

Joe Lombardo
Governor



Richard Whitley,
MS
Director

**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) Legislative Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 22, 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 - Anna Binder, Legislative Subcommittee Chair

Chair Binder asked Jennifer Simeo to do roll call.

Members present included:

Anna Binder
Dr. Pearl Kim
Lori Kearse
Misty Shore
Ariana Saunders
Jeannie Hua

Quorum was met.

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

3. Approval of April 24, 2024, Legislative Subcommittee Meeting Minutes- For Possible Action

Ms. Shore motioned to approve the minutes. Ms. Saunders seconded the motion. There were no abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Update on the Clark County Behavioral Health Policy Board behavioral health priorities-
Informational Only

Ms. Saunders gave an informal presentation regarding the Clark County Behavioral Health Policy Board that she is also a member of. She explained that every year the policy boards develop priorities that guide them through the year. She stated that the board submits an annual report to DHS and the Behavioral Health Commission. She advised that they have not yet submitted a formal report this year. Ms. Saunders discussed the board's legislative subcommittee that is

discussing a potential bill draft. She stated that each policy board can submit a bill draft for each legislative session. Ms. Saunders stated the full board was hoping to meet next in June. Ms. Saunders discussed the board's seven (7) priorities, which include the following:

- Workforce Development- development of legislation to participate in state compacts.
- Implementation of an oversight agency- reconsideration of regional behavioral health authorities.
- Dedicated and Sustainable Funding for Crisis Services
- Prevention and Early Intervention in Mental Health- programs and services available to facilitate the social and emotional development of all youth, identify mental and behavioral health issues as early as possible, and assist families in caring for their youth.
- Increasing Collaboration on the Spectrum of Substance Misuse and its Relation to Mental Health.
- Promoting all aspects of behavioral health (including substance use) prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery that support health and wellness for all in our community.
- Remove barriers to accessing funding for health and human service agencies, government and/or non-profit organizations.

Ms. Saunders advised that they are focusing the most on the last bullet point.

5. Discussion of Legislative Council Bureau information from the 2023 session relating to behavioral health and ability to make recommendations for the upcoming session– For Possible Action

Ms. Binder went over information provided by the Legislative Counsel Bureau on behavioral health legislation that was passed, failed to pass, or was vetoed in the last legislative session. She discussed the following behavioral health legislation that passed:

- Assembly Bill 37, which authorizes the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada to establish the Behavioral Health Workforce Development Center of Nevada for purposes related to strengthening the workforce of behavioral health providers in Nevada.
- Assembly Bill 138, which requires the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services to include in the State Plan for Medicaid a requirement that the State must pay the nonfederal share of expenditures incurred for certain behavioral health services that are delivered through evidence-based behavioral health integration models, including, without limitation, collaborative care management services.
- Assembly Bill 161, which requires, upon the application of a person with a communication need, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to place a designation on a vehicle registration, driver's license, or identification card that the person is a person with a communication need, which includes a person who is deaf; has a speech disorder, a language disorder, or an auditory processing disorder; is neurodivergent; or has any other condition that impairs the ability of a person to comprehend language.
- Assembly Bill 292, which requires the Department is required to provide an incarcerated woman in custody access to necessary medical and behavioral health care services, including counseling, prescribed medication for the treatment for mental health issues.

- Senate Bill 237, which establishes a 35-cent surcharge per line on certain telecommunication services to fund the operation of a suicide prevention and behavioral health crisis hotline.

Ms. Binder discussed the following behavioral health legislation that failed to pass:

- Assembly Bill 69, which would have expanded the Nevada Health Service Corps loan repayment program to include certain behavioral health care providers.
- Assembly Bill 201, which would have established or revised the governance structure of various entities within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) related to behavioral and mental health services for adults and children in Nevada.

Ms. Binder discussed the following behavioral health legislation that was vetoed by the Governor:

- Assembly Bill 265, which would have created a statewide mental health consortium to represent existing regional mental health consortia for the purposes of promoting the mental health of children.
- Assembly Bill 435, which would have authorized the Division of Public and Behavioral Health to administer a program to award grants to promote the establishment of programs that provide integrated treatment for co-occurring disorders.

Members discussed needing to examine certain pieces of legislation further.

6. Scheduling of next Legislative Subcommittee meeting -For Possible Action

The next meeting was agreed to be on Wednesday June 26th at 2:30 pm.

7. Discussion of future agenda items-Informational Only

Ms. Binder suggested looking at AB37, AB 137, and AB65 and possibly an update from Ms. Saunders to provide the policy board's final report.

8. Public comment

There were no public comments.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 am.