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*Governor*

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MS  
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*Administrator*

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*Chief Medical Officer*

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## Open Meeting for Strategic Plan Meeting Minutes Tuesday, October 28, 2025 3:00PM – Adjournment

Meeting held via TEAMS

### 1. Meeting Attendees:

BBHWP/State Staff Present: Shannon Bennett, Stephanie Cook, Evan Crossman, Barbara Hernandez, Neiva Cervantes, Tierra Sears, Elizabeth Willis, Jesse Stone, Jennifer Tongol Lee, Stefany Andrade, Heather Kuhn, Tracy Palmer, Evonna Lintz, Laura Wilcox, Jessica Morales Alvarez, Amber Allen, Fran Maldonado, Brandy Archuleta, Denise Davidson, Amy Flemming, Abraham Meza, Riley Shepard, Natasha Nyquist, Kim Garcia, Yesi Marquez, Theresa Callahan, Misty Vaughan Allen, Bjorn Blomquist, Tracie Rogers, Abigail Hatefi, Chyna Balzer, Richard Egan, Breanne Van Dyne, Leslie Gunderson, Robin Shacher, Karen Freeman, Megan Quintana, Robert Wilkes, Tammy Goodnight, Sabrina Peck

Others in attendance:

Diane Anderson, Esmeralda Ramirez Chavez, Tom Moulton, Kannaiah Vadlakunta, Linda Anderson, Alex Tanchek, Ayla Babakitis, Michael Magney, Christian Raymer, Lauryn Winn, Maegan Wong, Audrey Goelz, Tammie Shemenski, Terry Kerns, Anne-Elizabeth Northan, Trey Delap, Jeanyne Ward, Krisann Taylor, Katarina Pulver, Kimberley Sarandos, Jeff Marotta, Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, Lori Bryan, Mark Funkhouser, Trisha Jackson, Trinh Dang-Mai, Ashley Pruitt, Sydonie Neysmith, Heidi Laird, Daria Singer, Hannah McDonald, Beth Scott, Shannon Lepe, Miya Stafford

### 2. Public Comment

No Public Comment

### 3.Informational – Presentation of Strategic Plan:

Ms. Bennett began meeting by presenting the Strategic Plan PowerPoint presentation to all in attendance. Each slide was presented and broken down with additional information provided as well. At the end of the presentation Mr. Stone facilitated questions and answers for all attendees. The first question asked by Katrina Pulver was “How many listening sessions were done and how many SMEs were from each county?” Ms. Bennet responded by saying there were 16 key informant interviews and 5 focus groups (Elko, Pahrump, Carson and two in Reno) these were held at provider offices and people with previous experience or were currently in a program and involved around 60 people in total. Daria Singer commented “I feel like there’s a very low emphasis placed on substance use prevention. In all my discussions across the state, the board I sit on and people I work with, SUD prevention is the #1 thing they bring up followed by MH services and transportation. Any idea why?” Ms. Bennett opened by saying that the big piece that came out was support of schools and the strategic plan has a huge youth component. Youth support and parental support in schools. Ms. Cook commented and stated prevention and intervention are similar topics on what the needs are and those were heard in those focus group conversations. Katarina Pulver stated “ You speak about professional diversity but how was race, ethnicity, gender, housing status accounted for? Also why did Reno get two listening sessions but not the other counties? Ms. Bennett stated that they were offered in Spanish, and it was open to everyone. We had a hard time recruiting so that it wasn’t tied to a providers office. They had a huge turnout in Reno which helped facilitate two in that area, but it’s important that we heard from areas like Pahrump and Elko. Diane Anderson asked “ now that the prevention coalitions are tasked with primary prevention only. How do you see prevention working along with treatment and recovery? Ms. Cook answered that during the strategic plan process we heard that the continuum of care is broken. The plan reinforces all parts of recovery and becoming healthy. The efforts will be focused on working with all partners to help with all priority areas. Katarina Pulver stated that “outside of offering a listening session in Spanish I am still very curious how health equity was addressed and accounted for in the development of this document and plan”. Ms. Bennett stated we had social determinants and strategies as one of the areas. We can only talk to the people that are willing to approach us and come to the focus group sessions. Cherylyn Rahr-Wood asked “who will be responsible for the accreditation of the BHCEN certifications? Ms. Maldonado answered by saying they are currently only certifying detox and substance use technicians but a lot more will be added soon. Like mobile crisis, mental health and many others. We will be partnering with CASAT to offer provider training at no cost to the providers. Anne-Elizabeth W Northan asked “Was there a variety of treatment, social services, community-based organizations etc. In the focus group locations or are we just talking treatment providers”?

Mr. Stone answered by saying that we chose specific places with the intention of helping recruit people with different backgrounds when they hosted the focus groups. Ms. Bennett added that an important thing to say is that they didn't talk to the providers but spoke with Nevadans that have been or are in the behavioral health system key informant interviews were held as well. Wendy Madson stated " We would also like to look at CHWs as behavioral health professionals, as they currently are a key piece of behavioral/mental health teams. Ms. Bennett stated that we are aware of the need that CHWs fill and how important they are. Tina Gerber-Winn asked, "Given the plan has so many goals is there a strategy for funding allocation each year"? Ms. Bennet stated that our strategy is to make sure the appropriate funding source is being used for each appropriate strategy. For longer items it will take some time to chew on to figure out what we are going to do. We work hand and hand with Medicaid and that drives our allocations at this time, but that could change down the line. Ms. Cook added that a lot of the strategies that were listed fall on the state and our plan to reach out for issues like stigma. Diane Anderson asked " Because this strategic plan and priorities came in after we wrote our scopes of work, will we have the opportunity to make changes in our scopes to work along with this new plan?". Ms. Bennett stated we are working with our staff to work with our partners to align better with the plan for all funding sources. If something needs to be changed we highly encourage to reach out to the bureau staff.

#### 4.Public Comment

No Public Comment

#### 5.Adjournment at 04:05 PM