

**CLARK REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD
SUBCOMMITTEE ON POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

March 8, 2024

2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m.

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

Call to order/roll call – Chair, Dan Musgrove, Vice -Chair, Jamie Ross
Meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Dan Musgrove
Jamie Ross
Char Frost
Ariana Saunders
Sean O'Donnell

Members Absent:

None

Staff/Guests:

Sabrina Schnur
John Lum
Cherylyn Rahr-Wood
Jake Matthews
Rev. Dr. Brenda Braam
Teresa Etcheberry
Linda Anderson

1.) Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

2.) For discussion and possible action: Determine potential legislative priorities for the 2025 Nevada Legislative Session.

Ms. Char Frost advised that the current priorities were mental health oversight agency and workforce development issues, dedicated funding for crisis services for children and adults, residential treatment services for youth, and increasing collaboration on the spectrum of substance misuse and its relation to mental health and integrating behavioral health and substance misuse services.

Mr. Sean O'Donnell spoke regarding a potential point of discussion for a policy proposal under the workforce development area and advised that model state legislation was sent out regarding tax credit programs for employers that participate in recovery friendly workplace initiatives and that were approximately twenty-eight in growing other states that have statewide recovery friendly workplace initiatives. The employers have gone through training and revised their company policy and handbooks, and reviewed their hiring practices to make a concerted effort to recruit, hire, and retain people who are in recovery from substance use or a mental disorders and also create a workplace culture that celebrates recovery in the workplace and one that is equipped to provide support to employees whom maybe struggling with substance use instead of terminating an employee. New Jersey and New York have moved forward with adding on to their statewide initiatives by including a tax incentive for employers that become designated through the Governor's Office as a recovery friendly workplace, and in the State of Nevada we have a statewide recovery friendly workplace initiative that was originally started under Governor Brian Sandoval and carried forward by Governor Sisolak and Governor Lombardo which was a non-partisan program and was funded through the Department of Health and Human Services in the State of Nevada and most recently within the last ninety days the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) with the Whitehouse and the current administration issued the tool kit along with model state legislation to have the ability to consider or issue the tax credit programs for employers, and further advised that the program was not a federal tax credit program and it would be done through state legislation and or the Governor's budget.

Upon questioning by Ms. Char Frost, Mr. Sean O'Donnell advised that a statewide recovery friendly workplace initiative has been in place for approximately five years in Nevada and the initiative is funded through Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) general funds.

Chair Musgrove spoke in support of the matter and Ms. Ariana Saunders commented on the possibility of including services that were community based, such as support services and supportive housing, along with increasing availability and reducing barriers for people to access behavioral health services from their homes.

Upon questioning by Vice-Chair Ross, Chair Musgrove advised that the process has to go through the Governor's finance office first then it gets recommended for inclusion on the interim finance as a work program.

Chair Musgrove then spoke regarding the possibility of there being a fast-track system for direct service funds that was going out to an existing program which does not have to go through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to ensure that the funds get out to the people who need the services.

Elyse Monroy commented on the possibility of just looking specifically at the mental health block grant and the SAPTA block grant which both have direct service dollars.

Vice-Chair Ross advised that substance abuse dollars which require a twenty percent of funds set-aside for prevention and that ten percent was highly encouraged, but not required to go towards recovery support services because the wrap-around services and relapse support was very important.

Upon questioning by Mr. Sean O'Donnell, Vice-Chair Ross advised that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) requires that the twenty percent be set-aside for prevention.

Ms. Char Frost commented on the possibility of asking for more than twenty percent for a set-aside and that she was curious to know how much of the funds was being used for recovery support services and that she would also like to see the ten percent that was not currently required be adopted in Nevada and the set-aside for prevention increased.

Mr. Sean O'Donnell advised that there was a block grant working group that met monthly and provided good presentations and pie charts on where the block grant funds were going regarding prevention, recovery, and treatment services.

Upon questioning by Mr. Sean O'Donnell regarding the prevention side of the block grant, Vice-Chair Ross advised that in order to receive any of the substance abuse block grant you must be certified by the SAMHSA certification. Vice-Chair Ross further advised that SAMHSA certifies all treatment providers, prevention coalitions, and prevention direct service agencies.

Mr. Sean O'Donnell advised that currently there was no SAMHSA certification for agencies that were providing recovery support services, and that any agency could apply for recovery support services set-aside because there is no SAMHSA certification or programming oversight to make sure the best practices were being delivered being delivered well in our community and commented on the SAMHSA certification being investigated.

Ms. Char Frost made a motion for tax credits for recovery friendly workplace initiatives as a legislative priority. Mr. Sean O'Donnell seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Char Frost made a motion that another legislative priority would be to support legislation that supports community-based services including, support services, reducing barriers to care and prevention. Ms. Ariana Saunders seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Vice-Chair Ross made a motion to accept the following statement by Elise Monroy which reads as follows: The Clark Behavioral Health Policy Board would look into opportunities to streamline the administration of federal grants that fund direct treatment services such as, the mental health block grant, substance abuse treatment block grants, and the State's opioid response grant. Mr. Sean O'Donnell seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

3.) For discussion and possible action: Discussion to determine bill draft request options.

4.) For possible action: Future meeting dates.

5.) Announcements for future agenda items:

6.) Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

7.) Adjournment: