

**SOUTHERN REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: Wednesday, March 13, 2024

TIME: 8:00 a.m.- Adjournment

Meeting Location: Virtual - Online Only

This meeting held via teleconference at: Join Zoom [Meeting Login Link](#) (see full details in the notes section below). – check online and links at the bottom.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call (Chair, Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner, and Coordinator)

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner at approximately 8:01am.

Members Present:

Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner (Chair)
Stacy Smith (Vice-Chair)
Assemblyman Gregory Hafen II
Missie Rowe
Boonn Hem
Chief Scott Lewis

Sarah Dillard
Brenda O’Neill
Dr. Whitney Owens
Coleen Lawrence
Jaren Stanton

Members Absent:

McKaye Traynor

2. Public Comment: Public comment was offered but none was given.

3. For Possible Discussion and Action: Chief Scott Lewis motioned to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2024 meeting. Motion seconded by Missie Rowe. All in favor, none opposed. Jaren Stanton abstained due to not being a Board Member at the time of the meeting.

4. For Possible Discussion and Action: the coordinator facilitated discussion and action by the board to develop and determine board 2024 priorities around rural behavioral health. The robust discussion centered around priorities/emerging issues leading up to the BDR (Bill Draft Resolution) for the upcoming legislative session-noting that it is due September 1st, 2024. Board Members agreed to narrow down and focus on the top 3 priorities to pursue legislatively which are Transportation and Transport, Crisis Response and Stabilization, and Access to Care and Services. The coordinator mentioned that many categories do overlap with one another. Boonn Hem mentioned that she is looking for information for the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority to help others aid the transportation barriers. Sarah Dillard suggested ideas for reimbursement to hospitals for transportation and workforce efforts. Colleen Lawrence reiterated the need for and importance of recruiting and retaining health care providers. Dr. Sara Hunt noted that the main goal for BeHERENV (Be Here Nevada) in the next legislative session is to continue funding to keep the programming going. Dr. Hunt noted that there is also an increased focus on going out and doing education about mental and behavioral health

careers. Stacy Smith mentioned that she will be forwarding an email to the coordinator to send out regarding student loan repayment and expanding the areas of census track. The Board took a poll to get ideas as to which of the priorities, of the top 3, would be moved forward into a BDR. Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner mentioned looking into other policy boards as well for their ideas for BDR. Once the priority for the BDR is chosen, a letter will be drafted and sent to the State and local representatives and Senators for the Southern Region to further the priorities and efforts of the Board. Mr. Osten-Garner noted that the information found will be brought back to the Board to help further a decision at the April Policy Board meeting.

Board Planning Priorities Grid: <https://nvbh.org/pdf-preview?id=5145>

5. **For Possible Discussion and Action:** Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner explained that he had sent an email to every Board Member that was up for a renewal term. Chair Osten-Garner noted that if someone did not receive an email, it was because their Board term did not expire this year. Mr. Osten-Garner mentioned that everyone whose term was up has agreed to serve another term and thanked those who will continue to serve. Lastly, Dr. Osten-Garner noted that Assemblyman Gregory Hafen had been reappointed to the Board through the Legislative Commission and that the Board was excited to continue serving with him.

6. **For Information and Discussion:** The coordinator mentioned that he has recently been visiting areas in the Southern Region including Tonopah and Esmeralda County, working with the Coalitions, and discussing behavioral health issues in the Southern Region. The coordinator noted that Esmeralda County is currently working on an initiative with Bill Teel regarding rural opioid jail and continuation of care. The coordinator explained that he is finishing a peer support community inclusion statewide project with Foundations of Recovery and CASAT (Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies), and the Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery, noting that there were 60 participants over the course of 3 sessions. Lastly the coordinator mentioned ongoing training, resource distribution, grants, collaborating, and networking, along with reviewing and supporting deflection and diversion efforts in the region. The coordinator also noted that he had recently met with Terry Kerns in the Attorney General’s Office and provided a letter of support for the COSSUP (Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Use Program) Grant to expand deflection and diversion efforts in the state. In other business, the coordinator explained that there has been a change where meeting documents can be found going forward. Meeting documents will now be posted in the following areas:

Southern Regional Behavioral Health Website: <https://nvbh.org/southern-behavioral-health-region/>. Please refer to the Publications and Reports Section for more information.

Department of Health and Human Services Website: https://dphh.nv.gov/Boards/RBHPB/Board_Meetings/Meetings/ (here you can find the agendas and minutes for current meetings including an archive of previous meetings and a listing of board members)

7. **For Possible Action:** Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner mentioned that there was still a Board Member opening for a law enforcement representative and encouraged Members to share

with anyone they know that would be a good match for the vacancy. Chair Osten Garner also noted that they would be putting future presentations on hold for at least another month to ensure priorities are clear for the upcoming BDR.

- 8. Public Comment:** Laurie Soriano of NV PEP shared that she was in agreement with the top three priorities as those are the concerns and challenges that she is hearing from families, the most critical being access to care and services. Ms. Soriano also mentioned that a limited number of providers, specialty courts (after crisis care), and lack of transportation continue to be at the forefront of the barriers.
- 9. For Possible Action:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:17am by Chair Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner. Chief Scott Lewis motioned to adjourn the February Southern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board meeting. Motion seconded by Dr. Whitney Owens. All in favor, none opposed.

AGENDA POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

Physical Locations:

Nevada Rural Hospital Partners: 4600 Kietzke Lane; Suite I-209, Reno, Nevada 89502, and
Division of Public Behavioral Health: 4126 Technology Way, 2nd Floor, Carson City, Nevada 89706.

Southern Regional Behavioral Health Website: <https://nvbh.org/southern-behavioral-health-region/>.
Please refer to the Publications and Reports Section for more information.

Department of Health and Human Services Website:
https://dpbh.nv.gov/Boards/RBHPB/Board_Meetings/Meetings/ (here you can find the agendas and minutes for current meetings including an archive of previous meetings and a listing of board members)

Nevada Public Notices: <https://notice.nv.gov/>.