
**Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
February 23, 2022
1:00 PM to adjourn**

1. Call to order/roll call

Members Present: Senator Pete Goicoechea, Jeri Sanders, Matt Walker, Amy Adams, Sean Burke, and Amanda Osborne, Fergus Laughridge, Dr. Erika Ryst, Brooke O'Byrne, Stephen Brotman, Sarah Dearborn

Members Absent: Bryce Shields

Staff/Guests Present: Ron Schnese, Karen Oppenlander, Kendall Holcomb, Dorothy Edwards, Abigail Bailey, Kendra Gipson, Wendy Whitsett, Dr. John Packham, Janice Stenson, Brittney Plaisted, Michelle Sandoval, Joan Hall, J'Amie Webster, Miranda Branson, Dawn Yohey, Laura Yanez, Trey Delap, Marianne McKown, Jimmy Lau, Tray Abney, Lea Tauchen, Joan Waldock

2. Public comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Board Members by the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board, as stated in NRS 433.429, subsection 8

- a. **Fergus Laughridge:** "One member who is a health officer of a county or who holds a position with similar duties or, if no such person is available, an employee of a city, county or Indian tribe who has experience in the field of public health."
- b. **Dr. Erika Ryst:** "One member who is a psychiatrist or a psychologist who holds the degree of doctor of psychology, has clinical experience and is licensed to practice in this State or, if no such person is available, a provider of health care, as defined in NRS 629.031, who has experience working with persons with a mental illness or persons who have an alcohol or other substance use disorder."
- c. **Brooke O'Byrne:** "One member who has received behavioral health services in this State, including, without limitation, services for substance use disorders, or a family member of such a person or, if such a person is not available, a person who represents the interests of behavioral health patients or the families of behavioral health patients."
- d. **Steven Brotman:** "One member who represents the interests of community-based organizations which provide behavioral health services."
- e. **Sarah Dearborn:** "One member who represents private or public insurers who offer coverage for behavioral health services or, if no such person is

available, another person who has experience in the field of insurance or working with insurers.”

Senator Goicoechea moved to approve the members. Ms. Osborne seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition or abstention.

4. Reappointment of Fergus Laughridge as Chair of the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board

Ms. O'Byrne moved to approve Mr. Laughridge as chair. The motion was seconded by Ms. Adams. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Review and Approval of Minutes from March 24, 2021

Ms. Cauhape Haskin noted she should not be listed as a member. Mr. Walker moved to approve them with that change. The motion was seconded by Ms. Osborne. The motion passed with those who were not present at that meeting abstaining.

6. Scheduling of Future Meetings of the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board
Members of the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board will decide upon the scheduling of future meetings of the Board through the end of calendar year 2023. She reviewed [meeting dates](#), times, and possible topics for discussion

Senator Goicoechea asked if they would discuss use of American Relief Act (ARA) dollars or Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act money. Chair Laughridge asked if it could be a topic at the March meeting. Ms. Cauhape Haskin noted they would need to determine if they want to speak on behalf of how those funds are used. Senator Goicoechea said the Interim Finance Committee is doling out billions of dollars. Some of the money should be available for the area. Ms. O'Byrne reported the Family Support Center in Winnemucca received funds.

Mr. Walker moved to accept the proposed schedule. Ms. Adams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Rural Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator Update

Updates will be given regarding the activities of the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator since the previous meeting (March 24, 2021)

Ms. Cauhape Haskin worked on an application for the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) notice of funding opportunity for behavioral health in conjunction with stakeholders across the six-county region in the prevention category. She requested around \$750,000 over two years. \$100,000 was for vape detectors for schools and youth-serving agencies. Other parts of the grant include supporting school districts with SOS Signs of Suicide Program or other mental health screening; hiring two community health workers and two licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) interns to work on that project; a series of townhall events mostly in Elko or Winnemucca; Train the Trainers for mental health first aid, youth mental health first aid, and Safe Talk; setting up resiliency training for school-age youth, their families,

and school districts; messaging; and social media campaigns.

She is working with law enforcement agencies to get crisis intervention teams (CIT) running. The Northern, Southern, and Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Boards will be sharing three interns. They are working on resource guides. She is helping with National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) Western Nevada strategic planning. She is working on a multidisciplinary team for Aging and Disability Services that works on complex cases, trying to figure out how to best get people into treatment earlier. The recent Interim Joint Health and Human Services meeting, with a focus on substance use disorder. There will be money coming down from ARA and the opioid

8. Discussion and Approval of the Board's 2022 Priorities

Members of the Board will review and revise the Board's 2021 priorities and will approve its priorities for 2022.

Ms. Cauhape Haskin shared her [PowerPoint presentation](#). She went over available data and some anecdotal information from stakeholders. She reviewed Board priorities for 2021. They discussed possible priorities for 2022. Mr. Walker pointed out the behavioral health workforce is still an issue; if you fix that, you 14:20:00

9. Board Member Roundtable Discussion

Members of the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board will discuss their current activities or concerns related to behavioral health as they are encountered in their respective communities and professions.

10. Public Comment

11. Additional Announcements

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.