

Coordinator Update

Southern Region Behavioral Health

Policy Board Meeting

October-November (2023)

Southern Region (March-Sept. 2023)

ATOD Substance Use-Misuse, MH, and Opioids

- Local-Tribal Visits / Coalition and BH Work Groups
- Stakeholder/Partner Networking and Support
- Criminal Justice and Opioid Planning
- Resource and TTA Support / Empowerment Models
- Data Assessment, Collection, and Reporting

Local and Tribal Visits and Involvement

- Coordination work restarted in March 2023 (7 months) building on the previous work nine months (Jan. to Oct.) in 2022
- Visits to the southern region: eight regional visits (16 days) in four months
- Including two tribal visits: Duckwater Shoshone and Walker River Paiute Tribes
- Coalition and Behavioral Health Work Groups (Mineral, Lincoln, Nye Counties including Tonopah)

Statewide and Regional Agency and Stakeholder/Partner Networking and Support

- Criminal Justice and Opioid Planning: Esmeralda/Lincoln County
- Specialty Courts / Jail MOUD / Community Continuation of Care
- Avel Tablet Program – Lincoln/Mineral - telehealth & crisis support.
- Existing and expansion of diversion and deflection (Nye-Lincoln)
- Crisis stabilization, support, and response (local, regional, rural)
- Policy boards, commissions, schools, extension, hospitals, government, veterans, community outreach, public and behavioral health, and others.

Additional Statewide and Regional Agency and Stakeholder/Partner Networking and Support

- NACo, CASAT, Aging and Disability, DPBH, NDOE
- Statewide Peer Support Certification Advisory Group
- Statewide networking and regional PRSS/CHW support
- *Nevada Peer Support Community Inclusion Training* with Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery in partnership with Temple University

Resources and TTA Support

- Southern Regional Behavioral Health Resource Guide and Appendix.
- 60 + pages comprised of national, state, regional, and local resources
- Printed, digital and online version
- Distributed to 100+ to stakeholders and their agencies in four counties
- Regular local, state, regional, and national resources and TTA
- Neighborhood-based empowerment models using action planning and collaborative systems

Southern Region Overview (2023)

- Regional and Local Strengths and Highlights
- Needs, Gaps, and Barriers
- Additional Opportunities
- Strategies and Initiatives
- Priorities and Recommendations

Southern Regional/Local Strengths and Highlights

- Community Coalitions: Nye and Lincoln counties also serving Esmeralda
- Specialty Courts, Judicial, Legal, and Probation in the Region
- Multi-Disciplinary Team(s) and Behavioral Health Groups (Mineral County and Others)
- CIT Training, robust collaboration, communication and provision of services and community support
- Education and schools, family support, senior and youth programs and services

Southern Region Needs Review (2022)

- Access to Care
- Transportation
- Behavioral Health Workforce
- Knowledge of Statewide and Community Programs and Resources

Behavioral Health Needs – Gaps and Barriers

- Difficulty in recruiting and retaining workforce in rural areas
- Scarcity of behavioral health clinical services/providers – region/state
- Growing number of community health workers but limited peer specialists, medical, and clinical staff and providers – supervision concerns
- Lack of BH supportive housing/residential services/treatment
- Long waits for evaluations and intensive residential care access

Transportation/ Transport

- Residents travel long distances for work or more specialized care, if they have the resources/vehicle/support.
- Taking off for work and school, if possible, creates issues.
- Agency (law enforcement/EMS) transport residents to access general medical care, specialized services, and mental health crisis or residential/inpatient treatment.
- Traveling long distances (out-of-county) requires them to be out-of-service or unavailable, understaffed, paid overtime.
- Two of four counties, smaller communities, and tribes have no hospital, emergency, or shopping/groceries nearby (50 plus miles)

Youth and Family Opportunities

- Local supports for guardianship process and foster care
- Increased parental engagement and family support
- Increased need for prevention programs, youth development, and school-based programs including licensed childcare and centers.
- Increased utilization, transportation, and access.

Additional Opportunities

- Increased funding, grants, staffing, support, and sustainability
- Scarcity of dental and primary care and mobile clinics and hospitals
- Support for seniors including community and home health
- Community-and-home based services for all ages.
- Homelessness and affordable housing
- Increased education and training around stigma, harm reduction, crisis intervention (CIT), emergency services, and other areas.

Priority Recommendations and Strategies

- Networking and building relationships and working with NRHP, board, hospitals, and local/regional/state/tribal stakeholders.
- More data and resource review and collection to support reporting.
- Ongoing review of strengths, needs, opportunities, barriers, and gaps.
- Strategies, priorities, and recommendations on neighborhood-based empowerment models using action planning and collaborative systems.
- Work to support coalitions, behavioral health task and other groups.
- Increased focus on training and support for the behavioral health coordination and workforce in the southern region.
- Support and advocacy for increased funding, resources, staffing, and technical assistance for the southern region.
- Serve as a liaison between the community, board, and state.

Policy Board Overview (2022-2023)

- Met 3 times in 2022 / 5 Meetings in 2023 (Total 8)
- Review of By-laws and Board Member Openings (Ongoing)
- Coordinator and Board Roles, Responsibilities, and Function
- Open Meeting Laws and Policies/Protocols
- Child Psychiatry Access Programs
- Overview of Legislative Process / State-Governors Initiatives
- Overview of Other Policy Boards and Coordinator Roles
- Emerging Legislative and Regional Issues and Direction

Board Emerging Priorities and Planning (2023)

- Evaluating Outreach and Education: inform/educate board/public.
- Involving “public voice” and community stakeholders and partners.
- Increasing trust, communications, and feedback.
- Reducing barriers to public input and involvement.
- Continue understanding and addressing highlights and strengths, opportunities, and needs (gaps and barriers).
- Continuing to develop strategies, priorities, and initiatives in rural behavioral health.

Behavioral Health Issues in Rural Areas (Board)

- Transportation and transport
- Workforce and economic development (GOED)
- Youth and parenting support; family systems and engagement
- Courts and Justice
- Training and education
- Access to Services
- Barriers to Insurance and Other Emerging Legislative Issues
- Data Assessment, Collection, and Reporting: issues, availability, barriers, and complexity.

Southern/Regional Websites

- Nevada Regional Behavioral Health Policy Boards: <https://nvbh.org/>
- Southern Behavioral Health Region: <https://nvbh.org/southern-behavioral-health-region/>
- DHHS-DPBH Southern Policy Board:
[https://dpbh.nv.gov/Boards/RBHPB/Board Meetings/2018/Southern RBHPB/](https://dpbh.nv.gov/Boards/RBHPB/Board_Meetings/2018/Southern_RBHPB/)

Southern Region/Nevada Data

- State Office Analytics Dashboards:

<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoiYjFkNWE4NGMtN2U2My00NGMxLTkzYjktNmRmMzA2MWI5YjlyliwidCI6ImU0YTM0MGU2LWI4OWUtNGU2OC04ZWZhLTE1NDRkMjcwMzk4MCJ9>

- Substance Use in Southern Region (ER-IP):

<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoiODQ2MjJjMjktOWE5NC00MThmLTlkMmEtYzZjMDU0YWU3MmUyYliwidCI6ImU0YTM0MGU2LWI4OWUtNGU2OC04ZWZhLTE1NDRkMjcwMzk4MCJ9>

- Nevada OD2A – Overdose Data to Action Program):

<https://nvopioidresponse.org/initiatives/od2a/>

- Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS):

<https://scholarworks.unr.edu/handle/11714/4983>

Additional Southern Region/Nevada Data

- Nevada Rural and Frontier Health Data Book (for describing the population in terms of demographics, per capita income, graduation rates, crime statistics, etc.): <https://med.unr.edu/statewide/reports-and-publications/nevada-rural-and-frontier-health-data-book>
- County Health Rankings (measures and health behaviors including access to clinical care stats): <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/nevada/esmeralda?year=2023>
- Nevada Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBS) – 2021 MS and HS: <https://scholarworks.unr.edu/handle/11714/4983>

Questions and Contact Information

Questions or Comments?

Mark Funkhouser, Coordinator

Southern Behavioral Health Region

Email: mark@nrhp.org

Phone: (775) 827-4770 ext. 19

Mobile: (812) 449-4343