

# WASHOE REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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 3:27 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, Cindy Green

Members Absent: Assemblywoman Sarah Peters

Chair Ratti apologized for the delayed start and confirmed with DA Herb Kaplan that the meeting was still in compliance with OML, even though starting late. DA Kaplan confirmed in the affirmative.

## 2. Public Comment.

Chair Ratti opened the meeting for public comment. There was none.

## 3. Minutes Approval.

Chair Ratti asked for a motion to approve December 12, 2022, meeting minutes. Sandy Stamates made a motion and Peter Ott seconded the motion. Chair Ratti asked for any discussion. There was no discussion and the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

## 4. Presentation: Crisis Support Services.

Chair Ratti introduced Rachelle Pellissier, Executive Director, CSSNV, and advised she would be presenting on the current status of the Call Center, including data from the call center since the rollout of the 9-8-8 system, on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Ms. Pellissier presented her PowerPoint, which can be found on [Washoe Regional \(nv.gov\)](https://www.washoeregional.nv.gov).

Chair Ratti opened up questions to the policy board first, for Ms. Pellissier. Sandy Stamates asked about calls transferred from 9-1-1 decreasing during the second quarter and asked if there were really less 9-1-1 calls. Ms. Pellissier advised she couldn't really answer that and wasn't sure it could be answered, unless by the PSAPs. In the past, the PSAPs did not distinguish the types of calls (mental health/suicide/etc.). She thought they had started doing that recently and Sandy Stamates advised hope that numbers were decreasing which Ms. Pellissier acknowledged.

Dr. Biondi asked if Ms. Pellissier was able to determine the resolution of calls, who or how many

were resolved or transferred to higher level of care. Ms. Pellissier explained their process; they do offer calls a follow up call and are able to deescalate most of them and also provide resources. Their technology is not able to track all of those elements currently.

Steve Shell asked Ms. Pellissier if she had any data before 988, for a comparison analysis. Ms. Pellissier responded that some elements are hard to gather right now but the increase in calls since 9-8-8 is about 25 to 30 percent. She mentioned that they had not been able to increase staff.

Jolene Dalluhn asked about the calls that were not taken; there seemed to be quite a few. Ms. Pellissier explained they roll to one of the 12 national hot lines (Nevada is one also). She also said many are hang ups.

Chair Ratti opened up questions to general public; there were none. Chair Ratti reminded the board that Item 8 would provide some additional context around the Crisis Response System plan.

**5. Presentation Cancelled.**

Chair Ratti advised that the presentation on the CAREs campus had to be cancelled by the presenter, but will be rescheduled

**6. Legislative Letters of Support.**

Chair Ratti reminded the board that previous discussion indicated an interest in supporting AB37, the Rural Region Bill and SB68, the Clark Region Bill. Dorothy Edwards read a draft of the two letters of support which included a brief summary of each bill (also located at [AB37 Text \(state.nv.us\)](#) and [SB68 Text \(state.nv.us\)](#)). Chair Ratti asked if board members had any questions as representatives from both boards were on the call. There were none. Dr. Davis-Coelho made a motion to move the letters forward to appropriate legislative committees; Peter Ott provided a second. The motion passed unanimously. Dorothy Edwards advised those letters would be sent immediately upon adjournment of meeting.

**7. Update on Assembly Bill 69.**

Chair Ratti reminded the attendees that the bill was scheduled for February 16<sup>th</sup> in the Assembly committee on Education and encouraged anyone who wished to do so, to testify in support. Also reminded group that it was Mental Health Day at the Legislature on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

Chair Ratti reviewed the proposed amendment to AB69 which added PreK to the educational group served and added school social workers/psychologists to eligible candidates for the program.

Dr. Coelho asked about inclusion of those professionals who worked with specialty groups. Chair Ratti reviewed the criteria and confirmed the inclusion providing the settings as outlined in the bill were met. Keith Clark confirmed.

Fergus Laughridge, Chair of the Rural Region Board expressed the Rural Board support for AB69.

**8. Update on Washoe Region Crisis Response System Implementation Plan.**

Chair Ratti advised the plan continues to move forward and continues to be a board priority. She reviewed the elements of the plan (someplace to call; someone to respond; someplace to go).

Steve Shell from Renown confirmed Renown is still ready to move forward as the contractor to run the center. Plans with the State are moving forward. Mr. Shell stated he is hoping to receive the lease for the Dini Townsend site from the State this week.

Chair Ratti reminded group that while the Washoe CRS was focused on adult, there was recognition and discussion about the need to discuss Children's Behavioral Health Response in a crisis. There is a group that has begun discussion on this.

**9. Coordinator/Policy Board Updates.**

Dorothy Edwards provided an update on a training for Seniors (Safe Talk). She also reminded the board she was working on the Annual Report and requested any comments or requests for priorities to be sent to her this month.

Chair Ratti suggested Dorothy Edwards send a copy of previous annual report to new members; Dorothy Edwards agreed.

Steve Shell announced the first meeting of the Northern Nevada Behavioral Health and Addiction meeting for behavioral health professionals, went well with great attendance. He will continue to update the group.

**10. Future Agenda Items.**

Dr. Biondi reminded the group about the removal of the DATA waiver requirement and agreed to brief the board on this at the next meeting.

Frankie Lemus provided comment about the CTC closure and the impact on services. Chair Ratti advised we could add that to the next agenda.

**11. Future Meeting.**

Chair Ratti reminded group of next meeting date, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

**12. Public Comment**

Stephanie Brown, Willow Springs advised the group that they had now expanded the ability to serve youth and provided contact number: Willow Springs Center Outpatient Services 775-284-4717. Ms. Flores from Ridge House advised they now have an IOP program.

**13. Adjournment.**

Chair Ratti again apologized for the delay in the start of the meeting and adjourned the meeting at 4:49