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# DEPARTMENT OF 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 Agenda

Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

11:00 a.m. PST Until adjournment

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

## 1. Call to Order

Present Members:	Absent Members:
Ariana Saunders	French Dafinone
Anna Marie Binder	Dr. Krista Hales
Sarah Dearborn	Allison Wall
Lori Kearse	
Dr. Pearl Kim	
Jeneeah Girma	
Drew Skeen	
Isabella Tran	
Michael Galper	
Montana Miller	
Lauryn Winn	
Tiffany Bearden	
Jamie Ross	
Franklyn Morris	

Jennifer Simeo took roll call, and it was determined that Quorum was met. Meeting called to order at 11:10am.

## **2. Public Comment**

No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment unless the matter itself has been specifically included on the agenda as an action item. To provide public comments by phone, dial 775-321-6111 and enter phone conference ID: 930610427#. Comments will be limited to three (3) minutes per person. Persons making a comment will be asked to begin by stating their name for the record and to spell their last name.

No public comment was made.

## **3. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Approval of January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Meeting Minutes – Information and Discussion**

Sarah Dearborn motioned to approve the meeting minutes with the corrections followed by a second from Lauryn Winn. A unanimous vote was made by the council.

## **4. Council Member Updates and Introductions – Information and Discussion**

Jamie Ross stated that the 3 out of 4 new council members introduced themselves at the last meeting, and that the 4<sup>th</sup> new council member could introduce themselves.

Montana Miller introduced herself and currently resides in Reno. Ms. Miller stated she is filling the role of the person with lived experience, as she is 13 years free from the use of opioids. Ms. Miller now works as a marriage and family therapist intern and is a licensed alcohol and drug counselor.

## **5. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Presentation on Proposed Regulations – Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention – Information and Discussion**

Shannon Bennett introduced herself as the Bureau Chief for the Bureau of Behavioral Health, Wellness and Prevention. Ms. Bennett stated that we have everything drafted and we've been having lots of community conversations even before they went to LCB. Ms. Bennett explained a little bit about DPBH, our mission, our vision, and our purpose.

Ms. Bennett stated regulations are our Nevada administrative code. They interpret, clarify, or give procedures for carrying out state laws. They are adopted by state agencies and must go through a whole certain public procedure to be approved. We have authority to adopt regulations for specific purposes and that are provided to us in statute, and we are using these two statutes NAC 458- alcohol and other substance use disorders and NAC 433- mental health.

Ms. Bennett stated NAC 433 which is mental health, is something we are working to create certification of certain behavioral health programs as defined by the division that is going to allow the adoption of division criteria, which is going to be a sub regulatory guideline of the regulations that is going to set out the standards of care and the best practices, which includes an approval process for the division criteria by the council. There will also be a public process as well as we are tying funding to certification. To get state or federal funding or Medicaid reimbursement you would need to be certified.

Ms. Bennett stated that the process for certifications, the fees, the application and requirements for NAC 433 is just mirrored from NAC 458 which is our substance use regulation. What we are trying to do is to get them to weave them together. But NAC 433 will be more mental health and NAC 458 will be more substance use.

Ms. Bennett stated that these regulations define certain behavioral programs, such as certified community behavioral health centers, mobile crisis teams, and crisis stabilization centers. We encourage you to read about them. For the certification we will have training requirements that will be set in the division criteria, which also require you to participate in a centralized bed registry system for certified providers. Right now, our bed registry is Open Beds, but we will be transitioning to Carelon's platform which is our 988 vendor. Our bed registry will show how many beds each provider has, how many beds are open and how many are occupied. So, it will help show our community where they can go to get help, as they can see which provider has room.

Ms. Bennett stated that 458 is related to substance use disorder, which we will be adding recovery programs. For example, 6 months to about a year ago our recovery housing division criteria were approved. It revises care plans, which is the plan of care. So, it created an option for moms to opt into when they're in the hospital and have baby born if they are opioid users. It defines co-occurring disorders which are going to be the same definition in 433. It also expands telehealth and problem gambling endorsements. We are looking into ways to strengthen our ability to improve access to telehealth.

Ms. Bennett stated she wrote the initial draft and sent it to LCB for official drafting, as LCB is drafting we have lots to cleanup to do with them, lots of legal stuff to work through, which we will be doing this spring and summer. We're going to have a public workshop, and we are going to also have a small business impact survey, so we can get feedback about concerns and what those concerns are, and then we will have to report back on that. In fall of 2026 we will have a public hearing, which is our Board of Health. But it does depend on which regulation we are talking about as they have different requirements. For the crisis regulations they go through our administrator and for 458 and 433 they will go through our Board of Health. Then in the winter of 2026 we will take them to the legislative Commission for the final approval and in early 2027, we will be certifying new programs.

Ms. Dearborn asked, can you remind where the specific drafts live, are the drafts posted, or is that all kind of under the radar for now until it comes to that public workshop?"

Ms. Bennett answered, I believe I sent the link out, but she thinks they broke when the listserv was sent out. You can also go to google and go to the LCB website and go to year 2025 because that is when we submitted them.

Vice Chair Anna Marie Binder questioned public workshop. Will the public workshops go out on the listserv too?

Ms. Bennett answered yes, the workshop will be on the listserv.

Vice Chair Binder had a question regarding telehealth. I am really interested in telehealth, have you heard anything negative about the funding for telehealth?

Ms. Bennett answered, stating she had not heard anything. In fact, we've done lots of research nationally and it's very well supported and that is why we want to bring it to Nevada.

## **6. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Strategic Plan – Advisory framework and implementation Discussion – Information and Discussion**

Vice Chair Binder stated Shannon Bennett is going to hit us with a couple things from the strategic plan that we got a high-level overview at our last meeting. The goal for this agenda item is to have

discussions for us to know and try to come up with some type of methods and structuring for our work.

Ms. Bennett stated there's a list of strategies which is stigma reduction, peers strengthening CCBHC's access to care, expanding reach to the rural population. School support transportation barriers as this one is not in the cross cutting part but is talked about throughout the strategic plan. So, it should have been added her integrating behavioral health into primary care. Ms. Bennett wanted to share with the council to help frame the way we're thinking of these things. Ms. Bennett stated that we will be drafting our next request for applications at the end of this year for an early 2027 release and they will be using the strategic plan strategies.

Vice Chair Binder stated that as the BHPAC we have responsibilities and now that we have fully entered our strategic plan we are in the interim session, wanted to have this conversation about what we can do as a council that best supports your implementation.

Ms. Bennett suggested what would be most helpful is to be taking these topics and having discussions about them over the next few months.

## **7. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Nominating Subcommittee – Membership Appointments – Information and Discussion**

Chair Arianna Saunders stated that they voted at the last meeting, which the subcommittee is Ariana, Anna, Montana, and Sarah. Ms. Saunders also updated and said they have not met as a subcommittee, the committee will meet as needed just to make sure we can send the recruit and fill up the board, as there are only a handful of vacancies. Ms. Saunders stated that there are flyers going around and encouraged us to still share them to fill the vacancies.

## **8. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Data Subcommittee – Scope, Membership, and Work Plan – Information and Discussion**

Vice Chair Binder motioned to nominate Dr. Pearl Kim as the chair of the data subcommittee. Lori Ann Kearse seconded the motion for Dr. Pearl Kim as chair of the data subcommittee. A unanimous vote was made by the council.

## **9. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: Future Meeting Agenda Planning – Information and Discussion**

Ms. Bennett stated that an agenda item that will be part of the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting will be the mental health block grant.

Ms. Ross suggested the plan of peers as an agenda item, along with the facilitation of Medicaid billing through the community based agencies, suggesting a co presentation between Medicaid and DPBH.

## **10. Public Comment**

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Ms. Kearse stated and wanted to say and acknowledge Tierra for all her help and support with all the logistics stuff. Ms. Kearse said that she has always been such a big help and thank you.

Chair Saunders seconds this statement along with that being such a beautiful use of public comment.

## **11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17pm.