

**THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATE PROGRAM FOR WELLNESS AND THE PREVENTION OF
CHRONIC DISEASE
MINUTES
AUGUST 16, 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 8/16/2018, beginning at 1:05 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
Stacy Briscoe, RD*
André DeLeón
Christina Demopoulos, DDS, MPH*
Erin Dixon, MS
Tina Dortch*
Jacquie Ewing-Taylor, PhD*
Assemblywoman Amber Joiner, MA
Chris Needham, MBA
Rebecca Scherr, MD*
Ben Schmauss, MPH
Christine Syverson
*Present via telephone

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Janae Ballingham, MAT
Senator Joyce Woodhouse

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF PRESENT

Julia Peek, MHA, Deputy Administrator, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)
Karissa Loper, MPH, Deputy Bureau Chief, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (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

Masako Berger, RD, MPH, Health Systems Manager, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

Allen Pai, DrPH, Evaluation and Surveillance Manager, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

Laura Urban, Food Security and Wellness Manager, CDPHP, CDCW, DPBH

Veronica Sheldon, Fiscal Manager, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

Karen Larin, Tobacco Prevention and Control Program Coordinator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

Mojde Mirarefin, Chronic Disease Program Evaluator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

Amanda Santos, MPH, Women's Health and Colorectal Cancer Evaluator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

Sara Byers, Connecting Kids to Coverage Coordinator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

Lisa Sheretz, Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program Coordinator, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

Christopher Bartoni-Rojas, Administrative Assistant II, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

Katie Charleson, Administrative Assistant II, CDPHP, CFCW, DPBH

OTHERS PRESENT

Amanda Osbourne, Elko County

Abigail Wheeler, Elko County

Maria Azzarelli, Manager, Southern Nevada Health District

Kevin Dick, Health Officer, Washoe County Health District

Nicki Aaker, Director, Carson City Health and Human Services

Joseph Iser, MD, Health Officer, Southern Nevada Health District

Michael Hackett, Lobbyist, Nevada Public Health Association

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 April 19, 2018 meeting

Chair McCoy asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the April 19, 2018 meeting.

CHAIR MCCOY ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH NO CORRECTIONS. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY ERIN DIXON. STACY BRISCOE SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

3. Nominations for Committee Openings

Chair McCoy stated there is an open board position, because Erin Russell resigned. He stated there will be an opening for position 2(c) - Representative of the Health Insurance Industry. Appropriate information and notices of the vacancy will be distributed to members. Chair McCoy inquired if Kristi Robusto had any further information.

Dr. Robusto stated staff will be distributing the information to members, and this agenda item is simply a notification of an open position. Staff will gather nominations and it will be up to the Council to vote on a nominee at the next meeting.

Chair McCoy asked the board to notify anyone who qualifies for the membership and is interested in the open position by asking them to contact Dr. Robusto

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

Chair McCoy gave the informational presentation.

Chair McCoy stated the Subcommittee had difficulty reaching quorum and will be trying to meet again in September. He stated he expected to have a report for the October 2018 meeting.

No public comment was heard.

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

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

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

Ben Schmauss asked Ms. Bonk to talk about any plans the Department of Education or CDPHP has to fill the gap since there is no longer a School Health Program, due to a loss of federal funding.

Ms. Bonk stated there is no longer any funding dedicated to School Health projects. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) moved School Health funding away from Health Departments to the Departments of Education nationally. Nevada was not funded in the most recent competitive grant process. If another opportunity presents to apply for School Health funding, CDPHP will assist the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) with the application process.

Mr. Schmauss asked if there is a way to find out what services were being provided and what will no longer be provided. He wants to ensure the Superintendents are being made aware of the changes.

Ms. Bonk stated Rose Sutherland worked primarily with the School Health Program. She provided “train the trainer” programs to teach instructors how to get kids to be more active at school. Ms. Sutherland also helped schools comply with the Wellness Policy. Ms. Bonk stated she would put together a one-page report on School Health Program activities that are no longer funded.

Mr. Schmauss inquired who to contact at the State for questions or recommendations regarding school health programs.

André DeLeón stated he is currently the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) contact person for school health programs. The NDE is currently working to bridge the gap, but right now there are more questions than answers. As he receives more information, he will share that with the Council.

Mr. Schmauss recommended the Department of Agriculture and/or the Department of Education present to the Council at a future date to recommend a contact person regarding School Health needs.

Chris Needham stated when people find out funding like this has been discontinued, there is potential for others to do something about the issue. For example, the Children’s Health Institute at Renown is starting discussions with Washoe County schools. He stated the information regarding the loss of School Health programming is good for Renown to know, so staff can rally resources to overcome the federal funding loss.

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.

Chair McCoy stated when you combine the smoke-free units with the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requirements, it is a very significant movement.

Ms. Azzarelli clarified the 49,000 smoke-free units do not include HUD units, which just came on board when HUD voluntarily implemented the policy.

Mr. Schmauss inquired who were the stakeholders brought together to give feedback on the physical activity guidelines.

Ms. Azzarelli stated they were mostly members of the local Obesity Coalition facilitated by Nicole Bungham.

Tina Dortch inquired about the State’s position on electronic cigarettes.

Ms. Azzarelli stated she cannot speak for the State, but the SNHD position is e-cigarettes are not a cessation aid, since they contain cancer causing agents, nicotine, and have not been around long enough to consider the long-term health effects. She stated she can provide documents/resources if anyone would like more information on the subject.

Mr. Schmauss stated if anyone is interested, the Nevada Tobacco Prevention Coalition (NTPC) will be advocating during the 2019 Legislative Session for the taxation of electronic cigarettes and for those funds to go towards prevention.

David Olsen stated the State’s position on e-cigarettes aligns with the CDC’s guidelines. At this time, the CDC does not directly address e-cigarettes, but the State can work on activities regarding e-cigarettes when working on objectives such as youth tobacco prevention. The CDC identifies pregnant women, anyone with a developing brain, those with heart conditions, along with a few other chronic diseases, as people who should not be using e-cigarettes.

Chair McCoy stated the NTPC has been addressing the outbreak of youth in Nevada increasingly using vaping products and e-cigarettes.

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

Carson City Health and Human Services (CCHHS)

Nicki Aaker presented the report. ([CCHHS Report](#))

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

Washoe County Health District (WCHD) Chronic Disease Prevention Program

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

Mr. Schmauss congratulated the Washoe County team on the Smoke-Free Parks effort. He stated the WCHD team did a great job talking to partners and keeping them informed, and he appreciated the collaboration.

Chair McCoy stated he attended some of these meetings and the response from the elected officials was very encouraging.

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

Elko County

Abby Wheeler presented the report. ([Elko County Health District](#))

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

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

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

Chair McCoy asked if there were any questions for Dr. Robusto. There were no questions.

8. Present Local Health Authority (LHA) Public Funding in Nevada

Julia Peek, Kevin Dick, Ms. Aaker, Dr. Joseph Iser, and Michael Hackett presented the report. ([LHA Public Funding in Nevada](#))

Chair McCoy asked if there were any questions.

Chair McCoy thanked the group for their presentation and inquired how Washington State is getting additional funds, besides taxing cigarettes.

Dr. Iser stated Washington works in cooperation with LHAs to ensure they are adequately funded. Nevada is not adequately funding LHAs.

Dr. Ishan Azzam stated even though Nevada is the lowest funded state, we are not ranked the worse in all outcomes. Nevada is doing something right.

Dr. Iser responded the reason we are still doing good things even with lack of funding is because of all the dedicated people in the public health field doing the best they can with limited resources. The increase of medical schools and residencies in Nevada is also helping.

Ms. Aaker stated one of the reasons things are working right now is because of strong collaborations with the partners.

Assemblywoman Amber Joiner stated the LHAs have done amazing work. She is looking forward to seeing them present to the Legislature in 2019. She believes this is a good time because the crisis in the property tax structure has really hit hard this year. She referenced the slide where they were asking for support of the public health caseload model bill draft request (BDR); she inquired whether this request has been formally made to the Interim Health Care Committee, so it will be in their work session, or are the presenters planning to wait until the study is done to identify a bill sponsor?

Ms. Peek reported Senator Spearman is working with the Legislative Council Bureau staff to draft the BDR which will be heard at the next Interim Legislative Committee on Health Care (LCHC) meeting; there will be opportunities for members of the public to provide feedback at that time.

Assemblywoman Joiner stated she thinks the next LCHC meeting is August 27, 2018. Public comment before the work session is very important because it shows a force of people who are supportive of an item.

Ms. Peek stated she is unsure when it becomes public information, but the presenters are collaborating with staff on the LCHC.

Assemblywoman Joiner stated the work session document will usually have at least a summary of what the proposal is and will be sent out at least three (3) days prior to the meeting. Anyone who is interested in a BDR can sign up to follow it through the Legislative website:
<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/80th2019/Plt>.

Mr. Olsen referenced slides number 59, 76, and 77, which dealt with the need to have a funding source that would track with population growth. One idea was to institute an additional excise tax on cigarettes and marijuana. He asked what the panel's comments would be on issues with using an excise tax as a funding source, considering the funds can decrease as population health improves (e.g., less people buying cigarettes means less tax revenue).

Dr. Iser responded those were just examples and could be used in combination with other ideas. Ideally, everyone would want tobacco taxes to be zero because it would mean people are not smoking, but the LHAs are looking at interim funding sources until, for example, property taxes can be raised. The panel members are exploring any areas from which they might receive funding.

Ms. Peek stated the enhancement request in the DPBH budget for the upcoming biennium will reflect a request of general funds.

Mr. Needham stated Dr. Iser referenced value-based reimbursement systems, and to clarify, every time public health officials do a service for someone in the community, that is ultimately saving money. He inquired about value-based healthcare and what role the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), healthcare providers, and the payers have in providing and collaborating on public health and how the finances can be aligned.

Mr. Hackett stated the value-based reimbursement system, or outcome-based system, is different than the current system of sick-based treatment, where care is provided only when the person presents for treatment at a facility. Under a value-, or outcome-, based reimbursement system the encouragement is to get people in before bad things start to happen to them, so they are better

managed on wellness and prevention. Under the outcome-based model, continuity of care is significantly enhanced.

Christine (Chris) Syverson stated the missing piece not often mentioned is the employers who have an important role in public health, since they are partially financing employee health plans and wellness programs.

Mr. Dick responded to Mr. Needham's comment explaining WCHD is fortunate in that they have a community health improvement plan and the Reno-Sparks Chamber of Commerce is involved and working with WCHD on their programs to address nutrition, physical activity, screen time, and sugary drink consumption.

Mr. Hackett responded to the comments regarding taxing cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and marijuana. He stated several years ago there was a different funding environment in Nevada, which did serve the public's health. He confirmed there will be a bill introduced in 2019 to tax e-cigarettes. He stated the next generation of tobacco products is here now and Nevada is not ready. Nevada has the highest tobacco use by youth of any state. It is important to set up a foundation to put money into tobacco control efforts which will also address e-cigarettes and marijuana.

Dr. Azzam agreed funding needs to move from the tobacco silo to include e-cigarettes and marijuana, which may be more harmful than tobacco alone. Prevention is cheaper than treating chronic diseases.

Mr. Dick agreed, stating even though there is not currently dedicated funding for marijuana prevention, it should be added to tobacco prevention program activities, and in some instances, it is already.

Chair McCoy thanked the panel for an outstanding presentation.

9. Present State Appropriation for Women's Health Connection (WHC) Report Year One

Amanda Santos presented the report. ([WHC Report Year One](#))

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

Ms. Syverson inquired why 93% of the screenings were conducted in Clark County.

Ms. Santos stated many of the clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) that participate in WHC are in Southern Nevada. These clinics can cover most of the population in Clark County, which is overwhelmingly larger versus the rest of Nevada.

Chair McCoy stated being able to diagnose those eight (8) women was a big success and without early intervention it most likely would have cost the state more if they had not been caught now.

Mr. Needham inquired if the women were on Medicaid or uninsured and if Medicaid provided the screening services.

Ms. Santos stated she was unsure but will check and get him this information.

Ms. Bonk stated the WHC does not screen women who have Medicaid coverage, because screening services are paid for by Medicaid. The Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment bill was adopted in Nevada in 2015. If uninsured women are diagnosed through WHC, then they can enroll in Medicaid for their treatment period if they are at 250% or below the federal poverty level.

Dr. Azzam asked if there are plans to outreach to African American or Native American women.

Ms. Santos stated the WHC is currently targeting Hispanic and African American women and are in discussions to work with more of the Native American population. She is trying to find a conduit to reach out to the tribal community.

Ms. Briscoe stated she works for the Reno/Sparks Tribal Health Center. They are very underserved when it comes to women's health needs. She asked Ms. Santos to reach out to her to connect their services.

Ms. Santos stated she will contact with Ms. Briscoe to begin sharing information.

Chair McCoy thanked Ms. Santos for her presentation.

10. **Present Stroke Registry**

Lisa Sheretz and Mojde Mirarefin presented the report. ([CDPHP Stroke Registry Presentation](#)) ([Stroke Registry Report 2018](#))

Chair McCoy asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Schmauss thanked everyone involved in putting together the presentation and report. He stated this information is very valuable and asked if anyone had recommendations on how to distribute the report to as many people as possible.

Ms. Bonk stated the report is posted on the website, dpbh.nv.gov.

Ms. Sheretz stated the Heart Disease and Stroke Taskforce will be discussing the report at the next quarterly meeting in October 2018.

Chair McCoy inquired about mandating certification and how much of a barrier is it to get the certification.

Ms. Sheretz responded the barriers are site specific.

Chair McCoy thanked them for their presentation.

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

Chair McCoy opened the floor for discussion.

Ms. Dixon stated she would like to research population-based approaches to improving physical activity and nutrition.

Mr. Needham stated he would like the State to research what services are reimbursable within Medicaid and Medicare. He believes it would be beneficial to see some reimbursable housing costs,

especially for seniors with chronic conditions. Housing issues are causing these patients to readmit to the emergency room, causing healthcare costs to increase. The State needs to look at what is causing issues for patients on the backend, when they leave the hospital.

Mr. Schmauss stated he supports an e-cigarette tax with clear language stating the funding comes back to public health, or specifically to address e-cigarettes and new tobacco products on the market. He also recommends the State fund a School Wellness Coordinator position.

Assemblywoman Joiner referenced the housing issue brought up by Mr. Needham. She believes the issue has been researched and would not require legislation; it is a matter of getting a State waiver from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. She stated more research is required to determine what actions are necessary for the State to procure the waiver.

A MOTION TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS, WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT RESEARCH BE PERFORMED TO DETERMINE WHICH ACTIONS REQUIRE LEGISLATIVE ACTION, WAS MADE BY ASSEMBLYWOMAN JOINER. MS. DIXON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

12. Public Comment

Chair McCoy asked if there was any public comment.

Ms. Syverson stated she works with the Nevada Business Group on Health which is sponsoring an annual event on September 11, 2018. Attendees will be discussing mental health, diabetes, managing drug costs, and other health issues. She stated if anyone is interested in attending to let her know.

There was no further public comment.

13. Adjournment

CHAIR MCCOY ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO ADJOURN. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. NEEDHAM. CHAIR MCCOY SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:11 P.M.