

**WASHOE REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Dec 12th, 2022**

The meeting was held virtually, using remote technology, recorded and in compliance with *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 241.023.

**1. Roll Call, Introductions, Announcements**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Julia Ratti at 3:02 confirming a quorum was present.

Members Present: Julia Ratti (Chair), Sandy Stamates, Steve Shell (Vice-Chair), Dr. Traci Biondi, Peter Ott, Wade Clark, Dr. Kristen Davis-Coelho, Jolene Dalluhn, Cristin Uccelli, Assemblywoman Sarah Peters, Cindy Green

Members Absent: Frankie Lemus, Henry Sotelo

**2. Public comment**

Chair Ratti opened this item. There was no public comment. Chair Ratti closed this item.

**3. Corrective Action: Approval of Policy Board Minutes for October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, meeting.**

Chair Ratti opened this item and turned it over to Dorothy Edwards. Ms. Edwards explained that this corrective action was necessary due to the discovery after the November 14, 2022, meeting concluded of insufficient posting for the meeting. One of the stated posting locations failed to have the agenda posted.

Chair Ratti asked for a motion to approve and a second. Cristin Uccelli made the motion and Sandy Stamates provided a second. There was no discussion and motion passed. Chair Ratti closed this item and opened Item 4.

**4. Approval of Policy Board Minutes for November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**

Chair Ratti asked for a motion to approve November 14<sup>th</sup> minutes. Jolene Dalluhn made the motion and Peter Ott provided a second. There was no discussion and the motion passed. Chair Ratti closed this item.

**5. Overview of Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board Bill: Workforce Development.**

Chair Ratti reversed the order of agenda Items 5 and 6, requesting Valerie Haskin, Rural Region Behavioral Health Coordinator present her Bill Presentation first.

Ms. Haskin provided the Bill Overview (AB37) and Rural Board Chair, Fergus Laughridge reminded participants that this was not a “rural-centric” bill. He stressed the rural board looked forward to coordinating with all the other boards on the legislative priorities and bills, stressing now is the time to focus on the crisis around the lack of behavioral health workforce.

Dorothy Edwards advised a copy of the presentation could also be found at: Nevada DPBH website: [Washoe Regional \(nv.gov\)](http://WashoeRegional.nv.gov) and the Regional Policy Board website: (nvbh.org) as well as upon request.

Chair Ratti opened for questions from the board. Dr. Biondi acknowledged the challenge of workforce development and asked about case studies showing success. Ms. Haskins advised that although Nevada's plan was a bit more unique (broader) in scope and that the Nebraska model focused on Psychiatrists and Psychologists, the increase to numbers was still about one third.

Chair Ratti asked if this plan included faculty. Ms. Haskins advised not yet, acknowledging that they were aware it was an issue and hoping to see it addressed this session.

Chair Ratti opened for questions from the public; there was none. Chair Ratti closed this item.

#### **6. Overview of Northern Behavioral Health Policy Board Bill: Behavioral Health Authorities**

Chair Ratti opened this item and introduced Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, the Northern Behavioral Health Coordinator who provided an overview of the Northern Board's bill (AB9).

Dorothy Edwards advised a copy of the presentation could also be found at: Nevada DPBH website: [Washoe Regional \(nv.gov\)](http://WashoeRegional.nv.gov) and the Regional Policy Board website: (nvbh.org) as well as upon request.

Chair Ratti opened for questions from the board. Dr. Kristin Davis-Coelho asked where the monitoring of Medicaid lived now if this bill was proposing changes. Ms. Rahr-Wood advised it was with the MCOs, but they were looking towards the future.

Jolene Dalluhn asked why the proposal didn't include all insurance companies. Ms. Rahr-Wood explained that currently, it was a matter of funding and seemed the better place to start.

Chair Ratti asked about potential amendments to the bill. Ms. Rahr-Wood agreed they expected amendments and Chair Ratti advised the board would not necessarily take a position until the language of the bill was final.

Chair Ratti opened discussion up for public comment on this item. There was none and Chair Ratti closed this item.

#### **7. Overview of "Our Place" Women's/Family Shelter.**

Chair Ratti opened this item and introduced Kim Schweickert, Human Services Coordinator, Human Services Adult Services who provided a presentation of Our Place Shelter.

Dorothy Edwards advised a copy of the presentation could also be found at: Nevada DPBH website: [Washoe Regional \(nv.gov\)](http://WashoeRegional.nv.gov) and the Regional Policy Board website: (nvbh.org) as well as upon request.

Chair Ratti opened for questions from the board. Dr. Traci Biondi complimented the work that had been done and asked if there were many Medicare aged women in the program. Ms. Schweickert responded that yes, almost half were in the age group.

Chair Ratti also provided compliments of how far the shelter had come, further opening up for questions from the public. There was none and Chair Ratti closed this item.

#### **8. Update on Washoe Behavioral Health Policy Board Bill (AB69): Increasing and Expanding Behavioral Health Workforce**

Chair Ratti opened this item and advised that she and Dorothy Edwards met with the State Treasurer, who has a similar bill to AB69, to discuss similarities, differences, and approach. We will continue to watch both as they move through next steps in the legislative process. Chair expressed satisfaction with the bill as it was currently written and advised continued update and discussion as necessary throughout session. There were no follow up questions and Chair Ratti closed this item.

#### **9. Update on Washoe Region Crisis Response System Implementation Plan**

Chair Ratti, Dorothy Edwards and Vice Chair Shell all advised that there were no significant updates to the Crisis Response Plan. It is believed to be getting closer as the State finishes up necessary steps/process for the lease. There were no follow up questions and Chair Ratti closed this item.

#### **10. Coordinator/Policy Board Updates**

Dorothy Edwards advised she had no updates. Chair Ratti opened discussion for board updates. Vice-Chair Shell announced he was developing the Behavioral Health & Addiction Association of Northern Nevada which will engage behavioral health and addiction professionals with networking opportunities, advocacy planning/coordination and resource sharing/development. More information will follow.

Chair Ratti reminded the participants of the upcoming conference in January, Improving Community Response to Individuals Behavioral Health Challenges. Information can be found at <http://nphf.regfox.com/improving-community-response-Summit>. Chair Ratti closed this item.

#### **11. Discussion/Approval of Future Agenda Items.**

Chair Ratti asked if there were items of interest the Board might like include in future agenda, noting that we hoped to hear an update from the CARES campus. Sandy Stamates advised she would like to hear an update on 988 and Dr. Biondi asked for an update on Well Care, now known as Washoe County Health.

Dorothy Edwards advised she would work on that for the next meeting. Chair Ratti closed this agenda item.

**12. Future Meetings.** Chair Ratti opened this item and suggested the board think about whether they wanted to postpone/limit their upcoming meetings during the legislative session. The Washoe Policy Board always exceeds the number of statutory meetings, normally meeting each month. There was no vote on this; just a general consensus to discuss as we move closer to the

February start date of the legislative session. There was no further discussion and Chair Ratti closed this item.

**13.** Chair Ratti opened Public Comment. There was none.

**14.** Chair Ratti asked for anything further from board and hearing none, adjourned the meeting at 4:37.