

CLARK REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
July 12, 2022
2:00 p.m. until Adjournment

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, Jamie Ross, Vice Chair
Meeting was called to order.

Members:

Char Frost, Chair
Jamie Ross, Vice-Chair
Michelle Bennett, Coordinator
DeDe Parker
Dr. Lesley Dixon
Michelle Guerra
Ariana Saunders
Dan Musgrove
Nita Schmidt
Jackie Harris
Jose Melendrez
Sean O'Donnell

Members Absent:

Cory Whitlock

Staff/Guests:

Jose Melendrez
Taylor Thompson
Ariana Saunders
Dan Musgrove
Jamie Ross

- 2.) **Public Comment:**
There was no public comment.

- 3.) **For possible action:** Review and approval of May 16, 2022, meeting minutes.

Chair, Ms. Char Frost commented there is a spelling error of Jamie Ross' name.
Mr. Dan Musgrove motioned to approve the minutes with the correction.

Vice-Chair, Ms. Jamie Ross second the motion with the correction.
Ms. DeDe Parker abstained as she was not a part of the Clark Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board on May 16, 2022.
Motion passed with one abstention.

6.) Item taken out of order.

Informational: Update from Taskforce on Behavioral Health and Homelessness.
Ariana Saunders, Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH).

Ms. Ariana Saunders, Chair for the Taskforce on Behavioral Health and Homelessness Subcommittee gave an update for the first meeting they held which was on June 16, 2022. Ms. Saunders stated there was a presentation given by Clark County Social Services. They manage the United States Housing and Urban Development Department (HUD) Continuum of Care Fund which funds predominantly most of the homeless services and supportive housing in the region.

Subcommittee Chair, Saunders also stated the subcommittee discussed which direction they would like to go and the goals and objectives they want to work on. The subcommittee will report to the board about their plans.

Ms. Michelle Bennett, Coordinator for the Clark Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board, stated Ms. Michelle Fuller-Hallauer, Manager of the Clark County Social Service Continuum of Care gave a presentation at the June 16, 2022, Clark Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board Homeless Taskforce Subcommittee meeting. The presentation is documented in the meetings June 16, 2022, minutes which are posted at https://dphb.nv.gov/Boards/RBHPB/Board_Meetings/2018/Clark_Regional/.

Dr. Lesley Dixon inquired how are people who consider themselves homeless because they don't have a proper home, who stay with family members or friends, counted.

Ms. Saunders stated the data given in the presentation from Ms. Fuller-Hallauer, does not include this particular demographic. Per HUD's definition of homelessness, they do not qualify. Point in Time (PIT) count is literally, people who are experiencing street homelessness.

Chair Frost addressed Dr. Dixon inquiry by stating if these people have children who are of school age, the data can be obtained because the children are considered homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act. This includes youths who are sharing housing, living in motels, etc. There is some funding put aside so those youths get additional resources. These numbers come through the Department of Education and individual school districts.

8.) Taken out of order.

Informational: Update on Prevention Coalition.
Jamie Ross, Vice-Chair.

Vice-Chair Ross' first update was on the opioid settlement dollars. This money is to

mitigate the harm inflicted on the community by pharmaceutical companies during the opioid crisis. Vice-Chair Ross stated she thinks the most important thing to do, is to watch where the opioid settlement dollars are going and are used for what they are intended for.

Vice-Chair Ross announced Linda Lang who runs the Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership, is retiring and Vice-Chair Ross will be taking over for Ms. Lang.

Vice-Chair Ross' last update was on Senate Bill 69 (SB69). There was a minor alteration to the bill when it passed. It addresses all the institutionalized prevention coalitions in the state. One of the requirements of the bill states the prevention coalitions must present annually to the Regional Behavioral Health Policy Boards (RBHPB).

Vice-Chair Ross inquired of Coordinator, Bennett, when the RBHPB reports are due. Coordinator Bennett stated they begin to work on the reports in November for the following February, and they are presented in March.

Vice-Chair Ross stated the coalitions will have their reports ready in December so they can be submitted in February.

7.) Taken out of order.

Informational: Update Clark County Children's Mental Health Consortium.
Dan Musgrove, Board Member

Mr. Dan Musgrove began his update by stating millions of dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) will be going to children's mental health. At the last Interim Finance Committee (IFC), the committee gave 30 million dollars in crisis stabilization which helps adults as well as children and families. The next concern is sustainability, making sure Medicaid or others, backfill the dollars when the ARPA dollars run out.

The Consortium will continue to wrestle with issues not lessened because of the pandemic for children in school and children that are going back to school. They have been focused on bullying and violence and the effect it has on children that have no issues and the kids with behavioral health issues, their concerns about their own safety, not knowing if school is a safe place.

Chair Frost stated the Department of Justice is still working on the investigation into the Division of Child and Family Services and their overuse of out of home placement due to the lack of community-based services. There is continuing to advocacy for those community-based services which line up with a system of care, values and principles. Hopefully, this will get going in the right direction.

Ms. Jackie Harris agreed with Chair Frost and Mr. Musgrove. Ms. Harris would like to see funds, go to early intervention, prevention, mental health, and addiction treatment. Not to infrastructure. Ms. Harris stated it feels like there is a heavy hand coming down in regard as to how schools are dealing with this.

Chair Frost stated the Clark County School District has recently updated its Shared

Housing form and has told parents they must have the form notarized and have the address on their driver's license match the address of where they are living as a shared living arrangement. They have to provide very specific documents of mail they receive at that address. Chair Frost pointed out if families are living in a shared housing arrangement, they probably do not have funds for a \$15.00 notary and probably do not have a utility bill in their name.

Ms. Harris inquired if all families have to do this.

Chair Frost stated yes if they do not show up on a lease or mortgage.

Vice-Chair Ross pointed out the McKinney-Vento Act's goal is to increase services for students who are not homeless enough and inquired how does this align with this Act.

Chair Frost stated this is a very heavy-handed approach to making sure families are not lying about where they live. Schools also have been telling families even if they fulfill all the obligations of this shared housing notification to the school, they will be sending officers to the residence a couple times a month to make sure they are living there.

4.) Informational: Presentation on Reducing Health Disparities by Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition (MHEC) University of Nevada, Las Vegas School (UNLV) of Public Health.

Jose Melendrez, Master of Social Work (MSW), Executive Director
Taylor Thompson, MSW, Administrative Manager

Ms. Taylor Thompson introduced and gave a presentation on the Nevada Minority Health and Equity Coalition (NMHEC) which is a part of the UNLV School of Public Health. Ms. Thompson opened the presentation by describing the coalition and what it does. The coalition is comprised of organizations both public and private which address health disparities and inequities. They do these three ways, by building capacity, informing policy, and conducting research. Ms. Taylor presented their current projects and key issues they are focusing on. The NMHEC has a grant that assists in the projects they are working on. They have updated their partnership application process.

Mr. Jose Melendrez stated the way they engage with the community is by community based participatory research. The research is attained by training people on how to be fully engaged partners in the collection of data, focus groups, intervention and all the things they are involved with.

Chair Frost inquired as to how they diversify the workforce.

Mr. Melendrez stated the Center for Disease Control (CDC) created a grant to increase the diversity of the workforce in the public health fields. Mr. Melendrez further stated Nevada received 17 million dollars which went through the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), which resulted in receiving a small grant. The money was used in training and hiring two full time recruiters, enabling the NMHEC to research a variety of organizations in the behavioral health field.

For more information, please contact:

NMHEC Website: nmhec.org

Jose Melendrez: jose.melendrez@unlv.edu

Cassandra Munoz- Program Coordinator: Cassandra.munoz@unlv.edu

- 5.) **For Possible Action:** Discuss Nevada Behavioral Health Bill Draft Request (BDR) concepts and possible approval of a BDR concept.
Char Frost, Chair

Chair Frost inquired of the board if anyone brought some new ideas.

a.) Ms. Saunders proposed a BDR which provides sustainable funding for the services side of supportive housing. This would include other populations as well as the homeless population. MS. Saunders suggested this could be accomplished through a room tax increase. (Transfer Fund)

b.) Another inclusion for the BDR would be recovery-oriented housing.

Vice-Chair Ross expressed concern about getting backing for increasing the room tax.

c.) Ms. Dr. Lesley Dixon proposed a BDR eliminating prior authorization of psychiatric medication for children. This BDR would disallow insurance companies requiring prior authorization of psychiatric medication for children.

Chair Frost would like to include adults in this BDR.

Char Frost inquired if private insurance, giving prior authorization for medication, is as high a level as Medicaid does.

Dr. Dixon did not have that information.

Ms. Michelle Guerra stated that if health insurance companies that have a commercial product, they have to match what they are doing on the medical side to prior authorization. This varies from every organization and company.

d.) Presumptive Eligibility.

e.) Vice-Chair Ross proposed a BDR for Community Health Workers to give them the ability to work with mental and behavioral health work.

Mr. Musgrove expressed concern if the board presents a Bill Draft Request that is high dollar and requires a two-thirds majority it would be doomed for defeat. He would like the board to look at something that is policy oriented.

Vice-Chair Ross created a poll of the concepts presented. The board members voted on the poll to help determine which concept they would focus on for their Bill Draft Request.

Before the board took the poll, Ms. Saunders stated she would be willing to amend her proposal instead of including a fiscal note, to a policy-based proposal if the board thought it would create more flexibility for the services provided.

Senator Fabian Donate stated he does his best to observe and listen to the board and does not know where he will stand on the policy recommendations because he believes it's the boards responsibility to decide which concept it wants to take on. Senator Donte also conveyed to the board not to be discouraged if a fiscal note needs to be included with a BDR and reminded the board it is the legislatures job to figure out the fiscal note.

The poll was taken, item (a) Transfer Fund was the concept the Clark Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board decided to focus on for their BDR.

Chair Frost asked for a motion to be passed for this proposed BDR.
Mr. Musgrove made the motion to pass.
Ms. Guerra second the motion.

Chair Frost asked for all those in favor to say 'Aye'.
All said "Aye" with one abstention.
Ms. DeDe Parker abstained.

9.) Determine Date of Next Meeting:

The next Clark Behavioral Health Policy Board meeting will be held September 29, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

10.) Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

11.) Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

DRAFT