

Steve Sisolak  
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS  
Director



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

## DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND POLICY

*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



Suzanne Bierman,  
JD MPH  
Administrator

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### Advisory Committee on the State Program for Oral Health Meeting Minutes

Date and Time of Meeting: Friday, August 19, 2022

Name of Organization: State of Nevada, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP)

Place Meeting: Microsoft Teams

#### **I. Call to Order & Roll Call**

Dr. Lisa Collier called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. Dr. Lisa Collier asked for roll call. A quorum was established at 9:09 AM.

##### **Committee Members Present**

Dr. Lisa Collier  
Dr. Whitney Bryant  
Ms. Terri Chandler  
Dr. Catherine McCarthy  
Dr. Bryce Putnam  
Ms. Lynn Short  
Dr. Tara Van Orden  
Ms. Jessica Woods  
Ms. Breanna Taylor

##### **Excused**

Dr. Tina Brandon Abbatangelo  
Dr. Jose Cucalon Calderon

##### **Department of Health and Human Services Staff**

Tanya Benitez- Social Services Program Specialist 2 DHCFP  
Jannette Gomez- Nevada Public Health Dental Hygienist, Oral Health Program DPBH  
Robyn Gonzalez- Social Services Specialist I, DHCFP  
Dr. Antonina Capurro- Deputy Administrator, DHCFP

##### **Public Participants**

Ben Prohaska, PA  
Jeannette Belz  
Jennifer Bradley  
Lindsay Littlefield  
Dr. Afshin Arian

**II. Public comment**

No public comment.

**III. Review and possible approval of meeting minutes from May 20, 2022 – Action Item**

Dr. Lisa Collier called for a motion to amend or approve the draft minutes from May 20, 2022, Advisory Committee on the State Program for Oral Health on the State Program for Oral Health meeting. A motion to approve the draft minutes as presented was provided by Dr. Bryce Putnam and a second was provided by Dr. Tara Van Orden. Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Update of Oral Health Program, including the Nevada Oral Health State Plan, the operations plan for the Oral Health State Plan, and current projects. Informational – Jannette Gomez, Nevada Public Health Dental Hygienist, Division of Public and Behavioral Health**

Jannette Gomez, states the next phase is to implement the operations plan. She is asking where everyone wants to start on the state plans. Her focus is to start a third-grade basic screening survey. Ms. Gomez mentioned she spoke to Kathy Phipps from ASTDD and Kathy suggested that she should separate it into two years, Northern Nevada 2022 and Southern Nevada 2023 due to limited capacity. Ms. Gomez would like to create a BSS Committee with anyone who is interested in volunteering to guide them in mapping out the state and do it effectively. She is also working on the surveillance plan; data is still being collected from the office of analytics. There is a meeting coming up regarding Medicaid data that they're looking into.. Ms. Gomez then announced that the State of Nevada received the Oral Health Work Force Grant of 1.6 million over the course of 4 years. She mentioned she will keep the committee up to date on the progress.

Ms. Terri Chandler then speaks her major concern to Jannette Gomez, that she is still at 20 hours per week, she asks if there is anything they can do to support her to be full-time or if she has any updates. Ms. Gomez then responds that there are still a couple of things that are in the works that can bump her up to full-time, and that part of the grant was that the Oral Grant program moved to DHCFP and that is where the Dental Director is housed so everyone is going to be under one roof before when she was at DPBH, it was separated. Ms. Gomez then states with that movement there might be potential for full-time. She mentioned she will keep everyone updated.

Catherine McCarthy then asks Jannette to tell her about the Oral Health Grant. Jannette Gomez then goes on and states that in January, they had applied for the Oral Health Work Force Grant 22-050 and they found out about a month ago that they have received it. She states Dr. Antonina Capurro is the principal investigator on the grant. This grant has many goals, such as a Dental Assisting Pipeline project in which they will be training dental assistant high school students so they can go out into the rural communities and fill that gap that is there. Another goal is training school nurses to do dental screening so they will be provided with screening supplies and training services, so they are able to do these screenings in school one last big goal was to add the Oral Grant Program within DHCFP and have an Oral Health Innovation Center.

Terri then adds that her understanding is that the Workforce Grant is targeted toward rural communities so there will probably be no interaction with Washoe and Clark County. She asks Ms. Gomez to confirm this statement and Ms. Gomez agrees. Ms. Gomez mentions they are doing the school nurse training in Washoe County as well.

Dr. Lisa Collier states that there is a shortage of Dental Assistants, this is affecting rural areas, in particular, but it also affects Washoe County.

- V. Presentation on Nevada Medicaid Dental Benefits, update on the 1115 waiver for adults with diabetes, ARPA dental ID/DD waiver, and HRSA- 22-050 grant. **Informational – Robyn Gonzalez, Dr. Antonina Capurro**  
Robyn Gonzalez states that she only has some policy updates, the public notice for the 1115 waiver is posted on the Divisions website to be able to solicit comments on the 1115 waiver for adults with diabetes, this public meeting with being held on August 31 and 3:00p.

Deputy Administrator, Dr. Antonina Capurro then states that following this presentation they have a presentation on the 1115 demonstration waiver so further information will be provided as well as the email address for public comments. Dr. Capurro mentions that they're in the process of interviewing for the Dental Health Officer, and she is hoping to have a candidate selected in the next month or so. She also states that they're expanding Adults Dental Benefits for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, this was an initiative that was identified by the Oral Health program a few years ago and they initially thought that they needed legislative approval or authority to move forward with that change. Because of the pandemic, they have an opportunity to use home and community-based APRA funds. This one-time funding will be used to build a comprehensive program to stand up for the expanded benefit. It will go through the State Plan Amendment and the necessary process to make this change internally and they designed a comprehensive program to expand the network and provide education to providers as well to guardians and patients. They are also working with their sister agency Aging and Disability Services to include this on their budget for the upcoming legislative session. They are using this one-time ARPA funding to build this program and they will sustain it with Aging and Disability Services. It's a good fit for Aging and Disability Services because the authority they are seeking is under their individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities waiver and they're creating an expansion for that population. Dr. Capurro then states that with the ARPA funds they are receiving they will also be using some of this funding to augment Jannette Gomez's salary. She mentions she is in the hope to go to the October IFC for approval and then work will begin on the program, it will end in March of 2024.

Dr. Antonina Capurro then proceeds with an update with the legislative lead. Dr. Capurro attended the Interim Joint services meeting and received a letter of support from that committee to expand the dental benefits at a federally qualified health center, she also discussed with the committee the expansion of community health workers under the reimbursement mechanism within Medicaid for alternative supervisors. She mentions that community health workers under the Medicaid system are only reimbursable if they're working under a physician, PA, or APRN. They are planning on expanding that to dental professionals as well.

Terri then seeks an update on Medicaid enrollment, Terry is wanting to encourage families to update their address, and information and reenroll their children. She states an article from George Town University stating that millions of children will lose their Medicaid coverage now that the federal guidelines for continuing coverage have been terminated.

Dr. Capurro then states the maintenance of effort under the Public Health Emergency is still in place so there is no end date yet, she believes the 60-day notice was set to come out mid-August which they did not receive so they're expecting another extension. For the moment no one is being disenrolled unless they met federal requirements, such as, moving out of the state or being enrolled in another Medicaid program. Dr. Capurro confirms that they're asking folks to update their mailing address because when the end of the Public Health Emergency becomes or when any information is sent from the Wealth fare office, it comes through the mail. They're making sure that everyone enrolled with Medicaid is aware of that.

Robyn Gonzales then offers Terri specific numbers offline.

- VI. 1115 Demonstration Waiver Presentation to expand Medicaid dental benefits for diabetic adults **Informational- Dr. Antonina Capurro**

Deputy Administrator, Dr. Antonina Capurro presents the 1115 Demonstration Waiver for Adults with Diabetes. This is authorized under Assembly bill 223 which was passed in the 2019 Legislative Session and has been codified into law as NRS Chapter 422, Section 27 20047. Dr. Capurro then goes on to examine the prevalence of diabetes and then discusses the relationship between Oral Health and diabetes and outlines the specific components of the waivers. She states that diabetes is a widespread disease, among the US population overall in 2018, 34.2 million people of all ages – or 10.5% of the US population had diabetes. 34.1 million adults aged 18 or older – or 13.0% of all US adults had diabetes and the percentage of adults with diabetes increased with age, reaching 26.8% among those aged 65 years or older.

Dr. Capurro also adds that The American Diabetes Association indicates that type 2 diabetes accounts for 90% to 95% of all diabetes cases. Since 2013, diabetes in Nevada increased by 21% from 8.9% to 11.2% in adults. Dr. Capurro stresses that diseases are worsened when having uncontrolled propagandistic oral bacteria and infections from dental decay and diabetes increases inflammation in the perianal tissues or the tissue that holds teeth in place. The perianal disease has been linked to diabetes and can have devastating effects.

Dr. Capurro states that dental services for adults are not a universal benefit under Medicaid and across the country, dental benefits for adults are considered an optional benefit so each state's medical program will be very different. Dr. Capurro continues by stating poor oral health can easily compound the effects of pre-existing conditions and can aggravate already fragile socioeconomic conditions and well-being both for individuals and population levels, but Medicaid is really an engine for change. Deputy Capurro states that Medicaid has several tools to make changes to the services that are provided to patients. She then explains what a State Plan Amendment (SPA) and a Waiver is during her presentation.

Deputy Dr. Antonina Capurro states that the issue is a lack of Medicaid dental benefits, the solution to this issue would be the expansion of Medicaid dental benefits for diabetic adults and improvement in overall health. Leading to further expansion of dental benefits in subsequent years. She continues with the mechanism and that is the Legislation and Waiver. Lastly, it is stated that the goal is innovative patient-centered care to improve overall patient health and reallocate medical funding for dental treatment. Dr. Capurro goes on with explaining the hypothesis of CMS 1115 Demonstration Waiver.

It is then presented by Dr. Capurro that the eligible population for the new adult dental waiver benefit is adults (21 years to 64 years of age) who are enrolled in Nevada Medicaid; diagnosed with type I or type II diabetes and have received services at a federally qualified health center (FQHC) in Nevada under agreement with Division to participate as a provider in the waiver demonstration. Dr. C did mention about this waiver that no more than five dental visits at a participating FQHC will be reimbursable per enrollee, per year. Dr. Capurro then goes on to explain the implementation of the strategy to increase population-based services for those with chronic diseases such as diabetes which is currently 11.2% of the Nevada population. The strength is the partnership between physicians and dentists to improve both oral and systemic treatment by coordination of care. The improve is the glycemic control and overall health of the diabetic patient through periodontal treatments. Lastly, the reach is the National Health Standards.

Dr. Van Orden Proceeds to ask Dr. Capurro if other FQHCs be able to participate. Dr. Capurro states that they can make changes to their application, can add additional FQHCs. She offers Dr. Van Orden that if she wants to connect with Dr. Capurro offline regarding this topic, they can start this conversation.

Dr. Whitney Bryant also adds a question, asking what the population of Medicaid patients is with diabetes, she goes on and says how they are going to see patients in an effective amount of time to have periodontal treatments at the required in ovals, she mentions they don't have enough hygienists to see that many patients. Dr. Bryant is concerned that they won't be making an impact if she can only get one partial maintenance every eighteen months. Dr. Capurro replies to Dr. Bryant's questions and states that when they designed this in 2019, what they had then was 14% of the Nevada Medicaid population had diabetes so much higher than the overall

Nevada population of 11%. Dr. Capurro mentions that the 5 five clinical encounters at the federally qualified health center were built to reach the budget neutrality projection. Dr. Capurro states that if changes need to be made, they can be evaluated at the 5-year period, and they will have to go back to CMS to make those changes.

Dr. Antonin Capurro states that the goal is to expand all adult dental services for all adults in Nevada Medicaid. Dr. Lisa Collier then asks if they will be presenting data at a patient level because they are limited in capacity due to staff cuts. Deputy Capurro then confirms that they overestimated how many patients need to be seen because that sets the funding that's available per member, per month so they've set what they believe is the highest limit and hope they reach that, but it will most likely take the 5-year demonstration period to reach this goal.

Terri then agrees with Dr. Bryant about the capacity issue. Terri states that these are complex cases that will need more than 5 appointments. Dr. Lisa C then answers that if they were to take on a patient with severe issues, once they run out of coverage, they're eligible for the slide with any non-coverage services. The way they handle this is by limiting the capacity of an amount they can afford to incur the amount cost.

Dr. Bryce Putnum asks Dr. Capurro, who is keeping track of the 5 appointments specific to the new enrollees because there are two separate groups, they have individuals that are on Medicaid but have the comorbidity that has diabetes and others that normally qualify for Medicaid but now are in Medicaid then have those 5 encounters. Dr. Capurro then confirms this program will hopefully go live in April 2023 and they are currently designing this component and what this mechanism will look like and then be enrolled in the program. There is training with FQHC that will be completed and patient engagement.

Dr. Whitney Bryant then brings up that Liberty services have a \$20 adult fee, then she asks if that is going away. Lindsey Littlefield, Liberty Dental, then answers that they do continue to have their adult value-added benefits for the entire adult population and those will not change, they currently have been mirroring the benefits that they expected the state to offer through the waiver. She states that they have been paying for a subset of services for diabetic individuals through the FQHCs that will be replaced by the state's waiver. In the new contract that takes effect on January 1, 2023, Liberty has committed to some additional adult added benefits.

**VII. Updates of new community partnerships in 2022, provider incentive and value-based programs, and access to care initiatives. Informational – Lindsay Littlefield, Dr. Afshin Arian**

Lindsay Littlefield, Liberty Dental provides an update. She mentions that they're working closely with the Division on implementing their new contract starting January 1, 2023, and as part of the new contract, there are a few new requirements that elevate the expectations for Liberty Dental. There are also new initiatives that they have been working on over the past year. Lindsay then states that one of their main areas of focus has been to addressing disparities. They have been focusing on it geographically and doing extra outreach, trying to find community partners. Lindsay states that Liberty Dental has launched a couple of provider incentive programs that provide enhanced provider bonuses for engaging individuals that live in disparity communities. Liberty Dental has been working with Truckee Meadows Community college and UNLV School of Dentistry to establish scholarships for students. They are in the progress with the application. Liberty Dental is planning on doing this annually.

Lindsay then states that they have joined the state's information exchange this year and have been in discussion with them because they're very excited to have dental join. Lindsay states that they have been going through a series of steps to work with the provider network that Liberty Dental contracts with.

Terri Chandler then raises a question if you must upload Dentrix into Healthy Nevada on a monthly basis or do the Liberty claims automatically feed into Healthy Nevada? Lindsay then goes on and answers that they would want providers to contribute more than just the data that Liberty has. Lindsay states that in the state statute of

Medicaid, members cannot opt out, so their records are on the health information exchange. She states they are planning a webinar and the end of August.

- VIII.** Organized dentistry update and report from the Nevada Dental Association. **Informational – Michele Reeder**  
Dr. Lisa Collier updates the committee in Michele Reeder's place. Dr. Collier mentions the Nevada Dental Association is having an HPV educational series. She states that the NDA along with the American Cancer Society and Pacific Dental is offering a five-week one hour per session webinar on HPV and the American Cancer Society has determined that oral health has a huge part to play and taking in talking about HPV with their patients but lacking the education to be comfortable doing it, they're offering this webinar series free to ADA. The NDA, DHA members, and \$99.00 for non-members and she said they have an A list of presenters, so we'll get that flyer attached to the meeting, but if anybody is interested.
- IX.** Organized dentistry update from the Nevada Dental Hygienists' Association. **Informational – Nichelle Venable**  
**Did not present\***
- X.** Open discussion on the Nevada Oral Health State Plan, Operations Plan. **Informational- Chair Dr. Collier, Jannette Gomez**  
Jannette Gomez states her thought was to start with the basic screening survey for 3rd graders just because it's so old the last one we did was 2008 and really to apply for grants we need that data, and that will bring more income in for the oral health program so we can continue doing screenings and keep them up to date. Also, she expresses an update on the oral health state website.  
  
A template so we can work off and share it at each meeting as well, and a way to help us keep track of where we are and that we're meeting our goals and objectives.  
  
Tana Van Orden then adds that he wants to agree with where Jannette wants to start with a good plan. Terri mentions needing to start with data and thinks that's an excellent way for them to start putting their feet in the water and figuring out how operationally it could even get that done.
- XI.** Open Discussion about the applicants for the open seats on the committee and possible action to recommend to the Administrator appointment of members for two open positions on the committee. **Action Item – Chair Dr. Lisa Collier, Vice Chair Dr. Whitney Bryant, Jannette Gomez**  
  
Dr. Collier starts by mentioning that there are two open seats on the committee and there are two applicants for those positions.  
  
Ben Prohaska then mentions that he believes he rejoined the committee back in April but he's not on it. He is requesting to have his name back on the committee. Jannette and Dr. Collier advise him to submit a resume in order to move forward.  
  
Tara Van Orden then adds to the conversation, asking a question to Jennifer Bradley. Jennifer then responds and states that she's been doing PR in Las Vegas and Nevada for the last 25 years and she has a very strong focus on healthcare. Jennifer mentions she works with Roseman, Absolute Dental, and some clients. She has done a lot of partnerships with Liberty and some other agencies as well as with UNLV SDM. I do a lot of nonprofit work, again with the American Cancer Society, and Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital care for the kids who just launched their dental program. She stresses this means a lot to her and she believes there are a lot of collaborations of folks that she works with like volunteers, medicine, and Clark kind of medical society. She strongly believes that she can help be an added voice and awareness for all and help with some of the initiatives the committee has for the state.

Dr. Van Orden then proceeds and asks Jeannette Belz the same question she asked Jennifer Bradley. Her question states, what makes her interested in this committee and oral health? Jeanette Belz states that she has been lobbying in Nevada since 1995. She started in healthcare. Jeanette was the President of the Nevada Hospital Association, and she recalls after she started her own business in 1999, engineering the question that allowed for the voters to make a decision about fluoridation in Clark, the Clark County water system.

After discussion among committee members regarding the interest of Ben Prohaska to rejoin the AC4OH and Jeannette Belz and Jennifer Bradley interest, the committee agreed to postpone the action to fill the two open positions until the next meeting.

A motion to delay appointment of members for the two open positions was provided by Dr. Tara Van Orden, and a second was provided by Dr. Whitney Bryant. Motion passed unanimously.

**XII. Determine dates for upcoming 2023 meetings (dates of future meetings subject to change). Action Item- Chair Collier, Vice Chair Dr. Bryant**

Dr. Tara Van Orden moves to approve the dates for 2023 to be February 17<sup>th</sup>, May 19<sup>th</sup>, August 18<sup>th</sup> and November 17<sup>th</sup>. Terri Chandler seconds this motion. Motion passes unanimously.

**XIII. Discussion of recommendations for future agenda. Action Item.**  
Discussion included revisiting the new applicants for open positions, and providing the operational worksheet for the state plan.

**XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT**  
No public comment

**XV. Adjournment Dr. Lisa Collier – Chair**  
Meeting adjourned at 10:40AM.

A motion adjourn meeting provided by Dr. Tara Van Orden, and a second was provided by Dr. Bryce Putman. Motion passed unanimously.