

**SOUTHERN REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: Wednesday, August 14, 2024

TIME: 8:00 a.m.- Adjournment

Meeting Location: Virtual - Online Only

This meeting held via teleconference at: Join Zoom [Meeting Login Link](#) (see full details in the notes section below). – check online and links at the bottom.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (Chair, Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner, and Coordinator)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kevin Osten-Garner at approximately 8:03am.

Members Present:

Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner (Chair)
Stacy Smith (Vice-Chair)
Assemblyman Gregory Hafen II
Boonn Hem

Brenda O’Neill
Coleen Lawrence
Jaren Stanton

Members Absent:

Missie Rowe
Chief Scott Lewis
Dr. Whitney Owens
Sarah Dillard

2. For Information and Discussion (Chair and Board): general board updates and announcements regarding events, information, and relevant communication and data.

Assemblyman Hafen reported that he had submitted the BDR request for the counseling interstate compact. Mr. Hafen noted that the Social Work Compact was being presented by one of the other rural Policy Boards, and that Assemblywoman May was going to present the Occupational and Physical Therapy and one other Interstate Compact. Lastly, Mr. Hafen mentioned that he would be meeting with the Assemblywoman and hopes to get some “bipartisan and bicameral support to get these across the finish line.”

Dr. Kevin Osten Garner explained that there have been “rumblings” regarding the Policy Boards across the State, looking at which ones are productive, useful, what should be dismantled, and what should be enhanced. Chair Osten-Garner noted that they are keeping an eye on this and that there is no word of any actual legislation to remove the Behavioral Health Policy Boards.

3. Public Comment

No action may be taken upon a matter raised under the public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item. To provide public

comment telephonically, dial the number listed below. When prompted to provide the meeting ID, enter the number and password below. Comments will be limited to **three minutes** per person. People making comments will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name and provide the secretary with written comments.

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Meeting ID: 934 9685 6860 / **Passcode:** 664346

No Public Comment Given.

- 4. For Possible Discussion and Possible Action:** review and vote on approving the minutes for the July 10, 2024, meeting (Chair and Board Members)

Stacy Smith motioned to approve the minutes for the July 10th, 2024 Southern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board Meeting. Motion was seconded by Boonn Hem. All in favor, none opposed. Jaren Stanton abstained due to not being present at said meeting.

- 5. For Discussion and Possible Action:** board discussion and action on refining the concept and language leading to submission of a Bill Draft Request (BDR) regarding non-emergency behavioral health secure transport services by September 1, 2024 (Chair/Vice-Chair and Board). (See links for documents from discussion below)

Links:

- BDR Form – Southern Regional BH Policy Board – Final Approved – 081424:
<https://nvbh.org/pdf-preview?id=5296>
- SRBHPB – BDR Addendum – 2025 Legislative Session – Final Approved 081424:
<https://nvbh.org/pdf-preview?id=5297>

Chair Osten-Garner reminded the Board that the Bill Draft Request will go to the LCB (Legislative Counsel Bureau). They will then review the BDR and help provide any language changes or additional information to make it into a viable legislative bill or statute.

Dr. Osten-Garner discussed the sections of the BDR document to include the Intent of Proposed Bill or Resolution, the regulations that would need to be changed in the BDR, to help the language be changed, to meet the criteria that is being asked from the Policy Board, and the agencies and entities that were consulted with. Other sections referenced the effective date (October 1, 2025) and noted that an increase in Medicaid reimbursement will have a budgetary impact. The coordinator mentioned that the Division of Healthcare Financing and Policy stated that they might be asked to do some sort of fiscal impact to project what the total amount might be. The coordinator also noted that others have applied for the non-emergency behavioral Health Transportation initiative, but no vendors have finalized the application-partly due to the current issues that the Board is addressing.

Bobby Sullivan of Nevada EMS added that they have one agency down in Las Vegas that had completed the application. They recently attempted to do an inspection and

found that there are some modifications to be made to the transport vehicle. With that, Ms. Sullivan is confident that they are aware of what needs to be corrected and will be able to be reinspected likely by the end of the next month to meet all other requirements.

The coordinator went over the Justification document and touched on the amendments that were made (See link for final draft above), to include Section 2, being changed from “Payment Parity for Medicaid Managed Care Plans” to “Compensation for Dead-Head Miles” and the Provisions and Statewide Application portions for each.

Assemblyman Hafen confirmed that amendments can be made to these BDR requests while it moves through the Legislative process.

DHFP staff, Kirsten Coulombe, explained that she was able to have a call with CMS for the question related to the empty trips/dead-head miles, and CMS did clarify that it is just for the rural areas. Ms. Coulombe noted that they will be working with CMS on the specific details about how rural is defined as the process gets further along. Ms. Coulombe also mentioned that the reason for the revision of language in Section 2 is because that service is carved out of their Managed Care and therefore not covered (there would be no parity to cover it).

Chair Osten-Garner asked Kirsten Coulombe if there would be a problem using the language referencing the “urban” areas in the Statewide Application portion of Section 2. Ms. Coulombe recommended language stating “the intent would be statewide for rural and urban areas” so that the intent would be stated, and it would already be in statute.

Dr. Osten-Garner ended this segment by prompting the Board and attendees for questions, comments, or suggestions regarding Sections 3-5 in the justification document (rate increase and incentive for rural and remote areas, implementation and oversight, and severability). There was no further comment from the Board and attendees regarding either the Bill Draft Request document or the Justification Document.

6. For Discussion and Possible Action: motion to advance and approve Board Bill Draft Request (BDR) regarding non-emergency behavioral health secure transport services (Chair/Vice-Chair/Board).

Jaren Stanton motioned to advance the Bill Draft Request as presented. Motion was seconded by Boonn Hem. All in favor, none opposed.

Jaren Stanton motioned to advance and send the justification document along with the Bill Draft request to the LCB as presented. Stacy Smith to second the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

7. For Possible Action: Discussion and Approval of Future Agenda Items
(Coordinator/Board)

- a. Board Opening: “law enforcement representative” with “behavioral health experience/knowledge.” (NRS.433.429 (4)).Majority Leader of Senate appointment (ongoing) - <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-433.html#NRS433Sec425>
- b. Board Opening: “representative of residential treatment facility, transitional housing or other housing program serving persons with mental illness or who abuse alcohol or drugs. Section 3, subsection 8(b). Board appointed. <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-433.html#NRS433Sec425> (ongoing)
- c. Possible experts or additional input on LCB review and possible feedback related to emerging legislative priority (BDR) - transportation.
- d. Review, Update, and Approval of Board Reappointments.

Chair Osten-Garner mentioned that there is still an opening for a law enforcement representative with behavioral health knowledge and experience, which must be majority leader of the Senate appointed, and would appreciate any names to be forwarded on for approval. Dr. Osten-Garner also mentioned that there is an additional opening for a representative from a residential treatment facility, transitional housing, or other housing program servicing persons with mental illness, or who abuse alcohol or drugs. Lastly, Chair Osten-Garner explained that at the September meeting, there will be an agenda item that will involve having discussion regarding what the next phase/steps are for the Southern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board. Lastly, Dr. Osten-Garner encouraged the Board members to think of individuals in any capacity that could come talk to the Board regarding mental health or substance use issues that could be beneficial and bring awareness.

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No Public Comment Given

9. For Possible Action: Adjournment (Chair/Vice-Chair)

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:44 by Chair Kevin Osten-Garner.

Stacy Smith motioned to approve the adjournment of the Southern Behavioral Health Policy Board Meeting. Coleen Lawrence seconded motion. All in favor, none opposed.

AGENDA POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Physical Locations:

Nevada Rural Hospital Partners: 4600 Kietzke Lane; Suite I-209, Reno, Nevada 89502, and
Division of Public Behavioral Health: 4126 Technology Way, 2nd Floor, Carson City, Nevada
89706.

Southern Regional Behavioral Health Website: <https://nvbh.org/southern-behavioral-health-region/>.
Please refer to the Publications and Reports Section for more information.

Department of Health and Human Services Website:
https://dphh.nv.gov/Boards/RBHPB/Board_Meetings/Meetings/ (here you can find the agendas and
minutes for current meetings including an archive of previous meetings and a listing of board members)

Nevada Public Notices: <https://notice.nv.gov/>.

Accommodation Requests:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93496856860?pwd=RnUxd0xYV0dHeXpZcklwazFuNmN0Zz09&from=addon>

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Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/absjhTR8SJ>

Meeting Materials:

- This meeting is a public meeting, recorded and held in compliance with and pursuant to the Nevada Open Meeting Law, NRS 241. By participating, you consent to recording of your participation in this meeting. All voting members should leave their cameras on for the duration of the meeting and refrain from entering any information into the chat function of the video platform.
- Items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration, and/or removed from the agenda at the Chairperson's discretion. The public body may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The public body may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time. The public body may place reasonable restrictions on the time, place, and manner of public comments but may not restrict comments based on viewpoint.
- We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify Mark Funkhouser in writing at 4600 Kietzke Lane I-209, Reno, Nevada 89502, or by email at mark@nrhp.org, or by calling (775) 827-4770 ext. 19 as soon as possible.
- If you need supporting documents for this meeting, please notify Mark Funkhouser, Southern Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator, at (775) 827-4770 ext. 19 or by email at mark@nrhp.org
- If at any time during the meeting an individual who has been named on the agenda or has an item specifically regarding them included on the agenda is unable to participate because of technical or other difficulties, please email Mark Funkhouser at mark@nrhp.org and note at what time the difficulty started so that matters pertaining specifically to their participation may be continued to a future agenda if needed or otherwise addressed.
- Please be cautious and do not click on links in the chat area of the meeting unless you have verified that they are safe. If you ever have questions about a link in a document purporting to be from Nevada Rural Hospital Partners, please do not hesitate to contact mark@nrhp.org for verification.