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**Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board  
MINUTES  
February 24, 2021  
1:00 PM to adjourn**

This meeting will be held via teleconference only. Pursuant to Governor Sisolak's March 22, 2020, Declaration of Emergency Directive 006 which was extended by Directive 021, the requirement contained in NRS 241.023(1)(b) that there be a physical location is suspended in order to mitigate the possible exposure or transmission of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). Accordingly, all members of the public must participate by using the teleconference number or weblink provided in this notice.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98104631926?pwd=aitnZzBlemF6cFUwbndBd0lUMjhYZz09>

Meeting ID: 981 0463 1926 Password: 076147

Dial by your location [+1 408 638 0968](tel:+14086380968) US (San Jose) [+1 669 900 6833](tel:+16699006833) US (San Jose)

1. Call to order/roll call

Chair Laughridge determined a quorum was present.

**Members Present:** Senator Pete Goicoechea, Bryce Shields, Matt Walker, Dr. Erica Ryst, Fergus Laughridge, Amy Adams, Amanda Osborne

**Members Absent:** Jeri Sanders, Brooke O'Byrne

**Staff and Guests Present:** Valerie Cauhape, Coordinator; Dawn Yohey, Division of Public and Behavioral Health; Stacy McCool, SAPTA; Barret Evans; Jessica Flood; Laura Yanez, NAMI; Lea Tauchen. Abney Tauchen Group; Lea Case, Nevada Psychiatric Association; Karen Oppenlander, Executive Director, Board of Examiners for Social Workers; Lezlie Mayville from Govenors Office of Patient Protection Commission; Betti Magney, Vitality Unlimited; Elyse Monroy, Nevada Overdose Data to Action; Teresa Etchberry, Clark RBHC; Melissa Kennedy, Foundation of Recovery, Tray Abney, Recovery Advocacy Project; Misty Allen, Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention; John Newell, Foundation for Recovery; Karen Smith- Nye County Health and Human Services; Lisa Scurry, Board of Psychological Examiners; Shealene French, Eureka County EMS; Dr. Lynne Smith, Nevada Board of Examiners for Marriage and Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors; Jim Thornton, SMS with the PACE Coalition; Sarah Dearborn, Nevada Medicaid's Behavioral Health Unit; Marilyn Scholl- Suicide Coordinator Reno VA:

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Review and Approval of Minutes from July 21,2020 and January 27, 2021

Bryce made motion and Amanda seconded (minutes approved)

4. Presentation of Board and RBHC 2020 Activities  
*(Rural Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator, Valerie Cauhape Haskin)*

This presentation outlines what we saw in 2020 so that we can set our priorities for 2021.

- Transportation: we had a strong start, but staff attrition has caused pause, low Medicaid reimbursement rates are problematic.
- Medicaid Reimbursement for BH Services: Major hits to state budget from COVID-19 response and mitigation have reduced our progress due to funding. We need to focus on maintaining funding for BH services.
- BH Workforce Development: Working to connect interns with Supervisors. Possible Opportunity to tap into Nevada Health Corps through the Office of Rural Health
- Data Quality and Communication: We are working with the resources we have, to set up for data collection, our largest challenge is because of COVID there is a lack of manpower.
- Board Visibility: Speak about Rural RBHC at every venue or meeting, sharing board activities on social media
- Youth, Elder and Family Services: Advocating for region to access funding. The challenge has been school districts and parental hesitation.
- Veteran Services: Participated in Nevada Governors Challenge to end suicide among service members, veterans, and families.

5. Development and Approval of Board 2021 Priorities  
*(Fergus Laughridge, Board Chair and Valerie Cauhape Haskin, Rural Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator)*

The 2021 focus will be:

- Transportation
- Change Medicaid Reimbursement for Behavioral Health Services to Medicaid/CMS Reimbursement for Behavioral Health Services and maybe shift some focus to tele-med
- Behavioral Health Workforce Development
- Data Quality
- Interagency Communication and Partnership
- Veterans' Services
- Youth, Elder and Minority Services

Dr. Ryst made motion to approve the priorities as presented by Valerie,

Senator Goicoechea seconded (motion was passed)

6. SB 44 and Behavioral Health Legislative Updates  
*(Fergus Laughridge, Board Chair and Valerie Cauhape Haskin, Rural Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator)*

Based on the feedback we received from board members, we would like to:

Remove verbiage: Interim study on the efficiency and effectiveness of BH licensing board processes for licensure

Add: Revisions of language regarding licensure by endorsements for all four BH licensing boards \*will be using altered language from Board of Pharmacy as template

Remove: Language regarding unofficial transcript submission for provisional licensure

Add: Language to reflect provisional licensure pending fingerprinting results

Change: Language regarding NRS from “may” to “shall” grant licensure

Change: Language regarding licensure by endorsement to mandate granting of licensure unless denied for good cause

Add: Codifying in NRS that remote supervision options must be provided for interns

Fergus: Are there any questions or concerns?  
(Hearing None)

Bryce made motion to move forward as outlined by Valerie  
Dr. Ryst seconded the motion (motion passed)

7. Public Comment

Marilyn Scholl: I really appreciate your work, our veterans in crisis situations have a transportation barrier

Karen Oppenlander: We are very supportive of the Rural RBHPB

8. Additional Announcements

Valerie: Our next meeting will be March 24<sup>th</sup>.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.