

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
SOUTHERN REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD

500 S. Grand Central Parkway

Las Vegas, NV 89155

MARCH 27, 2018

1:00 p.m. to Adjournment

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

By Steve Yeager, Chair

**2. Public Comment:**

No public comments were made.

**In Attendance:**

Kellee Nash, Sondra Cosgrove, Bob Zangger, Charlotte Watkins, Joe Roberts, Katie Dickweiler, Sara Hunt, Dr. Michael Johnson, Dan Musgrove, Mule Pawual, DuAne Young, Misty Grimmer, Alexander Marks, Tracy Thomas, Paul Rains, Sara Chohagian, Kim Johnson, Stacy Smith

**3. Introductions, Members of the Southern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board**

Ariana Saunders, Regional Behavioral Coordinator, Jaqueline Harris, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Licensed Drug and Alcohol Therapist, Charlene Frost, State-wide Family Network Director for Nevada Path, Steve Yeager representing Assembly District 9 and a Practicing Attorney, Jamie Ross, Executive Director of the PACT Coalition, Dr. Joe Iser, Chief Health Officer of Southern Nevada, Dr. Ken McKay, Licensed Psychologist and a member of Healthy Minds, Dr. Lesley Dickson, Psychiatrist, Dr. Jim Jobin, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor and Licensed Clinical Drug and Alcohol Counselor, and host of a professional podcast called Pod Therapy, Nita Schmidt, Captain of the Metropolitan Police Department, Eric Lloyd, Amerigroup of Nevada, Alexandra Fernandes, Nye County Sherriff's Office.

**4. Approval of minutes for meeting held on February 9, 2018**

Meeting Minute corrections mentioned:

- Dr. James Jobin wanted the record to show that his podcast is named "*Pod Therapy*" not "*Pad Therapy*".
- Steve Yeager mentioned names of attendees were misspelled and Board member Charlene Frost was referred to as Charlene Ross in document several times.
- Approval of minutes for meeting held on February 9<sup>th</sup> motioned by Dr. Joe Iser. Motion seconded by Captain Nita Schmidt with recommended grammatical changes.

**5. Presentation by the Nevada Association of School Psychologists**

**- Presented by Dr. Katie A. Dockweiler, President of Nevada Association of School Psychologists, and Dr. Joseph Roberts, Department of Student Threat and Crisis Response**

See attached presentation under "Exhibit A"

During the presentation, it was mentioned that Clark County School District (CCSD) is low on psychologist staff. Board member Dr. Jim Jobin questioned what would be sufficient staff level for CCSD. Dr. Joseph Roberts mentioned his crisis response group currently has 7 psychologists serving all of Clark County and believes having 20 psychologists would benefit the community crisis needs.

Dr. Joseph Roberts explained, The Harbor is a juvenile assessment center that collaborates with outside agencies as a reference source. The Harbor assists with speeding up law enforcement booking processes for juveniles and assigns a program for the juvenile to follow. Once the program is completed the juvenile has a chance to have their misdemeanor charges dropped. Parents can utilize The Harbor as a resource without law enforcement involvement. Dr. Roberts stated the funding comes from different agencies that are involved with the facility.

Following the presentation, Dr. Joseph Roberts responded to Dr. Jobin and explained the difference between resume requirements for school psychologists and school counselors. School psychologists are required to have a Master's degree in Educational Psychology, in addition to 32-34 credits, and an internship of 1,200 hours in a school setting or 600 hours in a hospital setting. Dr. Roberts mentioned he is not a school counselor and is not as familiar with their licensure, but believes that school counselors are teachers with additional degrees/training. Dr. Roberts mentioned school psychologists have the highest forms of licensure on many of the school campuses, but are paid the same as an entry level teacher with a Bachelor's degree.

Dr. Jobin questioned if psychologists coming in to assist with initiatives drafted under the Safe Schools Initiative SB 515 are going to assist with the school psychologist deficit. Dr. Joseph Roberts stated psychologists under SB 515 are meant to assist with roles during crisis situations and do not assist in the daily roles that a school psychologist has. Therefore, SB 515 does not directly address the school psychologist deficit in Clark County. Dr. Katie A. Dockweiler stated she has personally seen little to no affect (2-5%) of having healthcare providers being brought in under SB 515 to assist with educational psychologist workloads. Charlene Frost questioned whether SB 515 school social workers are able to support multi-tier systems alongside the school psychologists and counselors. Dr. Dockweiler stated they often do assist with needs off of the campus, but do not assist with needs that fall under Project Healthy Minds which occurs on campus.

Jaqueline Harris questioned what barriers are causing 75-80% of children and youth needing mental health services to not receive them. Dr. Dockweiler stated parents are often in denial and do not want the child to have a stigma, be on medication or take the time to get them evaluated. Dr. Jobin questioned what it would take to alleviate the burden school psychologists face, since SB 515 is only alleviating 5% of the burden per Dr. Dockweiler's personal view. Dr. Roberts recommended contacting Dr. Tammy Mallot who coordinates and oversees the SB 515 social workers who are scattered throughout approximately 350 Clark County schools. Dr. Dockweiler also mentioned school psychologists do not have ratios, statutes or definitions for their profession in Nevada state law, which also causes issues for the current staffing concerns. Jamie Ross questioned how many funds have been spent on SB 515 and was given an answer of 18 million dollars.

Dr. Joseph Roberts stated the lack of school psychologist does not allow the current staff to perform the necessary amount of suicide risk assessments and mental health evaluations on students. It was further discussed that more school psychologist staff would allow more Tier 1 and 2 screenings to occur, which would in turn reduce Tier 3 concerns.

Eric Lloyd questioned Dr. Roberts and Dr. Dockweiler asking if they have a state and district solution funding request. They did not have a dollar amount available at this time. Better practice solutions were suggested to have psychological assistance by having administrative support to address workload

concerns. Other creative solutions were mentioned such as having clinical psychologists licensed in a school setting.

Clarification was given stating SB 515 social workers assist with home and individual support, but do not assist with school setting support which is what school psychologists require. Direct mental health contact is provided by the clinicians which is helpful, but school psychologists are under-supported in regards to the overall mental health in a school setting.

The Board discussed suicidal ideation on the rise due to lack of coping skills from pre-K - 12th grade. Dr. Roberts explained how children are faced with life challenges or trauma which is causing suicidal resolutions rather than coping skill practices.

## **6. Presentation on the Southern Nevada Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health and Diversion Efforts**

**-Presented by Cheryl L. Wright, Clinical Services Manager, Clark County Juvenile Justice Services**

See attached presentation under "Exhibit B"

Following the presentation, discussions were made regarding The Harbor facility. Steve Yeager questioned who made the decision for The Harbor to assist with ages 17 and under. Cheryl Wright confirmed this was an internal decision made, but The Harbor does provide resources for any age to get connected with the correct agencies. Discussions continued regarding the juvenile justice center having a 200-person capacity. The facility is currently at high capacity, with levels at 168 individuals. Suggestions were made to broaden funding options since The Harbor serves many juveniles in different situations (i.e. foster children). Insurance barriers were discussed regarding providers such as Medicaid, not assisting children and not offering parents knowledge to be able to navigate the insurance resources available. Eric Lloyd offered to send Medicaid staff to The Harbor to further assist with the challenges mentioned.

## **7. Presentation on Clark County Children's Mental Health Consortium Priorities - Presented by Dan Musgrove, Clark County Children's Mental Health Consortium Chair**

See attached presentation under "Exhibit C".

Before the presentation of the Consortium's 10 Year Strategic Plan, emphasis was discussed that the Clark County Children's Mental Health Consortium has been addressing similar goals/concerns since 2001, and the Southern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board is attempting to address the similar issues now.

Following the presentation, Dr. Jobin questioned what bill draft request would achieve to re-structure the public children's behavioral health financing and delivery system to ensure quality, accountability, and positive outcomes for Clark County's children and families. Dan Musgrove believes that children's behavioral health focuses are important to address adult behavioral health needs. He believes an accountable entity is needed to gather funds for Clark County to address the behavioral concerns mentioned and put things into motion. Jacqueline Harris discussed concerns of SAPTA certifying and funding adult substance abuse services, where juveniles do not have an agency that certifies and funds services needed. Dan Musgrove suggested having the Board be the receiver and certifier of future behavioral health block grants. The Board was also suggested to look at Clark County behavioral health needs and then look at how to request the funding needed. Charlene Frost suggested the Board focus on adult behavioral health needs at this time due to the lack of entities dedicated to adult behavioral health.

## **8. Review previous prioritization efforts of topics for the Board to address, and decide on the priorities.**

Board member Dr. Ken McKay provided a list of topics/solutions previous entities have discussed and analyzed (list attached under Exhibit D). The list provides clarification that the Board does not have to re-invent their own priorities, but can offer solutions to existing discussions/topics. Recommendations were given to the Board to read over the list and return to the next meeting with their own top 3-5 priorities. Dr. McKay viewed this would assist with the future report due from the Board by September, 2018. Steve Yeager agreed the Board members should research items found on the previous priority list and mentioned some of the previous priorities, which included:

- Workforce Development
- Professional Board and Licensing
- Response to October 1, 2017 and looking at future emergency planning
- Children/Juvenile Behavioral Health
- Mobile Crisis Response Services for Youth and Adults
- Legal 2000s

Dr. McKay further suggested once the Board has determined their top 3-5 priorities it should be determined what priorities are similar throughout the four Regional Boards. It was also suggested that each Board not use similarities for their regional bill draft report, but instead should list the similar state-wide concerns in their report to the Commission and Legislation. Further discussion was made to possibly advocate for the Board to have regional authority. Dr. Lesley Dickson discussed the priority of mental health community living arrangements. Patients are often low-income and are unable to afford healthy living situations in order to receive necessary mental health services. Charlene Frost mentioned the adult mobile crisis team is needed for Clark County. Dr. Jobin suggested board members take a future vote on list of priorities to dwindle down the list each Board member brings to the next meeting. Dr. McKay suggested involving the community in decision making. Steve Yeager suggested each board member provide a list of 4 priorities by next meeting. Issues were mentioned regarding the DPBH website and the difficulty of navigation. Steve Yeager mentioned he would be reaching out to other Regional Board Chair members to see if they each have similar regional priorities forming.

## **9. Public Discussion**

Kelly Nash with the City of Las Vegas Community Services, has done surveys for homeless populations through local charities. Ms. Nash offered her surveys and written materials to the Board for their review.

Alexander Marks introduced himself as the Director of United Citizens Foundation. Mr. Marks works with the Clark County School District to install behavioral health wellness centers on campuses. There are currently six locations at three high schools and three elementary schools within Clark County.

DuAne Young introduced himself as the Deputy Administrator over Clinical Services within the Division of Public and Behavioral Health. Mr. Young offered to clarify any information necessary at the next Board meeting.

## **10. Adjournment**

By Chair Steve Yeager