

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLANNING AND ADVISORY COUNCIL (BHPAC)
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 14, 2021
1:00 to Adjournment**

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

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:13 p.m.

Members Present: Ali Jai Faison, Chair; Ariana Saunders, Vice-Chair; Dana Walburn; DeNeese Parker; Dr. Mavis Major; Dr. Pearl Kim; Drew Skeen; Marshal Hernandez

Members Absent: Char Frost; Garrett Hade; Gillian Rae Stover; Sean O'Donnell, Robert Moore, Dr. Megan Freeman

Staff and Guests Present: Cody Phinney, Dawn Yohey, Sarah Baker, J'Amie Webster-Frederick, Michelle Bennett, Tray Abney, Linda Anderson, Trey Delap, Valerie Balen, Tammie, Lea Tauchen, Jamie Ross, Joan Waldock

2. Public Comment

Mr. Faison expressed sympathy for the victims of last week's tornado. He knows people who lost everything. His thoughts and prayers go out to them. He also knows many affected by Omicron and other pathogens.

3. Approve Minutes from Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council (BHPAC) Meeting on November 18, 2021

Dr. Major made a motion to approve the minutes; Dr. Kim seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition; Ms. Parker abstained.

4. Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention Updates

Ms. Yohey reported the notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for supplemental COVID-19 and American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding will be amended to add items missing from the original notice, including children's services and the capability for telehealth with law enforcement. This funding announcement will extend the application deadline to the end of January. Regulations for the 1915(i) for tenancy supports were approved by the Board of Health. Those regulations will be presented at the Legislative Commission on December 21. The Mental Health Block Grant will go the February Interim Finance Committee to realign authority to use the rest of the funds for the remainder of the state fiscal year. She provided the following link for the NOFO: [SAPTA Grants](#).

5. Discuss and Approve Subcommittees and Their Membership

Mr. Faison reviewed the subcommittees that currently exist. They are the Nominating, Legislative, Bylaws, Promotional, and Rural Monitoring Committees. At the last meeting, the Council voted to retain them and to add others. He explained the chair and members of the subcommittees would determine the direction for their subcommittee. They have autonomy to do what is necessary as long as it is within the purpose of BHPAC. One purpose of the subcommittees is to make Nevadans aware of mental health. There was a request to have a crisis subcommittee to monitor the crisis systems in place in the state. He reminded them of Mr. Moore's comment that with the small number of members they have attending Council meetings, members would have to participate in more than one subcommittee. He suggested they start with filling the current committees before adding others. If the Rural Monitoring Committee is kept, awareness and the crisis system could be incorporated into it. The same could be done in promotions. The role and purpose of the Bylaws Committee is already determined. The Legislative Committee will become important as BHPAC starts looking at what the legislature is doing. The Nominating Committee has not met in several years. The nominations process seems to have been eliminated. Ms. Walburn asked if subcommittees were necessary, or if the topics could be agenda items for the Council's meetings. Mr. Faison explained the subcommittees help focus the Council on concerns. For example, the Council knows the rural areas are underserved and have needs regarding methamphetamines, opioids, and mental health problems. Many residents of the rural areas must travel to Elko or Las Vegas for services. Hospitals and primary care physicians are overwhelmed. A subcommittee could investigate what is happening in rural areas, present their findings to the Council, and send information to the state to advocate for those needing services. This subcommittee talked about peer leadership development six years ago, and nothing happened through BHPAC; other entities accomplished it. Peers can now be reimbursed for services through Medicaid, reducing costs and becoming more effective; however, the peer program is primarily focused on substance abuse and drug and alcohol use, rather than mental health services. Mental health peers would be a great help in the rural areas.

- **Rural monitoring**

Ms. Walburn said rural clinics do crisis intervention training for rural county officers. State money supports mental health in schools and supports primary care physicians having consultations with behavioral health specialists. Ms. Walburn, Dr. Kim, and Mr. Hernandez will be members of this committee. Mr. Faison nominated Ms. Walburn as its chair. Dr. Kim seconded the motion. The motion passed. Dr. Kim will serve as co-chair.

- Promotions

Mr. Faison said they have not had any mental health awareness promotions in recent years. The subcommittee will need to establish an agenda and activities. If money is required, they can submit a request to the state. Dr. Major, Dr. Kim, Mr. Faison, and Ms. Saunders volunteered to be on this subcommittee. Mr. Faison noted many are unaware of services available in Nevada. This subcommittee could develop a resource guide. Mr. Faison nominated Dr. Major as chair; none were opposed. Ms. Saunders will serve as vice-chair. He instructed members to think about what they would like to do to promote mental health.

- Bylaws

Ms. Parker suggested they handle changes to the bylaws in Council meetings. She moved they remove this subcommittee. Ms. Saunders seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- Legislative

This subcommittee has been dormant for three years. Dr. Major asked what its goal is. Mr. Faison said it will look at laws affecting mental and behavioral health, Medicaid, Medicare, block grant funding, the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, the Department of Health and Human Services and how they affect recipients of care. A representative will take concerns about pending legislation to the Legislature, Dr Woodard, or a member of her staff; laws could be made without Council knowledge if this is not maintained. Dr. Kim, Ms. Saunders, and Dr. Major volunteered for this subcommittee. Dr. Kim asked if someone would summarize laws and policies, or if that is a subcommittee responsibility. Mr. Faison replied that Ms. Frost keeps up on legislation and has been instrumental in getting information for the Council. He added she may be interesting in serving here. Dr Kim, Dr. Major, and Ms. Saunders volunteered for the subcommittee. They will wait to see if Ms. Frost would like to serve as chair.

Quorum was lost. The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.