

**Clark Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board  
DRAFT MINUTES  
October 16, 2020  
9:00 AM - Adjournment**

**The meeting will be virtual through WebEx, in accordance with Governor Sisolak's emergency directive on public meetings to maintain government transparency and protect public safety.**

**Please use landline to call into teleconference number**

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

1. Call to order/roll call – Chair Char Frost determined a quorum was present.

**Members Present:** Char Frost, Chair; Assemblywoman Connie Munk; Cory Whitlock; Dan Musgrove; Dr. Ken McKay; Michelle Guerra; Dr. Lesley Dickson; Captain Nita Schmidt; Justine Perez; Ariana Saunders

**Members Absent/Excuse:** Jamie Ross, Co-Chair; Jacqueline Harris, Michelle Guerra

**Guests/Staff Present:** Teresa Etcheberry, Clark Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board Coordinator; Alisha Barret; Ben Trevino, Joan Waldock, Division of Public and Behavioral Health; Alisha Barrett; Cindy Banks; Jimmy Lau; Dr. Sara Hunt; Sonia Lee; Jessica Flood; Sherilyn Rawrood; Dan Ficalora; Elyse Monroy; Sara Carrizal, Frank Regan; Lauren Lee

2. Public comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of minutes – September 11, 2020 Meeting

Dr. Dickson moved to approve the minutes from the September 11, 2020 meeting. Mr. Musgrove seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentation on alcohol outlet density and zip codes

Ms. Lee mapped every alcohol and marijuana outlet in Clark County. It offers insight about areas of Clark County that could be impacted by alcohol and marijuana availability. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the CDC defined alcohol outlet density as a high concentration of alcohol outlets in a small area. Alcohol in this presentation refer to businesses with a liquor license. A high alcohol density is associated with law enforcement concerns such as the disorderly conduct, noise complaints and property damage, and traffic-involved

accidents. Public health concerns include domestic violence and child abuse and neglect. High concentrations of alcohol outlets near schools, college communities or military bases can encourage underage and binge drinking. A high density of alcohol outlets could create a perception that alcohol is not very harmful and make it easily accessible to vulnerable populations who could become addicted such as youths. People living in areas of high concentration for alcohol outlets or clusters are at a higher risk of excessive alcohol use. Due to Clark County's statistical rise in adult alcohol consumption, looking into alcohol outlet density could provide insight about what areas of the country are most affected by alcohol access.

Medical marijuana use was legalized in Nevada in 2001; recreational use was legalized in 2017. Dispensary marijuana outlet density is sparse and is prohibited at the federal level; however, the effects of high marijuana outlet density could be similar to those of a high alcohol outlet density. Marijuana outlets may increase local availability and misuse of marijuana. Few studies have examined where dispensaries are located. Urban neighborhoods may have higher densities of marijuana outlets. In California, a study found that the density of local marijuana outlets is associated with marijuana use in low income areas and in areas with a higher proportion of Hispanic residents, higher density of alcohol outlets and higher rates of poverty.

The Las Vegas Valley is divided east and west by Las Vegas Boulevard and north and south by Charleston. There are 3,795 alcohol outlets in the county. There are 194 marijuana outlets on the map. There are high concentrations of both alcohol and marijuana outlets in the central part of the Valley that has a higher unemployment rate. The biggest clusters of alcohol outlets are along the central and northeast side of the Valley, mostly on Las Vegas Boulevard and, in particular, the strip, downtown Las Vegas and the area near Nellis Air Force Base. For marijuana, clusters exist on the Strip, in downtown Las Vegas, and near McCarran International Airport. Residents of low income, food desert, and high unemployment areas could have easier access to alcohol and marijuana than healthy food. Easier access to these substances could result in more misuse and the development of chronic diseases. Close proximity to alcohol and marijuana outlets may increase the risks of marijuana use among adolescents who are at a high risk of marijuana misuse. Measuring alcohol outlet density and marijuana outlet density at the local level is essential for developing prevention strategies. Data can be used to evaluate the relationship between alcohol outlet density and various health and social harms as well as the effects that reducing density can have on harmful outcomes. The Nevada Department of Taxation has taken steps to limit marijuana outlet density; however, regulations only apply to retail marijuana and not medical marijuana. Nevada needs to consider the effects that high concentrations of these outlets can have on our residents. Everyone in Clark County deserves to have access to the resources they need to maintain a healthy life. Addressing alcohol and marijuana outlet density would be an excellent step in improving a community's wellbeing.

## 5. Legislative Presentation

Assemblywoman Munk stated early voting is available October 17 through 30. Mail-in ballots have been sent. There is a grant program for businesses. Mr. Musgrove said the legislature is considering how to handle the 2021 session. He mentioned there were eight to ten bill draft requests (BDRs) that focus on mental and behavioral health the Board can start tracking. Ms. Frost stated the decisions made about access to the building will be critical in figuring out how to best advocate the issues that are important to our group and groups such as ours.

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Mr. Musgrove pointed out they have to make their decisions in December so Governor Sisolak can build his budget for the next two years, starting from July 1, 2021.

**6. Update on Bill Draft Request progress**

Ms. Frost said she talked with Eric Robbins at the Legislative Counsel Bureau. He mentioned the state law has gone as far as it can regarding the Medicaid piece. The Board can write a letter encouraging Medicaid to make the services billable. The Board suggest friendly amendments if something was missed in a BDR or if a BDR was drafted incorrectly. The BDRs for the boards were due I believe October 14. The other boards submitted their BDRs.

**7. Membership Discussion**

Ms. Frost welcomed Justine Perez to the Board. Ms. Perez: stated she is a licensed social worker and behavioral health therapist with a background in mental health. She currently works in hospitals, nursing homes, and outpatient care.

**8. Board Members Announcements**

Ms. Frost tabled this agenda item until the next meeting.

**9. Annual Report Update**

Ms. Etcheberry stated she is working on the annual report, but the state informed her that because of COVID, the 2020 epidemiology report is not available. The Board may need to keep the 2019 priorities. She will send suggestions to the chair for discussion at the next meeting. The report is due in January, which would be difficult without the epidemiological report. She expressed concern about doing this at the last meeting of the year. If the 2019 priorities were kept and she used data she has been collecting, she could write the report and send it to the Board for discussion and approval at a later date. She pointed out there were new members on the Board who were not involved in those priorities last time. She asked if the Board wanted to look at the priorities before she put out the annual report.

Ms. Frost asked Ms. Etcheberry to email the previous report to the Board and find a time to meet in December.

**10. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**11. Additional Announcements**

There were no additional announcements. Ms. Frost reminded the Board that October is bullying awareness month and about the virtual I Care, We Care event.

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.