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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)
Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 7, 2024
10:00 a.m. PST until adjournment

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

1. Call to Order

Ariana Saunders, BHPAC Chair

Jennifer Simeo took roll call. Members present included:

1. Anna Binder
2. Sarah Dearborn
3. Lori Kearse
4. Dr. Pearl Kim
5. Dr. Mavis Major
6. Ariana Saunders
7. Misty Shore

Members absent included:

1. French Dafinone
2. Dr. Krista Hales
3. DeNeese Parker
4. Drew Skeen
5. Allison Wall
6. Dr. Mae Worthey-Thomas

A quorum was met.

2. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

3. For Possible Action-Approval of August 21, 2024, BHPAC Meeting Minutes

Ariana Saunders, BHPAC Chair

Ms. Shore made a motion to accept the meeting minutes. Dr. Kim seconded the motion. There was no discussion or abstentions. Motion passed by all members.

4. Informational Only-NAMI Nevada Presentation on Mental Health Block Grant Funded Program
Robin V Reedy, Executive Director, NAMI Nevada

Ms. Reedy provided information to the council on NAMI and their programs, including the national and state level structure of NAMI and the mission of NAMI to advocate, educate, and support those with a mental illness and to support their family members. Ms. Reedy discussed how grants from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health are used to deliver their statewide programs, including online and in-person evidence-based and structured support groups and peer support groups; train the trainer programs; partnerships with other community organizations such as Bristlecone; educational classes targeted for youth, adults, providers, and veterans. Per Ms. Reedy, through these programs, 6,000 people have been reached.

Ms. Reedy talked about other innovative programs, not under the grant, including a Teen Text Line and a Warmline where people can receive ongoing supports, to reduce hospitalizations. She stated they provide law enforcement with crisis intervention training to be able to recognize mental health conditions. They also work with mobile crisis teams and within Black, Latinx, and faith communities, promoting mental wellness. Ms. Reedy stated they advocate for supportive housing, early intervention services, decriminalizing mental health, and parity so mental health conditions are treated the same as other medical conditions.

Council members had an opportunity to ask questions. Ms. Binder asked about grant funding, which Ms. Reedy said was now close to 600K each year. She stated NAMI also has other grants. Ms. Reedy talked about the work they do to reduce stigma around mental illness.

Ms. Kearse asked if they provided recreational programs. Ms. Reedy stated they are not currently funded for this specifically, but they have connected people to these types of programs, based on their needs, through navigation of services.

Ms. Binder asked about memorandum of understandings with the school districts. Ms. Reedy stated they have had a hard time with this but do offer educational trainings to students. She stated they will have more youth programs coming and have established a youth committee for this purpose. Ms. Reedy talked about the Teen Text Line and how teachers can text this line and ask they follow up with a particular student. Ms. Reedy stated students respond about 90% of the time. Ms. Reedy stated a parent can also request this service for their child. Ms. Reedy stated the Teen Text Line is 775-296-8336 and the Warmline is 775-241-4212.

Ms. Binder asked if they focus on adults and parents to reduce stigma. Ms. Reedy stated Breaking the Stigma is used with adults, and they go to PTA meetings and PTA conferences and meet with social service groups to get the message out to adults. Ms. Reedy stated counselors and psychiatrists have the information about their training. She talked about the challenges with getting the message out to who needs it. Ms. Reedy talked about their specific needs of trainers who can provide family to family courses.

Ms. Binder asked about their charity walks in Southern Nevada. Ms. Reedy stated they do have a walk coming up on October 19, 2024, with a Northern Nevada walk the same day. She recommended the council form a walk group. Ms. Reedy stated NAMI Nevada will be having their Legislative Advocacy Day on May 5, 2025, and they will be having a walk the week before, to the Legislature. She stated they also send out advocacy alerts via email.

Ms. Kearse asked about languages served and services for the hearing impaired. Ms. Reedy stated they have Hispanic family to family classes and support groups. She stated they would like to work on hearing impaired services in the future.

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

Allison Wall, Chair of the Rural Subcommittee, was not present to provide an update.

Anna Binder, Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, stated they did not meet last month and need to schedule their next meeting. Ms. Binder and Dr. Kim discussed their recent tour of Summit View Youth Center and their takeaways, including the facility expressing a need for mental health and substance use counselors and recreational, vocational, and occupational programs. They will next be touring Solutions on Sunset. Ms. Binder wanted state staff to follow up on a tribal presentation.

Dr. Major, Chair of the Promotions Subcommittee, discussed a presentation request from Ann Jensen from DHHS who is working on the Children's Behavioral Health Transformation initiative. She stated Ann would like to see how the council can support this initiative. Dr. Major discussed the possibility of a newsletter and needing content. She asked state staff to help solicit input.

6. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

7. Adjournment
Ariana Saunders, BHPAC Chair

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.