

---

**Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**DATE MAY 17, 2022**  
**1:00 PM to adjourn**

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

**Members Present:**

- Fergus Laughridge (Chair)
- Jeri Sanders
- Matt Walker
- Sean Burke
- Brooke O'Byrne
- Steven Brotman
- Sarah Dearborn

**Members Absent:**

- Senator Pete Goicoechea
- Bryce Shields, Amy Adams
- Amanda Osborne
- Dr. Erika Ryst

**Staff/Guests Present:**

2. Public comment

Ms. Lawrence: Good afternoon, my name is Rhonda Lawrence. I'm with the Division of Children and Family Services. I'm an infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist, Clinical Program Manager overseeing the clinics in Reno and Las Vegas and, I was happy to meet Valerie (Haskin) and be able to talk with her a little bit about some projects that we have that are statewide, involving infant and early childhood mental the health.

The biggest project that we have right now, is that we are really working towards developing our workforce and spreading the workforce out to the rural areas. We are, I'm working on a project right now with Children's Cabinet to fund an infant mental health association that will bring in an endorsement to the state of Nevada. The endorsement is not; it's a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary endorsement process for any, and all providers working in the birth to six population. And so that includes community health workers, it can include early intervention specialists, people working in childcare, early learning environments, working in the university and then working in clinics doing infant or early child mental health, doing dyadic relationship focused work. And I am happy that we're, able to get it funded and we're getting the association off the ground right now and

---

we're looking to also increase infant and mental health consultation services which are putting in these specialty trained consultants into early learning, pre-school, Head Starts, Early Head Start. To really support children and families in a time and space where you can do so much. And so, I'm glad to be here, was glad to speak with Valerie and I'm glad to meet you all today.

Mr. Laughridge: Awesome Rhonda. Thank you for taking the time to join us today and I think down the road, as it develops out, we'd love to see a presentation from you and your group as to how we can assist you in implementing that in the rural communities.

Ms. Lawrence: I'm happy to do that. Happy to do that.

Mr. Laughridge: My wheels are turning by what I can do with the Head Start Program at my tribe in Fort McDermitt. So, it'll be interesting, and I think the others are in the same boat, so thank you.

Ms. Lawrence: Thank you.

Mr. Laughridge: Other public comment?

Speaker Unknown: Not seeing hands right now.

Mr. Laughridge: Nope? O.k. We'll go onto item number three.

**3. Review and Approval of Minutes from April 27, 2021**

Fergus Laughridge (Chair) - Item tabled until next meeting due to minutes not getting out to everyone in time.

**4. Discussion and Approval of Letter Regarding Behavioral Health Licensure and Workforce Concerns to the 2022 Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services – Valerie Haskin, Rural Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator**

Discussion of SB44 what it does, solutions to ease the licensing process. The boards that are most affected are:

The Board of Examiners for Social Workers

The Board of Psychological Examiners

The Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapists & Certified Professional Counselors

The Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselors.

Mr. Laughridge (Chair) seeks motion to forward letters regarding concerns of SB44.

Mr. Walker motioned approval.

Ms. O'Byrne second motion.

Motion passed.

**5. Discussion and Approval of Letters to Licensing Boards Affected by Senate Bill 44 (2021) Regarding Further Concerns Regarding Licensure of Behavioral Health Providers – Valerie Haskin, Rural Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator**

Review of letters for the above-mentioned boards with similar concerns and amending letters if necessary.

---

Motion for approval of letters to be forwarded was passed.

**6. Presentation of the Nationwide Rollout of the 988 Crisis Hotline and Efforts Across Nevada to Prepare for Implementation and Bolstering Crisis Response**

No Presenter –

Mr. Laughridge (Chair) Explained the Crisis Hotline is a call center designed to respond to people in crisis and this will be nationwide July 16, 2022. Mr. Laughridge would also like to have this presented again at the June meeting.

Ms. Haskin will arrange for Ms. Kelly Marshall, Executive Director of Social Entrepreneurs Inc. to present.

**7. Presentation of the Nebraska Workforce Development Model and Possible Solutions for Nevada's Behavioral Health Workforce Shortages - Sara Hunt, PhD, Assistant Dean of Behavioral Health Sciences Director at UNLV – Power Point Presentation**

Dr. Hunt gave a presentation on the Mental Health Workforce and Education. The model she studied was created by Nebraska which is called the BHECN Model. This includes recruitment, incentive, education, and cost. Illinois has adopted this, and Kansas is considering adopting the BHECN model as well. Dr. Hunt strongly encourages Nevada to look at this program and act upon it. Dr. Hunt can be contacted by email [sara.hunt@unlv.edu](mailto:sara.hunt@unlv.edu). This presentation can be found on our website: [https://dpbh.nv.gov/Boards/RBHPB/Board\\_Meetings/2018/Rural\\_Regional/](https://dpbh.nv.gov/Boards/RBHPB/Board_Meetings/2018/Rural_Regional/)

**8. Presentation Regarding the Expanded Use of Peer Recovery Support Specialists within the Nevada Behavioral Health System - National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Western Nevada – Laura Yanez, Executive Director – Power Point Presentation**

Ms. Yanez explained that Peer Support Specialists are people who have had experiences themselves with mental illness and can relate to people that have mental health issues. Peer Support also promotes wellness and recovery along with encouraging responsibility and self-determination. Ms. Yanez asked the board for help to get the word out that they are there for the community and help in recruiting people that may want to work in the area of peer support and/or becoming a Peer Support Specialist. Ms. Yanez can be contacted at (775)-745-3652 or [laura.namiwnv@gmail.com](mailto:laura.namiwnv@gmail.com).

**9. Fergus Laughridge (Chair) – Item tabled until the next meeting.**

**10. Additional Announcements – Valerie Haskin, Rural Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator**

Ms. Haskin is working on workforce developments including topics mentioned in this meeting. Last week she attended training in Los Angeles, CA at the Prevention Tech Center. She will be attending the CIT International in August and the National Academy of States Health Policy Conference in Seattle, WA in September. At next

---

month's meeting she will have someone come and explain in further detail about 988. Ariana Saunders and Sara Adler from the Corporation for Supportive Housing will make a presentation. Next week, Ms. Haskin and Ms. Jessica Flood will attend the Public Health Summit put on by Nevada Public Health Institute. Ms. Haskin announced Ms. Flood is leaving and the position is open if anyone is interested.

**11. Roundtable Discussion - Board Members**

Ms. Dearborn – 115 Demonstration waiver application is currently open for public comment.

Ms. O'Byrne – None

Jeri Sanders – Services for justice involved persons – candidates for Behavioral Health Services, waiting for feedback. Would like to be geared towards Peer Support Specialist funding for education and training for Eureka County.

Mr. Walker – None

Mr. Laughridge – On Friday, there will be an Illuminary Lighting. The health fair at the reservation was well received. Bringing in a substance abuse therapist to the clinic and will help out the therapist already working there.

**12. Public Comment – None**

**13. Additional Announcements**

Ms. Haskin – Next meeting will be 6/22/2022 in Winnemucca at the Humboldt County Library in hybrid format.

**14. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.