
Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board
APPROVED MEETING MINUTES
March 23, 2022
1:00 PM to adjourn

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

1. Call to order/roll call – *Chair (Fergus Laughridge), or designee*
Meeting was called to order.

Members: Fergus Laughridge (Chair), Senator Pete Goicoechea, Bryce Shields, Jeri Sanders, Matt Walker, Amy Adams, Sean Burke, Amanda Osborne, Brooke O'Byrne, Steven Brotman, Sarah Dearborn, and Dr. Erika Ryst.

2. Public comment

Beginning of meeting not recorded.

Ms. Smally suggests that we need to find a way to all work together, and the board to be flexible working with organizations that want to be site approved.

Ms. Elliot states she is working in Colorado working under supervision for clinical License. She has intentions of returning to Elko after Licensure. Ms. Elliot states how difficult it was to leave her home to do this.

Chair Laughridge, assures that this board hears all those who gave public comment, and this is an opportunity for the Licensing board to hear you. This will be shared with legislative committee.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes from February 23, 2022. Minutes approved unanimously.
4. Discussion and Approval of the Board's 2021 Annual Report and Recommendations to the Nevada Governor's Commission on Behavioral Health. This item has been taken out of context.
Presentation Annual Report 2022 by Ms. Cauhape Haskin.
Mr. Walker states that there are 3 LCSWs in Ely and there are certain requirements that allow you to oversee someone. Ms. Cauhape Haskin adds to presentation to say; e. support policy changes that expand the ability of interns to access completely remote supervision, the expansion of intern sites, and expedite licensure processes. Chair Laughridge asks if board members agree with presentation and the amendment. Chair motions to accept the fore mentioned amendment E. The motion passes unanimously.
5. Presentation of Workforce Development Programs and Services Related to Behavioral Health Provided by Nevada Health Corps and the Office of Rural Health, Office of Statewide Initiatives at the University of Nevada, Reno, School of Medicine.

Informational

This presentation will outline the efforts of the Nevada Health Corps and other programs administered by the Office of Statewide Initiatives (University of Nevada, Reno, School of Medicine) to improve the size and quality of the behavioral health workforce in the state.

Mr. Clark introduces himself and states you would be optimal to have people to develop in our local communities. There has been mental health that have been interested in coming to rural Nevada, and there wasn't the infrastructure to put them in. About 30% of people, we educate in medical field come back to Nevada. If we have a residency program, we keep 80%. Our job is to understand our communities and be able to react and be proactive. Mr. Clark is writing a new grant focusing on mental health, opioid addiction and Covid fallout. If there is a way to fund and they qualify, there's a good chance they will be funded. The basic qualifications are.

- Accept all patients regardless of ability to pay
- Acceptance of Medicare and Medicaid
- Needs to be non-profit

Licensed Alcohol, and drug counselors in NV has gone down 60% in ten years. How far to you must go from Elko to see a psychiatrist? Studies show that telehealth services work. Ms. Haskins asks if there are FQHCs sites that are available and what are the requirements of other non-profits (other organizations)? Mr. Clark states that Nevada Health Organization does a lot. We work a lot with Nevada Health Centers. The centers must meet the requirements. Mr. Brotman states they have a few LCWs that are recipients of that funding, and it is primary reason for retaining those people. In rural areas there is a housing crunch, and we were wondering how we could entice these professionals to these rural areas to get their training but also afford housing. Mr. Clark states the housing stipends will not happen under this program.

6. Presentations by Behavioral Health Licensing Boards Regarding Progress in Implementing Regulations Related to SB 44 (2021)

Informational

Ms. Haskins reminds the board the SB 44 (2021), the purpose of this bill was to expedite the process for persons coming to Nevada who are in good standing with out of state licenses to achieve licensure by endorsement such as the providers Mr. Clark mentioned and enable internships to be done remotely. Including the LMS licensure type and some language and was enacted July 21, 2021.

Representatives from the following licensing boards associated with behavioral health treatment will present information regarding current numbers of licensed professionals, average time to licensure from the time of application and supporting document submission, and changes to regulations related to SB 44 (2021 legislative session).

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- a. Presentation from the Board of Examiners for Social Workers (*Karen Oppenlander Presents*) See Presentation

Ms. Lowery states that one of the things we require is that a site has a mental health program, so that the intern has an opportunity to experience and can do individual, group, family, psychotherapy to they have the opportunity to deal with complex diagnosis and assessment. If the agency does not have that in place it does not meet our requirements. Ms. Haskins state that while remote supervision is allowed, they are required to have two different supervisors. One on site and the other not on site, which makes it not fully remote supervision. Ms. Lowery clarifies each post graduate clinical intern will have a clinical supervisor. That person can be remote. We require that an agency has on onsite mental health provider. That person does administrative supervision not clinical, making sure there is someone else in the building. Ms. Haskins states this will create a problem for those organizations that may not be able to have that on site administrative supervisor. Is there any flexibility in type of mental health prover that the administrative supervisor must be? Does it have to be an L.C.S.W.? Ms, lowery states that an M.D., P.H.D., A.P.R.N., M.F.T., C.P.C., L.C.S.W. can do this. Ms. Adams states that in Ely the hospital and rural clinic has limited personnel that can supervise. Soon to finish a master's degree for L.C.S.W., I am looking for alternatives because there is no one else in my office. I would like to brainstorm to get those hours. The local hospital is not taking anyone right now.

- b. Presentation from the Board of Psychological Examiners (*Lisa Scurry or designee*) See Presentation.
- c. Presentation from the Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapists & Clinical Professional Counselors (*Joelle McNutt or designee*)
- SB44 didn't have significant impact for us meant

- Cut our fees in half for Veterans and spouses
- Allow for federal background checks
- Our licensing process for is streamlined 6 weeks
- On website is everything for licensing
- Background check takes longest
- Interns can have remote supervision
- The site does not need approval only the supervisor
- Able to provide telehealth services in state and have a mental health professional for consultation
- Board is preparing language to allow portability of licensure across state lines for interns. Portion of hours from other state will be accepted.

d. Presentation from the Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug, and Gambling Counselors Agata Gawronski speaks

- Not effected by bill as much as others
- Delays is usually because of applicant
- Remote supervision adopted permanently
- Educational barriers and differences in requirements for licensure are #1 challenge.

7. Rural Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator Update

Informational

Ms. Haskin updates w activities of the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator since the previous meeting (March 24, 2021)

- Still gathering information from administrators of inpatient facilities what is their biggest barriers filling beds
- Grants and funding. According to Dr. Woodard, ARPA funds have been allocated. There is funding going to local level.
- One Nevada Agreement. Actual release \$285.2 Million going to Nevada.
 - Funding from multi state settlement with large opioid distributors
 - Agreement with Johnson & Johnson
 - CASAP grant to increase rural county access mitigation it has been allocated.
 - Still money available some going to Resilient NV
 - Funding for evidence-based programs
 - Fund different components from Senate bill 390
 - ACRN will dictate how funds are used
 - Provide some funding to encourage crisis response including mobile crisis teams
 - There is a grand total of 38.77% of that money that is going to local level.
 - Elko Co. getting .64%
 - Eureka Co. getting .14%
 - Humboldt Co. 1%
 - White Pine Co. 1.24%
 - Lander Co. .05%
 - Pershing Co .05%
 - Ely City 1.01%
 - West Wendover 1.82%

Ms. Haskins adds that litigating counties that participated are getting more. Humboldt Co is getting additional 1.23%, White Pine Co, 1.52% and other counties did not participate as litigating counties. There is also a Medicaid Match allocation.

- Elko Co., 3.24%
- Eureka Co., .12%
- Humboldt Co. 1.03%
- Lander Co., .34%
- Pershing Co., .41%
- White Pine Co., .6%

These funds must be used for behavioral health. Ms. Haskins adds that there has been no news of the Prevention application submitted. There was a meeting with Eureka Co. They are looking at something through the court system for transportation services. There is a HERSA Rural Community Opioid Response grant released. Applying for this grant is PACE, CIT, MOST, and the U.N.R Larson Institute. The HDH is using the same template as the NNRH template to gather data regarding suicide ideation, crisis that comes into hospital. Ms. Haskin states that the Regional Board Website is getting flushed out. That is where all the Mental Health Crisis Hold Summit Material will be housed. Aging and Disability Services, working with them and Humboldt General to get something set up for complex cases. ADS can set up that Emergency Multiple Disciplinary Teams which would bring in NAMS and other providers that are covered under statute.

8. Discussion and Approval of the Board's 2021 Annual Report and Recommendations to the Nevada Governor's Commission on Behavioral Health ***For Possible Action***
This item taken out of context.

9. Board Member Roundtable Discussion

Informational

Unidentified Board Member asks about the issues concerning background checks if this could be looked into. EMS background checks are also delayed, and this issue seems to be systemic. Chair Laughride shares that the Paiute/Shoshone Tribe will be working with our Humboldt Community Coalition to do a health fair in May.

10. Public Comment

Ms. Salla Director of Humboldt Co., Juvenal Services, states that her agency is interested in becoming an approved site for LCSWs interns. I was informed that my advanced degree in Psychology with the emphasis in addictions does not count with the Social Work Board of Examiners to become an approved site. Humboldt County Juvenal Services is an approved site from the Board of Examiners for alcohol, drugs, and gambling councilor interns. I have a probation officer who just completed his masters in Applied Behavioral Analysis. We are both certified multi-dimensional family treatment therapist and I am a certified MDFT supervisor. I hold a LADC

license and a LADC supervisor license. I do not have a mental health professional that meets the requirements of the Board of Examiners for social workers on site. This is the barrier. We provide 11-12 hours of onsite evidence-based groups, both psycho-educational and process to our youth involved with the juvenal justice system. We are an improved site for internships both BA and MA through UNR, Great Basin and Purdue Global. We are in the process of opening the first non-secure transitional housing center for youth involved in the juvenal justice system. We have so many opportunities for any individual seeking clinical licensure. Ms. Sala wonders if there is appetite to reform the Social Work Board Licensing process to allow agencies like ours to become site approved without having an LCSW on site full time or a Mental Health Clinician as defined by their regulations. I am willing to work closely with an approved LCSW supervisor to ensure integrity to the program. I am asking the policy board to help support the rural areas by insuring that our future clinicians are not encouraged to leave our community to get their hours.

11. Additional Announcements

Informational

Ms. Haskins announces the next meeting for RRBHP is 4/27/22 at 1. PM
It will be hybrid format and on zoom at the Elko Police Dept. conference room on Silver Street.

12. Adjournment – Chair (Fergus Laughridge)

AGENDA POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- **Department of Health and Human Services Website**
www.dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/Grants/Advisory_Committees/ACPG/ACPG_Workforce_Development_Workgroup/
- **Nevada Public Notices:** www.notice.nv.gov
- **DPBH:** 4126 Technology Way, Suite 200, Carson City NV 89706

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. In the event of videoconference technical difficulties, the meeting may be conducted by teleconference from the same location. If special arrangements are necessary, please notify Rhonda Buckley, Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention, in writing please send to, 4126 Technology Way, Suite 200, Carson City, Nevada 89706 or by calling (775) 684-4081 before the meeting date. Anyone who wants to be on the advisory council mailing list can sign up on the listserv at www.listserv.state.nv.us/cgi-bin/wa?HOME.

If you need supporting documents for this meeting, please notify Stacy McCool, Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention, by email at smccool@health.nv.gov.