

Joe Lombardo
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS
Director



**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Lisa Sherych
Administrator

Ihsan Azzam,
Ph.D., M.D.
Chief Medical Officer

**DRAFT DPBH COMMISSION ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
March 23, 2023
9:00 AM**

This meeting was held online and by phone.

Meeting Link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_OWNIzjE2ZDAAtMGVki000TkwLWlwYzUtMjMwMWEzODlhOWZi%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22e2f9f008-841c-437d-b037-927c30ea003e%22%7d

Meeting Phone Conference:

775-321-6111

Phone Conference ID Number: 332 486 652#

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Braden Schrag (Chair); Natasha Mosby, LCSW; Gregory Giron, Psy.D.; Lisa Durette, MD; Arvin Operario, RN; Dan Ficalora CPC

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:

Lisa Ruiz-Lee (Vice-Chair); Jasmine Cooper, CPC.

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Staff in Attendance:

Autumn Blattman, Executive Assistant, DPBH; Sherry Stevens, Administrative Assistant III, DPBH; Kayla Villegas, Administrative Assistant III, DPBH; Ellen Richardson-Adams, Agency Manager, SNAMHS; Susan Lynch, Hospital Administrator, SNAMHS; Julie Lindesmith, Agency Director NNAHMS; Dr. Leon Ravin, Statewide Psychiatric Medical Doctor; Katie Martin Waldman, Clinical Program Manager II, DCFS

Others/Public Present:

Dorothy Edwards; Michael Lasco; Valerie Cauhape; Michelle Bennett; Jennifer Conrad; Mitchell Lasco

Chair Schrag called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Roll call is reflected above. It was determined that a quorum was present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None heard.

Chair Schrag shared an opening statement before the meeting's action items. Chair Schrag stated he had the opportunity to listen to testimony on a number of legislative bills as well as review of a number of others both public behavioral health related and otherwise. Chair Schrag stated there is a need for intellectual honesty when testifying, or giving opinions, and to stay focused to ensure that Commission Members come from a place that looks to collaboration. Chair Schrag said it is important to come from a place that looks to the best interests of the children that are out there and most importantly, that we look at a space where we are intellectually honest with ourselves and how we represent the opinions, feelings, or actions of others. Chair Schrag requested the other Commission members review Assembly Bill 265 as it pertains to the Commission.

Autumn Blattman, Executive Assistant for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, informed the Commission of another Assembly Bill, AB 201, that references the Commission of Behavioral Health.

Chair Schrag recommended that Commissioners review that Assembly Bill as well and requested Ms. Blattman send the links for the two bills to all Commissioners.

3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Approval of meeting minutes from February 9th, 2023. – Braden Schrag, Chair:

Chair Schrag asked if there were any comments on the draft minutes. With none heard, Chair Schrag asked for a motion to approve the February 9th, 2023, minutes.

COMMISSIONER DURETTE MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 9TH, 2023 MEETING MINUTES, AS WRITTEN. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIRON. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Reviewal, Revision Suggestions, and Approval of Letter to Legislature Regarding Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) – Commissioners

Chair Schrag thanked Commissioner Mosby for drafting the letter of support for the Regional Behavioral Health Policy Boards' bills that are currently before the Legislature.

Dr. Durette stated she was pleased the letter was focused and easy to understand.

Chair Schrag stated he had concerns and asked if a representative from Clark Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board was present to discuss Senate Bill 68/Michelle Bennett, coordinator for the Board, replied in the affirmative.

Chair Schrag said he understood the bill's focus is on affordable housing, which he agreed is something needed, but from reviewing testimony he understood the Clark proposal would give the board both receipt and management of considerable amount of funds. Chair Schrag questioned whether the bill deviated from what policy boards are designed to do by turning it into a fiscal agent but did not appear to have an oversight component for how the money is spent. Chair Schrag asked Ms. Bennett for clarification.

Ms. Michelle Bennett said she has not dug into the details of the bill but understood it would assign certain monies to each region and that region would decide how to spend those funds in terms of supportive housing. Ms. Bennett stated that Valerie Haskin, Rural Regional Coordinator, may be able to provide more information.

Chair Schrag asked if the current version of the bill was the final version. Ms. Bennett stated the regional board still needs to approve amendments.

Ms. Bennett stated there are amendments pending and would likely be approved at an upcoming meeting.

Valerie Haskin, Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board Coordinator, said the way that the bill was presented to their board was that the regional behavior health policy boards themselves would not be fiscal agents, but would rather have an opportunity to work on the approval and review committee for grant applications for those funds. Ms. Haskin said it was understood that at least \$500,000 of those funds would be held for projects within each region but it would not be under the board. Ms. Haskin also said if the bill passes or is going to move forward without language removing the boards as the fiscal agent, she believes that her policy board would pull their support because they have no interest in becoming a fiscal agent.

Dorothy Edwards, Coordinator for the Washoe Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board, added that her board felt the same as expressed by Valerie Haskin. Ms. Edwards said their board initially supported the bill with a letter of support but there have been a lot of questions. Ms. Edwards said it was their understanding that some amendments have not been approved by the Clark Regional Policy Board so much relies on how the amendments roll out.

Chair Schrag requested a discussion with the Commission on supporting SB 69. Because the bill does not have a finalized draft, Chair Schrag recommend it be removed from the letter of support.

Commissioner Ficalora agreed recommending the Commission take off support off the bill and suggested Clark Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board come to the Commission and present on the bill.

Commissioners Mosby and Operario agreed with removing support from SB 68.

Chair Schrag requested removal of the paragraph regarding SB 68, as well as the paragraph and verbiage regarding affordable housing.

Commissioner Mosby volunteered to make the changes to the letter.

Chair Schrag agreed and asked for the letter to be submitted to the Executive Assistant. Chair Schrag asked for a motion.

COMMISSIONER FICALORA MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARDS WITH EDITS AS DISCUSSED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DURETTE. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Discussion and approval of future agenda items – Commission

None.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Valerie Haskin, speaking on behalf of the Rural Regional Policy Board, thanked the Commission for their support of Assembly Bill (AB) 37. Ms. Haskin stated they have not been scheduled for a work session because the policy

board believes the bill will be made exempt. Ms. Haskin said she has been in touch with Ms. Char Frost about Assembly Bill (AB) 265 and that she was glad the Commission was looking into it because she had some concerns.

No further public comment.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Schrag adjourned the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

DRAFT