



BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING & ADVISORY COUNCIL

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RENE NORRIS
Chair

ALI JAI FAISON
Vice Chair

Behavioral Health Planning & Advisory Council

Quarterly Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2015

Division of Public & Behavioral Health
4150 Technology Way, Room 303
Carson City, Nevada 89706

S. NV Adult Mental Health Services
6161 Charleston Boulevard, West Hall
Las Vegas, Nevada 89146

1. **Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introductions.**
The chair called the meeting to order at 9:05am

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ali Jai Faison, Vice Chair
Alyce Thomas
Barbara Jackson
Dawn Walker
Debra Parra

Elizabeth Burcio
Hillary Jones
Katherine Mayhew
Rene Norris, Chair
Robert Volk

Sharon Wilson
Susan Maunder
Susan Orton
William Kirby

MEMBERS ABSENT

Anis Abi-Karam
Cynthia Matteson

Denise Everett
Heather Kuhn

LaJune Primous
Marion Scott
Mechelle Merrill

STAFF & GUESTS

Ambrosia Crump, SOAR
Anabel Ballard, Administrative Support
Barry Lovgren, Private Citizen
Brooke Paige, Clark County Social Services
Cheryl Baldovi-Manville, Administrative Support
Ginger Paulson, NAMI
Jeanette Belz, Lobbyist
Jeanyne Ward, Nevada Peer Leadership Advisory Council
Kevin Quint, Bureau Chief, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency
Meg Matta, Administrative Support
Michael McMahon, Division of Public and Behavioral Health
Pamela Swanner, Private Citizen
Ruben Harper, Expressions Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
Susanne Sliwa, Senior Deputy Attorney General

2. **Review, Discuss and Receive Public Comment on the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA) / Mental Health Block Grant Application.**

Barry Lovgren read from a prepared statement as follows:

My name's Barry Lovgren and I'll be less than five minutes. I'm a private citizen and I don't represent any agency. I retired from working in the behavioral health system years ago, so if I get something wrong here I ask that staff correct me.

Agenda item #9 provides for Council review of the Block Grant. I presume it also provides the Council with opportunity to make any recommendations it may have for modifying the State Plan contained in the application. That's so important that SAMHSA isn't allowed to make a Block Grant to the State until the Council's had an opportunity to do that. This Council is crucial to the Block Grant.

A lot of work went into writing the application for the Grant. It's over 400 pages long.

And as Mr. Quint has explained before, it's unusual in that it's a living document that can be modified after it's been submitted.

I'm hoping that when agenda item #9 comes up that a Council member will make a motion to recommend the three changes in the State Plan that I've suggested in a document I e-mailed to you a few weeks ago. I've brought a few copies with me, and I'm asking that one be made an attachment to the minutes of this meeting.

Each of the three recommendations that I'm suggesting are about substance abuse treatment services for pregnant women. When a pregnant woman who abuses alcohol or other drugs doesn't get treatment her baby is at very high risk for fetal alcohol syndrome or other substance-related birth defects. That's a tragedy for the mother, a catastrophe for the baby, and a fiscal disaster for the State.

The number of pregnant women getting substance abuse treatment each year has collapsed to less than half what it was before 2008 with no corresponding fall in the number of pregnancies, nor in the rate of substance abuse among pregnant women. That can only mean an increase in substance-related birth defects. The first recommendation I'm hoping you'll make is that Table 1, the State's priorities, be revised to provide for increasing the number of pregnant women receiving substance abuse treatment.

While we've had a decline in substance abuse treatment for pregnant women, we've had an epidemic increase in heroin and other opiate abuse in Nevada. Methadone Maintenance is treatment of choice for heroin addiction in pregnant women, but funded Methadone Maintenance is available only in Las Vegas. The

second recommendation I'm hoping you'll make is to revise Table 1 to call for expanding funded Opioid Maintenance Therapy to Washoe County.

The third revision I'm hoping you'll recommend is continuation of the public service announcements on substance abuse services available to pregnant women. The narrative for the section on Pregnant Women and Women with Dependent Children speaks to how these PSA's, which began a year ago, will continue to the end of next month. Treatment and admission priority is available to pregnant women at nearly 50 programs across Nevada, but it doesn't do much good to offer something if nobody knows about it. These PSA's shouldn't go away until the problem they address has gone away, and continuing them can increase the number of pregnant women in Nevada who get substance abuse treatment.

When you come to agenda item #9, I'm hoping the Council will recommend that the State Plan be modified with these three revisions so the treatment needs of pregnant women are addressed better.

Thank you for hearing me out, and I'd be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Elizabeth Burcio inquired about the availability of the services in rural Nevada. Barry Lovgren replied the services are available but the community was not generally aware of them.

3. **Discuss, Nominate and Elect New Council Chair and Vice Chair.**

Sharon Wilson moved for Rene Norris as Chair and Ali Jai Faison as Vice Chair. Hilary Jones seconded, and the motion carried.

Susan Orton commented on the audio problem and the inability to hear all of the conversation coming through the phone. Public comment and action items were repeated.

4. **Review and Approve Minutes from Council's Quarterly Meeting of August 13, 2015, and October 15, 2015.**

A correction was made to a website address in the August 13 minutes.

Ms. Wilson moved to accept the August 13 minutes as corrected, and the October 15 minutes. Alyce Thomas seconded, and the motion carried.

5. **Review and Approve Minutes from Integration of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency Block Grant of July 14, 2015.**

Ms. Wilson moved to accept the Block Grant minutes. Ms. Thomas seconded, and the motion carried.

6. **Update on the Nevada Commission on Behavioral Health.**

Tabled.

7. **Update and Discuss the Statewide Peer Leadership Advisory Council.**

Jeanne Ward presented an update on the last quarterly meeting of November 12, 2015. There are now a total of five online classes, one credit each, and are offered free of charge to peers. They are moving forward in the development of a Peer Certification Program in the state. The

next committee conference call will be on January 13, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. and the next quarterly meeting will be on February 17, 2016, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. Information, notes and announcements can be found on their website: nv.pps.com

8. Overview of the Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Michael McMahon presented an overview on the Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) five workgroups. Workgroup #1 will focus on housing, homelessness prevention and intervention. Workgroup #2 will focus on education and workforce development. Workgroup #3 will focus on a coordination of primary and behavioral health and wraparound services. Workgroup #4 will focus on coordination of data and resources, and Workgroup #5 will focus on policies and long term planning. The goal is to develop action plans to meet aggressive timelines. Experts in the field will be brought in to assist specific portions of the plans.

Robert Volk inquired about assistance that would be developed to assist homeless people who do not have transportation to their scheduled treatment. Mr. McMahon answered that the funding to assist transportation is limited. The Council has continued to seek access to more funding as it becomes available. Funds have always been available through community services and other agencies; but the Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI) grant provides for wraparound resources usually outside the types of funding available through normal grants.

Susan Maunder asked if the Council would address prevention of homelessness. Mr. McMahon replied that the primary focus of Workgroup #1 is prevention and intervention. He explained there were a number of goals and strategies that have been put forward. The Workgroups determine where additional resources need to be applied.

Ms. Wilson asked for information on where to view the ICH Strategic Plan that was submitted to the Governor. It is posted on the Division of Public and Behavioral Health website within the ICH links: http://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/ClinicalBHSP/dta/Boards/BHSPBoards_Commissions/

9. Review of Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA)/Mental Health Block Grant.

Kevin Quint, Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Behavioral Health, Wellness, and Prevention provided an update on the combined Substance Abuse and Mental Health Block Grant submitted to SAMHSA on August 31, 2015. Traditionally, there have been two Block Grants authorized in federal law, one for Mental Health and one for Substance Abuse. This is the second application in which SAPTA and Mental Health have combined the two Block Grants to follow SAMHSA's direction towards integration. The combined Block Grant is a dynamic process where once submitted, future changes can be made. Such changes are desirable to correspond to changing needs and trends of the community. Members may submit revisions in writing, via email, or in a phone call.

Mr. Quint thanked the Advisory Council for the investment the group made to the July 14 meeting which served to help establish priorities that were critical in assembling the grant; they were invaluable to the process. One of the strong points of the application was the ability to access and obtain input from non-state resources such as this group was able to provide. Another strong point in the application was the ability to utilize the meta-analysis that was completed by SEI (Social Entrepreneurs Incorporated), which consisted of about 20 other needs assessments and surveys that helped shape the conversation.

Mr. Quint also discussed what was learned from the process that will serve to improve future application processes:

- SAPTA will start sooner. The current process began in late February and was submitted in August, which did not provide as much time as was anticipated. Next time the grant will be finished well ahead of time to allow for more complete comment from the public.
- SAPTA will synchronize the processes of data gathering to grant writing. A needs assessment and state plan containing current data will be completed before the writing of the grant begins.
- SAPTA and Mental Health will more completely integrate the combined funding on shared projects.

The next quarterly report on the Block Grant is due on December 1, 2015. This will be a report on last year's Block Grant. In addition, preparation will begin for the Year Two continuation application early next spring. That will provide an opportunity to make changes in the Block Grant that are relevant to changes to respond to new information obtained on needed services in the community. SAPTA is desirous of the Council's input and ideas.

Ms. Wilson asked about the process for modifying the Block Grant. Kevin Quint replied that suggested modifications should be discussed and voted upon by the Council. The official minutes of the meeting will serve to advise the Bureau. It will then be taken under serious consideration by SAPTA with regard to fitting it into the SAMHSA guidelines.

Ms. Norris asked if a suggestion made in Public Comments as a non-action item, could be agendized for the next meeting. Kevin Quint replied that the Public Service Announcements were produced through the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health. He will research if there are contractual or financial issues that would present obstacles.

Ms. Wilson moved to agendize all three of the recommendations made by Mr. Lovgren during Public Comments. Mr. Volk seconded, and the motion carried.

10. **Update on Technical Assistance for Planning Councils.**

Mr. McMahon discussed the possibility of getting technical assistance for the Council from the federal government to accomplish two things: first to provide orientation and basic training to new members; second to provide focus on new directions for the BHPAC which will combine issues around mental health, co-occurring disorders and substance abuse. The initiatives set forth by the federal government call for integration that allow all those entities to be addressed collectively at the state level. The federal government is asking the states to modify the makeup and scopes of their councils to adequately address the integration. The BHPAC has moved in that direction already with regard to some bylaw changes, but could benefit from facilitated assistance to move forward to the next step. Mr. McMahon is asking for a federal expert to walk the Council through a process that will accomplish this goal. He and Heather Kuhn drafted a request for technical assistance which incorporated the priorities expressed by the BHPAC during the public process. The submission of the request is expected to be accomplished in a week. Once a response and a timeline has been received, the Council will be contacted to set up dates that will be mutually agreeable to members.

Ms. Norris asked if the Council could put together orientation for new members in the event that the request for technical assistance is not granted. Mr. McMahon replied that his understanding is that SAMHSA is just waiting for the request to be submitted so they can go forward with providing the technical assistance.

Ms. Orton commented again on the audio problem and asked Mr. McMahon to repeat the comments.

11. Committee Reviews

Executive Committee – Vacancies and Pending Members on Adult and Child Planner Committee

Ms. Thomas said there had been no committee meetings since the last BHPAC meeting. There are some members that have not attended the meetings and will need to receive a letter. The Executive Committee will need to meet shortly. Date and time will be set up as soon as possible.

Behavioral Health Promotion Committee – Vacancies and Pending Members

Ms. Maunder expressed an interest in the Behavioral Health Promotion Committee and asked for a date and time for the next meeting be established as soon as possible.

Nominating Committee – Vacancies and Pending Members

There are two vacancies on the Council. It was expressed that it may be beneficial to wait until after orientations have been provided to define the new roles. A date and time for the next Nominating Committee meeting will be established as soon as possible.

Rural Monitoring Subcommittee – New/Returning Members

A date and time for the next Rural Monitoring Subcommittee meeting will be established as soon as possible.

Bylaws AdHoc Committee – September 10, 2015 Meeting Update

Ms. Wilson reported the October meeting date was changed to September and provided an update on the bylaw revisions. The committee worked to clarify the bylaws pertaining to absences, defining an expectation that members will provide notification within two working days in advance of an absence. Three unexcused absences within a 12-month period will result in a letter to the member, and a review by the Executive Committee. Language regarding use of a form to request agenda items was removed and revised to allow submission via email. There was discussion on the possibility of building a dedicated email address that is not specific to a particular person, so emails will not be returned due to staff turnover. The section of the bylaws pertaining to charges for copies of transcripts of meetings was updated to comply with the Nevada Revised Statutes. Requests for copies will now be handled according to DPBH policies. There was a lengthy discussion on the terms of office, and it was decided that the term will be two years. The general expectation is that the vice chair will ascend to the position of chair. The two-year term limit may be extended by a 70 percent or greater vote of the Council. Everyone on the Council will be required to participate in a subcommittee to ensure involvement. The next Bylaws Committee meeting will be established as soon as possible. These changes will be formally agendized and all members will receive a written copy for review before the next meeting.

Ms. Orton asked Mr. McMahon to repeat the conversation for the benefit of the attendees in Las Vegas. She also commented that as a new member, it is difficult to volunteer to a subcommittee when she is unsure what the responsibilities will be. She emphasized how important it is to provide orientation. She is excited about the possibility to participate in a more meaningful way. Ms. Wilson reiterated how important it is to have a quorum. The lack of a quorum holds back agenda items, such as planning orientation. She reminded members that the quorum is based on total positions including vacancies. The current quorum is 12 members. Ms. Norris suggested a focus group to re-examine and define the subcommittees with respect to new priorities. Ms. Wilson commented that she had attended a meeting in the past where goals were redefined and committees were combined or newly created. She agreed with Rene that it would be productive and beneficial.

12. Public Comment

Mr. Lovgren emphasized the important role of the Council and thanked the Council for demonstrating an openness to the participation and suggestions from the public.

13. Discuss Date and Proposed Agenda Items for the Council's Next Quarterly Meeting on January 21, 2016.

The date for the next BHPAC Quarterly Meeting is January 21, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. Agenda items will include:

- Review and approval of revised bylaws.
- New member orientation planning.
- Revise the Block Grant application to provide for increasing the number of pregnant women receiving substance abuse treatment.
- Revise the Block Grant application to expand funded opioid maintenance therapy to Washoe County.
- Revise the narrative in Environmental Factors to continue the public service announcements publicizing the substance abuse services available to pregnant women.

Mr. Faison moved to accept the date and time of the next meeting and the proposed agenda items. Ms. Jones seconded, and the motion carried.

14. Adjournment

There was no further business to come before the members. Ms. Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Thomas seconded. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.