



# SB 44 Brief Overview, Stakeholder Feedback, and Recommendations

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# This Presentation

- Brief overview of current SB 44 language
- Stakeholder feedback
- Additional data and information
- RBHC recommendations
- Board discussion and possible action

The image features a scenic mountain landscape. The top portion shows a range of blue mountains under a pale, hazy sky. A thick white horizontal band runs across the middle of the image, containing the text. Below this band, the foreground shows more detailed mountain terrain with green and brown patches, suggesting a valley or lower slopes. The overall color palette is dominated by blues, whites, and muted greens/browns.

# Brief Overview of Current SB 44 Language

# SB 44 Objectives

Improve paths to licensure for behavioral health professionals looking to practice in Nevada during non-emergency situations.

Licensing Boards Affected:

- Board of Social Work (NRS 641B)
- Board of Psychological Examiners (NRS 641)
- MFT/CPC Board (NRS 641A)
- Alcohol and Drug Board (NRS 641C)

# Bill Components

## Current:

- Addition of LMSW licensure type for Board of Social Work
- Creation of 6 mo. “grace period” for submission of official transcripts for licensure (all 4 Boards)
- LCB evaluation study of BH Licensing Board processes (all 4 Boards)

## Discussion:

- Amendment to enact more immediate changes to expedite paths to licensure for these professionals

# Bill Components

## Addition of LMSW Licensure

- Majority of bill text
- Requested by Board of SW to assist in the development of interstate compacts for licensure reciprocity
- Also more appealing for professionals practicing at Master's level wishing to come to Nevada
- Anticipating friendly amendment from Board of SW to clarify language they submitted and automatically relicense NV professionals with an MSW as LMSWs.

# Bill Components

## 6 Month Grace Period for Official Transcript Submission

- Will allow for conditional licensure based on unofficial transcript submission
- Basis: timeliness of transcripts being sent by institutions of higher education a problem during COVID, but also before to a lesser extent
- May or may not be necessary
- Fiscal note related here: persons who do not submit their official transcripts in time will be practicing without a license
  - Impact: possible increased local expenses related court and punitive expenses

# Bill Components

## LCB Evaluation of BH Licensing Board Processes

- 3<sup>rd</sup> party evaluation by LCB research division to ID barriers to licensure experienced by applicants
- Licensing Boards must either remove/address barriers or provide evidence to justify their existence
- Basis:
  - Lack of data; largely anecdotal evidence regarding current barriers. Boards claim these issues have been fixed or are necessary for quality.
  - Allows for targeted changes in 2023 session



The image features a scenic mountain landscape. The top portion shows a range of blue-toned mountains under a pale, hazy sky. A prominent white horizontal band runs across the center of the image, containing the text 'Stakeholder Feedback' in a large, black, sans-serif font. Below this band, the landscape continues with more mountain ranges, some with patches of green and brown, suggesting a valley or lower slopes. The bottom portion of the image is a solid dark blue horizontal band.

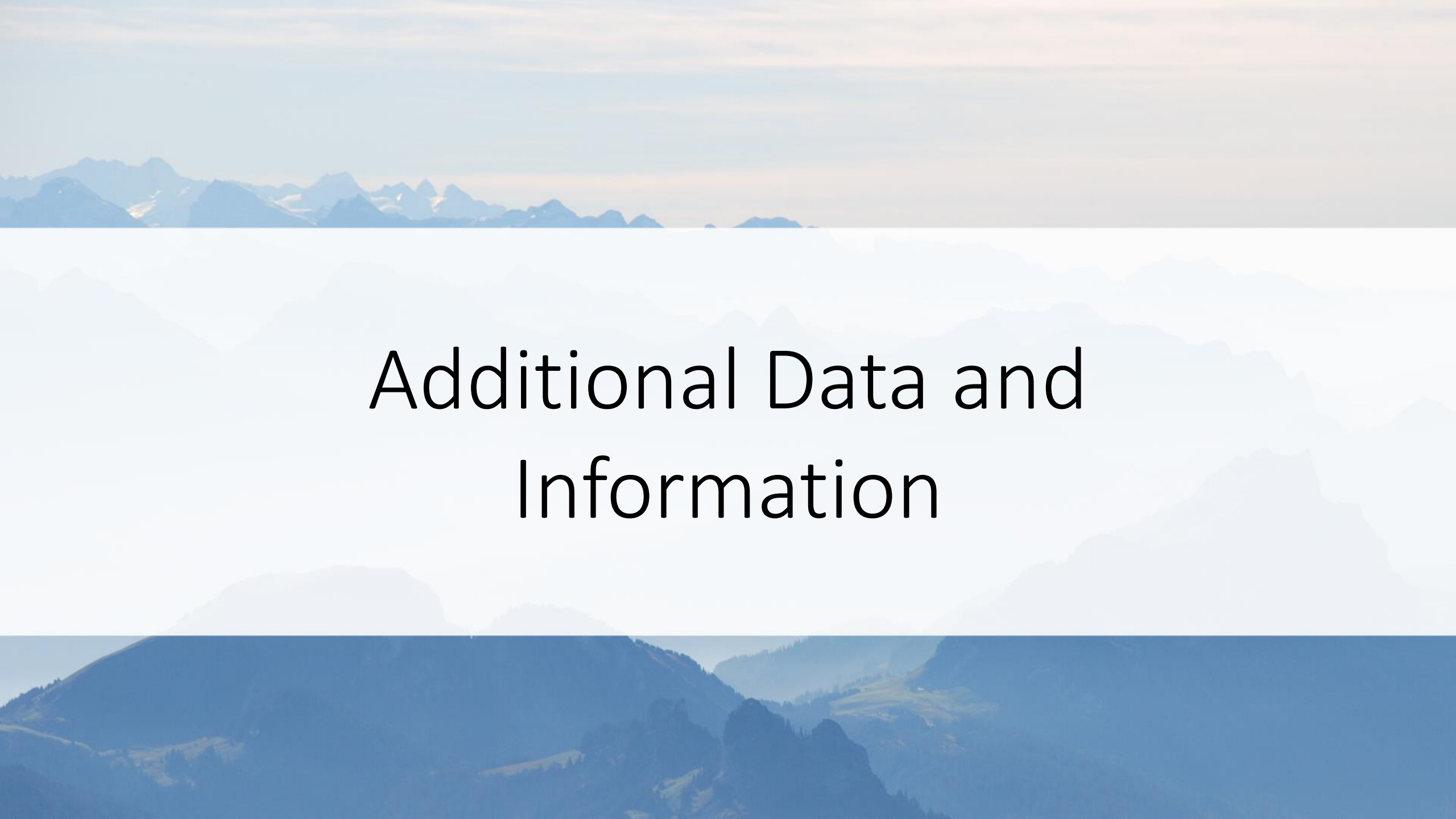
# Stakeholder Feedback

# Stakeholder Feedback

- Expected Friendly Amendment from Board of Social Work to adjust language re: LMSW licensure
- Bill is “not aggressive enough”
- “Grace Period”
  - Unnecessary
  - Fiscal note may raise unnecessary concerns
- Look to other licensing boards who have expedited processes in non-emergency times (Cosmetology, Nursing, Medicine)
- Consider remote supervision options

# Stakeholder Feedback

- Interim Study
  - No action until 2023 – seen as too little, too late
  - Concerns regarding effectiveness of interim studies in past
- Already some mechanisms in place to expedite processes; some stakeholders feel licensing Boards have not done enough to capitalize on these options
- Requests to keep portability on the table for discussion
- Need to consider Medicaid reimbursement related to licensure

The image features a scenic mountain landscape. The top portion shows a range of jagged, snow-capped mountain peaks under a pale, overcast sky. A wide, white horizontal band spans the middle of the image, serving as a background for the title text. Below this band, the landscape transitions into a valley with rolling hills and more mountain ranges, all rendered in a soft, blue-tinted, semi-transparent style that blends into the background.

# Additional Data and Information

# Licensure Data

- University of Michigan, Behavioral Health Workforce Research Center on 1/21/20  
(<https://www.behavioralhealthworkforce.org/tableau-embed-new/>)
  - Study completed 2016-2018, updated with new data annually.
  - Caveats: organized by “occupation”, not licensure type; close, but not necessarily “apples to apples”; more accurate for some occupations than others.
- Consumer complaint data from licensing boards themselves

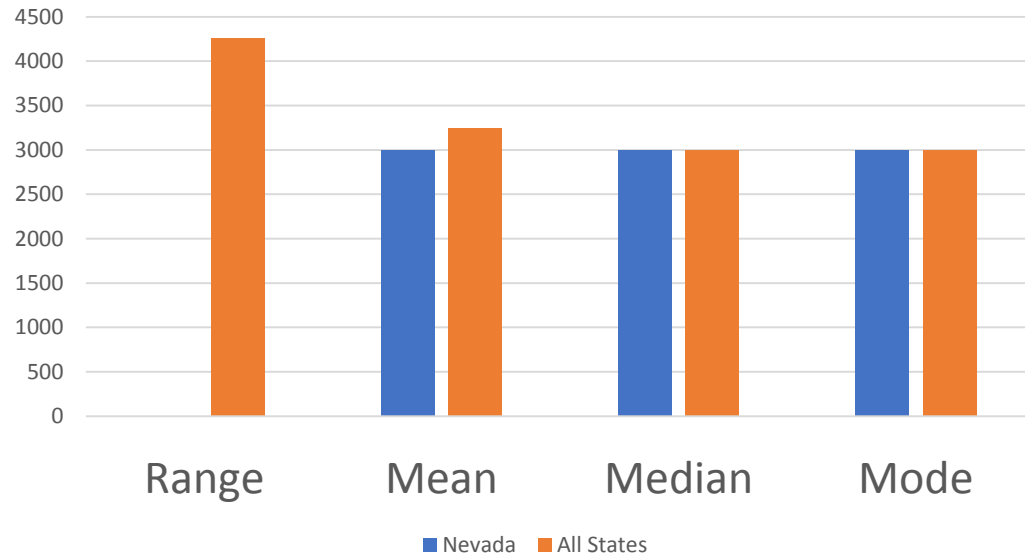
# Licensure Data

- Measures Included:
  - Range: difference between the highest and lowest # of hours required
    - Low range = more consistency; high range = less consistency
  - Mean: average across all reported
  - Median: number that falls in the middle of all
  - Mode: most common number of hours required

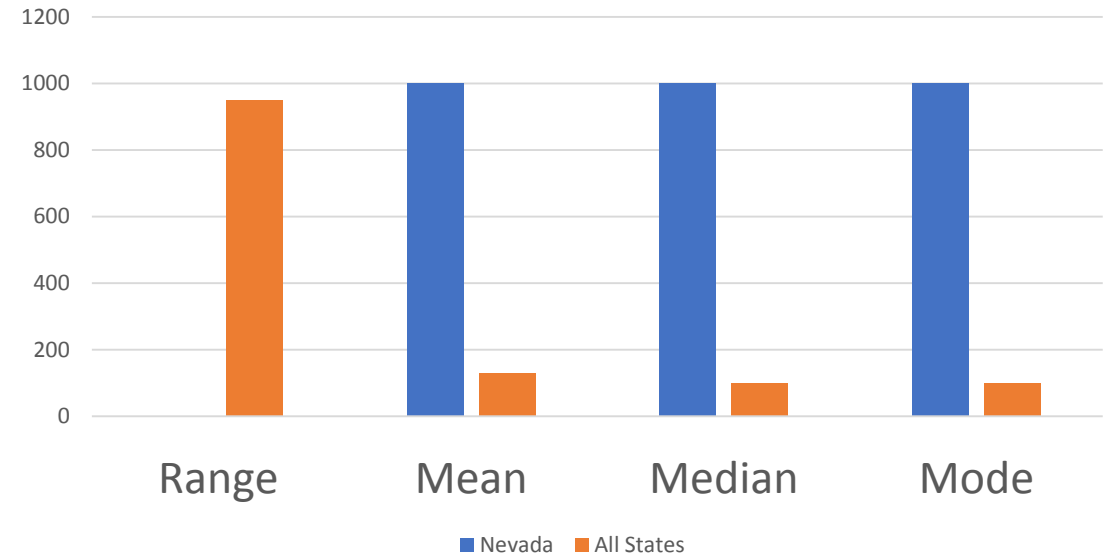
\*This data intended for rough comparison of Nevada vs. all states only. Data cannot be guaranteed accurate.

# Social Work Boards: LCSW Data

LCSW Practice Hours



LCSW Supervision Hours



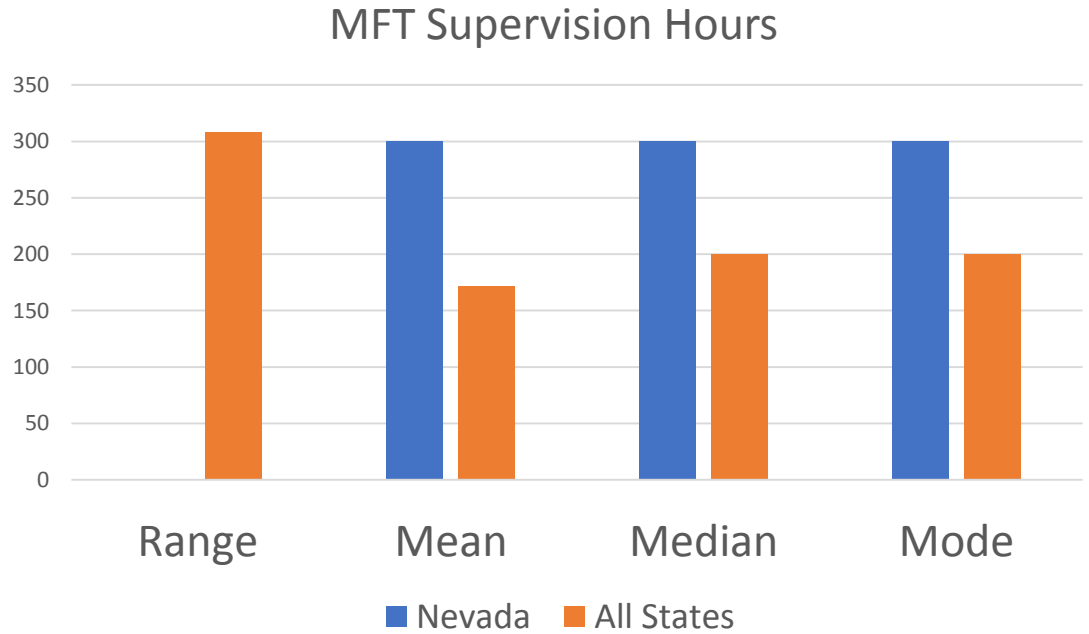
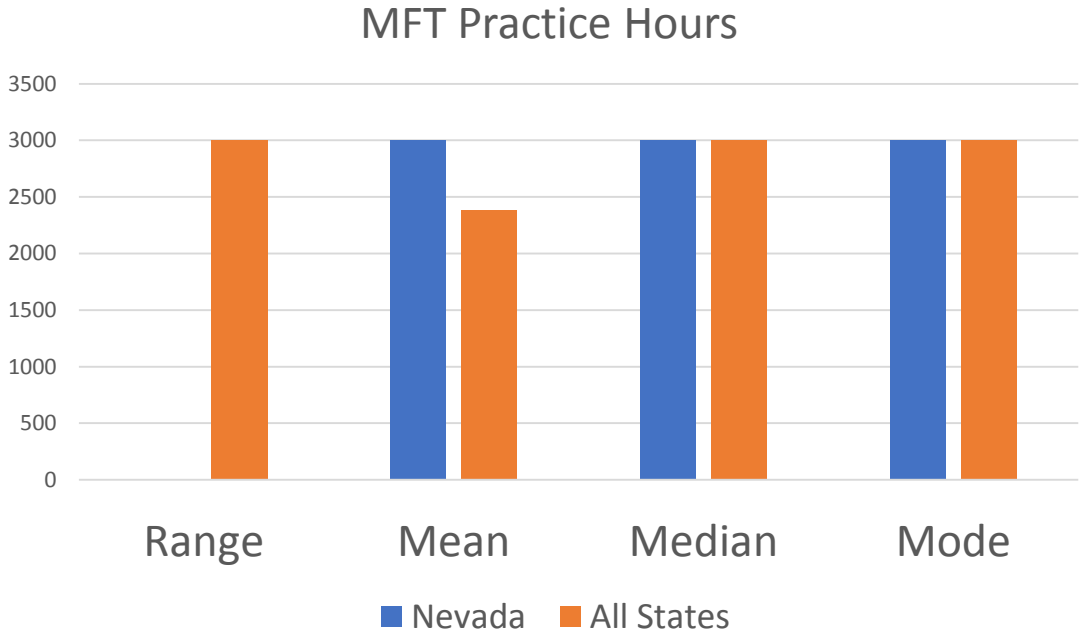
**Total # of Consumer Complaints Since 4/1/20**

4

**# of Consumer Complaints Related to Providers Working Under Governor's Directive 011**

0

# MFT/CPC Board: MFT Data

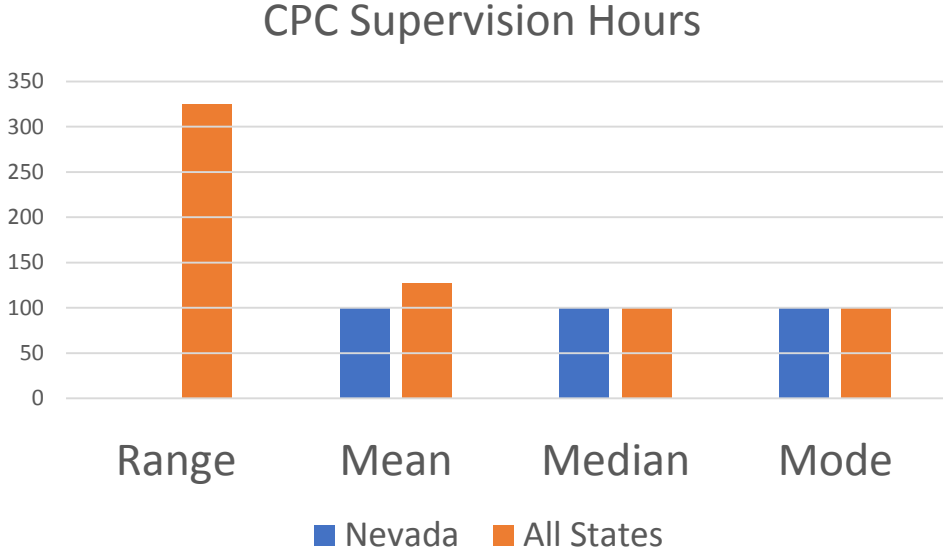
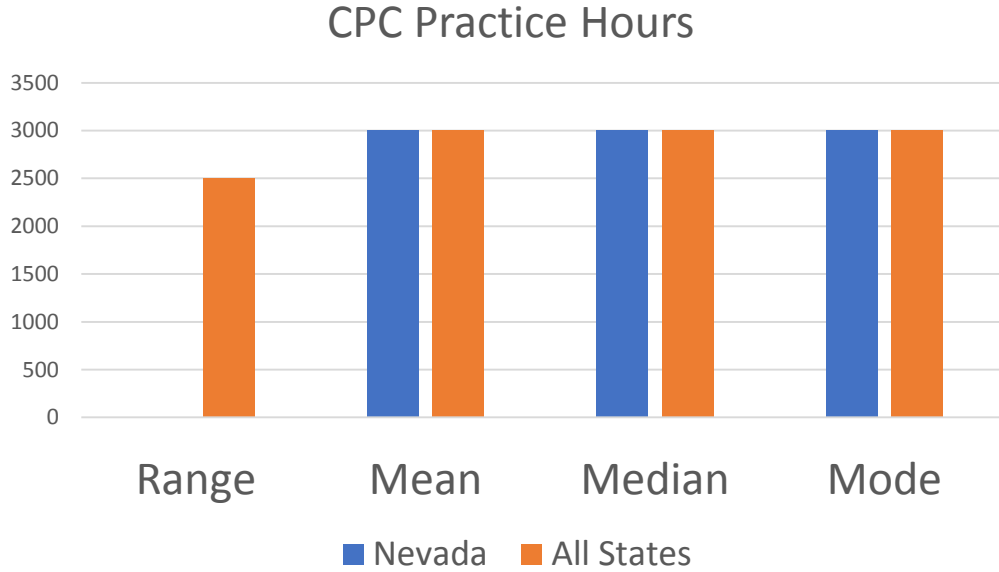


<b>Total # of Consumer Complaints Since 4/1/20</b>
NA

<b># of Consumer Complaints Related to Providers Working Under Governor's Directive 011</b>
NA



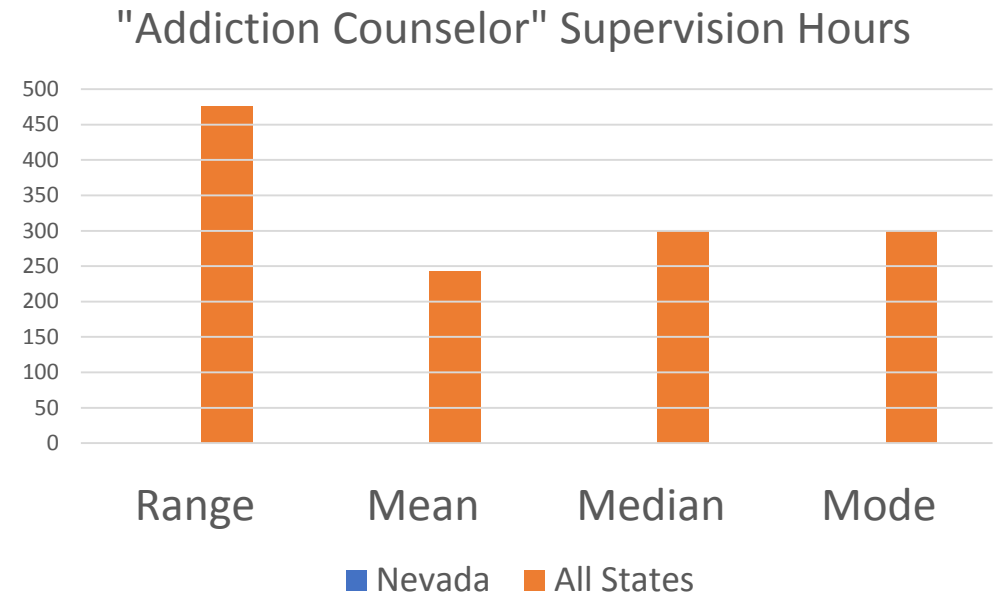
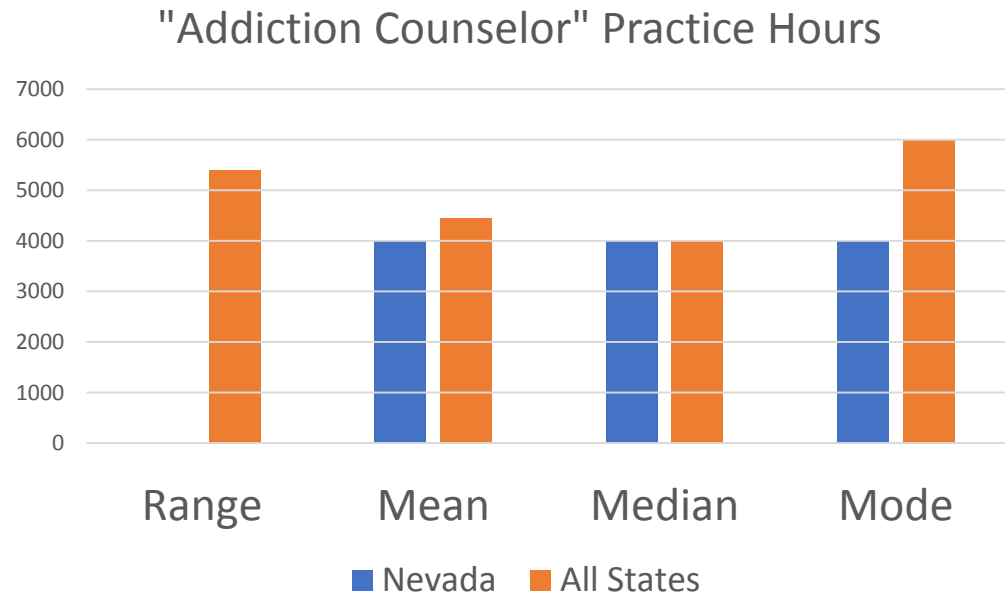
# MFT/CPC Board: CPC Data



<b>Total # of Consumer Complaints Since 4/1/20</b>
NA

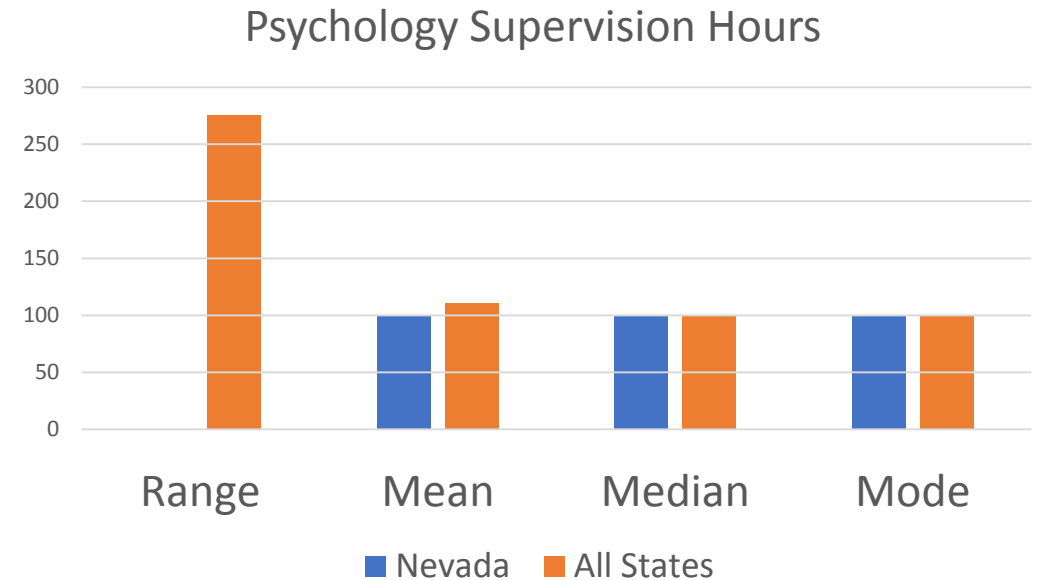
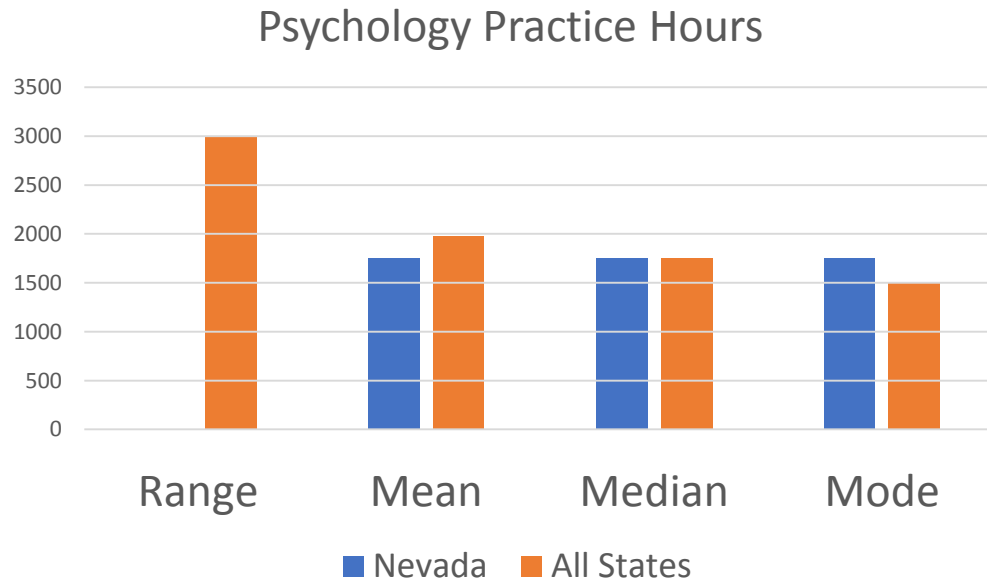
<b># of Consumer Complaints Related to Providers Working Under Governor's Directive 011</b>
NA

# Drug and Alcohol Boards: Drug and Alcohol Counselor Data



Total # of Consumer Complaints Since 4/1/20	# of Consumer Complaints Related to Providers Working Under Governor's Directive 011
NA	NA

# Psychology Boards: Psychology Data



Total # of Consumer Complaints Since 4/1/20	# of Consumer Complaints Related to Providers Working Under Governor's Directive 011
8	0

# Other Nevada Boards Examined

- Board of Cosmetology
- Medical Examiners
- Nursing

# Board of Cosmetology

- Not called “endorsement” per se
- Requirements for NV licensure if licensed in another jurisdiction (NRS 644A.460):
  - 18+ years of age
  - Hold valid license in another state or District of Columbia
  - Of good moral character

# Board of Cosmetology

- Process handled through online platform
  - Improves speed and organization
  - More user-friendly
  - Exec. Director stated this was key
- *Assumed eligible unless information is found otherwise*
- Screen by school graduated; some better than others
- Removed requirement for certification from other state
  - **Cut time to licensure processing from 6 weeks to same day**

# Medical Examiners

- Expedited Licensure by Endorsement and Provisional Licensure Pending Application Approval (NRS 630.1607)
  - Requirements
    - Unrestricted license from another state, D.C., or US territory
    - Is certified in a specialty recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties or the American Osteopathic Association.

# Medical Examiners

- Expedited Licensure by Endorsement and Provisional Licensure Pending Application Approval (NRS 630.1607)
  - Must submit
    - Proof of the above
    - Fingerprints
    - Proof of no convictions of malpractice
    - Proof of they have not been disciplined and not being currently under investigation by their regulating body in another state
    - Affidavit that the information and materials provided are correct.



# Nursing Board

- Expedited Licensure by Endorsement (NRS 632.161)
  - Requirements:
    - Proof of license by another state or D.C.
    - Proof applicant has not been disciplined or investigated by home state licensing board
    - Has not been held civilly or criminally liable for malpractice in the District of Columbia or any state or territory of the United States;
    - Fingerprints
    - Affidavit that information and materials are correct
    - Any other information required by the Board.




# Rural Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator Recommendations

# Rural RBHC Recommendations

- Remove “grace period” for official transcript submission
- Remove interim study
- Identify specific target purpose to move forward with
  - Licensure portability
  - Expedited Endorsement Processes

# Rural RBHC Recommendations

- Also consider...
  - Medicaid reimbursement (for in-person services)
  - Ability to provide tele-behavioral health services (check SB 56)
  - Remote supervision options
  - Other licensing bills out there; work in tandem to ensure they work together

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# Board Discussion and Possible Action