

Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
April 27, 2022
1:00 PM to adjourn

1. Call to order/roll call – *Chair (Fergus Laughridge)*

Members Present:

Fergus Laughridge (Chair)
Valerie Haskin
Senator Pete Goicoechea
Bryce Shields
Amy Adams
Sean Burke
Amanda Osborne
Brooke O'Byrne
Sarah Dearborn
Dr. Erika Ryst
Matt Walker

Members Not Present:

Jeri Sanders
Steven Brotman

2. Public comment - None

3. Review and Approval of Minutes from March 23, 2022

Motion for approval of minutes and second. Mr. Walker made motion, Ms. Osborne seconded, motion passed.

4. Fergus Laughridge (Chair) - Item tabled until the next meeting.

5. Fergus Laughridge (Chair) - Item tabled until the next meeting

6. Discussion and Approval of the Addition of a May Meeting of the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board to the Board's Approved Meeting Schedule

Motion to approve additional meeting on May 17th at 1:00 p.m. Ms. Osborne made motion, Ms. O'Byrne second, motion passed unanimously.

7. Presentation of Current Nevada Medicaid Reimbursements and Programming for Behavioral Health Services, Specifically Those Servicing Residents of the Rural Region.

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy Behavioral Health – Ms. Sarah Dearborn, Social Services Chief II– Power Point Presentation

Ms. Dearborn's presentation provided 15 resources and websites the public can access and explained the Quadrennial Rate Review and how it effects the rate reimbursement for the various services provided. The department was awarded several grants for opioid recovery. Ms. Dearborn spoke about Senate Bills 154 and 156 and how they allow apply reimbursement coverage for Medicaid.

8. Item taken out of order -Presentations by Behavioral Health Providers Serving the Rural Regions.

Zephyr Wellness presentation – Ms. Angel Littlefield, Clinical Professional Counselor

Ms. Littlefield spoke about the overwhelming number of kids needing treatment. There has been a 50% increase in numbers and most of the children are on Medicaid. There just are not enough clinicians and teachers are overwhelmed.

We are seeing an increase in trauma-based substance abuse, domestic violence, separation & divorce, and financial stress. Very large increase in sexual assaults amongst children. There has been a lack of support from community, i.e., police not questioning minors that have allegedly committed sexual assaults upon other children. Patients who are actively suicidal sent to hospitals by Zephyr Wellness are discharged the same day by the hospital and told to go see their therapist.

Ms. Haskin - Children that are not screened, is it because the parents are not allowing the screening?

Ms. Littlefield- Yes.

Senator Goicoechea - Expressed concern about the increase regarding these issues.

Mr. Laughridge- What referral mechanism does Zephyr have and what age group are they focused on.

Ms. Littlefield - Lovelock has Signs of Suicide (SOS) and Social-Emotional Screening (SCL).

Nevada Health Centers – Patrick Rogers, Clinical Director – Power Point Presentation

Mr. Rogers mentions that we currently have seven health centers in the rural counties, and we have 18 health centers in total across the state. We currently have seven licensed clinical social workers, three licensed social workers, and two care coordinators. We see patients in person and via telehealth, some of the issues we see are with Wi-Fi and internet reliability. Currently we are seeing patients with a lot of stress, anxiety, depression, grief and loss, suicidal ideation, and substance use along

with pandemic trends. Nevada Health Centers are the recipient of Elko County ARPA Funds - \$1.9 million dollars to improve their program.

State of Nevada Rural Mobile Crisis Response Team – Ms. Michelle Sandoval, LCSW– Power Point Presentation

Ms. Sandoval states that most responses are for suicidal ideation with 12–17-year-olds being the largest group. Wait times pre-pandemic were really a struggle. During the pandemic we found lots of providers offering telehealth and services were moving quickly. Post-pandemic, we are experiencing very long wait times again. The website for Children’s Mobile Crisis Response Team [knowcrisis.com](https://www.knowcrisis.com)

The Family Support Center – No Representation

Vitality Unlimited, Vitality Integrated Programs – Marianne McKown, Outreach and Partnership Development Specialist - Power Point Presentation

Ms. McKown stated the purpose of Vitality is to provide transitional living and housing services in rural Nevada, this includes housing for homeless veterans. Vitality received funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and will be purchasing a van to be used as a mobile therapy office which will service all the rural areas. They are seeking additional funding for a new women’s treatment center. Vitality also expressed concern for the wait time for clinician licensure compared to other agencies and states.

William Bee Ririe Hospital – Matt Walker, CEO Power Point Presentation

Mr. Walker has seen a downward trend in suicide ideation and overdoses between 2020 and 2021 but does not yet have current figures to provide. Mr. Walk expressed concern about the difficulties in getting licensed professionals due to the licensure procedure in the state.

Rural Regional Behavioral Health Coordination Update

Valerie Haskin, Rural Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator

Ms. Haskin is working with Aging & Disabilities Services to ongoing multi-disciplinary teams launched to serve each county. ADSD will have these teams for complex cases for elderly and other developmental disabilities also persons with mental illness who may be a risk to themselves or others. This is for persons 18 years and over. Looking into similar services for youth.

A person from Owyhee Health Center reached out with concerns of increase in suicides in their community. Working with Elko, Suicide Prevention and Vitality to come up with a better way to help this community.

Attended a workshop for Student Supervision for Interns hosted by the Marriage & Family Therapy CPC Licensure Board. The Board states if there is no primary supervisor on site, a secondary supervisor needs to be available somewhere in the

community and just a phone call away.

9. Board Member Roundtable Discussion

Ms. Haskin – Elko - There will be a Suicide Prevention Awareness Event held at the Boys and Girls Club 4/30/2022 from 9:00 a.m.to 4:00 p.m.

Winnemucca – Humboldt Connections holding several events during the month of May. Dodgeball tournament with elected officials involved. See their calendar for list of upcoming events in May.

Mr. Laughridge – Fort McDermott – Health Fair to be held 5/14/2022 3:00 – 6:00 – Focusing on mental health issues on and around the reservations.

Mr. Laughridge and Ms. Haskin attended the Governor's Health Care Provider Summit.

10. Public Comment

Laura – We did a drug take back during a Clean Up, Green Up in Elko. After bottles were emptied, we took in 27 lbs. I will be in Ely on 4/30/2022 doing a drug take back. We did not get the grant Valerie and I co-wrote. I am writing some grants and we are going to work on putting several things that we wished for in the one grant into the grants that I'm writing. Matt, you are going to need to give me more letters of support for that. This one has Recovery and Peer and everything we wrote into it, it's not just a substance abuse prevention grant.

Brooke Esquibel, Humboldt County Coordinator - Frontier Community Coalition – Will be at Wrigley's from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. with Sgt. Martin for the National VEA Take Back Day. I will also be training in McDermott on May 23, 2002.

11. Additional Announcements

Next meeting will be on 5/17/2022 at 1:00 p.m. Location TBA.

12.

Meeting adjourned 3:33 p.m. 4/27/2022