



Brian Sandoval
Governor

Charles Duarte
Chair

Washoe Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board

July 16, 2018

Richard Whitley, Director
Department of Health and Human Services
4126 Technology Way, Ste. 100
Carson City, NV 89706-2009

Dear Director Whitley:

The Washoe Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board (WRBHPB) was briefed on a proposed Medicaid policy change scheduled for public hearing on August 14, 2018. The hearing agenda includes a proposal by the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) to impose prior authorization (PA) requirements on all psychotherapy services as well as neurotherapy. If approved, providers will be required to obtain a PA after the third session. The WRBHPB voted at today's meeting to oppose this policy change as a barrier to care and an unreasonable administrative burden for providers.

DHCFP held a public workshop on June 29, 2018 to solicit comments on a proposal to impose PA requirements on psychotherapy and neurotherapy. There were a large number of attendees all of whom opposed the proposal. After the hearing, the Division quickly removed the item from a scheduled public hearing. However, they made a minor change and have once again put the proposal forward for public hearing. It is very concerning the Division (and Department) have chosen to ignore overwhelming public opposition to this proposed policy change.

Prior authorization requirements are not only administratively burdensome to providers, but specifically serve to reduce access to services and hence cut health care expenditures. This is particularly concerning as Nevada struggles with access to psychological services anyway.

On behalf of the WRBHPB, we ask you intervene and withdraw this proposal from consideration. We also ask that you end efforts by your staff to restrict access to critical mental health services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles Duarte".

Charles Duarte, Chair

cc: Sheila Leslie, WRBHPB Coordinator
WRBHPB members