

Joe Lombardo  
Governor



Richard Whitley,  
MS  
Director

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

  


## NEVADA DIVISION of PUBLIC and BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



Cody L. 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)  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, March 10, 2025  
2:00 p.m. PST until adjournment

1. Call to Order

Ariana Saunders, BHPAC Chair  
Meeting called to order at 2:08pm.

Present Members:	Absent Members:
<input type="checkbox"/> Anna Binder	<input type="checkbox"/> French Dafinone
<input type="checkbox"/> Sarah Dearborn	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Krista Hales
<input type="checkbox"/> Lori Kearse	<input type="checkbox"/> Misty Shore
<input type="checkbox"/> Drew Skeen	<input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Pearl Kim
<input type="checkbox"/> Allison Wall	
<input type="checkbox"/> Ariana Saunders	

2. Public Comment

Ariana Saunders, BHPAC Chair

Ms. Dearborn wanted to bring awareness that Nevada Medicaid will have a public workshop at 11:00 AM on March 13th.

3. For Possible Action – Approval of February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, BHPAC Meeting Minutes

Ariana Saunders, BHPAC Chair.

Tabled for next meeting as minutes were not available.

4. Informational-Presentation on Strategic Plan from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health  
Shannon Bennett Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Behavioral Health Wellness  
Prevention and Treatment

Ms. Bennett shared a power point presentation showing an overview of the forthcoming BBHWP strategic plan. The plan is going to run from 2025-2029. BBHWP contracted with a company called Altarum to complete the plan, which included numerous stakeholder interviews. Altarum will provide a quantitative and qualitative analysis from information gained from focus groups across Nevada and will have draft results released by the end of March. The strategic plan itself will be finalized and published in July.

Ms. Saunders had a question regarding the priorities, by end of month, and if they will be working directly with the Bureau or someone else. Ms. Bennett answered and stated they will be working

directly with the Bureau.

5. Informational - Presentation on Request for Applications (RFA's) from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health  
Shannon Bennett, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Behavioral Health Wellness Prevention and Treatment

Ms. Bennett presented the next part of her power point presentation and discussed the upcoming 2025 Request for Applications. She explained that the Bureau received a lot of supplemental funding throughout COVID, and that funding will be closing out this year. ARPA supplemental funding for each block grant was received as well and those will also end in September.

She explained with supplemental funding ending, there's going to be things the Bureau won't be able to fund any longer.

Ms. Bennett stated the first week of May is when the Request for Applications will be opened and available. Letters will be going out to existing partners informing them that they will need to reapply for funds.

Ms. Binder asked, once they are released, how long they are good for. Ms. Bennett answered by saying that funding would start October 1st, 2025, and it would be a two-year project period and the funding would be available in one-year chunks, and it will run on the federal fiscal year.

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

For the Rural Subcommittee, Ms. Wall did not have anything at this time but is working on getting a meeting set up with Ms. Binder.

For the Legislative Subcommittee, Ms. Binder had no new updates but stated they have had some offline conversations about being more aligned with the upcoming strategic plan.

7. For Possible Action – Scheduling of 2025 BHPAC meetings for the remainder of the 2025 year. Ariana Saunders, BHPAC Chair

The Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention Team recommended to meet every other month and asked to schedule for the rest of the year starting the first Monday of every month, except for September due to a holiday, beginning in May. The following dates were discussed and voted upon.

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 11:00 am

July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 11:00 am

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 11:00 am

November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, at 11:00 am

Ms. Wall motioned to approve the above future meeting dates. Lori Kearse seconded the motion. The motion to approve the future meeting dates passed unanimously.

8. Public Comment

Ms. Dearborn from Medicaid stated there would be public hearings on March 13th for Children's behavioral health and again on March 25th.

Ms. Byrd from BBHWP stated that the Bureau has created a BHPAC email,

[BHPAC@Health.nv.gov](mailto:BHPAC@Health.nv.gov), and communication will come from this email and should route through this email as well. Tierra Sears from BBHWP posted the email in the chat as well.

Ms. Binder announced Children's week at the State Legislature.

9. Adjournment

Ariana Saunders, BHPAC Chair

Meeting adjourned at 2:42 PM