

WASHOE REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD

April 11, 2022

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

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

Members Present: Julia Ratti (Chair), Assemblywoman Sarah Peters, Char Buehrle, Sandy Stamates, Dr. Kristen Davis-Coelho, Cindy Green, Dr. Traci Biondi, Steve Shell (Vice Chair), Lt. Wade Clark, Henry Sotelo, Frankie Lemus, Charmaane Buehrle, (joined later), Sarah Peters, (joined later), Kristin Daves-Coelho, Cindy Green, (joined later)

Members Absent: Dani Tillman, Dr. Traci Bioni, Dorothy Edwards

Staff/Guests Present: Dr. Nichole Jacobs, Associate Dean of Diversity and Inclusion U.N.R., Dr. Megan Freeman Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services, Ms. Tyler-Garner

2. Public comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes for March 14th, 2022.

Stacy McCool stated last meeting minutes are not yet available. The next meeting there will be two sets for approval.

4. Presentation on Behavioral Health: Diversity and Inclusion

Dr. Nicole Jacobs, Associate Dean of Diversity, and Inclusion University of Nevada Reno, School of Medicine. Presentation available on zoom recording.

Assemblywoman Sarah Peters appreciates the way they are tracking data, focused on efficacy. She acknowledges the disparity of providers entering fields. She would like to hear more about what they are doing about these barriers and merging into fields. Dr. Jacobs states that a pathway to these programs need to be created, have mentoring programs, and target outreach to the groups that we want to have more representation in. There are national initiatives that we can piggyback onto. The issue is implementing them and making them happen. Assemblywoman Peters agrees that getting those systems into place which not only includes kindergarten education through doctoral education, to career field, but also its important for decision makers at the state level to understand that we don't have the people in those work groups or the mentoring pipeline that are working together or is it funding, or a combination of both? Dr. Jacobs answers that many young people don't have these careers on their radar screen. Dr. Daves-Coelho asks if she has an idea that would be a key barrier that legislature implement. Dr. Jacobs confirms that there is a CEU Diversity requirement that is already in place, that is a nine-hour training through the School of Public Health, on campus (UNR). Training is important as well as the quality. Also increasing the diversity or finding ways of increasing support for those already in the work force. Chair Raitti notes that Members Ms. Green has joined at 3:08. Assemblywoman Peters joined at 3:15 and Dr. Daves-Coelho joined at 3:13.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler wonders what supports our fortitude of professional retention? Dr. Jacobs answers that we have employee resource groups, faculty funding programs, we send people to conferences and sub conferences that are aimed at early, mid, and later careers plus specifics for woman and minority groups. Ms. Flood asks are there any plans to extend the Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Physicians into the community? Dr. Jacobs, conveys that there are a combination of online modules that would be easy to share, and peer led in person experiential exercises that would be harder to share. We have extended those to the PA program. Chair Ratti states that providers who are trained in NV 5 out of 6 will leave. Ms. Jacobs states people usually stay where they do their residency and there are limited residency slots in NV. Increasing the number of slots would hopefully increase people who stay after training and serve our underserved population.

5. Update on Child and Adolescent Mental Health. *Dr. Megan Freeman, Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services.* Dr. Freeman begins her update.

- Putting in a significant number of requests for American Rescue Plan Act Funding for gaps in service array.
- Community based wrap around to catch families earlier with behavioral health needs
- Build out services, respite care, family peer support, wrap around services
- Shift support and services model for children youth and families
- Build out our children's behavioral health authority
- Requesting funding
- Making sure all our special populations needs are being meet
- Building in offices to make sure those needs are being met
- Vision and mission to make sure that the service array is operating the way we need it to.

Dr. Freeman states that there is a focus on school based behavioral health. President Biden has sent a letter to State Governor's tasking them with this focus. School is a wonderful place for behavioral health services because it helps to reduce inequities in access to care. They can receive services discreetly. The problem is that schools receive funding and support to do universal prevention and secondary prevention type activities, they do not receive funding for mental health services. Right now, we are using education dollars for mental health services. We have made changes so that schools can bill for Medicaid. With that hefty match we can reinvest in the school for those who do not qualify for Medicaid. It will serve everyone. We envision a running clinic during and after school hours. We have a lot of ideas but there is work to do. Pershing is doing this. Need to get schools invested. We need to find a good system, training, and policies.

Assemblywoman Peters asks about the implementation of Medicaid in schools if that is bought in by the county or the individual schools? Dr. Freeman answers that it is both. Assemblywoman Peters suggests reaching out to the principles and Assembly members to help find ways to make implementation easier. Plus making implementation easier to get schools onboard. Chair Ratti asks what supports would be recommended? Dr. Freeman answers that it is difficult because everyone is looking for people. If we can think of mechanisms for investing in funding for paraprofessionals, more training in schools or those in training in Mental health this could be a creative avenue. Ms. Tyler-

Garner understands the barriers regarding retention of staff and asks if there is anything else you would call for given the unique time we are experiencing? Dr. Freeman repeats that recruitment in retention of State and County employees, teachers being that teachers are already the most overwhelmed. We are asking them with very little pay to spend hours and hours teaching those who have been home alone. Plus, they buy many of their own supplies. Ms. Tyler-Garner wonders if there has been conversation about intervening early before school age. Dr. Freeman affirms and states that we have just got approved at IFC through DCFS where we would pursue state designation as a train the trainer program. Keeping staff through training and certification.

6. Washoe County Crisis Response System Implementation Plan Update.

Dr. Freeman offers this presentation. Please view recording.

Chair Ratti states we have been working on the planning process as provider agnostically as we have been waiting for funding announcements to know who the providers will be to fill the crisis call hub. The actions of the interman finance committee provided the funding necessary for the state to move forward. In the Mobile Crisis Response state, there have been conversations between the two CBHBC's in Washoe Co regarding their role becoming the crisis response teams that can be dispatched. It is optimistic.

7. Discussion/Approval of Future Agenda Items

(Chair Ratti/Dorothy Edwards)

- Dr. Lawrence Early Childhood Mental Health Presentation
- Have schools talk about what they are doing regarding behavioral health
- Mr. Shell recommends bringing DR. Kim Cole from UNR he has developed the Behavioral Health Collaborative where practicum students and clinical interns will be placed and rotated in the community.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Reminder of Next Meeting Date There was a discussion between virtual or in person. Virtual will be continued May 9th, 2022

10. Adjourn Chair Ratti calls for adjournment. 4:48 PM