
**NORTHERN REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 2022
2:00 pm to Adjournment**

1. Call to order/roll call

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m.

Members Present: Dr. Ali Banister (Vice-Chair), Dr. Robin Titus, Laura Yanez, Nicki Aaker, Lana Robards, Shayla Holmes, Dr. Daniel Gunnarson, Dr. Amy Hyne-Sutherland

Members Absent: Taylor Allison (Chair), Heather Korbolic, Sheriff Ken Furlong, Erik Schoen, Sandy Wartgow (all were excused)

Staff/Guests Present: Trey Delap, Group Six Partners; Jimmy Lau, Tyler Shaw, Ferrari Reeder Public Affairs; Miranda Branson, OpenBeds; Vanessa Perrigan; Peter Ott, Bristlecone Family Resources; Jennifer Matus, Chicanos Por La Causa; Evin Dudley; Chrissy Reinholz, Carson Valley Medical Center; Rae Schott, J'Amie Webster-Frederic, Jennifer Tongol, Abigail Hatefi, Dawn Yohey, Cody Phinney, Joan Waldock, Division of Public and Behavioral Health; Gina Flores-O'Toole, Ridge House; Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, Office of Suicide Prevention; Lea Case; Michelle Bennett, Clark County; Gina Zink; Wendy Whitsett, Health Plan of Nevada; Michelle Moen; Marianne McKown, Vitality; Carin Hennessey, Division of Health Care Financing and Planning; Elyse Monroy, OpenBeds; Jackee Steward; Michelle Kirkland

2. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

3. Review and approval of minutes from January 6, 2022

Dr. Gunnarson moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Yanez seconded the motion. The motion passed without abstention or opposition.

4. Update on Northern Region Behavioral Health Housing subcommittee and discussion of next steps

Dr. Hyne-Sutherland announced the subcommittee has scheduled its first meeting. They will submit their recommendations to the Board. Ms. Flood Abrass announced that Kirsten Coulombe, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, will make a presentation on 1915(i) waivers. The waiver has flexibility to provide support to people in housing an hour a week to up to 24/7 and will be available in Nevada in the next year. The Corporation for Supportive Housing has worked with states across the nation. They have established best practices and can help lay out what has been done and what Nevada might do. Ariana Saunders, from that organization, will also make a presentation.

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5. Review of Northern Board Annual Report and develop and vote on Board recommendations to be included in report

Ms. Flood Abrass went over data from [Safe Voice](#) and the [behavioral health survey](#). She noted the priorities in the report are still relevant, but they have not been updated for 2022. She stated Safe Voice is a Nevada Department of Education reporting system that tries to capture reports of threats of student well-being. It looks at bullying, cyberbullying, suicide, abuse, and neglect. Ms. Rahr-Wood said she spoke with the head of Safe Voice who mentioned students are struggling again, and the operators manning the phone and text lines are hearing higher crises more often recently. Even the operators are reaching out for help.

Dr. Hyne-Sutherland suggested adding a question to the behavioral health survey to determine how many respondents were professionals, working in community-based services, and how many were community members. Ms. Flood Abrass noted the prevention coalitions distributed the survey. She will suggest they add that question.

Ms. Flood Abrass reviewed the draft [2021 Northern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board Annual Report](#). She updated strategies and recommendations based on Board discussion on the topics of infrastructure development, affordable and supportive housing and other social determinants of health, behavioral health workforce, development of a regional crisis response system, and development of services to support continuity of care. Ms. Holmes reminded the Board they determined to compare the data they receive with Board priorities to determine regional gaps; the Board can then advocate for what would fill the gaps. They discussed the value and the funding mechanisms for certified community behavioral health clinics (CCBCs) and assertive community treatment (ACT) teams and shared their concerns regarding access to care, particularly for youth services. Ms. Flood Abrass suggested they re-review the annual report at their next meeting.

6. 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.

Ms. Flood Abrass reported the [Hospital Guide to Youth Mental Health Crisis Holds in Nevada](#) and the [Parent's Guide to Youth Mental Health in Nevada](#) were developed as a result of the Board's bill draft request in the last legislative session. She pointed out Dr. Gunnarson is the Board's connection to the Statewide Crisis Hold Workgroup. The Northern Board's legislation clarified youth mental health crisis holds, resulting in the creation of the hospital guide. Parents and family advocates did not want the information together because they were concerned about frightening parents and having overutilization of mental health crisis holds. To prevent that, they created the parent's guide. The frequently asked questions portion came from Nevada's youth experts. Nevada's Department of Education sent the guide to the schools.

Ms. Flood Abrass announced the Nevada Mental Health Crisis Hold and Involuntary Treatment Summit to be held March 7 and 8, 8:00 a.m. to noon. It is free of charge and available online. She asked the group to send her feedback on the [draft agenda](#).

7. Update on progress of Northern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board Next Steps document and discuss agenda items for future meetings
Ms. Flood Abrass pointed out they already went through their priorities.

8. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.