



**Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board
MEETING MINUTES
January 27, 2021
1:00 PM to adjourn**

This meeting will be held via teleconference only. Pursuant to Governor Sisolak’s March 22, 2020, Declaration of Emergency Directive 006 which was extended by Directive 021, the requirement contained in NRS 241.023(1)(b) that there be a physical location is suspended in order to mitigate the possible exposure or transmission of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Accordingly, all members of the public must participate by using the teleconference number or weblink provided in this notice.

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Join Zoom Meeting

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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 (Fergus Laughridge)*

Members Present: Chair Fergus Laughridge, Valerie Cauhape, Brook O’Byrne, Amanda Osborne, Dr. Erica Ryst, Bryce Sheilds, Matt Walker

Members Absent: Pete Goicoechea, Jeri Sanders, Amy Adams

Staff and Guests Present: Stacy McCool, Jake Wiskerchen,

2. Public comment

(Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for a later meeting)

Dr. Jake Wiskerchen: We have a NRS that states, If you have a license in another state in good standing, no restrictions and no blemishes and can pass the background check, you can come over and pay the fees and get a license in Nevada. The biggest hang up is getting the background check done and the license. When the Governor issued his emergency directive 011, it made it possible to waive many of the professional licensing requirements. This allows us to expedite more people into our state to help treat our ailing individuals. A lot of us are experiencing a crushing burden of patient demand and we would like some help, if we can get that from out of state from people whose case loads are lower, if they are competent and qualified we should allow them to practice here.

Chair Laughridge: Thanks Jake, Valerie and I are very in tune to some of the conversations you have been having with portability and mockup language, I think will be helpful as we move forward.

Valerie: any other public comment? (There was none)

3. Review and Approval of Minutes from July 21, 2020 **For Possible Action**
(Chair, Fergus Laughridge)

Tabled for next meeting

4. Development and Approval of Board Meeting Schedule **For Possible Action**
(Chair, Fergus Laughridge)

I would like to see us meet every other month and then going forward to a quarterly timetable. Valerie, what are your ideas?

Valerie: I would recommend monthly short meetings of about 45 minutes per meeting through the legislative session and then roll to every other month to quarterly afterwards. That way we can make sure board members are available to vote on anything that is necessary for legislative action. That would be my personal preference. I did talk to Senator Goicoechea this morning, and his schedule is packed but most days he could make between 1:00pm and 3:30pm.

Chair Laughridge: Any quick comments from the rest of the board? Like Valerie was saying, if we could meet monthly because we still have a lot of work to do.

Bryce: Considering the workload, I think it is a good idea to meet monthly, as long as it is a short meeting.

Chair Laughridge: This is the fourth Wednesday, it looks like we have more Wednesday in every month, does this date and time work for everybody. I am seeing notes on the chat that the fourth Wednesday at 1:00pm works for everybody. I would entertain a motion to meet the fourth Wednesday of every month at 1:00pm for a brief board meeting.

Brook made motion and Bryce seconded

Chair Laughridge: Any nays? (There are none)

5. Review and make recommendations: SB 44

For Possible Action

(Chair Laughridge, and Valerie Cauhape, Rural Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator)

The outstanding amount of work Valerie and her team of stakeholders have put together for SB44, as you know, our boards are allowed to have one BDR (Bill Draft Request) to go forward and ours did, we now have language thanks to Valerie's work.

Presentation by Valerie:

- Brief Overview of current SB 44 language:
 - Addition of LMSW licensure type for Board of Social Work, this will be more appealing for professionals practicing at a master's level to come to Nevada.
 - Creation of 6-month grace period (all four Boards), for official transcript submission
 - LCB evaluation study (all four Boards), 3rd party evaluation by LCB research division to identify and address barriers
- Stakeholder feedback:
 - Expected friendly amendment from Board of Social Work to adjust language
 - Bill is not "aggressive enough"
 - "Grace Period" is not necessary, may raise unnecessary concerns
 - Look to other boards who have expedited processes in non-emergency time
 - Consider remote supervision options
 - No action until 2023- too little too late
 - Licensing Boards have not done enough to help expedite process
 - Need to consider Medicaid reimbursements
- Additional data and information:
 - Data is downloaded by "occupation", not licensure "type"
 - Not sure how accurate data is
- RBHC recommendations:
 - Remove "grace period" and interim study
 - Move forward with licensure portability and expedited Endorsement Process
 - Medicaid reimbursements
 - Ability to provide tele-health services
 - Remote supervision
- Board discussion and possible action:

Brook: Should we focus our attention on one amendment that would expand the workforce the most? If anybody has any insight that would be helpful.

Matt: It seems to me like the expediting of the licensure is really what's going to move this.

Erika: Thank you so much for your hard work, I agree with Matt, we want to make it easier and quicker for mental health providers to practice in this state. I love that you put Medicaid reimbursement as an issue, but I think it is a humongous challenge and we should save that for to the next biennium.

Valerie: Fergus and I spoke with Senator Spearman to discuss this bill; she is pretty adamant that something needs to be done this session. She's open to us working with her on her bill to make sure they work together. She is not scheduling our bill until we have an amendment, so we need to start working on this quickly.

Chair Fergus: Behavioral Health is on the legislature radar which is good for us. We have the opportunity in the year to make it happen. Its very important in our monthly meetings to work on getting the language right the first time. I would like to put before the board, to allow Valerie and I to continue working with the stakeholders to flush out the language and get an amended version of our bill language back to you for a quick turnaround. Valerie does a better job with summary.

Valerie: The motion would be to approve Fergus and I to draft and submit amendments on behalf of this board and to communicate with board members individually regarding content of the amendment.

Matt: Ill make motion

Brook: Ill second that motion

Chair Fergus: Any opposed? Hearing none this passes unanimously.

6. Public Comment (there are none)

7. Additional Announcements **Informational**

Valerie :At this point we will be leaving a standing agenda item in our February meeting for any possible action for SB 44

8. Adjournment – Chair (Fergus Laughridge)

AGENDA POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- **Department of Health and Human Services Website**
www.dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/Grants/Advisory_Committees/ACPG/ACPG_Workforce_Development_Workgroup/
Nevada Public Notices: www.notice.nv.gov

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. In the event of videoconference technical difficulties, the meeting may be conducted by teleconference from the same location. If special arrangements are necessary, please notify Stephen Wood, Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention, in writing please send to, 4126 Technology Way, Suite 200, Carson City, Nevada 89706 or by calling (775) 684-5974 before the meeting date. Anyone who wants to be on the advisory council mailing list can sign up on the listserv at www.listserv.state.nv.us/cgi-bin/wa?HOME.

If you need supporting documents for this meeting, please notify Stephen Wood, Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention, by email at swood@health.nv.gov.