

Statewide Epidemiology Organization (SEOW) Workgroup
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Thursday September 16, 2021
9:00 – 11 am

Note: Agenda items may be taken out of order combined for consideration, and or removed from the agenda at the chairperson's discretion

1. Call to order/roll call 9:06
Members Present: Jennifer Thompson (Chair), Helen See (Chair-Elect), Amber Bachelor, Elyse Monroy, Eric Ohlson, Ingrid Mburia, James Kuzhippala, Jennifer DeLet-Snyder, Stephanie Asteriadis-Pyle, Trey Delap, Wei Yang
Members Absent: Ihsan Azzam, Pauline Salla, Richard Egan, Yen Long, Ying Zhang
Guests: Tracy Palmer, Health Program Manager – Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention; Kristen Clements-Nolle, Epidemiology Professor – University of Reno School Public of Health; Madison Lopey, Health Program Specialist – Nevada Office of Analytics; Cress Baltimore, Health Resource Analyst – Office of HIV; Brook Adie, Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention; Lea Case, Nevada Psychiatric Association; Wendy Whitsett, Health Plan of Nevada – Behavioral Health Department; Taylor Charles, Ferrari Public Affairs.
Item 1 closed; Item 2 open
2. Public comment
No Public Comment
Item 2 closed Item 3 open
3. Approval of Minutes for the June 17, 2021, Meeting
Ms. Monroy motions to approve the minutes for the June 17, 2021 meeting.
Mr. Delap Seconds the Motion.
Opposed: None. Abstention: None
Motion Passes.
Item 3 closed. Item 4 open.
4. Election of New Chair Elect – Nominee Elyse Monroy, Project Manager, Nevada Overdose Data to Action – Jennifer Thompson, Chair, Behavioral Health Data Manager, Department of Health and Human Services.
Ms. Thompson reads [Ms. Monroy's Biography](#) to the committee.
Mr. Delap motions to elect Ms. Monroy
Mr. Kuzhippala seconds the Motion
Opposed: None. Abstention: None
Motion Passes. Ms. Monroy is elected as Chair Elect.
Item 4 closed. Item 5 open.

5. Review/Update Membership Attendance and Discuss New Membership – Jennifer Thompson, Chair, Behavioral Health Data Manager, Department of Health and Human Services

Ms. Thompson discusses the two people who have been put forward Linda Lang (by Ms. Delet-Snyder) and Madison Lopey (by Ms. Thompson) as new/replacement members. They will be nominated at the next meeting. There is also discussion of having a member who is not in the epidemiology field and a member from the rural area(s). Mr. Trevino reads from the by-law 4.1.2. regarding adding members. Ms. Monroy adds bringing in community members should help provide new perspectives and would help to ensure feedback loops are working in communities. Ms. Thompson states that this is her last meeting as chair and that Ms. See will start as the chair at the next meeting. There is no further discussion.

Item 5 closed. Item 6 open.

6. Review and Discuss Special Report on Youth Suicide (Rough Draft) – Jennifer Thompson, Chair, Behavioral Health Data Manager, Department of Health and Human Services

Item table for next meeting. The Office of Analytics was not able to complete the report in time for this meeting. The report will be complete, and it will be an actionable item for approval by the committee.

Item 6 closed. Item 7 open.

7. Discuss and Review the Comparative Analysis of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in the Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (YRBS)/Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance (BRFS). Tracy Palmer, Health Program Manager, Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention; Wei Yang, University of Nevada Reno

Palmer introduces Dr. Yang and Ms. Clements-Nolle. They will be presenting the analysis of the ACEs in the YRBS/BRFS and emerging trends. Dr. Yang mentions the 2018 and 2020 data were used for the BRFS analysis. In 2019, Nevada did not collect data. He also notes that the 2020-21 data will be important because there will not be a sample size limitation. Ms. Clements-Nolle begins her presentation on the BRFS analysis and shares her screen with the ACEs report starting with table 2. The table shows the 11 ACEs questions with a few questions in the same category. BRFS ACEs questions are different from the YRBS, and some demographic differences are seen in the BRFS. ACEs are higher in the younger, married, and renters' demographics. Washoe County and a few other counties have a higher prevalence of ACEs among households with substance abuse which is reflected in the YRBS. Ms. Clement-Nolle is primarily focusing on the mental health and substance use variables in the BRFS. Substance use indicators are high for those with higher ACEs category/exposure (figures 1 – 22). Dr. Yang informs the committee that for 2021 more ACEs modules and covid-19 questions will be included. Dr. Yang states that this is a cross-tabulation, and we can go even deeper. We see the positive relationship, but we may not see other factors. When adjusted for all social

demographics and all other confounding variables, Ms. Clemente-Nolle notes that the relationship between ACEs and substance use and mental health is still strong. In response to a question from Mr. Kuzhippala, Ms. Clemente-Nolle says the YRBS questions are not comparable to other states. The YRBS module will be changing and states who have opted into the new module. The questions are different from the Nevada module. Nevada did opt into the new High School module can be compared to other states. However, for the Middle School, we did not opt-in to the new YRBS module. Before Ms. Clemente-Nolle leaves the meeting, Ms. Palmer thanks her, and Dr. Yang, for their presentation. The goal is to align the Nevada YRBS with the national module for comparisons across the US. Dr. Yang asks if there are any other questions. There is a concern of sample size for rural areas and if there is enough ACEs data collected from rural areas for analysis versus urban data analysis. Dr. Yang says they have over-sampled rural areas because they have split the State into Washoe County, Clark County, and the rest of the State to make BRFSS data available for all counties. Mr. Kuzhippala asks if there is still parental consent for students to answer/take the YRBS. He also wants to know if they will factor in active/passive consent to continue comparisons. Dr. Yang mentions that the legislature has passed a new law making the YRBS mandatory for all schools to participate in the YRBS. He acknowledges that there may be some more differences/problems with all students now being surveyed. It is pointed out the numbers for Washoe County, in table 3 participant characteristics, are much higher than Clark County. Is there a general idea why? Dr. Yang says it could be the number of participants and how honestly they answered the survey. Clark County has been lower than the rest of the State. Ms. See poses a question to the committee and for a possible future discussion: What programs do we have to combat ACEs – programs, strategies, and education in the community/parents. SEOW members discuss what data gaps there may be. Ms. Mburia suggests asking someone from Maternal and Child Health (MCH) to discuss the programs they have with ACEs. Ms. Thompson states she has a meeting with the MCH, and she will reach out to them.

No other discussion/questions.

Item 7 closed. Item 8 open.

8. Statewide Epidemiology Workgroup Article 11 Conflict of Interest – 4 Members Have yet to Submit Disclosure Form – Ben Trevino

Ms. Thompson and Ms. Trevino discuss the 4 members who have not submitted the disclosure form – Ihsan Azzam, James Kuzhippala, Pauline Sala, and Ying Zhang. They discuss two have not attended regularly – Mr. Azzam and Ms. Zhang – and Mr. Trevino will reach out to them sighting the by-laws for missed meetings and asking their intentions. Mr. Trevino will also reach out to Mr. Kuzhippala and Ms. Salla requesting the Conflict-of-Interest disclosure form.

Item 8 closed. Item 9 open.

9. Discussion on Statewide Epidemiology Organization Workgroup By-Law – Helen See

Ms. See no specific question about the by-laws, but would like to know if the Office of Analytics responsible for producing the Epi -Profile? Will Madison be the contact? There is discussion if the by-laws specify who produces the by-laws. Ms. Thompson Notes that the office of analytics produces the profile which will be Madison Lopey going forward. Ms. Palmer would like to know if the by-laws reflect the Epi-profile is being produced yearly/every-other-year. It was made know by Ms. Thompson and Ms. See that the by-laws do not mention the Epi-profile and not action is required. Item 9 closed. Item 10 open.

10. Discussion of the Public Notice Website – Mr. Egan, Office of Suicide Prevention will discuss what can be accessed on the website

Agenda Item Tabled for Next Meeting as Mr. Egan is not present.
Item 10 closed. Item 11 open.

11. Discuss and Approve Agenda Items for next Meeting – Ben Trevino

Ms. Thompson notes that there are a couple of housekeeping items which include nominate two new members, Removal of two members, and to invite an MCH staff to discuss ACEs and their programs. Mr. Trevino brings to the attend and facilitates a discussion for the next schedule meeting date.

Ingrid: makes a motion to move the next meeting to December 2, 2021

Mr. Kuzhippala second the motion

Against: None, Abstention: None

Motion Passes.

Item 11 closed. Item 12 open.

12. Public Comment

No Public Comment

Item 12 closed. Item 13 open.

13. Ms. Thompson Adjourns the meeting at 10:18am