
**WASHOE REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
September 13, 2021
3:00 p.m. to Adjournment**

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

1. Roll Call, Introductions, Announcements

Members Present: Julia Ratti (Chair), Steve Shell (Vice Chair), Assemblywoman Sarah Peters, Char Buehrle, Sandy Stamates, Dr. Kristen Davis-Coelho, Cindy Green, Dani Tillman, Wade Clark, Frankie Lemus, Henry Sotelo

Members Absent: None

Staff/Guests Present: Dorothy Edwards, Wendy Whitsett, Stephen Wood, Morgan Briscoe, Tray Abney, Trey Delap, Lea Case

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. Public comment

There was no public comment.

3. Overview of Board Membership and Status *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 433.429
Ms. Edwards reported that current members desired to remain on the board. The most important duty of members is attendance at meetings, participation, and making sure the board represents and are compliant with the statute as it outlines the representation from different businesses and organizations.

- a. One member who represents the interests of community-based organizations which provide behavioral health services appointed by policy board members – NRS 433.429.8(a)

Current Incumbent and Status: Steve Shell, Vice President, Renown Behavioral Health—position still current. He is also serving as the vice-chair. He has indicated his desire to remain on the board.

- b. Legislator appointed by Legislative Commission – NRS 433.429.6

Current Incumbent and Status: Assemblywoman Sarah Peters—reappointment letter submitted. She has indicated her desire and willingness to continue on the board.

- c. Representative of Criminal Justice System appointed by Speaker of Assembly – NRS 433.429.3

Current Incumbent and Status: Henry Sotelo, Attorney, Reno Municipal Court—reappointment letter received. His term ends September 2023.

- d. Representative of Law Enforcement appointed by Senate Majority Leader – NRS 433.429.4

Current Incumbent and Status: Lt. Wade Clark, Reno Police Department—reappointment letter received. His term ends September 2023.

- e. Representative of emergency medical services (EMS) appointed by Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) Administrator – NRS 433.429.7(c) Cindy Green, Reno EMS—reappointment letter received. Her term ends September 2023.
- f. Representative of hospitals, inpatient services appointed by DPBH Administrator – NRS 433.429.7(a)
Current Incumbent and Status: Char Buehrle, Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO), West Hills Hospital—reappointment letter received. Her term ends September 2023.
- g. Administrator or Counselor employed at substance use disorder (SUD) treatment facility appointed by DPBH Administrator – NRS 433.429.7(b)
Current Incumbent and Status: Dani Tillman, CEO, Ridge House—reappointment letter received. Her term ends September 2024.

4. Reappointment of Board Members

For the following areas of representation identified in NRS 433.420 outlining how Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board members are appointed, and by whom:

- a. Representative of Health District appointed by policy board members – NRS 433.429.8(c)
Candidate and current incumbent: Julia Ratti, Director of Programs and Projects, Washoe County Health District
Ms. Stamates moved to reappoint her. Ms. Tillman seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Chair Ratti abstained.
- b. Representative of interests of transitional housing or other housing for behavioral health (BH) appointed by policy board members - NRS 433.429.8(b)
Candidate and current incumbent: Frankie Lemus, BH Program Coordinator, Washoe County Human Services Agency
Assemblywoman Peters moved to reappoint him. Mr. Sotelo seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Mr. Lemus abstained.
- c. Rep. of family receiving BH services; advocate of families appointed by policy board members - NRS 433.429.8(f)
Candidate and current incumbent: Sandy Stamates, Family Advocate
Chair Ratti moved to reappoint her. Dr. Davis-Coelho seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Ms. Stamates abstained.
- d. Psychologist with clinical experience with experience in BH appointed by policy board members - NR/S433.429.8(d)
Candidate and current incumbent: Dr. Kristen Davis-Coelho Chief Behavioral Health Officer/Psychologist, Northern Nevada HOPES
Ms. Tillman moved to reappoint her. Mr. Lemus seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Dr. Davis-Coelho abstained.

5. Nomination and Discussion of Representatives for Current Board Vacancies

- a. Representative of insurers/insurance appointed by policy board members – NRS 433.429.8(e)

Previous Incumbent: Thomas Zumtobel, Renown. He resigned his seat as he has retired. Chair Ratti asked members to send names of qualified candidates to Ms. Edwards and her.

- b. Representative of delivery services in BH appointed by Governor upon recommendations submitted – NRS 433.429.5

Previous Incumbent: Jennifer Delett-Snyder, Executive Director, Join Together Northern Nevada (JTNN)

Ms. Delett-Snyder resigned from her position at the prevention coalition. Chair Ratti explained this seat can be filled by anyone involved in the direct delivery of behavioral health services—someone working for an agency delivering behavioral health services, a behavioral health professional, or any other delivery of behavioral health services. "Behavioral health services" includes mental health and substance use services. She asked if the board would like to narrow that. Ms. Tillman suggested some who are working with medication-assisted treatment, doing both substance use and mental health co-occurring services. As the region has seen an increase in opiate use disorder, there have been many discussions about its consequences. Medication-assisted therapy is becoming more mainstream and expected as a viable treatment option. Dr. Davis-Coelho suggested adding a private practice provider. Assemblywoman Peters suggested a member of the LGBTQ+ community or a clinical social worker. Chair Ratti asked board members to think about what type of representation they would like to see on the board, then submit recommendations. She would like to see a provider with a health equity lens in their practice.

Ms. Edwards read Ms. Delett-Snyder's resignation letter.

6. Approval of Minutes for April 2021 and July 2021 Policy Board

Ms. Stamates moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion/Approval of Future Agenda Items

Ms. Edwards stated Senator Cortez Masto's office can provide a legislative update. Mr. Shell will provide a presentation on the Renown/University of Nevada, Reno affiliation at the January meeting. Ms. Edwards said other topics requested are updates on managed care organizations, Medicaid, the status of crisis stabilization. Chair Ratti confirmed Senator Cortez Masto's staff will present at the October and there will be a brief update on the crisis stabilization project. The November meeting will include a representative from Medicaid who will talk about what is happening with behavioral health and managed care organization (MCO) contracts

and/or representatives from MCOs. A report on medical school training on health equity cultural diversity will be given at a meeting next year. Mr. Shell suggested an overview on workforce development from Dr. John Packham.

Upcoming meetings will be held on October 18, November 8, and December 13.

8. Public Comment

Ms. Whitsett expressed an interest in applying for one of the vacancies on the board. Chair Ratti asked her to email Ms. Edwards regarding her interest. There was no further public comment.

9. Reminder of Next Meeting Date: October 18, 2021

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.