

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

**MINUTES**

**APRIL 19, 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 4/19/2018, beginning at 1:12 p.m., at the following locations:

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

Department of Health and Human Services  
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

Department of Health and Human Services  
Aging and Disability Services Division  
2667 Enterprise Road  
Reno, NV 89513

Teleconference Number: 1-415-655-0002

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Tom McCoy, JD, Chair  
Ihsan Azzam, MD  
André DeLeón  
Christina Demopoulos, DDS, MPH  
Tina Dortch  
Jacquie Ewing-Taylor, PhD  
Assemblywoman Amber Joiner, MA  
Chris Needham, MBA  
Rebecca Scherr, MD  
Ben Schmauss, MPH

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Janae Ballingham, MAT  
Stacy Briscoe, RD  
Erin Dixon, MS  
Erin Russell, PhD  
Christine Syverson, BS  
Senator Joyce Woodhouse

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

Beth Handler, MPH, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)

Karissa Loper, MPH, Deputy Bureau Chief, CFCW, 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

Karen Larin, Tobacco Prevention and Control Program Coordinator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Debra Kawcak, Tobacco Cessation Coordinator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Yanyan Qiu, Tobacco Program Coordinator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Allison Schleicher, Tobacco Project Evaluator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Rose Sutherland, School Health Coordinator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH  
Lisa Sheretz, Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention 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  
Erin Lynch, DHHS, Health Care Financing & Policy, Chief, Hospital/ Physician Services  
Sandy Wartgow, RN, BSN, Carson City Health and Human Services  
Bobbi Shanks, RN, Elko County School District and Elko County Health Board  
Paige Barnes, Carson City, Crowley and Ferrato  
Keely Gardner, Reno, Crowley and Ferrato  
Maria Azzarelli, Manager, Southern Nevada Health District

**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 January 18, 2018 meeting**

Chair McCoy asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the January 18, 2018 meeting.

**CHAIR MCCOY ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH NO CORRECTIONS. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY ANDRE DELEÓN. DR. IHSAN AZZAM SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

**3. Nominations for Committee Openings**

Chair McCoy opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Dr. Rebecca Scherr nominated Ben Schmauss. There were no other nominations.

There was no discussion. Mr. Schmauss accepted the nomination and thanked the committee. He stated he is looking forward to making quality recommendations.

**CHAIR MCCOY ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOMINATION OF MR. SCHMAUSS AS VICE-CHAIR. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MR. DELEÓN. DR. AZZAM SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

**4. Patient-Centered Medical Homes (PCMH) Subcommittee Update**

Chair McCoy gave the informational presentation.

Chair McCoy stated in 2017, the Nevada Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 139 which authorized a Patient-Centered Medical Homes Subcommittee to be overseen by the CWCD. The Subcommittee has struggled to meet quorum and come together to make recommendations to the Legislature. To move the goals and objectives of the Subcommittee forward, there will be a meeting next month with the Executive Director of the Nevada Primary Care Association to fine-tune the direction of the Patient-Centered Medical Homes Subcommittee prior to the next meeting on July 13, 2018.

There were no questions or comments.

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

Jennifer Bonk presented the CDPHP Section Update. ([CDPHP Report](#))

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

Mr. Schmauss inquired about the required reporting to school districts as outlined in SB 165. A copy needs to be sent to each of the Superintendents. He recommended the State put together a data report outlining what benefit there is to schools regarding the data. This adds to the ability to serve schools and to know the trends and data regarding student health.

Dr. Kristi Robusto thanked Mr. Schmauss for his comment. She clarified the report Ms. Bonk gave, stating the 2017 Obesity Report was one (1) of two (2) reports required by SB 165. The Obesity Report is submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau. The data collection portion for height and weight information from schools is ongoing. As part of SB 165 a report will be generated by the State once the data for the year is finalized. Per SB 165, DHHS/DPBH is required to submit reports to the school districts with the data and information outlined.

Mr. Schmauss appreciated the clarification. He looks forward to membership receiving the report.

Rose Sutherland stated she would reach out to other individuals within the school district who could benefit from the information, since it provides them with resources and opportunities to help improve the school health environment.

Mr. DeLeón stated he is working with Ms. Sutherland to get the information out to the right people in the school districts. The Nevada Department of Education has received permission from the Standards Council to move forward in revising the health standards. He stated if anyone would like to be a part of these programs to let him know, as they are always looking for stakeholders.

Chair McCoy inquired if we were on target with screening women through the Women's Health Connection (WHC) Program.

Ms. Bonk stated she has been assured that Access to Healthcare Network is on target with the budget.

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

**Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD)**

Maria Azzarelli presented the report. ([SNHD Report](#))

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

Mr. Schmauss inquired if Ms. Azzarelli foresees a future for the Barbershop Program. Ms. Azzarelli responded she does see a future for the program depending on funding and building community relationships.

Mr. Schmauss inquired if the program is going to continue to physically bring in representatives or research electronic options. Ms. Azzarelli stated they are always looking to improve the delivery method of programs and adapt as necessary. She stated they are using trained volunteers to physically be at the site and do blood pressure testing along with a SNHD representative to answer any questions.

Chair McCoy inquired how the Barbershop Program is being promoted to the community. Ms. Azzarelli responded the program is being promoted via social media, radio, grassroots, flyers, and community partners.

Chair McCoy stated every year we have a prostate cancer awareness month. He inquired if this is something SNHD could promote? Ms. Azzarelli responded prostate cancer awareness could be something they bring into their program. She asked Chair McCoy to email her the information and stated she would get it out to the community.

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

Chair McCoy presented the report on behalf of Erin Dixon. ([WCHD Report](#))

Chair McCoy asked if there were any questions. 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.

Mr. Schmauss asked if they are unable to do the heart disease and stroke work due to lack of funding. Ms. Wartgow responded they are not funded at all for heart and stroke prevention. She stated when they participate in heart and stroke activities, they use the avenue of tobacco use prevention, knowing it is the leading cause of heart disease and stroke.

There were no further questions.

#### **Elko County**

Bobbi Shanks presented the report. (Elko County Health District)

Ms. Shanks reported there is a new public health officer, Dr. Bryce Putnam, DMD, associated with Nevada Health Centers. She stated Dr. Putnam ran the Board of Health meeting in Elko and stated his goals were to increase public health infrastructure and preparedness in Elko County. They are working with their grant funding through the State to provide a program for Elko County employees. They also received funding for a pilot program called "Get Active Elko," which involves all of Elko County. They have also created a Public Health Improvement Team identified as the "PHIT Team." The team reviews the community needs assessment and is tackling one problem area at a time. All members of the team

are volunteers and are currently working towards improving immunization rates. One way they have chosen to meet the objective is by working with Nevada Health Centers, communities, schools, and Family Resource Centers to hold a Teen Health Fair in May 2018. They will address alcohol and drug prevention, parenting teens, mental health, fitness, dental health, nutrition, and Nevada Health Centers will be offering vaccinations. Partners Allied for Community Excellence (PACE) Coalition is hosting a family safety night this month with a focus on substance abuse. She stated PACE also recently held a community opioid summit, which was well attended and very informative.

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

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

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

Chair McCoy asked if there were any questions. There were no questions

**8. Present Medicaid Tobacco Cessation Report and Utilization of Quitline**

Erin Lynch presented the report. ([Medicaid Tobacco Cessation](#))

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

Chair McCoy stated the codes are relatively new and it will take time for the doctors to start learning and using these codes. He stated the 2% statistic does not seem correct. By looking at national averages for Medicaid, those enrolled have almost double the smoking percentages compared to non-Medicaid-enrolled individuals. Chair McCoy inquired how our 2% compares to other states' similar analyses.

Ms. Lynch responded she is unsure, but she could have the analytical team take a look at running other states' data.

Dr. Azzam stated the 2% is a definition-related percentage and reflects the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes and does not represent the number of people on Medicaid who use tobacco. He stated there are three (3) ways to calculate the percentage of tobacco users: surveys, codes, or urine testing. The 2% represents the services being provided, not the amount of tobacco users. Dr. Azzam stated we need to concentrate on providers to ensure they are offering services.

Ms. Lynch stated many people who are enrolled in Medicaid may not be going to the doctor or may not always be truthful about smoking; there are many different factors affecting the data.

Dr. Azzam stated the study is very interesting because it is showing the percentage of doctors offering services and products.

Ms. Azzarelli stated SNHD commissioned an Adult Tobacco Survey in 2016 on the behalf of the State. The 2% does not reflect the smoking rate in Nevada, which is around 16%. She stated the demographics portion also does not reflect the information collected on the survey. Ms. Azzarelli stated it is important this report comes with an explanation to make sure it is not misinterpreted.

Ms. Wartgow stated this data is representative of whether doctors are diagnosing. She stated doctors only diagnose nicotine dependency when a patient comes in for a specific problem related to tobacco

use. Ms. Wartgow stated CCHHS is trying to educate physicians to assess tobacco use; it is a requirement for their quality measures. They are training providers to diagnose if a patient comes in saying they are a smoker. She stated they are trying to train doctors to use the CPT codes regardless of reimbursement.

Ms. Lynch clarified tobacco counseling is not reimbursable, but it is part of their quality measures, unless the patient is pregnant, in which case the services are reimbursed.

Dr. Azzam stated the counseling is not reimbursable but diagnosing nicotine dependency is. He believes this would be good information to share with providers. He stated what we really need is effective counseling.

Mr. DeLeón inquired if it would be helpful to include some of the baseline data of current statewide tobacco use in the report.

Ms. Lynch responded she could add that data to the report.

Mr. DeLeón stated there are a lot of accessibility issues that are not assessed in this study. He believes lack of transportation is prevalent and important information to note as to why those numbers are so low. Mr. DeLeón inquired what the term “ICD” means.

Dr. Azzam responded ICD stands for International Classification of Diseases. He stated he thinks it is a good idea to include the baseline data on this report.

Ms. Lynch stated she is willing to work with the DPBH Tobacco Prevention Program to better coordinate this data.

Chair McCoy stated the value in this report is to see where we have holes and to realize this is not an exact science with our providers.

David Olsen presented a report on utilization of the Nevada Tobacco Quitline. ([Utilization of the Quitline](#))

Chair McCoy asked if there were any questions for Mr. Olsen.

Mr. Schmauss inquired what caused Quitline utilization of uninsured participants to increase between 2016 and 2017 when the amount of people on Medicaid has increased over the years.

Ms. Bonk responded the numbers are not based on general population statistics but on the number of people calling in to the Quitline only.

There were no further questions.

## 9. **Review of Topics for 2019 Legislative Session**

Ms. Bonk gave the informational presentation.

Ms. Bonk stated the state general funds received through Assembly Bill (AB) 388 for the Women’s Health Connection Program have been beneficial to expanding screenings. The Program does a great

service for the state with those funds and it would be beneficial to retain a state general fund appropriation in future biennia. Another example is funding for tobacco efforts. The current recommendation for the State of Nevada Tobacco Program is \$30 million. The Program is currently working on a pilot with Community Health Workers (CHW) conducting interventions with behavioral health patients which may make a case for CHW Medicaid reimbursement. Ms. Bonk stated she would like to receive ideas and suggestions from the membership as well.

Mr. Schmauss believes this is an appropriate agenda item for the next two (2) meetings as part of their role is making recommendations to the State. He stated the Medicaid population has grown exponentially. He recommended a pilot program using state general funds to create heart and stroke programs in the health districts which currently do not have funding for these activities. He believes by having this type of program, we can reduce the number of readmissions and reduce stroke rates. Mr. Schmauss stated at a recent health fair they had success giving hypertension screenings and providing medical care addressing high stroke level dangers. He suggested something similar to this program piloted by the State could be beneficial in addressing hypertension in the Medicaid population and beyond.

Chair McCoy thanked Mr. Schmauss and agreed recommendations are an important agenda item. He asked if anyone had any other suggestions or comments. There were no further comments.

#### **10. Discussion and Possible Recommendations on Topics for 2019 Legislative Session**

Chair McCoy opened the floor to discuss possible recommendations.

Mr. DeLeón recommended the Legislature consider taxing smoking and vaping products. He believes vaping is a concerning and growing problem, especially among teens. He stated many schools are dealing with smoking and vaping issues. Beyond the health issues of vaping, there are not enough regulations surrounding what is inside of the vapor product. With the legalization of medical and recreational marijuana there could be issues with youth using marijuana products in the vaping equipment. Mr. DeLeón stated we need to regulate and increase taxes on smoking and vaping products before the problem becomes larger.

Ms. Wartgow stated an additional problem with the use of electronic smoking devices is kids are refilling them and can add other substances. She stated last month she taught 250 high school students about the hazards of tobacco and using electronic devices. She asked the students to raise their hands if they knew someone who vaped and 100% of the hands went up. Ms. Wartgow stated this is a problem we need to tackle immediately.

Chair McCoy thanked Ms. Wartgow for the information. He stated even though we are seeing tobacco use in youth decrease, we are also seeing vaping usage grow to double digit percentages. It will only continue to increase if we do not address the issue.

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

Ms. Azzarelli stated Health Officers from across the State and the Nevada Public Health Association (NPHA) will be presenting to the Legislative Health Care Interim Committee next week. She stated it will be interesting to see if the Committee is supportive of topics the Health Officers present in their legislative agenda. We can look at the presentations to get a better understanding of the public health community's legislative agenda for the upcoming biennium.

**11. Public Comment**

Chair McCoy asked if there was any public comment.

Chris Needham stated Renown has completed their Community Health Needs Assessment. He stated this Assessment focused on behavioral health and substance abuse as well as physical activity and nutrition in children. There are grant opportunities for local agencies which can help tackle those issues within Washoe County and all Northern Nevada. Mr. Needham stated the Assessment is available online. [Renown website](#)

There was no further public comment.

**12. Adjournment**

**CHAIR MCCOY ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO ADJOURN. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. DELEÓN. DR. AZZAM SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:11 P.M.**