
**WASHOE REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD
MINUTES
June 13, 2022
3:00 P.M. to Adjournment**

The meeting was held using remote technology in compliance with Nevada Revised Statute NRS 241.023.

1. Call to order/Roll Call – Julia Ratti, Chair

Members Present:

Julia Ratti, Chair
Steve Shell, Vice Chair
Dorothy Edwards, Coordinator
Sandy Stamates
Dr. Kristen Davis-Coelho
Cindy Green
Dr. Traci Biondi
Lt. Wade Clark
Frankie Lemus
Henry Sotelo
Peter Ott

Members Absent:

Sarah Peters, Assembly Woman
Henry Sotelo

Guests:

Dr. Sara Hunt
Dr. Stephanie Woodard

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

3. Approval of Policy Board Minutes for May 9, 2022

Ms. Sandy Stamates motioned to approve the meeting minutes.
Mr. Peter Ott second the motion to approve the meeting minutes.
Motion to approve the meeting minutes was passed.

4. Presentation:

Behavioral Health Education Project, Nebraska by Dr. Sara Hunt, Assistant Dean of Behavioral Health Sciences, Director, Mental/Behavioral Health Training Coalition, Associate Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas

Dr. Hunt presented the Behavioral Health Education Center of Nebraska (BHECN) program as a possible solution to the workforce shortage of mental health professionals, recruitment, cost and improving the licensing process. Dr. Hunt also spoke about the program's conception, who has adopted the program and how it can be adapted for Nevada. <https://unmc.edu/bhecn/>. See slide presentation on our website.

Dr. Kristen Davis-Coelho wanted to know if Nebraska was included in the rankings. Dr. Sara Hunt will get that information.

Chair, Julia Ratti asked if there were any policy pieces that went along with this or is this for appropriation of monies. Dr. Hunt stated the BHECN model provides policy that allows for attainment of goals for recruitment and retaining professionals on a state level.

Chair Ratti expressed concern about the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) budget enhancement. Dr. Hunt explained that funding is not in her scope and could not comment.

Chair Ratti asked what the most important area or way is to start. Dr. Hunt answered that we already have good building blocks such as Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) for recruitment, but more resources are needed for training.

Chair Ratti inquired which of the other boards have shown an interest in this program. Dr. Hunt answered the Rural Board has shown interest. Chair Ratti will provide letters of support if needed.

Dr. Woodard inquired about policy prioritization. Dr. Hunt responded that licensure should be made in a timelier manner as well as telehealth and access to care. Dr. Hunt suggested that recruitment and retention could also look at loan repayment.

Public Comment:

Dr. Davis-Coelho expressed that private practice is stronger than public service because cash pay is more lucrative.

- 5. Presentation:** Nevada Behavioral Health Bill Draft Request Concepts, Dr. Stephanie Woodard, DHHS Senior Advisor on Behavioral Health Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention.

Dr. Woodard gave background and update on the last legislative session.

Legislature passed the Crisis Stabilization Centers Expansion of Endorsement. This allows for designation to General Medical Hospitals statewide as Crisis Stabilization Centers. Funding for this comes from Federal Grants. They are hoping for additional funds from the Interim Finance Committee.

Ms. Stamates inquired if there are any centers in Washoe County. Dr. Woodard responded not yet. Renown was selected but there is incomplete funding to establish a center.

Dr. Woodard continued speaking about Mobil Crisis Planning SBA 390. We were awarded the ACMS Mobil Planning Grant. We are working with the independent company Mercer, to help move Mobil Crisis forward. They will help us identify what provider standards need to look like to meet the criteria that Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has provided to the state to make an enhance federal match.

Dr. Woodard discussed 988. They are working through the regulation process and to establish the fee which will be deposited into the Crisis Response account and hoping to go to the Board of Health with that regulation in September. Dr. Woodard further explained that SB390 requires a fee for 988 Crisis Response to fill any gap in funding.

Chair Ratti wanted to know if anything can be done to enhance Crisis Response. Dr. Woodard stated that establishment of national guidelines to the Children's System of Care is an area that was initially overlooked and should be considered. They are working to have policies in place and establish standards for providers to meet. Ensures to uphold standards and help develop a base line for providers. This will fall within the Division of Child and Family Services.

Dr. Woodard spoke about law enforcement diversion and deflection NRS 458.175 Civil Protective Custody. This NRS provides for detoxification but not standard of care. She believes there is a need to modernize this statute to include the care for individuals that have an opioid use disorder.

Lt. Wade Clark stated the Civil Protective Custody statute addresses alcohol consumption, and public intoxication, only.

Dr. Woodard included AB874 Attorney General Substance Working Group. This is to develop the subcommittee's Prevention and Harm Ward Action. They also will look at treatment, recovery services and response. They have no specific policies yet, but they are working on them.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Board Updates Dorothy Edwards, Board Coordinator

There are still two vacancies that need to be filled. First for Social Services, Behavioral Health. This position is appointed by the Governor. The second position is for a Hospitals and Patient Services Representative. This is appointed by the Administrator. The descriptions for these positions can be found in NRS433.429. If anyone is interested, please submit a resume. The positions run for two years and can be reappointed. The second position was vacated mid-term and will only be last until term expires. At that time another resume must be resubmitted. Chair Ratti stated that if no interest is seen, will actively recruit for next board meeting.

6. Discussion/Approval of Future Agenda Items

Chair Ratti/Vice-Chair Shell

Sara Adler of NAMI will join the July meeting. Dr. Biondi would like to present at the July meeting. The July meeting will be the last meeting for BDR.

Ms. Edwards reminded the Board to submit concept ideas as soon as possible.

7. Public Commit

There were no public comments.

8. Reminder of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place virtually on July 11, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.