if there were any questions for Ms. Bonk.

Chris Needham asked if the work being done with the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program coordinated with the Nevada Tobacco Prevention Coalition (NTPC). Chair McCoy stated there was a planning session conducted with the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program and NTPC to draft a five-year Strategic Plan.

Chair McCoy asked if Ms. Briscoe had any information about the Quitline program at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Health Center, where she works. Ms. Briscoe reported she did not have much information other than the Quitline is the patients' only available quit support resource. Ms. Briscoe stated she is happy the Native American population is included in the Quitline support system.

Janae Ballingham asked if the results from the Interactive Health Technologies (IHT) for the School Health Program would be released soon. Rose Sutherland stated she is currently trying to get in touch with IHT to continue the project through June 2018. Once the data is received a report will be created and shared with members and other key stakeholders.

Mr. Schmauss asked who the lead Heart and Stroke Prevention Coordinator was for low-income areas. Ms. Bonk stated a new Coordinator has been hired and is scheduled to begin the position on January 29, 2018. Ms. Bonk stated in the interim, she, Masako Berger, Jonathan Kotchevar, and Mr. Needham have been collaborating on a newly funded project from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). Once the ASTHO Project ends and final reports are available, the team will update the CWCD.

Mr. Schmauss asked if the ASTHO Project would be implemented in Southern Nevada as well. Ms. Bonk stated both the North and South will be represented in the ASTHO Project.

**5. Present Local Health Authority (LHA) Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Updates and Program Reports**

**Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD)**

Nicole Bungum presented the report. ([SNHD Report](#))

Chair McCoy asked if there were any questions for Ms. Bungum.

Chair McCoy asked about the cell phone app Walk Around Nevada (WAN). Ms. Bungum stated this app is available and working very well.

Ms. Sutherland asked about the online course catalog for coordinators, so she can provide to other local coordinators as a type of resource. Ms. Bungum stated the courses are only offered through the SNHD Intranet. Ms. Bungum stated she will research whether she can find the information in a different format to share with Ms. Sutherland.

**Washoe County Health District (WCHD) Chronic Disease Prevention Program**

Ms. Dixon presented the report. ([WCHD Report](#))

Chair McCoy asked if there were any questions for Ms. Dixon. There were no questions.

**Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS)**

Sandy Wartgow presented the report. ([CCHHS Report](#))

Chair McCoy asked if there were any questions for Ms. Wartgow. There were no questions.

**Elko County**

Elko had no updates to provide at this meeting.

**6. Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant Update**

Dr. Kristi Robusto presented the update. ([PHHS Update](#))

Chair McCoy asked how the funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was progressing. Dr. Robusto stated she did not have any new federal fiscal information to share with members.

**7. Present 2017 Board Recommendations**

Ms. Bonk presented the 2017 CWCD Recommendations. ([2017 Board Recommendations](#))

Chair McCoy asked if there were any questions for Ms. Bonk.

Mr. Schmauss expressed his appreciation for Ms. Bonk's diligence reviewing all the past minutes to compile the recommendation list and praised the reports on the Community Health Worker and Women's Health Connection Programs.

#### **8. Recommendations to Governor for 2019 Legislative Session**

Mr. Schmauss gave the informational presentation.

Mr. Schmauss stated he had reviewed the bylaws to clarify the business of the Council, which is advisory in nature and exists to provide recommendations to the CDPHP Section. He advised members about the opportunity to collaborate with DPBH on certain issues relevant to the public. Mr. Schmauss stated the bylaws of the CWCD charged the membership with providing recommendations to the Governor, at least annually, and he wanted to ensure those were still being provided to the Governor's Office. Additionally, the CWCD is supposed to collaborate to solve public health issues. However, it is important for members to be able to identify potential gaps in service and funding that affect the whole population.

Chair McCoy invited discussion from the members.

Mr. Needham suggested conducting a health needs assessment either by the State, local municipalities, or community partners to identify service gaps. Mr. Schmauss agreed with the idea since the CWCD can make those types of recommendations. Mr. Needham stated it would be valuable to have a comparison of other states to see in what areas Nevada is lagging or missing funding.

Chair McCoy asked if the Director's Office provides a summary to the Governor's Office on a regular basis. Ms. Bonk replied the DPBH provides updates on all programs and activities and a report goes out from the DPBH to the Governor's Office quarterly. Chair McCoy stated the missing element may be whether feedback is received from the Health Policy staff person in the Governor's Office.

Chair McCoy stated it was important to keep in mind recommendations are for the next biennial budget. He asked when budget presentations had to be made. Karissa Loper responded it would probably be in April 2018. Chair McCoy stated the budget goes to the Governor's Office in June or July and it would probably be in the best interest to begin talking about it now and not at subsequent meetings. Ms. Briscoe stated a good start would be to help identify the gaps and make useful recommendations which could influence the budget. Chair McCoy asked if some recommendations could be compiled by the CDPHP Section by the next meeting. Ms. Bonk responded she would put something together and take comments and recommendations from members at the next meeting.

Assemblywoman Joiner suggested doing small things, like pilots to slowly add money to specific areas. Then, perhaps, have an individual bill with a fiscal note stating it costs a certain amount of money, such as \$200,000 or \$300,000. She emphasized Utah, which has programs showing amazing outcomes. She further suggested asking a legislator to submit an individual

bill and having a hearing to show progress and demonstrate how the State would benefit. She stated asking for one (1) item would be easiest, since individual legislators can propose a bill to create a program with an attached cost.

Assemblywoman Joiner further stated comparing states like Utah to Nevada does not get us what we need, but shows which programs have a positive outcome for people. She clarified the legislative position by stating, every legislator wants to see outcomes and compare what a specific program provides in other states as far as lives and health, but then the question becomes how to expand the funding. The battle really begins in the initial budget stages. It is very difficult to change the budget once it is going through the Legislative process, because there are only 120 days to make changes.

Chair McCoy agreed with Assemblywoman Joiner, citing the recent State General Fund investment in the Women's Health Connection Program as an example of a successful individual bill. Chair McCoy asked if there were any additional comments.

Mr. Needham stated pulling data and narratives together to accurately illustrate why additional funds are needed would be the most beneficial.

Ms. Wartgow agreed and commented that looking at what opportunities we could be missing is a positive step. She stated certain areas are not being given enough attention, especially in areas where there is no funding and no formal program. She stated we need to look at what programs are missing to really impact health outcomes.

Mr. Needham stated Renown has partnered with WCHD to conduct a community health needs assessment, which the organization does every three (3) years. They have completed the most recent assessment which will be released soon. He is looking forward to identifying the gaps and solutions. He stated he will email the results to the membership before April 2018.

Dr. Azzam stated there are proven federal studies which can support our needs and be used instead of doing studies in small communities. It may be possible to use those national studies when applying for funding for certain program areas.

Chair McCoy asked if anyone had further comments. There were none.

## **9. Public Comment**

Chair McCoy asked for public comment. No public comment was provided.

## **10. Adjournment**

**CHAIR MCCOY ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO ADJOURN. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. SCHMAUSS. MR. DELEÓN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 2:47 P.M.**