



**WASHOE
REGIONAL
BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH
POLICY BOARD
(WRBHPB)**



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Washoe County Health District
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Nevada State Assembly

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Community College

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Prominence Health Plan

- **CINDY GREEN**

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- **DR. KRISTEN DAVIS-COELHO**

Chief Behavioral Health Officer/Psychologist
Northern Nevada HOPES

- **FRANKIE LEMUS**

Behavioral Health Coordinator
Washoe County Human Services Agency

- **SANDRA STAMATES**

Community/Family Representative
Behavioral Health Families

- **WADE CLARK**

Lieutenant, Reno Police Department

- **CHRISTIN UCCELLI**

Director – Behavioral Health
St. Mary's Behavioral Health

- **DOROTHY EDWARDS**

Washoe Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator
(WC Human Services Agency)

WRBHPB BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PRIORITIES

Crisis Response System
Implementation
(Regional)

Work Force
Development

- *Behavioral Health Professionals*

Cross Section Between
Homelessness and
Behavioral Health

Children's Mental
Health/Crisis Response

Diversity and Equity
within the Behavioral
Health Workforce

Community Health
Improvement Plan
(CHIP – Washoe
County Health District)

- *Mental Health Focus Area*

NEVADA PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE

Nevada ranked as 51st among states and the District of Columbia in overall mental health workforce availability and the prevalence of mental illness. According to the report, there is one mental health professional for every 460 residents, which experts say is not nearly enough to meet the need for mental health care in Nevada. ★

3 million Nevadans reside in a mental health professional shortage area (HPSA) or 94.5% of the state's population

1.9 million Nevadans reside in a primary care HPSA or 67.3% of the state's population

WASHOE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE

335,222 Washoe County
residents live in a primary
care health professional
shortage area (HPSA)
(70.9%)

297,118 Washoe County
residents live in a mental
HPSA (62.9%)

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE CRISIS: CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

Covid Pandemic

Persistent workforce shortages in medicine, nursing, behavioral health, and many other health professions

Steady growth of licensed health professionals, yet “treading water” in per capita growth of licensees

Ageing health workforce serving an ageing population

Geographic maldistribution of health professionals

Diversity mismatch between providers and populations served

ADDRESSING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE CRISIS: AB 69

- AB 69 “Expands the loan repayment program administered by the Nevada Health Service Corps to include certain providers of behavioral health care”
- Behavioral Health Provider includes:
Licensed, certified or registered pursuant to chapter:
641 - Psychologists
641A - Marriage and Family Therapists
641B - Social Workers
641C - Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselors
641D - Applied Behavioral Analysis; or,
Licensed as a physician, physician assistant or registered nurse and practices in psychiatry, addiction medicine or another specialty relating to behavioral health
- Approves additional settings/opportunities for behavioral health professionals to qualify for tuition reimbursement to include:

*Crisis Response facilities
Faculty
K12*

ELIGIBILITY

Commitment to practice on a full-time basis for at least 2 years in Nevada:

- In a hospital or other inpatient or outpatient setting;
- As a full-time faculty member with teaching responsibilities in a program of education or training for practitioners or providers of behavioral health care at an institution within the Nevada System of Higher Education; or,
- Provide behavioral health care to pupils in kindergarten through 12th grade in public schools in Nevada

The provider of behavioral health care who practices in a hospital, other inpatient setting or outpatient setting or provides crisis management services must:

- Accept certain forms of payment commonly used by elderly or economically disadvantaged patients; and,
- Provide services to all patients, regardless of their ability to pay

FISCAL IMPACT

- Appropriation from the State General Fund to the Office of Finance in the Office of the Governor for allocation to the Nevada Health Service Corps
 - Appropriation of \$1,500,000
 - Provide up to \$50,000 for two-year commitment
 - Goal of 30 Behavioral Health Professionals

POSSIBLE AMENDMENT

- Sec. 4, 3. Licensed as a school professional pursuant to NRS 391.294 and 391.296.
- Sec. 8 (b) (3) Providing behavioral health to pupils in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and grade 1 to 12, inclusive, at a public school in this state.

RELATED LEGISLATION

- Rural Behavioral Health Policy Board: AB37
 - ❖ Authorizes the establishment of the Behavioral Health Workforce Development Center of Nevada
- State Treasurer: AB45
 - ❖ Creates a program to repay the student education loans of certain providers of health care
 - ❖ Broader; utilizes unclaimed property funding

QUESTIONS?



DOROTHY EDWARD, REGIONAL
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COORDINATOR



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