

**NORTHERN REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD
REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTHORITY
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
JULY 12, 2022
12:00 PM to ADJOURNMENT**

Note: Agenda items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration, and or removed from the agenda at the Co-Chairperson's discretion.

- 1.) **Call to order/roll call** - Co-Chair, Nicki Aaker
Meeting was called to order.

Members present:

Nicki Aaker, Co-Chair
Shayla Holmes, Co-Chair
Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, Coordinator
Taylor Allison
Laura Yanez
Erik Schoen

Members absent:

Sheriff Kenny Furlong

- 2.) **Public Comment**
No public comment was given.
- 3.) **Informational:** Review and discuss the proposed Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) concept. Board members participating on RBHA subcommittee and Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator.

The subcommittee discussed NRS 433C to propose changes to the wording and modernize its content.

Co-Chair Nicki Aaker began the discussion with recapping the previous meeting topic on concepts. Ms. Jessica Flood and Ms. Taylor Allison were going to research various concepts to see which ones will work with Nevada.

Ms. Taylor and Ms. Flood worked on an Analysis of Local/Regional Behavioral Health Authorities across the United States for 2022 and broken down each state's module into categories and types to see which one would be best compatible with Nevada. This presentation can be found on the state website at

https://dpbh.nv.gov/Boards/RBHPB/Board_Meetings/2018/northern-regional/.

Co-Chair, Shayla Holmes stated she found several states that are interesting. She thinks the way Nebraska operates their Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) division is the most interesting.

Mr. Erik Schoen sees twelve states that have very good programs and agrees with Ms. Holmes that Nebraska along with Connecticut have the best templates. Mr. Schoen expressed concern about the amount of time it would take to develop this program. He believes the board could not get it developed before September 1 for the 2023 Nevada Legislature meets. Mr. Schoen believes at least a year would be devoted to working through this.

Co-Chair Holmes responded to Mr. Schoen by stating that NRS 433C allows for Behavioral Health Authorities at a county level. NRS 433C was offered as a solution to regionalization when counties were trying to be involved with the Crisis Now Network and how to insure a local response. NRS 433C allows the ability to do this but smaller counties do not have the ability to fund the 10 percent match required under NRS 433C. Legislation already exists in regard to an authority concept. They were originally going to look at this to edit and give NRS 433C enabling language that would allow for regionalization as opposed to it being county based. Ms. Holmes recommended amending existing legislation to allow a regionalization concept while continuing to work towards what the structure would look like. Ms. Holmes believes the subcommittee can do this by September 1.

Secondly, groundwork has been done with the necessary counterparts and partners which showed strong interest. Ms. Holmes believes the work necessary to go forward is not out of the question if this is the direction the board wants to go.

Co-Chair Aaker inquired if there was other language that needs to be amended.

Ms. Allison responded, other states have very broad language enabling room to negotiate. Ms. Rahr-Wood has a document that was just created. Ms. Allison suggested that Ms. Rahr-Wood share it with the committee in draft form as a starting point. Ms. Allison also stated the Nebraska model has governing boards for their local or regional authorities which complements the structure Nevada already has in place.

Co-Chair Aaker wanted to know if the other regions are interested in changing the language as well.

Ms. Allison responded the Washoe County and Clark County Boards are interested in this and are willing to have the Northern Regional Board do a pilot to see how it will work. Their largest concern is if there would be any unfunded mandates. Ms. Allison stated as long as reimbursement is not compromised at the local level, funding should be o.k.

Co-Chair Aaker addressed Ms. Allison with the concern that once the chapter opens, language would be added in and asked if there has been conversation about this.

Ms. Allison had not heard of any concerns. She suggested they take a look at the current NRS 433C to see where to begin work on it. Ms. Allison also recommended the word “county” be struck out and replaced with “regional” as well as the 10 percent match section.

Co-Chair Holmes stated the only concern she heard from the other boards is the language should be enabling and not mandating. Co-Chair Holmes believes the “including the neighboring county” clause could be eliminated.

Co-Chair Aaker agreed.

Ms. Aaker stated for the purpose of what is being discussed today, it does not specifically need to be on one concept. If the language is broad enough, it can be a concept that works. Ms. Aaker inquired of the subcommittee members if they kept the language generic would they recommend this to the regional board.

Co-Chair Holmes would vote yes.

Ms. Yanez would also vote yes.

Mr. Schoen inquired if this would be written general enough, so we do not need to worry about funding.

Co-Chair Aaker responded by stating if this is open enough, then maybe the Behavioral Health fundings can come through the state to this authority.

Mr. Schoen also asked if this is written broadly enough would the architecture to work the funding flow to the Regional Behavioral Health Authority. Mr. Schoen found in NRS 433C language regarding the funding.

Ms. Allison looked at NRS 433C.210 and recommended the word “may” replace the word “shall”. This will assist in enabling the language that is wanted for this.

Ms. Yanez looked at NRS 433C.240 Charge Against the County.

Co-Chair Aaker would like to see this struck.

Ms. Yanez looked at NRS 433C.300. The board agrees that 1(a) be removed entirely.

Co-Chair Aaker proposed that if Ms. Rahr-Wood finds a document with current updates, she would like Co-chair Holmes and Ms. Allison work through this document and see if anything else needs to be changed. Co-Chair Aaker added she can draft a recommendation for the regional board. If they meet in two weeks, the subcommittee can have recommendations by the first board meeting in August.

Ms. Allison recommended the language be left broad enough to include prevention.

- 4.) **Informational:** Discuss engagement plan including a problem statement, possible solutions, and potential stakeholders. Board members participating on the RHA subcommittee and Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator.

Co-Chair Holmes would like to discuss item four on the agenda at the next subcommittee meeting.

- 5.) **For Possible Action:** Vote to propose recommendations for Northern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board consideration. Board members participating on the RBHA subcommittee.

No vote was taken.

- 6.) **For Possible Action:** Determine date of next meeting. Future meeting dates are subject to change. Board members.

Co-Chair Aaker proposed July 26, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. for the next Regional Behavioral Health Authority Subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Allison motioned to approve the date of next meeting.

Co-Chair Holmes second the motion to approve the date of the next meeting.

Mr. Schoen declared he will not be attending the next meeting.

There motion was approved by the subcommittee board.

7. **Public Comment:**

Ms. Jamie Ross would like the working document that was presented be posted on the state website along with the meeting minutes.

8. **Adjournment:**

Co-Chair Aaker asked if anyone would like to make a motion for adjournment.

Co-Chair Holmes made a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Yanez second the motion to adjourn.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:46.