

NORTHERN REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD  
MINUTES

DATE: March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

TIME: 2:00 p.m. to Adjournment

Meeting Locations

This meeting will be via teleconference at:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83625007893?pwd=T0thbG1wQWN6SUF6RWJwdkFJVIVFQT09>

Meeting ID: 836 2500 7893

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*Notes to all members:*

Note: Before speaking, please state your full name for the record whether appearing by phone or video. This meeting is a public meeting, recorded and held in compliance with and pursuant to the Nevada Open Meeting Law, NRS241. All voting members should leave their cameras on for the duration of the meeting and refrain from entering any information into the chat function of the video platform.

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 and Roll Call – Meeting called to order by Chair Ali Bannister at 2:05 pm.  
(Chair Taylor Allison/Vice Chair Ali Banister)

Members:

Dr. Ali Banister (Vice-Chair)

Dr. Robin Titus

Laura Yanez

Lana Robards

Sheriff Ken Furlong

Shayla Holmes

Erik Schoen

Dr. Amy Hyne-Sutherland

Sandy Wartgow

Absent:

Taylor Allison (Chair)

Nicki Aaker

2.) PUBLIC COMMENT

Public testimony under this agenda item may be presented by a computer, phone, or written comment. Due to time considerations, each individual offering public comment will be limited to not more than three (3) minutes.

Robin Reedy, Executive Director National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Nevada, spoke about bills that need support from the board regarding mental health. Ms. Reedy encouraged support of Senate Bill (SB) 68, where it was recognized that homelessness and housing was in critical need, making it the #1 issue reported on the helplines. Ms. Reedy stated that during inflation, certain generations are expected to not have enough resources put away to take care of their descendants. Ms. Reedy suggested a push for revenue streams to reduce our criminal justice, welfare, and emergency room (ER) costs. Ms. Reedy related to SB 68 from her experience from the only time her mom was stable in Ohio, when a little county restructured a hotel to be little studios and allowed her to stay on her medication and be a better participant in the community.

- 3.) For Possible Action: Review and possible approval of meeting minutes from January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 (Chair Taylor Allison and Board members)

Mr. Erik Schoen moved to approve, Sheriff Furlong second. None opposed, motion carried.

- 4.) Informational: Presentation on the Washoe Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board Bill – AB 69 Expands the loan repayment program administered by the Nevada Health Service Corps to include certain providers of behavioral health care. (Dorothy Edwards, Washoe Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board Coordinator)

This item has been tabled.

- 5.) Informational: Presentation on the Mercers Nevada Opioids Needs Assessment and Statewide Plan 2022 – SB390, codified in NRS established that a needs assessment must be completed and must use qualitative, quantitative data, and evidenced-based practices to show results. (Dawn Yohey, MFT, LCADC Clinical Program Planner 3, DHHS, Director's Office, Fund for a Resilient Nevada)

This item has been tabled for next month.

- 6.) For Possible Action: Review, discussion, and possible approval of updates to the Board Regional Behavioral Health Authority Bill AB9; which revises provisions governing regional behavioral health policy boards, based on community feedback (Board Members and Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator)

The Coordinator discussed the decision to table AB 9, with moving forward to look more into AB 201 and AB 265 as it has similar referencing language used in AB 9.

- 7.) For Possible Action: The Northern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board will review, discuss, and provide direction to Board Chair and Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator regarding legislation for the 83<sup>rd</sup> Nevada Legislation. Legislation includes: Assembly Bill 7, Assembly Bill 37, Assembly Bill 38, Assembly Bill 45, Assembly Bill 68, Assembly Bill 69, Senate Bill 68, Senate Bill 117, and Assembly Bill 201.

Bill Number	Bill Overview	Direction
Assembly Bill 7	Revises provisions relating to electronic health records (EMR).	Support of
Assembly Bill 37	Authorizes the establishment of the Behavioral Health Workforce Development Center of Nevada. (From the Rural RBHPB)	Neutral
Assembly Bill 38	Revises provisions relating to the Workforce Innovations for a New Nevada Account	Support of
Assembly Bill 45	Creates a program to repay the student education loans of certain providers of health care.	Support of
Assembly Bill 68	Revises provisions governing the assessment imposed on certain counties for the operation of a regional facility for the treatment and rehabilitation of children. (China Springs)	Support of
Assembly Bill 69	Expands the loan repayment program administered by the Nevada Health Service Corps to include certain providers of behavioral health care (BDR 34-399). (From the Washoe RBHPB)	Support of
Senate Bill 201; Just introduced 2/20/23	AN ACT relating to behavioral health; requiring the Commission on Behavioral Health to provide certain oversight and make certain recommendations concerning the children's behavioral health system of care; requiring the formulation and operation of comprehensive state plans to provide behavioral health services for adults and children; requiring the certification of persons and entities who receive federal or state money to provide such services; requiring the adoption of clinical standards of care for the provision of such services; revising certain duties of the Commission, regional behavioral health policy boards and mental health consortiums of this State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto	No discussion, wrong Bill proposed.
Senate Bill 68	Establishes programs to provide certain assistance relating to housing. (From the Clark RBHPB)	Neutral stance with a letter to be submitted with amendments.
Senate Bill 117	Expands community health worker reimbursement to include reimbursement for behavioral health services.	Tabling for further action

Vice Chair, Dr. Ali Bannister decided for the board members to vote on each Bill as it was read.

**AB 7: Electronic Health Records to be standardized –**

Senator, Dr. Robin Titus led the conversation with the support of AB 7, with discussion with past EMRs having no mandate for each system to communicate and being able to share records without

liability. Mr. Erik Schoen stated that there was enough endorsement for him to support this bill. Dr. Titus summarized that the cost should not be a limitation for support or not support, in addition the Bill has not received a hearing to begin with. Dr. Titus emphasized the importance of the policy of the Bill and not the ability to pay for the Bill. All board members voted in support of.

**AB: 37:** Authorizes the establishment of the Behavioral Health Workforce Development Center of Nevada –

The Coordinator, Ms. Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, reminded the board about the presentation from Ms. Valerie Haskins. Dr. Amy Hyne Sutherland suggested support of this bill because of the potential long-term impacts. Senator, Dr. Robin Titus suggested waiting on the hearing until there is more information when the Bill is presented and would hold her vote. Dr. Ali Bannister, Vice Chair agreed and commented that she would feel more comfortable waiting until the Bill was heard. Sherriff Furlong suggested voting neutral. All board members voted in neutral of. Ms. Shayla Holmes asked for clarification for the board to only discuss bill that have only been heard. Dr. Titus clarified that the board would have an impact for bills to be heard, and with support from the board it can influence and have a positive impact for bills that are dragging.

**AB 38:** Revises provisions relating to the Workforce Innovations for a New Nevada Account-

Dr. Ali Bannister, Vice Chair summarized that the Bill prevents money returning to general funds. Senator, Dr. Robin Titus said she supported this Bill, but this is not traditional how money is moved at the end of the fiscal year and touched on how our workforce is growing. Sherriff Furlong agreed with Dr. Titus and added that there are issues with getting money spent within a confined time period. All board members voted in support of.

**AB 45:** Creates a program to repay the student education loans of certain providers of health care-

Senator, Dr. Robin Titus discussed the possible expansion of coverage within the amendments suggested and looking to see additional providers coming to rural areas. Dr. Ali Bannister, Vice Chair, stated that it provides incentive to get providers to some areas, and her support. All board members voted in support of.

**AB 68:** Revises provisions governing the assessment imposed on certain counties for the operation of a regional facility for the treatment and rehabilitation of children. (China Springs)-

Dr. Ali Bannister, Vice Chair, touched on alignment of the chiefs and the payment and formula to be used, and assist rural jurisdiction for payment versus Washoe and Carson to pay more because of bed usage. Sheriff Furlong asked for more clarification of payment for Carson County. Senator, Dr. Robin Titus stressed the impact of China Springs and the extensive negotiations that used to support China Springs. All board members voted in support of.

**AB 69:** Expands the loan repayment program administered by the Nevada Health Service Corps to include certain providers of behavioral health care-

Senator, Dr. Robin Titus stated her support, and encouraged support of fellow board members because there is funding available. All board members voted in support of.

**SB 201:** Governs the topic of pharmaceuticals

Ms. Shayla Holmes clarified that this Bill will not apply to the board, and that the Bill should be SB 210. Dr. Ali Bannister stated that there will be no discussion.

**SB 68:** Establishes programs to provide certain assistance relating to housing-

Coordinator Rahr-Wood briefed this Bill and referred to Ms. Robin Reedy and her support of as stated in the public comments. Senator, Dr. Robin Titus explained her opposition due to the multiple hats worn but does not discourage the support of for the rest of the board. Ms. Shayla Holmes stated the concerns of Item #15 and the percentages that are allocated, backing her support of the concept of the bill but not the specifics of the dictation of percentages when it should be decided by the board. Mr. Erik Schoen backed Ms. Holmes with conceptual support. Ms. Lana Robards supported Mr. Schoen with emphasis on the concern of the policy board being responsible for the financial aspects being distributed. Ms. Laura Yanez stated her support with NAMI and related to the Bill with her brother currently being homeless because of the lack of support. Ms. Holmes asked if there was support if amended. Dr. Titus stressed that if there was a suggestion to amendment then you are in opposition, and that a letter can be submitted with suggestions. Dr. Amy Hyne-Sutherland stated her support conceptually and recognized the public comment made, while also adding the political will to push things forward regardless of it being imperfect. Ms. Hyne Sutherland stressed that she thinks operationally it would not be manageable for the board to maintain, and suggested coordination for a friendly amendment. Sheriff Furlong suggested not in support. Ms. Holmes suggested neutral support with a letter and would not vote in support of if it came down to voting even though it is on par conceptually. All board members voted in neutral support with a letter, but Sherriff Furlong stated concerns of not being in complete support and opposition.

**SB 117:** Expands community health worker reimbursement to include reimbursement for behavioral health services-

Mr. Erik Schoen explained the licensing component with a penalty will be removed and stressed the importance of expansion of supervision type of community health workers with sustainability. Mr. Schoen said the Bill will have many revisions. Senator, Dr. Robin Titus agreed with Mr. Schoen and expressed more about reimbursement for community healthcare workers because even though they are not providers and added that it premature for a vote because even though it is conceptually ideal, there are still so many moving points. Mr. Schoen added that there is optimism but agreed with Dr. Titus's statement of it being premature to vote on. All board members voted in tabling this Bill for further action.

- 8.) Informational: Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator and Board Member updates regarding mental health and substance use/opioid concerns, initiatives, upcoming trainings and events, and overall successes and gaps in their area of specialty. (Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator, Board Members)

Coordinator, Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, briefed that she was giving a full robust idea of the work for by The Coordinator the board, as well as attended a summit on improving community response to individuals on behavioral health challenges that was in Las Vegas to focus on the behavioral health community health integration plan.

The Coordinator discussed how Lyon and Douglas County are currently ready to implement Behavioral Health Integration Community (BHIC) Strategic Plan to communities, and for the remaining task force and coordinators to start the process. Coordinator Rahr-Wood summarized Lyon County's implementation of Behavioral Health Emergency Operations Plan into their New County Emergency Operations Plan.

Coordinator Rahr-Wood commented on the Supporting Crisis Intervention Training Team (CITT), Mobility Outreach Safety Team (MOST) and Forensic Assessment Services Triage Team (FASTT)

coordinator meetings, and moving forward with handbooks, training, policy, and procedures, alongside UNR's second year evaluation. The Coordinator touched on how the data collection was completed, and it was expected to see the data soon.

The Coordinator updated the board with the attendance of both The Coordinator and Linda Garrett training the Nevada Rural Hospital Partners (NRHP) Behavioral health workgroup, Mental Health (MH) Crisis Hold Patient Rights with another training on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, from 10 am -12 pm.

The Coordinator summarized that there was a comprehensive white paper for department of Education for suicide and risks effecting children and schools in Nevada, and there is still a wait on leadership of Department of Education (DOE) for approval, and once approved it will go on NVBH.org.

The Coordinator rediscussed the summit in January that was attended, which touched on improving community response to individuals to behavioral health challenges, where the board put on a breakout session on Psychiatric Advance Directive (PAD) and provided a panel to include a lawyer, judge, and peer. The Coordinator discussed the importance on how to fill out PADs, Serious Mental Illness (SMI), and Serious Mental Disorder (SMD).

The Coordinator commented on Lyon and Churchill County receiving a great response to the training, about the Colombia screening for severity of suicide rating.

The Coordinator stated that there are two open positions on the board, with emphasis of experience of insurance work and being a licensed Nevada clinical psychiatrist or psychologist, or provider that who has experience with patient of Mental Illness (MI), substance abuse with alcohol or drugs, and that recommendations should be sent to the Coordinator.

The Coordinator briefed the return from CITT for trainers with Ms. Haskins, and how it is run for law enforcement, first responders, and veterans was well understood and needed. The Coordinator stated the importance for Law Enforcement to start implementing processes to be modeled after.

The Coordinator summarized that the [NVBH.org](http://NVBH.org) website is updated with resources, information, publishing, opioid use disorder data, substance use disorder data, mental health related for all ages, and mental health crisis hold.

The Coordinator commented on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) updating their [findtreatment.gov](http://findtreatment.gov) resource, and how it was built for those seeking treatment for mental and substance disorders for easier access to services, treatments, and facilities. The Coordinator ended with the expectation for coordinators to put on a day training for Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association's quarterly conference at the end of June in Ely, Nevada with more information to follow.

9.) Informational: Local Behavioral Health Taskforce updates regarding mental health and substance use/opioid concerns, initiatives, trainings, data reports, successes, and gaps in their area. (Board Behavioral Taskforce appointees)

Behavioral Taskforce Board Representatives/designees:

- **Carson – not briefed.**
- **Churchill – not briefed.**
- **Douglas – Daria Winslow:** Ms. Winslow discussed that there was a small but mighty group for NACO, where Dr. Amy Hyne-Sutherland assisted with

community needs assessment to assess gaps in services to mimic Lyon County. Ms. Winslow updated the progress of One Nevada agreement being worked on and the prevention and intervention to help write a grant, Resilient Nevada.

- **Lyon – Shayla Holmes:** Ms. Holmes stated that there was an increase in the comfort of staff to talk about suicide with the training being given. Ms. Holmes discussed the task force meeting, went through priorities, and came up with actual items to move forward. Lastly, Ms. Homes prioritized the preparation for floods for the most vulnerable.
- **Storey – Erik Schoen:** Mr. Schoen commented that the biggest concern right now is weather, with Virginia City having a great amount of snow but nowhere to put it. Mr. Schoen also discussed that due to the impact of snow, residents had nowhere to go, causing mental health to deplete. Ms. Schoen stated that Lockwood was a major concern for flooding and with contingency plans made, there was still a major concern of the worry that both inflation and weather have the community about what is to come.

**10.) For Possible Action: Discussion/Approval of Future Agenda Items.**

The Coordinator, Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, briefed that both AB237 and AB210 to be heard, and opened discussion of the board members if there are any bills to add to the list.

Dr. Amy Hyne Sutherland suggested the following of SB 118.

Senator, Dr. Robin Titus discussed that the next few weeks were going to feel hot and heavy from Legislation.

Ms. Shayla Holmes stated the importance of AB 265, for the creation of a Statewide Mental Health Consortia.

The Coordinator suggested and summarized the addition of AB 201, AB 237, AB 265, and SB 118; with discussion a potential presentation for opioid needs assessment statewide.

Sherriff Furlong motioned to approve the suggested future agenda items, Shalya Holmes second the motion with none opposed. Motion carried.

**12.) Informational: Next meeting is on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 2:00 PM until adjourned.**

**13.) 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. Public testimony under this agenda item may be online, by phone or by written comment. Due to time considerations, each individual offering public comment will be limited to not more than three (3) minutes.

The Coordinator introduced a new Southern Behavioral Health Coordinator, Mr. Mark Funkhouser, who had started within the last month.

Mr. Funkhouser introduced himself and explained that Lincoln, Esmeralda, Mineral, and Nye County were the counties he would be working directly with. Mr. Funkhouser stated that he has a background in juvenile and criminal justice and probation in Indiana for the past 23 years, as well as

experience with child welfare courts and juvenile courts around the country, and experience with Pure Recovery and community health.

Kathryn Bervin-Mueller introduced herself as the new Department of Education State Behavioral Health Coordinator, with excitement to see what the future holds for her time in this position.

**14.) Adjournment (Dr. Ali Bannister, Vice Chair) 3:12 pm.**

Erik Schoen motioned for adjournment, Sherriff Furlong second the motion with none opposed. Motion carried.

**AGENDA POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:**

4600 Kietzke Lane Suite I-209

4150 Technology Way, Carson City, Nevada

On the Internet at [dphh.nv.gov/Boards/RBHPB/Board Meetings/2018/northern-regional/](http://dphh.nv.gov/Boards/RBHPB/Board%20Meetings/2018/northern-regional/)  
and the Department of Health and Human Services Website [www.listserv.state.nv.us](http://www.listserv.state.nv.us).

and at Nevada Public Notices: <https://notice.nv.gov/>

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to call into the meeting. In the event the Zoom application has technical difficulties, The meeting may be conducted by teleconference from the same location. If special arrangements are necessary, please notify Cherylyn Rahr-Wood at 460 Kietzke Lane I-209, Reno, Nevada 89502 or by calling (775)827-4770 up to three days 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](http://www.listserv.state.nv.us/cgi-bin/wa?HOME).

If you need supporting documents for this meeting, please notify Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, Northern Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator, at (775)827-4770 or by email at [cherylyn@nrhp.org](mailto:cherylyn@nrhp.org)