

Joe Lombardo
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS
Director



**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Lisa Sherych
Administrator

Ihsan Azzam,
Ph.D., M.D.
Chief Medical Officer

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING AND ADVISORY BOARD (BHPAC)
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
January 11, 2023
9:00 a.m. Until Adjournment

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

1. **Call To Order/Roll Call** - Ali Jai Faison or Designee

Members Present:

Ali Jai Faison, Chair
Ariana Saunders, Vice Chair
Garrett Hade
DeNeese Parker
Dr. Kim Pearl
Dr. Mavis Major
Krista Hales
Jill Fisher
Allison Wall
Misty Shore
Anna Marie Binder
Lori Kearse
French Dafinone

Members Absent:

Jeannie Hau
John Clark
Sean O'Donnell
Drew Skeen

Guests Present:

Fredrick Pilot
Char Frost
Stacy McCool
Marcelle Anderson
Dana Laffey

Guests Continued:

Yessenia Fuentes
Shannon Bennett
Vanessa Dunn
Shannon Scott
Stephanie Cook
Dr. Ruth Condray
Valerie Haskin
Jude Oliver
John R.

2. **Public Comment:**

Ms. Binder stated, at the last Clark County Commission meeting, it was reported, Overton, Nevada has had a large increase of suicides or attempted suicides, in a very short period of time with 57 members of their community attempting suicide and eight being successful. Ms. Binder suggested this can be further discussed at a later time.

3. **Action Item:** Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 25, 2022 - Ali Jai Faison, Chair

Vice Chair Ariana Saunders requested a motion to approve the August 25, 2022, meeting minutes.

Ms. Parker made a motion to approve the minutes from August 25, 2022.

Ms. Binder seconded the motion.

Ms. Fisher, Ms. Wall and Ms. Hales abstained.

The motion was passed by the remaining attending members.

4. **Informational:** Bureau of Behavioral Health, Wellness and Prevention (BBHWP) Update on Program and Fiscal Activities for Current Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) Subgrantees - Dr. Ruth Condray, BBHWP Deputy Bureau Chief, Clinical Program Planner; Stephanie Cook, Substance Abuse, Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA) Health Program Manager

Dr. Condray presented an update on the funding sources administered by the BBHWP, which supports the State's efforts in providing services for mental health and disorders and the categories where they are distributed. Ms. Cook Presented an overview and breakdown of the SAPTA funding and its distribution. Each item on their agenda was broken down by continuous funding and one-time funding. Included in these breakdowns are the beginning funding dates and their expiration dates. For further explanation of this presentation, and to view this PowerPoint presentation, please visit our website:

[https://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/ClinicalBHSP/Meetings/Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council/](https://dpbh.nv.gov/Programs/ClinicalBHSP/Meetings/Behavioral_Health_Planning_and_Advisory_Council/).

Dr. Condray also spoke about the Crisis Response System. Dr. Condray stated, SB390 is the statute where the regulations, fee and other funds for Suicide & Crisis Services are addressed. The fee will have a surcharge of 35 cents. This fee has a projected annual revenue of \$15 million and will begin to be applied in late Spring of 2023. On January 20, 2023, the Board of Health will review the Crisis Response System proposals.

At :50 minutes past the hour, Ms. Webster-Frederick conducted a quorum check.

Members Present:

Ali Jai Faison, Chair
Ariana Saunders, Vice Chair
Dr. Pearl Kim
Garrett Hade
French Dafinone
Jill Fisher
Allison Wall
Misty Shore
Anna Marie Binder
Dr. Mavis Major

Members Who Will Be Exiting Meeting:

DeNeese Parker
Krista Hales

Members Absent:

John Clark
Jeannie Hau
Sean O'Donnell
Drew Skeen

Quorum was met.

Ms. Parker requested a list of providers who have received this funding and are providing services.

Dr. Condray stated a comprehensive list will be provided at the next meeting. The allocation and re-distributing the funds are still being worked on for this funding cycle.

Dr. Major inquired about the program evaluation process, how the money is being used and its effectiveness.

Dr. Condray stated, right now, it is focused on evidence-based programs. However, they are beginning to devote resources and thought, to program evaluation based on clinical outcomes and would like to expand this approach to all programs which are funded.

Chair Faison requested a further explanation of what the Farm & Ranch Stress Network is.

Dr. Condray stated she believes it was COVID related and geared towards expanding mental health and substance abuse services in the rural communities. Dr. Condray will have someone who is involved with the program, provide greater detail and get the information to Chair Faison.

Chair Faison relayed a question from the chat. This person wanted to know what the parameters for funding are.

Dr. Condray stated most of the funding comes from the Federal Government and is restricted to non-profit organizations.

Ms. Shore stated, if anyone goes to the SAMSA website for Nevada, the programs available for children with mental illness, begins at age 15. Ms. Shore suggested tracking the dollars spent for children with mental illness by age group and extend funding out to children of elementary school age.

Dr. Condray stated, the clinical high-risk for psychosis programs will be starting enrollment at 12 years of age. This will probably drop into middle childhood and perhaps even earlier.

Ms. Binder stated that more needs to be done in the state to address the needs of small children with severe emotional distress. As of right now, the services they need are not available in Nevada because Nevada does not recognize the need to help fund programs for these children. As a result, parents are forced to send their child out of state to receive help.

Dr. Condray suggested a way to help this cause, is for families to begin becoming very vocal with the community leadership and with state leadership.

Dr. Major inquired if this report reflects funding for only community base services.

Dr. Condray stated, the funding sources pertain to outpatient base community services.

As some members of the council needed to exit the meeting, and not wanting to risk losing quorum before they left, Vice Chair Saunders moved action items #6 and #10 out of order to enable the council to vote on them.

6. **Action Item and Possible Discussion:** Review and Approve Proposed 2023 BHPAC Meeting Calendar and Discussion of the Mission and Purpose of the BHPAC and its Subcommittees - Ali Jai Faison, Chair

Chair Faison requested a motion to approve the proposed following calendar dates for the 2023, BHPAC quarterly meetings; April 12, July 12, October 11.

Ms. Fisher made the motion for the approval of the calendar.

Dr. Major seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Faison continued with addressing the subcommittees. Chair Faison stated the only subcommittee which has met with consistency is the Promotions Subcommittee. Though the other subcommittees have tried to meet, quorum could not be met, thus postponing their meetings for later dates.

Chair Faison stated, every member of the council should be on one of their subcommittees and strongly encourages everyone to participate in one. When the subcommittees meet quorum, then functionality occurs and puts the committees in a better place to see where the money is going, who is receiving it, and how it is being effectively used in the community. This way, the Council will become a stronger advocate for people with mental disorders.

Vice Chair Saunders stated, having approved the BHPAC calendar, the Council can guide the subcommittees and help them to attain consistent attendance, getting the committees to become more active and to hold the committees accountable or help them build-out and make them more effective.

Ms. Binder stated, she welcomes becoming the Chair for the Legislative Subcommittee. As this is a legislative year, it is imperative for the committee to meet in March to decide what the committee would like to focus on and present this to the Legislature, as April will be too late in the Legislature Session.

At 10:26 a.m., Chair Faison requested a quorum check.
Ms. Webster-Frederick conducted the roll call.

Members Present:

Ali Jai Faison, Chair
Ariana Saunders, Vice Chair
Dr. Pearl Kim
Dr. Mavis Major
Jill Fisher
Allison Wall
Misty Shore
Drew Skeen
Anna Marie Binder

Members Absent:

Garrett Hade
DeNeese Parker
Krista Hales
John Clark
Jeannie Hau
French Dafinone

Quorum was met.

7. **Informational:** 2022 Progress Updates from the Promotional and Rural Subcommittees - Ariana Saunders, BHPAC Vice Chair

Dr. Kim stated the Promotions Committee would like to propose an initiative of a data-driven campaign focusing on the effect on post-pandemic behavioral health in Nevada and requests funding for resources. These resources will help identify targeted areas of behavior health and populations, raise awareness of identified people which have conditions and targets specific populations which are evidenced-based. With evidence-based approaches, they will have a more effective way to promote behavioral health in terms of awareness and risk prevention.

Dr. Major requested permission to move forward with the campaign and to develop a budget to approach the State for support and funding. Chair Major inquired which steps are needed to move forward with this.

Chair Faison instructed the subcommittee to formulate a plan which includes a budget, objectives and goals, and which supporting agencies they plan to approach for additional funding. Chair Faison stated, when this is done, the Council can place it on the agenda as an action item for approval.

Chair Faison requested an update from the Rural Subcommittee.

Vice Chair Saunders stated there are no updates for the Rural Subcommittee.

Chair Faison stated the Rural Subcommittee updates will be placed as a future agenda item.

5. **Informational:** Bureau of Behavioral Health, Wellness, and Prevention's Update on the 988 Program Implementation - Shannon Scott, BBHWP Health Program Manager

Ms. Scott stated, since July, the 988 Crisis Call Center has taken 8,605 in-state calls, 805 texts, and 917 chats, which is a 72% answer rate. The goal is to reach 90%. They are working closely with Crisis Support Services of Nevada (CSSNV) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to build infrastructure, provide training and technical assistance to achieve this goal.

Four counties have begun using virtual crisis care with law enforcement and two more counties are in the process of joining them.

Crisis Support Services is working with entities in both the North and South to establish Crisis Stabilization Centers. They are working on a Request for Information (RFI) and anticipate this will be ready by Spring. This will position them for a Request for Proposal (RFP) in the Summer. The Crisis Services of Nevada provides monthly updates on the 988 program. If anyone would like to be added to the email list, please contact Kendall Holcomb at kholcomb@health.nv.gov.

Chair Faison inquired if all of the providers in the state, have been advised to include 988 for mental health emergencies as well as 911 for medical emergencies on their voice mails.

Ms. Scott stated, Ms. Holcomb is working on this, and marketing, which is a large part of the 90% goal stated above.

10. **Action Item:** Discussion and Vote on Future Agenda Items - Chair Ali Jai Faison

Chair Faison stated, agenda items #8 and #9 will be tabled onto the agenda in April, Dr. Condray will present the list of recipients for the Block Grant Funding, and we will have the follow up with the subcommittees.

Chair Faison requested a motion for agenda items 8 and 9 to be tabled until the next BHPAC meeting in April.

Vice Chair Saunders motioned to table items 8 & 9 until the next BHPAC meeting.

Ms. Shore seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

11. **Public Comment:**

Ms. Char Frost, Chair for the Clark County Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board addressed topics discussed in today's meeting.

Regarding the Block Grant dollars, she encouraged everyone to give emphasis to the health care disparities for the most vulnerable communities, Native American communities especially, as well as the poor and low-income families and how they can best be funded.

Second, in relation to the Youth Substance Use Treatment, the recent Department of Justice (DOJ) Findings Report came out at the beginning of October. The answer is more community-based services so only our kids with the highest level of needs have to go to the hospital. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, the best practice can be achieved by providing not just substance use treatment, but also behavioral therapy, because often, there is so much intersectionality, and kids are self-medicating.

By making sure we encourage families, who are looking for substance use treatment, to try and find a therapist in town, and keep children at home if at all possible and finding a therapist who is dually licensed as a marriage and family therapist and as a licensed professional counselor (LPC), which is another workforce issue, would be really great. By doing this you are going to have better outcomes.

Chair Faison stated, he has participated in both areas Ms. Frost is talking about and agrees with her 100%.

Ms. Frost stated, a lot of the problems with kids in our schools, who have mental health needs, and behavioral health care needs, is the fact the adults don't view mental health as a disability. And I can tell you as an adult with mental health issues and with children with mental health issues, it affects every single area of my life, and their lives. It is not a

choice. We have to start speaking with a unified voice. Behavioral and mental health issues are, in fact a disability.

Ms. Lori Kearse introduced herself as a new board member beginning this past December. As Ms. Kearse is a Credentialed Recreation Therapist, she believes recreation therapy is a great intervention tool and an untapped resource through Parks and Recreation throughout the state. Ms. Kearse stated, when children and families get together, doing these leisure and recreational activities can reduce symptoms of mental illness, anxiety, depression and so forth.

Ms. Binder stated, the Governor's Council recently approved a subcommittee to focus on mental health, and resources, for the African American community and will appear as a discussion item on a future agenda. She also reminded the Council she had requested a discussion on the DOJ's report and believes they are looking into this as they are not quite sure this is in their purview.

12. **Adjournment:**

Chair Faison adjourned the meeting at 11:09 a.m.