

**STATE OF NEVADA**  
**DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**  
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING & ADVISORY COUNCIL**

August 28, 2018

9:00 a.m. to Adjournment

Northern Nevada Location

4150 Technology Way, Ste. 300  
Carson City, NV 89706

Southern Nevada Location

1391 South Jones Blvd.  
Las Vegas, NV 89146

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Council Members Present:**

Sondra Cosgrove, Ali Jai Faison, Rene Norris, Karen Green, Jennifer Sexton, Amber Neff, Drew Skeen, William Kirby, Alyce Thomas, Katherine Mayhew, Drew Skeen, Dawn Walker, Charlene Frost

**Council Members Absent:**

Susan Orton, Susan Maunder

**Others Present:**

Kendra Furlong, DPBH, Raul Martinez, DPH, Joseph Filippi, DPBH, Ruth Condray, DPBH

**1. Call to Order**

Rene Norris, Chair called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

**2. Review of Appointment Process – Kendra Furlong, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)**

Kendra Furlong, DPBH, welcomed the new members of the Council. Ms. Furlong stated Council membership is established by appointment of the Governor. Ms. Furlong stated anyone interested in becoming members of the Council need to apply by contacting the Governor's Boards and Commissions Office.

**3. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**4. Approval of meeting minutes from July 20, 2017. – Council Members**

Dawn Walker motioned to approve the minutes. Amber Neff seconded the motion to approve. The remaining Council Members unanimously agreed to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

**5. Overview of Relevant Open Meeting Law Affecting the Council – Susanne Sliwa, Deputy Attorney General, Nevada Attorney General’s Office**

Susanne Sliwa gave an overview of Nevada Open Meeting Law requirements and procedures, which affect public bodies, such as the Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council. Susanne Sliwa stated the intent of open meeting law is to make the efforts of the Council transparent. Susanne Sliwa clarified open meeting law is applicable to committees and sub-committees as well.

Following the presentation, Ali Jai Faison questioned if communication between Council members working on a project together for a sub-committee violates open meeting law. Susanne Sliwa stated any communication regarding Council or Committee business must occur during public scheduled meetings. Susanne Sliwa clarified Committees and Sub-Committees who hold meetings online or over the phone, must still post an agenda and allow the public to call into the meetings.

Susanne Sliwa stated the Attorney General’s Office is available to answer any further questions the Council may require in the future.

**6. Council Orientation Module 1: Planning Council 101 – John Hudgens, AHP**

See presentation under Exhibit A.

During the presentation, John Hudgens introduced himself as an employee who works with Advocates for Human Potential (AHP), who is contracted through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to provide State Block Grant technical support. Mr. Hudgens gave an overview of Block Grant procedures and the responsibility and duties of the Council.

Sondra Cosgrove questioned if the Council were to initiate a survey with county jails to initiate cross-training, jail diversion and education; would the jail be required to answer the Council? John Hudgens stated the Council generally does not have the authority to require such information, but is free to request the information in order to build the relationships necessary.

Ali Jai Faison questioned if the Council would be able to request agencies who receive SAMSHA funding to present to the Council regarding their current funding, and what funding/resources may be needed additionally. John Hudgens stated the Council should work alongside State of Nevada staff to request such presentations.

John Hudgens stated Arizona's Behavioral Health Planning Council has a rotating meeting location throughout the state to learn more regional needs.

**7. Council Orientation Module 2: BHPAC Regulations, Procedures, and Member Support Information – John Hudgens, AHP**

See presentation under Exhibit B.

During the presentation, John Hudgens provided an overview of federal council mandates, the Nevada statutory authority of the Council, membership and Council procedures.

During the presentation, Karen Greene questioned if John Hudgens could elaborate on what constitutes a conflict of interest. She stated each member is fighting for what they each believe in and are involved in their employment focuses. John Hudgens provided a general answer, stating his presentation regarding conflicts of interests was meant to address Council voting concerns. Rene Norris stated in the past, the Council would ask certain Council Members to abstain from voting, if the vote was to determine allocation of funding for an agency the same Member represents. Sondra Cosgrove stated data should always be examined regarding funding needs, which will aid in Council decisions being made based on passion, but more importantly on proven data results. John Hudgens stated the Council Chair and Vice Chair should be responsible for monitoring discussion among the Council, to allow equal amount of participation from all Council members.

**8. Council Orientation Module 3: Improving Council Orientation and Expanding Council Impact – John Hudgens, AHP**

See presentation under Exhibit C.

During the presentation, John Hudgens questioned what challenges the Council has faced in the past. Rene Norris stated multiple Council staff assistance positions have occurred within State personnel during the last few years, which has been a challenge for the Council to operate efficiently. John Hudgens stated Council matters can be difficult when all members are not able to meet in person. Karen Greene stated she is new to the Council and Nevada, but is currently involved in several remote processes which have been very successful. Karen Greene stated remote processes appear to be a way of life in Nevada. Sondra Cosgrove questioned if members new to the Council have access to reports and data the Council has approved in the past. Joseph Filippi stated he will forward the link to the Council's past meeting information and materials to all members.

Karen Greene stated she had recently attended the Legislative Committee on Healthcare meeting and heard potential bill draft ideas she believes overlap with efforts the Council plans to make regarding SAMSHA funding. Karen Greene added other topics mentioned

at the Legislative Committee meeting were the opioid epidemic and the workforce shortage in Nevada.

Sondra Cosgrove stated she also attended the Legislative Committee on Healthcare meeting recently and heard the potential bill draft request priorities. Sondra Cosgrove stated the workforce shortage in Nevada is, in her opinion, the biggest priority needed to promote change. Sondra Cosgrove stated workforce shortage is hindering change and even if funding is provided to address issues, there has to be the staff available to implement it. Sondra Cosgrove questioned if a bill tracking process can occur to assist the Council in becoming aware of potential bill draft requests (BDRs) that align with their priorities. Sondra stated this would allow the Council to follow several bills, decide if they would prefer to attend hearings regarding the bills and promote advocacy for the bills.

Rene Norris stated during the legislation in the past, the Council's Legislative Subcommittee has been initiated. Rene Norris added in previous years someone from the Legislature has presented to the Council in order to provide updates on current BDRs. Rene Norris stated once legislative information is gathered, the Council decides if they would like to advocate and write letters of support to the Governor's Office to promote advocacy.

Alyce Thomas stated she believes the Council has always had subcommittees in the past and believes a subcommittee would be able to track and provide updates to Council members regarding BDRs between meetings. Alyce Thomas stated she believes the Council needs subcommittees to occur again.

Rene Norris stated she agrees the subcommittees would be beneficial.

Sondra Cosgrove stated she believes the workforce shortage across the state should be a priority of the Council. Sondra stated the Southern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board has advocated for the Licensing Boards to become more efficient.

Rene Norris stated she believes people do not want to be seen by providers in Nevada and many of them attempt to receive services in other States.

Karen Greene stated she is interested to see data which reflects Rene Norris' statement.

Susan Sliwa intervened and reminded the Council they are discussing items which should be agendaized and discussed at a future meeting.

Sondra Cosgrove stated she understands this meeting is meant for Council Orientation, and questioned how the Council plans to prioritize and work toward their goals when they are scheduled to meet quarterly and the Legislative session is about to begin. Rene Norris stated the Council can plan to meet as soon as possible to allow the four meetings required per year to all occur in 2018. Alyce Thomas added the Council could convene a Legislative Sub-Committee now to track current legislative efforts being made. Rene

Norris stated members interested in participating in the Council's Legislative Sub-Committee should email Joseph Filippi who can assist in scheduling a future meeting.

**9. Discussion and recommendations on the procedure and process for the Substance Abuse Block Grant/Mental Health Block Grant Joint Application – Ruth Condray, Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)**

See presentation under Exhibit D.

During the presentation, Katherine Mayhew stated many of the priorities listed in the Substance Abuse Block Grant/Mental Health Block Grant Joint Application presentation coincide with the System of Care Grant priorities. Katherine Mayhew questioned if the System of Care Grant priorities were aligned when the Joint Block Grant was written. Ruth Condray stated absolutely, the priorities were aligned with each other and were developed during the planning tables of the block grant application.

Ali Jai Faison questioned if the State is wanting to safe guard patients who have first episode psychosis (FEP), and have not been provided continuous care for a minimum of two years as the block grant states. Ruth Condray stated once the FEP program is initiated, the client will be given assistance through Medicaid to ensure services are provided for the minimum two-year requirement.

Karen Green stated she appreciates the third priority mentioned within the mental health services block grant, which states: "Promote professional competence and development of Nevada's mental health workforce". Karen Green stated this priority addresses the quality workforce needed, and questioned why the quantity needed was not added. Ruth Condray stated people who have expertise in programs allow for more mission relevant outcomes, which results in better quality vs. quantity.

Karen Green questioned why the fourth priority: "Increase the integration of suicide prevention efforts, clinical services and post-mortem reviews within the State's mental health system", addresses the need to improve the quality of the workforce, rather than filling the need to increase the workforce. Ruth Condray stated the intent of priority four is to raise the awareness of risk among the mental health system.

Joseph Filippi and Jennifer Sexton notified the Council of the Nevada Zero Suicide Implementation Workshop which is scheduled to occur in North Las Vegas on August 29, 2018, and in Reno on August 30, 2018.

Ruth Condray questioned if Sondra Cosgrove could elaborate on an earlier meeting discussion, when Sondra stated she had attended the Legislative Committee on Healthcare meeting and similar priorities were mentioned. Sondra Cosgrove stated the Legislative Committee on Healthcare mentioned priorities related to early intervention services, the UNLV medical school, workforce development, current developments

occurring in K-12 schools, and also making sure current providers have access to current workforce development, which includes extra training intervention. Sondra Cosgrove clarified, the Committee is currently in a conceptual stage, and she is willing to forward the work session document to anyone who may be interested.

Rene Norris questioned if the Block Grant is being submitted on September 1, 2018. Ruth Condray clarified the Block Grant application was previously submitted on September 1, 2017, and is submitted every two years. Ruth Condray stated due to the period of time the Council was unable to meet, no overview was provided by the Council in regards to the 2017 Block Grant application. Rene Norris questioned when the annual progress report is due to SAMSHA from the State of Nevada. Ruth Condray stated she believes the report is due in September 2018, but she will clarify and notify the Council of the exact date.

#### **10. Public Comment**

No public comment.

#### **11. Adjournment**

Dawn Walker motioned to adjourn. Sondra Cosgrove seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.