

DPBH COMMISSION ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
Annual Governor's Letter Subcommittee Meeting

MINUTES  
March 20, 2020  
8:30 AM

MEETING LOCATIONS:

Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)  
4150 Technology Way, Room 303, Carson City, NV

Phone: 1-669-900-6833 (Access Code: 775-684-5906)

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Lisa Durette, M.D., (Phone), Tabitha Johnson, (Phone), Natasha Mosby, (phone), Debra Scott, (Phone),  
Lisa Ruiz-Lee, (Phone), Asma Tahir, (Phone), Barbara Jackson, (Phone) Jasmine Troop, LCPC

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:

Dr. Melanie Crawford

Carson City:

Joseph Filippi, DPBH, Rex Gifford, DPBH

Sparks:

Nobody Present

Las Vegas:

Nobody Present

Phone:

Dr. Leon Ravin, Statewide Psychiatric Medical Doctor (SNAMHS); Chaz Fernandez, Nevada Psychiatric  
Association; Kristen Rivas, DCFS; Laura Adler, DCFS

Chair Durette called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. Roll call is reflected above. It was determined a  
quorum was present.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Discuss, plan and assign tasks and due dates for completion of the next Annual Governor's Letter per NRS 433.314**

Chair Durette informed the Commission and public that she had a draft of the Annual Governor's Letter and that she recognized the current COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic and that the immediacy of the Annual Governor's Letter was not paramount additionally Chair Durette welcomed feedback and direction on the letter. The Draft Annual Governor's Letter is attached here to as Exhibit "A".

Chair Durette explained that the goal was to condense the Annual Governor's Letter. She explained that the beginning would be an executive summary and then expand into the body of the letter with will include the Regional Board updates and information. The first paragraph focuses on Mental Health America rankings in which Nevada ranks 51<sup>st</sup>. She went into depth about where the rankings come from, and depth about adult versus youth indicators, but focused on the fact that Nevada is behind other states in mental health. Chair Durette broke down the mental health part of the letter by region and goal to make sure that both were together including issues such as access to care and access to affordable care. Each region was outlined and their top priorities were outlined. Page three is what was sent board by board, minor edits were made to help the Annual Governor's Letter flow better.

Chair Durette opened the floor for discussion on the letter and highlighted that the goal was to have a unified document.

Mr. Joseph Filippi addressed the Board thanking them and for compiling all the information into one document for review. Mr. Filippi highlighted that the current Annual Governor's Letter was not as in-depth as previous Annual Governor's Letters because children's behavioral health data was not included, and he believes that the data is collected from the children's behavioral health consortia in Nevada. Mr. Filippi stated that he didn't believe that any Commission members were assigned with reviewing those reports to be included in this letter. Mr. Filippi suggested to the Board that this should be discussed today. Mr. Filippi asked if there was any one from DCFS (Division of Child and Family Services) who might be able to provide that information. Kristian Rivas, DCFS (by phone) and Laura Adler DCFS (by phone) answered.

Chair Durette recognized Mr. Filippi's point about the children's consortia and asked Mrs. Rivas and Mrs. Adler if they had read the draft of the Governor's Annual Letter, because all of the regional boards address children's issues that resonate with the issues talked about in the Governor's Annual Letter. Chair Durette expressed that she would be happy to add the children's consortia but questioned if it was needed because Chair Durette believed that the main goals in the letter were family focused treatment, which is children. Chair Durette asked what their thoughts were.

Kristian Rivas stated that she did take a look at the draft of the Annual Governor's Letter and noticed that it was different from last year in regards to specifically on the perspective of treating kids and families. Mrs. Rivas said she was more than happy to provide the children's consortia, they just got all of

their ten year plans done if that information was requested to be in the Annual Governor's Letter. In Mrs. Riva's opinion the children's consortia ten year plans look great. Mrs. Rivas also expressed her understanding that this is a different letter, in and for, a different time and referred back to the Commissioners to review. Mrs. Rivas did explain that there was a DCFS side and an adult side and one issue brought up in public health reports is that having the consortia members on there is a kids and family voice in children's mental health. Mrs. Rivas also volunteered to get the children's consortia reports.

Chair Durette said she would be more than happy to include those reports in the Annual Governor's Letter.

Lisa Ruiz-Lee, stated that they could put that information in but because if the current situation with COVID-19 the consensus is; the shorter the letter the better. Which is understood to make this letter different than the previous Annual Governor's Letters, the more pro-forma the letter is the better off the Commission is.

Chair Durette asked Laura Adler, DCFS, that if she could get the children's consortia report to her she would add a paragraph to the Annual Governor's Letter including the children's consortia within the first three pages. All information from all the children's boards with a more expanded description of priorities would be placed in later pages.

Kristian Rivas said that the reports are really great in pinpointing their goals unlike other years so extracting the goals from the reports should be easier.

Mr. Filippi offered to forward the Annual Governor's Letter from last year to use as a reference

Chair Durette stated that was ok, she has it already.

Lisa Ruiz-Lee brought up the opening paragraph of the Annual Governor's Letter and stated one of the things she recognized is that a lot of the organizations from the regional policy boards talk about increasing capacity for current services. What we are learning is that a lot of the increasing capacity has to include innovative approaches and strategies like telehealth. If we are going to learn anything it should be how to use telehealth effectively in the pursuit of increasing capacity. Mrs. Ruiz-Lee was not sure if this topic is to be in this Annual Governor's Letter because every one of these boards, moving forward is talking about increasing capacity. When you talk about increasing capacities there are a lot of innovative approaches and strategies for service delivery. Mrs. Ruiz-Lee said she is not sure if this is something the Commission is saying but it should be one of the Commissions top priorities is to re-evaluating how we deliver for services and figuring out how we are going to be innovative with that delivery model. That would increase capacity.

Chair Durette agreed.

Jasmine Troop, LCPC, agreed too, and added that ties in with what every single board is talking about.

Chair Durette agreed and stated that if you take a scan of the landscape telehealth will increase capacity and modality. Chair Durette brought up that there is not any licensing issues and questions of how do you continue. You have to be innovative how you license and increase capacity. Chair Durette said she doesn't want to pivot to one thing but she agrees we will have to be innovative if we really want to deliver services. Chair Durette observed that the organizations that are doing better today are those who have been innovative and who have already had the capacity to, for example, deliver telehealth services because the conversion was much more seamless for them than agencies that didn't have any capacity, which are now shutting their doors. This is observed to be more prevalent in those that are providing cognitive services, which lack services as it is, however innovative services are going to be pretty important going forward.

Chair Durette asked Lisa Ruiz-Lee, Commissioner, to write a paragraph about innovation for the Annual Governor's Letter.

Lisa Ruiz-Lee, agreed.

Chair Durette stated that the board doesn't have to be descriptive about the issue but simply state that this is a top priority as we pursue all these good improvements for service delivery. We are going to have to be smart about how it is implemented.

Jasmine Troop, LCPC, said that she liked the summery page and dislikes the fact that Nevada is 51<sup>st</sup>. She believes that the Annual Governor's Letter being "short and sweet" is what's needed for now since Governor Sisolak has many other things to deal with besides the Annual Governor's Letter. The letter, although important, is not a priority at this moment which is understood by the Commission. Mrs. Troop, LCPC, had no suggestions for edits at this time.

Tabatha Johnson, as stated earlier she believes this is a very well written letter.

Natasha Mosby, Stated she seconded everyone's opinion. Mrs. Mosby added that she liked the new type of format

Debra Scott, expressed that she thought that the Annual Governor's Letter should have been shorter last year. She also expressed that she thought Chair Durette did a great job encompassing what the governor needed to know and that he would be appreciative that the Annual Governor's Letter will be "short and sweet"

Barbara Jackson said, she appreciated the letter being shorter.

Chair Durette asked if there was any public comments:

Dr. Ravin asked if she, Chair Durette, talked about professional development at Clark County, Dr. Ravin highlighted a deal with the Department of Psychiatry. The Department of Psychiatry is in the process of developing a fellowship training program. Dr. Ravin said this is important because this is the first program of its type at this time in the state of Nevada and he expressed that he thinks it would be important to put in the Annual Governor's Letter to highlight future funding for the program in the next legislative session.

Chair Durette liked the idea of adding Dr. Ravin's suggestion to the Annual Governor's Letter near the end with Lisa's suggestion of innovation and capacity highlighting the fellowship program's innovation to try and bring on new programs and train new clinicians.

Chair Durette asked if anyone was aware of any expanded training in the fields of OPSWs or marriage and family therapists to parallel this.

Nobody answered.

Dr. Ravin updated the Commission on the Nevada Psycho Pharmacology Conference. Dr. Ravin stated that Governor Sisolak had a very nice message recorded for at the Nevada Psycho Pharmacology Conference last year and that last year the conference had record attendance. There were a lot of local recruiters there and attendees from out of state who expressed interest in staying in Nevada for education and for work.

Chair Durette stated that she didn't know if she would add that per se, because of the business aspect of the conferences, however; she wanted to add the information about the fellowship program, and she reiterated that she wanted to cover everything dealing with mental health.

Dr. Ravin said that he felt that the conference helped "put Nevada on the map."

Chair Durette asked the Commission what they thought of Dr. Ravin's input.

Lisa Ruiz-Lee said that she thinks that the Commission should keep the overall length of the Annual Governor's Letter short.

Jasmine Troop, LCPC, agreed but also added that talking about the fellowship program would talk about where the Commission is going instead of where they have been.

Chair Durette again asked if there was any comments or public comments.

Debra Scott added that the fellowship is something that the Nursing Board is planning on doing in the next session is bring Nevada into the Nursing Licensing Compact and Mrs. Scott was wondering if there were any other professional boards that are looking to do the same thing because there are a lot of

boards that have a national licensure compact that can allow professionals to work across state borders without having to get licenses in each state.

Chair Durette replied that the Medical Board is part of the compact and requested Mrs. Scott write a sentence or two in a smaller paragraph about a compact with other states similar to the Nursing Licensing Compact that would be right after the Mental Health America ranking after talking about the fellowship.

Chair Durette asked Tabatha Johnson and Natasha Mosby if their boards had reciprocity across state lines.

Natasha Mosby responded that she would have to check.

Tabatha Johnson said she thinks that most states offer reciprocity. The one state that is more challenging is California, she will see what she can find out.

Debra Scott said that this is more than reciprocity, it is basically one license that is issued in the state that you are living in and you can practice in another state. The Nursing Licensing Compact has more than thirty pages, and Mrs. Scott would like to encourage the Commission to court the governor in support of having a compact. Mrs. Scott describes the compact as that you only have to have one license and that is all.

Jasmine Troop, LCPC responded that on the mental health side even Substance Abuse Board there is nothing like this compact.

Debra Scott said that in the Nursing Compact you don't have to pay fees to the states just have to meet their requirements and you will have a Compact license. You have to be upstanding and you have to pass a background check, but once you have the one license you can practice in all the states that are a part of the Compact. Right now with the President's State of Emergency people are able to cross state lines and help, even without the threat of COVID-19 it would be really helpful to have a compact especially with telehealth.

Chair Durette stated that was a lovely suggestion and asked for any more ideas or edits.

Without feedback from any Committee members or the public Chair Durette read back the edits to the Annual Governor's Letter:

- Kristen Rivas and/or Laura Adler are going to send information from the Children's Behavioral Health Consortia
- Lisa Ruiz-Lee is going to send a couple of sentences about innovation and capacity

- Debra Scott is going to add a couple of sentences about the Nursing Board asking to get approval to join a Compact.

Chair Durette said that once she has all that information she will create a draft and reintroduce the Annual Governor's Letter to the Commission. After asking if there would have to be another meeting of the Commission to approve the letter, Mr. Filippi said that if there is to be a vote on the letter than that vote would have to be before the public at a public meeting, the draft letter would have to be distributed to the public as well. The Commission was reminded that there is another Commission on Behavioral Health meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and the Commission was given the option of approving the draft of the Annual Governor's Letter during that meeting or scheduling a meeting to just approve the draft of the Annual Governor's Letter. The Commission decided to meet on Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. to discuss the final draft of the Annual Governor's Letter.

### **Public Comment**

The DPBH Commission on Behavioral Health meeting was adjourned to the Executive Session at 9:45 a.m.