

RURAL REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD
Humboldt County Library
Conference Room
85 East 5th Street, Winnemucca, NV 89445
MEETING MINUTES
6/22/2022
1:00 P.M. to Adjournment

The meeting was held using remote technology in compliance with Nevada Revised Statutes 241.023.

- 1.) Call to Order/ Roll Call - Chair Fergus Laughridge or designee.**

Members Present:

Chair, Fergus Laughridge
Coordinator, Valerie Cauhape
Senator Pete Goicoechea
Bryce Shields
Matt Walker
Amanda Osborne
Steven Brotman
Sara Dearborn
Dr. Erika Ryst

Members Absent:

Jeri Sanders
Amy Adams
Sean Burke
Brooke O'Byrne

Guests:

Dr. Sarah Hunt
Ariana Saunders
Sarah Adler

- 2.) Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

- 3.) Review and Approval of Minutes from April 27, 2022, and May 17, 2022.**

Mr. Matt Walker motioned to approve the meeting minutes for April 27, 2022.

Ms. Amanda Osborne second the motion to approve the meeting minutes for April 27, 2022.

There was approval from the Board with Steven Brotman abstaining.

Mr. Walker motioned to approve the meeting minutes for May 17, 2022.

Senator Pete Goicoechea motioned to second the minutes for May 17, 2022.

The Board members approved the minutes. Senator Goicoechea, Bryce Shields, Amanda Osborne, and Dr. Erika Ryst abstained.

The motion was passed to approve the meeting minutes for both April 27, 2022, and May 17, 2022.

5.) Taken out of order: Discussion and Approval of the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board's Proposed Bylaws.

Chair Laughridge addressed numerations in the table of contents that are out of order on his copies. They are Article 5, Section 5.3 - Open Meeting Law appears on page 10, it should be on page 9. Article 6, Section 6.6 is not represented in the table of contents. Article 7, Section 7.3 appears on page 11, it should be on page 10. Article 10, Section 10.1 appears on page 12, should be on page 11.

Ms. Cauhape will check the formatting and give Chair Laughridge a correct copy of the Bylaws.

Ms. Cauhape: The Bylaws were modeled after the Norther Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board. There is a difference in Article 7, Section 7.3 on page 7. The board members are given a little more leniency with excused absences.

Mr. Steven Brotman inquired if as a Board, are they covered by liability insurance.

Ms. Cauhape does not think this is an issue because this board does not do direct services.

Chair Laughridge agreed with Ms. Cauhape. This board is advisory only to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Division of Public and Behavioral Health. They will ask legal counsel for direction on this.

Chair Laughridge asked for a motion to approve the Bylaws.

Mr. Walker motioned to approve the Bylaws.

Ms. Osborne second the motion to approve the Bylaws.

The motion was passed unanimously.

4.) For possible action: Discussion and Approval of the proposed topic which is for the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board's Bill Draft Request (BDR) for the 2023 Nevada Legislative Session.

Chair Laughridge explained what this for the BDR is for and the areas it will benefit.

Ms. Cauhape would like to establish a subcommittee to determine which pieces of this model can be incorporated into pieces Nevada already has established.

Dr. Hunt, Assistant Dean of Behavioral Health Sciences at the Kerkorian School of Medicine at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Dr. Hunt gave a presentation on Mental Health Workforce and Education based off the Nebraska Behavioral Health Services Act (BHECN). The Nebraska program had three areas of focus; engage and recruit, expansion of education and retention of professionals through incentives.

Ms. Cauhape would like to make this statewide and incorporate this program with programs already in existence in the State of Nevada.

Dr. Ryst inquired if psychiatrists can be included in this program.

Ms. Cauhape confirmed that yes, psychiatrists will be included.

Mr. Brotman wanted to clarify the approval would be to adapt this a proposal of the BDR.

Ms. Cauhape replied this would be the general topic for the BDR they want to put forward. At the August the subcommittee meeting, they will refine this.

Dr. Ryst asked Chair Laughridge if there should be a motion given on this.

Chair Laughridge asked for a motion going forward on the proposed topic and formation for a subcommittee for the BDR.

Dr. Ryst motioned for the approval of both items.

Mr. Brotman Second the motion for approval.

Chair Laughridge declared the motions passed unanimously.

Chair Laughridge further explained, only 2 - 9 people need to be on the subcommittee and asked for volunteers. There are two public volunteers, Camilla Bywaters and Renee Mayo. The other volunteers are Chair Laughridge, Valerie Cauhape, Dr. Erika Ryst, Mr. Steven Brotman, Dr. Sara Hunt, and Lori Yanez. Kendra Gibson asked for more information.

- 6.) **Informational:** Nationwide Rollout of the 988 Crisis Hotline and Efforts Across Nevada to Prepare for Implementation and Bolstering Crisis Response. Presented by Kendall Holcomb, Public Information Officer, Nevada Department of Health, and Human Service, Division of Public and Behavioral Health - Nevada Resilience Project or designee.

Kendall could not present at this time. Chair Laughridge will submit PowerPoint slides explaining the 988 Crisis Hotline. This presentation can be found on the state website at https://dpbh.nv.gov/Boards/RBHPB/Board_Meetings/2018/Rural_Regional/.

- 7.) **Informational:** Supportive Housing - An Opportunity for Nevada to Bridge Gaps and Improve Patient Outcome. Presented by the Corporation of Supportive Housing (CSH), Ariana Saunders, Training Center Associate Director.

The corporation of Supportive Housing (CSH) is a national non-profit organization that supports communities that are most in need or have the most barriers in attaining housing. This includes affordable housing plus services and is defined as someone paying more than 30% of their annual income and can go as low as zero percent depending on the individual circumstances. They assist in several ways, training and education, lending, policy reform and consulting and technical assistance. This presentation can be found on the state website at

https://dpbh.nv.gov/Boards/RBHPB/Board_Meetings/2018/Rural_Regional/

Chair Laughridge asked how we can adapt this model to rural Nevada.

Ms. Saunders responded by stating the rural areas are not a priority jurisdiction and is not going to get all the funding from U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) or American Recovery Plan (ARP) dollars. Ms. Saunders continued saying that communities with multiple jurisdictions or other departments get together, collect their resources to identify ways to build supportive housing.

8.) Informational: Presentation of Upcoming Opportunities to implement Supportive Housing in Rural Nevada. Presented by Sarah Adler of Belz and Case Government Affairs, representing the National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI).

Ms. Adler gave a PowerPoint presentation on Revenue Streams to Create Housing for the Lowest Income Nevadans. The concern is housing for people who have severe mental illness and for the low-income population. Their goal is to create a Nevada based pot of money to act as targeted subsidies, create multiple forms of housing for many types of residents.

Ms. Adler explained how the housing finance system works. There are finance tools, and financing stakeholders which include non-profit and for-profit housing programs. Ms. Adler further explained the annual finance process. One item that falls under this heading is Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP). Ms. Adler stressed that if we want to see movement on affordable housing, more people in Behavior Health must get involved with QAP. Ms. Adler presented three solutions. One, provide money grants from the American Recovery Plan (ARP) to non-profit developers of permanent supportive housing and housing for low-income residents. Two, provide a commitment to project based rental assistance voucher. Three provide for supportive services. NAMI proposal is increasing the Real Property Transfer Tax to twenty-five cents per every \$500.00 of the sales of homes, warehouses, conference centers etc. (property transfers). This could generate 10, 12, 15 million dollars a year.

This presentation can be found on the state website at https://dph.nv.gov/Boards/RBHPB/Board_Meetings/2018/Rural_Regional/.

Ms. Adler addressed Chair Laughridge's question from the previous presentation regarding how this can be adapted for the rural regions. Ms. Adler stated there would be where there is an established community based Behavioral Health Centers providing a wide range of services including targeted place management such as in Elko and Fallon. Ms. Adler believes they can do a match up, for example ten units and a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC). The smaller rural communities could do this with telehealth but would still need targeted place management. NAMI is contributing to PEERS, enabling a layer of workforce to supportive housing.

Ms. Adler credits Senator Goicoechea when he said that if a Nevada based subsidy fund is created, there should be dialogue with rural Nevada about what would be eligible uses

of the fund that might be different from urban Nevada. Ms. Cauhape agreed that rural housing unit needs would be much smaller.

10.) Board Member Round Table: There was no additional information given.

11.) Public Comment:

Cherylyn Rahr-Wood spoke about the NAMI update on the Teen Texts. This program launched May 16, 2022. In two weeks, there were 2,000 texts, and there were 306 calls. All 306 calls were from youths that did not have their own phone. The hours of operation are seven days a week from 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The breakdown of the types of issues teens texted or called in are as follows; 9.37% anxiety and depression, concerns about their sexuality LGBTQ+ queries, 4.69%, bullying 3.13%, mental health issues 54.69%, family relationships 14%. This is being received and working very well.

Karen Oppenlander, Executive Director for the Board of Examiners for Social Workers, thanked the Rural Board for the letter they sent regarding the continuing concerns regarding the licensure process and identifying potential solutions. The letter was presented to the Board of Examiners for Social Workers President, and to herself. The board president and Ms. Oppenlander took the letter to the board, and Valerie Cauhape attended the board meeting, and read the letter into the board meeting. Ms. Cauhape stayed to answer questions, and essentially opened a process for their board which, will probably be a several month process, where they will work through the ideas, including Dr. Hunts presentation. Ms. Oppenlander stated the board is considering the process it will have to go through to back the BDR that comes out in today's meeting. Ms. Oppenlander encourages the Rural Board to keep the ball rolling so they can collectively to come up with a solution.

Chair Laughridge extended the Rural Board's gratitude towards the Board of Examiners for Social Workers in taking their information and working collaboratively to find a solution.

12.) Additional Announcements.:

Chair Laughridge announced the next meeting will be August 24, 2002. Also suggested the start time change.

Mr. Walker suggested the meetings begin at 1:15 p.m.

Mr. Brotman supported the time change.

Chair Laughridge agreed 1:15 p.m. will be a good time. Ms. Cauhape will change the time on the invitation.

Ms. Cauhape reminded board members to contact her if the members will be late.

Chair Laughridge reminded the volunteers for the BDR, the work begins immediately on this.

13.) **Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.