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**Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 24, 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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1. Call to order/roll call

Chair Laughridge determined a quorum was present.

**Members Present:** Senator Pete Goicoechea, Bryce Shields, Matt Walker, Dr. Erica Ryst, Chair Fergus Laughridge, Brooke O'Byrne

**Members Absent:** Jeri Sanders, Amy Adams, Amanda Osborne

**Staff and Guests Present:** Valerie Cauhape Haskin

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes from February 24, 2021

Matt made motion to approve, Pete seconded. None apposed.

4. Presentation and Approval of Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board 2020 Annual Report - See Report

Valerie: There were three specific reports that were referenced; Dose Reports, Nevada Rural and Frontier Health Data Book 10<sup>th</sup> Edition, and the 2020 Rural Behavioral Health Profile. The draft recommendations are what we need to vote on today.

- Increase Investments in Nevada Medicaid reimbursements for behavioral health services
- Increase resources and program choices to address the needs of high-risk populations, including youth, the elderly, and ethnic or racial minority groups

- Support programs that assist and support service members, veterans, and their families, in a way that is competent to military culture
- Support programs and funding that would increase the number of behavioral health providers across the state of Nevada
- Support novel behavioral health transportation solutions and pilot programs

Dr. Ryst: I have a small suggestion that I think we can incorporate; I would like to add something about supporting funding and programs that increase access to school mental health services

Fergus: I need a motion to approve the report with a caveat that Valerie will work with Dr. Ryst on the verbiage of school aged children's programs.

Pete: I make motion to accept report with caveat. Bryse will second. There were no oppositions.

5. Updates Regarding SB 44- see handout.

Valerie: The board was heard and there was some discussion, and the feedback has me going through some language which I will go through with you.

Amendment concepts:

- Application fees would be halved for certain groups; military, spouses, and surviving spouses, BIPOC and LGTBQ+, youth, and the elderly
- Create ability for all four policy boards to grant provisional licensure by endorsement for any other reason
- Amend NRS 641 to outline specific crimes for which an applicant for any type of licensure or certificate can be denied, and to allow for other means of accessing transcripts on record if the applicants school has closed or has been merges and the provision of official transcripts through ordinary channels is not possible.

Brook: I think unless we can be specific about the other provisional circumstances, its probably best to say the boards *may issue* a provisional license instead of the boards *shall issue*. In annual reporting will we be able to see if other boards are taking advantage of this provision so that maybe we could see where other needs are?

Fergus: The licensing board does not report to us, the interim reports will be made public once they are entered. I think the content is there and its good so let's not mess with the verbiage too much, I think were on the right track.

Valerie: do I have permission to submit to the committee as it is?

Fergus: Ill reword that, does anyone oppose to having this submit to the Committee of Commerce and LCB as the content is written?

Hearing none, we have a green light.

#### 6. Board Member Discussion: Upcoming Presentation Requests

Pete: there are a number of bills moving through the legislative process, I think we should take a look at some that we can get behind or that we should pay attention too.

Fergus: Valerie and I have been monitoring them daily, let put that on the next agenda

Valerie: Senator, when is the next deadline?

Pete: April 9<sup>th</sup>, we should know what is dead or alive, April 30<sup>th</sup> is House Passage, so it has to be out of the house.

Fergus: We have made some friends at the licensing board so maybe we could have them speak later down the road.

Brook: It would be nice to hear from the counties that we represent and how we impact them.

Fergus: That's a good idea, Valerie is connected with them and maybe we could just carve out some time for them.

#### 7. Public Comment: there was no public comment

#### 8. Additional Announcements : No additional announcements

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#### 9. Adjournment: 2:05pm