
**NORTHERN REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
May 5th, 2022, from 2:00 pm to Adjournment**

The meeting will be held in person and via teleconference at:

4150 Technology Way, Carson City, Nevada, Room 303

And via Zoom

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 – Taylor Allison, Chair or Dr. Ali Banister, Vice-chair

Members: Taylor Allison (Chair), Dr. Ali Banister (Vice- Chair), Dr. Robin Titus, Laura Yanez, Nicki Aaker, Heather Korbulic, Lana Robards, Sheriff Ken Furlong, Shayla Holmes, Erik Schoen, Dr. Amy Hyne- Sutherland, Sandy Wartgow

Taylor Allison, Dr. Robin Titus, Laura Yanez, Nicki Aaker, Shayla Holmes, Erik Schoen, Dr. Amy Hyne- Sutherland, and Sandy Wartgow were all in attendance.

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

Taylor Allison started public comment by acknowledging Jessica Flood Abrass's upcoming departure from the Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator position and thanking her for all the work she has done for the region. Dave Fogerson, the first Chair of the Northern Board, also provided public comment commending Jessica for the success she has had in the role. Joan Hall, from Nevada Rural Hospital Partners also commended Jessica for her work, as did Valerie Cuahape, Shayla Holmes, Erik Schoen, and Amy Hynes Sutherland. Dr. Robin Titus presented Jessica with Proclamation from the State of Nevada, thanking her and recognizing her work on behalf of the region.

3. **For Possible Action:** Review and approval of minutes from April 22nd, 2022 (Taylor Allison, Chair, and board members.)

The minutes were not available for review by the policy board.

4. **For Possible Action:** Northern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board to hear applications for appointment for the position of "One member who is a psychiatrist or a psychologist who holds the degree of doctor of psychology, has clinical experience and is licensed to practice in this State or, if no such person is available,

a provider of health care, as defined in [NRS 629.031](#), who has experience working with persons with a mental illness or persons who have an alcohol or other substance use disorder.”

Jessica Flood Abrass stated that she had spoken with Dr. Amy Kegal who was very interested in being on the Board. Jessica provided background on Dr. Kegal, stating that she is a psychologist who works at Carson Rural Clinics. Jessica also noted that Dr. Kegal demonstrated she can be a great community partner through her supervision of a psychologist intern who assisted Carson Sheriff’s Office in organizing data collection for their MOST program. Jessica read Dr. Kegal’s letter of interest, and all present members of the Northern RPBHP voted to appoint Dr. Kegal to the board.

5. **For Possible Action:** Board discussion and development of recommendations for Northern Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator transition (Taylor Allison, Chair, and board members.)

Taylor Allison provided an update that she and Jessica Flood Abrass had met with Joan Hall to discuss next steps forward in hiring a new Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator. Joan Hall stated she was supportive of a Board member being involved as long as it did not conflict with open meeting law. Taylor Allison said she would participate in the hiring process on behalf of the Board.

6. **For Possible Action:** Update from Northern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board Behavioral Health Housing subcommittee including recommendations for Board consideration. Board members to vote to approve recommendations to be included in advocacy letter to Nevada Division of Housing and Division of Health and Human Services, and to allow the Chair or designee to advocate for recommendations on the Board’s behalf)

Dr. Amy Hynes Sutherland stated that the Northern RBHPB subcommittee had met twice, the second time occurring on April 12th. The Board had heard great presentations from Corporation for Supportive Housing on supportive housing best practices including use of system modelling, Catrina Peters from Washoe County regarding their efforts on emergency housing and supportive housing, and Sarah Adler regarding potential funding models for supportive housing in Nevada. The subcommittee was proposing recommendations be included in a letter from the Northern RPBHP to Nevada Department of Health and Human Services and Nevada Division of Housing that included advocating for:

- Funding systems modelling to understand the need for supportive housing in Nevada
- Dedicating additional housing funds to the development of supportive housing across Nevada

Dr. Amy Hynes Sutherland also stated that it the Northern Board could keep an eye on potential legislation for funding streams as they move toward the legislative session. Jessica Flood Abrass stated that it was also important to consider more immediate action as the Governor has released a funding opportunity in which pre-applications, are

due mid- May.

7. **Informational:** Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator and board member or taskforce appointee updates on behavioral health concerns, initiatives, and successes in their area of specialty or county or on behalf of the local behavioral health taskforces. This includes requests and feedback from the taskforces on Policy Board progress. (Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator and Board members or appointees)

Erik Schoen stated that Storey County had been focused on increasing services to youth in schools. Shayla Holmes stated that the Lyon County Behavioral Health Taskforce continued to meet and had been working on messaging for mental health awareness month in May. Nicki Aaker stated that the Carson City Behavioral Health Taskforce continued to meet monthly and was focused on progress in its subcommittees.

8. **Informational:** Update on progress of Northern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board Next Steps document and discuss agenda items for future meetings (Board members and Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator)
9. **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*
10. **Adjournment**