

**SOUTHERN REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DATE: Wednesday, November 13, 2024
TIME: 8:00 a.m.- Adjournment
(Approved 1/8/25)
Meeting Location: Virtual - Online Only**

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

Members Present:

Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner (Chair)
Stacy Smith (Vice-Chair)
Assemblyman Gregory Hafen II
Missie Rowe
Boonn Hem
Chief Scott Lewis
Sarah Dillard
Brenda O’Neill
Dr. Whitney Owens

Members Absent:

Coleen Lawrence
Jaren Stanton- excused

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call – see above** (Chair, Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner, and Coordinator) - meeting started at 8 a.m.
2. **For Information and Discussion (Chair/Board):** general board updates and announcements regarding events, information, and relevant communication and data. *Assemblyman Hafen mentioned the Rural Policy Board draft language on the social work compact in process and a related bill on counseling compacts he is sponsoring. Assemblyman Hafen also noted the progress on a board appointment through the Senate Majority Leader for Lt. Harry Williams.*
3. **Public Comment – from Laurie Soriano, Nevada PEP, appreciating the board and noting an upcoming training on “Considering College: what you need to know”.** The following link was given for more information - <https://nvpep.org/training-calendar/>
4. **For Discussion and Possible Action (Chair/Board):** review and motion from Chief Lewis and second from Dr. Owens to approve the minutes for the October 9, 2024 meeting – <https://nvbh.org/pdf-preview?id=5328>. Motion passed.
5. **For Discussion and Possible Action (Chair/Board):** board decided not to meet in December.
6. **For Discussion and Possible Action:** board noted the pending appointment for a board opening in “law enforcement representative with behavioral health experience/knowledge” - Candidate Lt. Harry Williams, Nye County Sheriff’s Office (NRS.433.429 (4)). A Majority Leader of Senate appointment letter is forthcoming. <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-433.html#NRS433Sec425>.

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7. **For Discussion and Possible Action (Chair/Vice-Chair/Board):** board discussion on Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) updates and possible action to vote on recommended changes to the Non-Emergency Behavioral Health Transportation Bill Draft Request (BDR 39-368) . <https://nvbh.org/pdf-preview?id=5342>

The coordinator gave an overview of the original language and the response from the LCB on the pre-filing language. The chair asked Assemblyman Hafen to review the language, and this item will be opened back up at the end of the meeting.

8. **For Information and Discussion:** presentation and update on the Bi-partisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA) on behavioral health emergency planning and survey - *Sydonie Neysmith, Founder and Chief Strategy Officer, Black Swan Consulting. Presentation can be found at <https://nvbh.org/pdf-preview?id=5341>.*

After the overview on the statewide needs assessment for behavioral health emergency disaster planning, there was a call to action and request to fill out a survey on needs assessment that is forthcoming. After the presentation, Sarah Dillard noted the local emergency planning committee for Mineral County and a desire to participate and support the BSCA Initiative. The coordinator also noted involvement from Vice-Chair, Stacy Smith and involving Chief Lewis from Nye County.

9. **For Information and Discussion:** *the coordinator gave updates regarding the activities, resources, challenges, and scope of work of behavioral coordination in the southern region. Vice Chair, Stacy Smith noted that there could be a review of ways to share training from the coalition, and Sarah Dillard noted upcoming training around suicide in Mineral County. More information can be found at <https://nvbh.org/pdf-preview?id=5332>*

A return to Item 7 where Assemblyman Hafen advised that the review of the BDR language looks satisfactory. A motion to approve BDR as drafted to send to the LCB for final submission and pre-filing was made by Missie Row. Chief Lewis gave a second to the motion. The motion was approved.

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

- a. **Board Opening Noted:** “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)
- b. **Informational:** Updates regarding the published Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) or pending legislation known to affect behavioral health including letters of support.
- c. **Informational:** Possible experts or additional input on LCB review and possible feedback related to legislative priority (BDR) on non-emergency behavioral health transportation.

- d. **For Information and Discussion:** overview for potential provision of services for rural and frontier Nevada (Specialty Health, Silver Summit, Care Source).
- e. **Information** on lobbying, providing testimony, letters of support, and preparation for legislative process – January, 2025 – Blayne Osborn, NRHP President
- f. **Review of time and date for policy board meetings in the new year.**

Assemblyman Hafen noted the February start of the legislative session and need for possible support of any new bill drafts from other regional policy boards. Also noted was a need to request support for the southern policy board legislation on transportation.

11. Public Comment – none given.

12. For Possible Action: Adjournment (Chair/Vice-Chair) – *motion to adjourn by Stacy Smith, second by Chief Lewis, and meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:06 am.*

For more information, refer to the Southern Regional Behavioral Health Website: <https://nvbh.org/southern-behavioral-health-region/> - Publications and Reports Section. Also, for more information, please use the following contact: Mark Funkhouser, Southern Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator; 4600 Kietzke Lane I-209, Reno, Nevada 89502, or by email at mark@nrhp.org, or by calling (775) 827-4770 ext. 107.