



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES





Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention (BBHWP) Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council (BHPAC)

> Meeting Minutes Monday, September 15, 2025 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

Chair Ariana Saunders called the meeting to order at 11:02PM.

Present Members:	Absent Members:
Anna Binder	Tiffany Bearden
Jeneeah Girma	French Dafinone
Lori Kearse	Sarah Dearborn
Dr. Pearl Kim	Dr. Krista Hales
Franklyn Morris	Allison Wall
Ariana Saunders	
Drew Skeen	
Isabella Tran	

Chair Ariana Saunders stated the meeting is being recorded and is subject to Public Meeting Law.

# 1. Public Comment

Ariana Saunders, Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council (BHPAC) Chair, asked for public comment.

Helen Byrd, Bureau of Behavioral Heath Wellness and Prevention (BBHWP), noted that the Mental Health Block Grant was submitted to SAMHSA. She stated SAMHSA granted an extension to Nevada due to the state system outage. A request for supplemental funding related to the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs was also submitted.

2. <u>For Possible Action – Approval of July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025, BHPAC meeting minutes.</u>
Chair Saunders, BHPAC Chair, noted that due to a network issue with the State network the minutes were not able to be posted online to the State website. She stated they were emailed to

the BHPAC Board members. Vice Chair Anna Binder moved to approve the July 7, 2025, meeting minutes. Lori Kearse seconded the motion. Drew Skeen noted he is abstaining from voting because he missed the meeting. The motion was passed unanimously.

3. <u>For Information Only – Introduction of new BHPAC member</u> Ariana Saunders, BHPAC Chair

Isabella Tran was formally introduced as a new BHPAC member. Ms. Tran stated that she is a high school senior at the Davidson Academy and is representing the youth perspective. Ms. Tran stated she has also worked with the University Nevada, Reno (UNR) Larson Institute to write evidenced-based policy briefs on youth mental health legislation, provided public comment in hearings and advocates for policies directly to state legislators.

 For Information Only – Presentation on Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Block Grant SFY26 from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health.
 Ariana Saunders, BHPAC Chair

Chyna Parker, Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) Block Grant Section Manager presented an overview of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, including the Department's mission, vision and purpose. Ms. Parker discussed the Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention (BBHWP) structure, which includes substance use services and mental health services. Ms. Parker stated funding for SUPTRS comes from State General Funds, Revenue Funds and Federal Funds. She stated SUPTRS subunit 10 funds transitional housing and recovery support services; Subunit 11 funds prevention initiatives in Nevada communities; and Subunits 50, 14 and 16 are revenue funds that help to fund SUPTRS' activities. Ms. Parker stated Federal Funds for the SUPTRS Block Grant is one of the largest grants at the Bureau, totaling \$25,527,552. She discussed how there are carveouts for the funding that includes Women Services and primary prevention. Ms. Parker stated that in Spring 2025, the SUPTRUS Request for Application (RFA) was opened. She stated the application period was now closed, and negotiations were now being completed. Ms. Parker noted that the Bureau's strategic plan was just completed. She went over the plan's priorities for the SUPTRS grant. This included reducing stigma, increasing community engagement around Substance Use Disorder (SUD), expanding access and affordability of SUD services, enhancing quality and integration of SUD care and strengthening family, peer and community-led support systems for youth and special populations. Ms. Parker stated there is a Synar component to SUPTRS, aimed at decreasing tobacco use by youth and those under 21. She stated the public can review the SUPTRS application via WebBGAS.

Ms. Binder asked for resources to get more information on substance use disorder. Ms. Parker suggested looking at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) evidence-based resources.

Shannon Bennett, the BBHWP Bureau Chief, noted that stigma is a large component of the Bureau's strategic plan for substance use and mental health. She stated there will be an anti-sigma campaign that will be launched over the next few years.

Ms. Kearse stated that many see SUD as a moral failing instead of a medically diagnosed condition.

Ms. Bennett said it may be helpful to discuss certifications with the BHPAC in November, including Substance Use best practices.

Helen Byrd noted that there are resources on the Center for the Application of Substance Use Technologies (CASAT) website.

Ms. Binder noted that the Substance Use Summit is being held biannually and suggested that BHPAC should volunteer to be on the panel in the future.

Ms. Kearse noted that collaboration helps reduce stigma.

- 5. For Information Only Reminder of next meeting November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, at 11:00am.
- 6. For Possible Action Discussion for next meeting agenda topics. (For Possible Vote)

NAMI and Certifications was noted as people to invite for a future meeting by Chair Ariana Saunders.

Ms. Binder stated she would like to discuss the formation of subcommittees and using the data schedule for the strategic plan to help form the subcommittees. Ms. Byrd noted that the strategic plan has been finalized and will be published once remediated.

Ms. Kearse noted that parks and recreation could be an untapped market for kids, families and people with mental health and substance use, as prevention and intervention. It was suggested that the Director of Parks and Recreation could present on the benefits of Parks and Recreation.

Ms. Tran asked how subcommittees would be assigned and what committees are available to join. Chair Ariana Saunders noted that the subcommittees are not currently active. She stated they would discuss how to assign and reform subcommittees at the November meeting. Shannon Bennett noted there is an internal analysis of how the Bureau can support subcommittees. Ms. Bennett noted that the Bureau is happy to have an anti-sigma subcommittee if there is interest. Anna Binder noted that there was an amendment in the Bylaws to make it possible for non-appointed members to be on subcommittees. Ms. Binder suggested creating a list of possible subcommittees before November for committee members to vote on. She noted that a Data subcommittee has been mentioned.

Ms. Binder made a motion for leadership to meet with staff to create a priority list of subcommittees for BHPAC members to vote on before the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Ms. Kearse seconded this motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

A question was raised by Franklyn Morris about the certifications process. Ms. Bennett, BBHWP Bureau Chief said the main goal of certifications is to assist agencies to get to where they need to be for treatment.

Dr. Kim Pearl asked if there is an auditing system for monitoring grant awardees other than reporting. Ms. Bennett said that there is annual site monitor performed where finances are looked at and whether scope of work requirements are being met. She stated there is also transaction testing done. Ms. Bennett noted that the Bureau could put subawardees on a corrective action plan if needed, or if something is very egregious, there is an ability to defund them. She noted Bureau staff are trained to quantify their scopes of work and make sure subawardees are reaching their goals.

Dr. Kim Pearl asked about measuring outcomes for the agencies. Ms. Bennett noted that staff are trained in measuring and tracking outcomes.

Ms. Kearse asked if those doing audits have a clinical background in the types of audits they are performing. Ms. Bennett noted that the certifications process holds subawardees to a clinical standard. She stated Dr. Ruth Condray and Ms. Byrd serve as the clinical experts in the Bureau for mental health programs. Ms. Bennett noted that CASAT makes recommendations from a clinical perspective when certifying agencies. Helen Byrd noted subrecipients are required to do an independent audit as part of the certification process. She stated that in the RFA process, the Mental Health Block Grant requires at least 2 year's experience in the areas they are serving, and a quality assurance component.

Ms. Binder made a motion to add the following agenda items to the next BHPAC meeting: Certifications, Project Coordination Team (PCT), formation of the subcommittees, formation of plans supporting Parks & rec or advocacy, inviting National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) back, and formalizing the relationship with the Behavioral Health Commission. Ms. Kearse seconded this motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Ms. Binder made another motion for people who may be interested in joining potential subcommittees who are BHPAC staff or community members to email the BHPAC email expressing interest. Ms. Bennett stated she believes that subcommittees vote on adding members once they are formed. Ms. Saunders stated she did not believe that this needed to be a formal motion. Ms. Binder withdrew the motion.

Ms. Saunders noted that ideas for subcommittees can be emailed in between meetings. She stated anything regarding subcommittees can be left as for possible action item in upcoming agendas.

### 7. Public Comment

Ariana Saunders called for public comment.

Ms. Kearse noted that she appreciated the hard work that Chair Ariana Saunders and Vice Chair Anna Binder have been doing.

### 8. Adjournment

Ms. Saunders adjourned the meeting at 12:30PM.