

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Richard Whitley,
MS
Director



Cody Phinney,
MPH
Administrator

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

Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention (BBHWP)
Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council (BHPAC) Legislative Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 28, 2024
1:00 p.m. PST until adjournment

1. Call to Order - Anna Binder, Legislative Subcommittee Chair

Chair Binder asked for roll to be completed. Brianna Wesolowski did roll call.

Members present included:

Anna Marie Binder
Dr. Pearl Kim
Lori Kears
Ariana Saunders
Jeannie Hua (joined late)

Members absent included:

Misty Shore

Quorum was met. The meeting was called to order virtually via TEAMS at 1:06 p.m.

2. Public Comment- Anna Binder, Legislative Subcommittee Chair

There were no public comments.

3. Review of Commission on Behavioral Health's reporting requirements per Bylaws and state statute-Informational Only-Anna Binder, Legislative Subcommittee Chair

Chair Binder discussed the current bylaws of the larger council and their role to advise the state, advocate for those with behavioral health needs, and review the allocation and availability of behavioral health services annually. The larger council is also to advise the Governor on an annual basis. She advised she would send the links to Jennifer Simeo regarding the bylaws so members could refresh themselves on these.

4. Discussion of epidemiologic profiles for substance use disorders and addictive disorders- Informational Only-Anna Binder, Legislative Subcommittee Chair

Chair Binder discussed the epidemiologic profiles relevant to behavioral health prevalence data, including a 2022 report and a Synar report. She advised she will send the links to Jennifer Simeo to go over these to post on the minutes so members could review if a refresher is needed.

The following links were provided from Chair Binder to subcommittee members on March 5, 2024:

<https://www.datafiles.samhsa.gov/>

https://dhhs.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dhhsnv.gov/content/Programs/Office_of_Analytics/Bureau%20of%20Behavioral%20Health%20Wellness%20and%20Prevention,%20Epidemiologic%20Profile%20for%20Nevada,%202020.pdf

<https://dpbh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dpbhnv.gov/content/Programs/ClinicalSAPTA/dta/Synar/Final%20FY2022%20Annual%20Synar%20Report%20signed.pdf>

5. Discussion on how to best review relevant behavioral health data and priorities from each Behavioral Health Region and possible future presentations from members of the Regional Behavioral Health Policy Boards- Informational Only-Anna Binder, Legislative Subcommittee Chair

Chair Binder talked about priority setting for the regions, and that there are now six (6) or seven (7) regional reports available. Chair Binder posed the question to the other members, that since they have the rural subcommittee now formed, that she would be comfortable with allowing them to look at the regional policy boards and then reconvene with them to bring their recommendations together.

Ms. Saunders agreed that it made sense to narrow down, and to divide and conquer.

6. Discussion of future agenda items-Informational Only-Anna Binder, Legislative Subcommittee Chair

Chair Binder asked members where they wanted to start their work. Ms. Saunders commented that it might be worth having some behavioral health coordinators come and present what they are looking at from the policy board's perspective and what they see as legislative priorities. She noted that if the coordinator was not available, maybe the Chair could be invited.

Chair Binder agreed. She said maybe requesting a Legislative Council Bureau staff to come and present on current national legislative trends would be good and could guide them on how they can support the state in conjunction with lawmakers. Chair Binder also suggested inviting someone from the Governor's Office to know their priorities and be in tune with the Governor's vision. Chair Binder asked Ms. Simeo how long it would take to get a response from the governor's office. Ms. Simeo advised that there is a representative for the advisory councils that she could possibly reach out to.

Chair Binder proposed having a representative from DHHS to go over the Synar report and someone from SAMHSA to go over the epidemiology data, or whoever is most appropriate. She stated this was her priority.

Ms. Kearse agreed that these items were a good start, to gather information and collaborate to see how best to move forward.

Chair Binder talked about the legislative tracking website and asked this be sent to the members. She said that if the subcommittee couldn't draft formal letters of support, members would be encouraged to comment on legislation on their own behalf.

The following link for legislative tracking was provided to subcommittee members on March 5, 2024:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/82nd2023>

7. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

8. Adjournment-Anna Binder, Legislative Subcommittee Chair

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.