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MS  
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DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC  
and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



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Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention (BBHWP)  
Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council (BHPAC)  
Meeting Agenda  
Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024  
10:00 a.m. PST until adjournment

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

1. Call to Order- Ariana Saunders, BHPAC Vice Chair

Vice Chair Saunders asked Jennifer Simeo to do roll call. Members present included:

1. Anna Binder
2. French Dafinone
3. Jeannie Hua
4. Lori Kearse
5. Dr. Pearl Kim
6. Dr. Mavis Major\*
7. DeNeese Parker
8. Ariana Saunders
9. Misty Shore
10. Drew Skeen
11. Allison Wall
12. Dr. Mae Worthey-Thomas\*

*\*Members logged in a short time after roll call.*

Members absent included:

1. Sarah Dearborn
2. Krista Hales

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

3. Approval of May 6, 2024, BHPAC Meeting Minutes - For Possible Action Ariana Saunders, BHPAC Vice Chair

Ms. Shore moved to approve the minutes. Dr. Major seconded the motion. Mr. Skeen and Ms. Parker abstained. All other members approved. The motion passed.

4. Presentation on Juvenile Justice Services from the Division of Child and Family Services-Informational Only Sharon Anderson, Deputy Administrator, Juvenile Justice Services, Division of Child, and Family Services

Ms. Anderson gave a presentation concerning Juvenile Justice Services within the State of Nevada, Division of Child and Family Services. Presentation highlights included an overview of Nevada's Juvenile Justice Services, the State's Juvenile Justice facilities, Youth Parole services, Program's Office, identified service needs and gaps, and Medicaid expansion benefits. The presentation can be found online [here](#). Ms. Anderson offered facility tours to interested BHPAC members.

After the presentation, members asked questions. Dr. Major asked about the frequency and type of mental health services within the facilities, including group and individual therapy, and how efficacy was determined. Ms. Anderson stated those therapies are provided and are based on assessments and recommendations prior to admission. She stated services are documented and reported out. Ms. Anderson stated she would follow up with efficacy information.

Ms. Binder asked about in-state capacity, what our needs are, and if we are turning kids away to other states. She also asked about the capacity of step-down programs within the kid's community. Ms. Anderson talked about IDD and sex offender treatment not existing in the state and factors including capacity, including limited bed availability and services, as to why some services are provided out of state. Children waiting a long time for needed care can also be sent out of state. Ms. Binder asked for an average of the bed capacity needed so children are not pushed out of the state. Ms. Anderson stated she would provide this information. As to step-down programs, Ms. Anderson discussed that the baseline would be the total children out of state for this service.

Ms. Parker discussed the loss of providers and asked about their provider needs and why we have lost these providers. Ms. Anderson talked about her 18 years of experience in this area and that there had been a mass exodus of providers at one point, and their rationale was low Medicaid reimbursement rates. She talked about sex offender treatment that is no longer available. Ms. Anderson stated she is hoping the state can attract providers back with the new Medicaid changes.

Dr. Kim asked about the average percentage of occupancy for each facility. She also asked about program evaluation and how do they know programming is effective and if they follow juveniles out of the facilities. Ms. Anderson talked about the difference in budgeted and actual capacity, which is tied to the staffing numbers to safely manage youth. She stated that, over the years, bed capacity has decreased which also meant their budget has decreased. Ms. Anderson talked about PREA required staffing ratios which are 1 staff to every 8 youth during waking hours and 1 staff to every 16 youth during sleeping hours. She discussed staffing being an issue, a high priority, and they work on building up their staff every day. Ms. Anderson said there was a slight uptick in employing staff with the pay raises and the facilities use a lot of staff overtime. Dr. Kim asked about risk needs assessment among staff members, to maintain their work and stay in their position. Ms. Anderson talked about Quality Assurance reviews and staff surveys which provides that feedback and why they stay. She stated they also learn different issues that are identified.

Ms. Shore asked about how many kids transition from the facilities back into their school with an IEP for their mental health issues. Ms. Binder also asked about 504s. Ms. Anderson stated she would have

to get this information. Ms. Shore was concerned about youth going back into their schools with adequate supports.

Ms. Binder asked members to coordinate with Ms. Anderson on her offer to tour a facility.

5. Nominations and possible vote for Vice Chair and Chair of the Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council - For Possible Action Ariana Saunders, BHPAC Vice Chair

Ms. Saunders opened the discussion to nominate a new Chair and Vice Chair. Ms. Binder nominated Ms. Saunders to be the next Chair, to which Ms. Saunders accepted. Dr. Kim made a motion. Ms. Kearse seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed. Ms. Saunders is the new BHPAC Chair.

Ms. Saunders then opened the floor for Vice Chair. Ms. Kearse nominated Ms. Binder. Ms. Binder accepted the nomination. Ms. Shore made a motion. Ms. Parker seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed. Ms. Binder is the new BHPAC Vice Chair.

The new Chair and Vice Chair will take their official roles in July.

6. Updates from Chairs of Rural, Legislative, and Promotions Subcommittees on latest meetings, upcoming meetings, and subcommittee work – Informational Only Ariana Saunders, BHPAC Vice Chair

For the Rural Subcommittee, Ms. Wall discussed the presentation they had from Ms. Valerie Haskin from the Rural Regional Policy Board. She also talked about their guest, Ms. Tammy Allen, who discussed her residential program that treats mental health and addiction, and her barriers as a provider. Ms. Binder mentioned Ms. Allen's invitation for members to tour her programs in Las Vegas and Alamo.

Ms. Binder reported that the Legislative Subcommittee had a presentation from Ms. Saunders who provided an update on the Clark County Regional Policy Board, including their identified needs and barriers. Ms. Binder stated these were similar to those they've seen around the state.

Dr. Major turned it over to Dr. Kim regarding the logo and brochure the Promotions Subcommittee is working on. Dr. Kim shared the brochure on her screen, stating she created it from the BHPAC Bylaws, other states, and the previous brochure. Dr. Major advised they were going to make some edits before it was brought back for a final vote. Ms. Saunders stated it could be put on the agenda in July for approval.

7. Discussion of future agenda items -Informational Only Ariana Saunders, BHPAC Vice Chair

Ms. Saunders advised that Steve Shell will be presenting at the next meeting on Renown's new behavioral services including a crisis stabilization center and an intensive outpatient adolescent program. She stated the Treasurer's Office presentation is being scheduled for August. Ms. Binder advised she is working with Ms. Simeo to see about getting Marilyn Kirkpatrick from a patient protection group she sits on to come speak to the group.

Ms. Binder asked about a Mental Health Block Grant update. Ms. Simeo stated there would be an update in July or August at the latest, with the application being due in September.

8. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

9. Adjournment Ariana Saunders, BHPAC Vice Chair

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 am.

DRAFT