
**NORTHERN REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD
REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 20th, 2022
1:00 pm to Adjournment**

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 – Nicki Aaker (Co-chair)

Members: Shayla Holmes, (Co-chair), Nicki Aaker (Co-chair), Laura Yanez, Erik Schoen, Sheriff Furlong, Taylor Allison

Shayla Holmes, Nicki Aaker, Laura Yanez, Erik Schoen, and Taylor Allison were present.

2. Kelly Marschall from Social Entrepreneurs stated that she wanted to thank Jessica Flood Abrass for her work in the Northern Region and for the state of Nevada.
3. Jessica Flood Abrass presented on the Regional Behavioral Health Authorities concept, reviewing a presentation that the Board had received in a prior meeting just to get all the members on the same page. She reviewed the history of mental health system change in the US that occurred in the 1960's during de-institutionalization, that led to many states developing community based mental health through local mental health centers also known as local authorities. Nevada has had "community mental health programs" in NRS 433C since the 1960's but did not develop them. Jessica reviewed the issues and gaps in Nevada's system that may be created by lack of local oversight of the mental health system, and the benefits that could come from development of local infrastructure.

Erik Schoen asked about other models that are seen nationally. Jessica stated that she and Taylor reviewed all 50 state models and provided that document they had created.

Valerie Cauhape, Rural Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator, stated that she thought stakeholders in the rural region may be supportive of regional authorities in order to have increased accountability for behavioral health providers operating in the region. Valerie stated that there could be some good opportunities in partnering with universities and public health partners.

Laura Yanez stated that she had experienced local mental health authorities in Oregon, and that the accountability oversight was a strong asset in their county.

Teresa Etcheberry, from Clark County Social Services, stated that she had worked for a local mental health authority in Oregon, and had experienced the transition of the state having the authorities oversee Medicaid managed care contracts. She stated that this oversight required much work and that they were not adequately funded for the task.

4. Nicki Aaker asked Jessica Flood Abrass to review NRS 433C with proposed changes that the subcommittee could consider. Jessica reviewed NRS 433C with proposed changes and noted that the proposed changes were not meant to be seen as formal recommendations for change, but more to demonstrate how the law could be updated.

Erik Schoen stated that before the subcommittee considered a problem statement or key stakeholders to involve, the subcommittee needed to learn more information about behavioral health authorities. The members of the subcommittee said they would review the 50-state behavioral health authority overview and identify aspects of models that could be helpful for Nevada to consider in development of authorities.

Shayla Holmes stated that it would be helpful to see three models of authorities for the Northern Board to consider. Jessica Flood Abrass said she could work with Shayla and Taylor Allison on this.

5. The subcommittee decided to schedule another meeting, potentially on June 10th. Jessica Flood Abrass said she would work on developing an agenda and scheduling that meeting.
6. This agenda item was tabled for the next meeting
7. ***Adjournment***