

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

**DATE: Tuesday, October 31, 2023**

**TIME: 9:00 a.m.- Adjournment**

**Meeting Location: Virtual - Online Only**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call at 9:01 am**

**Members Present**

Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner (Vice-Chair)

Assemblyman Gregory Hafen II

Missie Rowe

Stacy Smith

Boonn Hem

Chief Scott Lewis

Dr. Whitney Owens

Coleen Lawrence

McKaye Traynor

**Other Board Members:** Sarah Dillard, excused; Brenda O'Neill - absent

**Staff-Others:** Jennifer Sturm-Gahner, Valerie Haskin, Belz and Case, Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, Joan Waldock, Sara Hunt, Terry Kerns, Fergus Laughridge, Lea Tachen, Joan Hall, Vanessa Diaz, Dr. Amy Hyne-Sutherland, Carissa Tashiro, Tray Abney

**2. Public Comment:** Vice-Chair, Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner, recognized former Chair, Franklin Katschke, for his service on the policy board and as chair. No further public comment was offered.

**3. For Possible Action:** motion to approve minutes from September 21 meeting was made by Dr. Whitney Owens and seconded by Coleen Lawrence. Minutes were approved.

**4. For Possible Action:** nomination and motion made by Stacy Smith for Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner to become chair. Coleen Lawrence seconded the motion. The recommendation was approved by the board. Nomination and motion made by Chief Lewis for Stacy Smith to become vice-chair. The motion was seconded by Boonn Hem. The recommendation was approved by the board. Board member Coleen Lawrence offered to assist in any way possible.

**5. For Information and Discussion:** Jennifer Sturm-Gahner, Principal Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, presented an overview of the legislative process. The presentation can be found at the following link:  
<https://dpbh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dpbh.nv.gov/content/Boards/RBHPB/Meetings/2018/NV%20Leg%20Process%20for%20Southern%20Regional%20Behavioral%20Health.pdf>

During follow-up questions, Coleen Lawrence asked about presentations and public access regarding testimony and training on the legislative process. Jennifer Sturm-Gahner noted that those resources are on the following [link](#) on the Legislative Counsel Bureau website. Assemblyman Hafen responded to say that, if the board has the Bill Draft Request (BDR)

early enough, it would be recommended to get the bill in front of the Interim Committee(s) and get input with potential support, and this makes the process go smoother in passing bills. He recommended as much interaction with the Interim Committees as necessary and that having patience in the vetting process is essential. Stacy Smith asked what determines the number of positions in the legislature and she inquired about Nevada not being “at capacity” regarding the open positions. Stacy Smith also asked about the reasons why we do not have all the positions filled. She also asked about the federal funding that comes through the state, as a grant recipient, and about the LCB process that happens with the financial and budget process. Jennifer Sturm-Gahner advised that the LCB could do a future presentation on the complex budget process. Regarding the full membership of seventy-five allowed by the constitution, currently there are sixty-three members. Nevada has not taken any measures to add members. She also advised that the LCB could provide more information on the history and statutes regarding the legislative makeup if requested in the future.

Chair Osten-Garner asked if the board has access to LCB resources and research during the BDR process. Jennifer Sturm-Gahner advised that the LCB is available for research, guiding, and training, and she also suggested utilizing Assemblyman Hafen as a resource. Jennifer Sturm-Gahner advised that once BDR is ready to go and submitted with the general intent and suggested language, the board can send that into “legal” to determine the “germaneness” and they can help move the board through the process by communicating and working out the details after the BDR is submitted.

6. **For Information and Discussion:** next the board entertained a robust panel discussion and follow-up questions on regional behavioral health policy boards and coordination with the following individuals: Fergus Laughridge, Rural Policy Board Chair; Dr. Amy Hyne-Sutherland, Northern Policy Board Vice Chair; Valerie M.C. Haskin, Rural Region Coordinator; and Cherylyn Rahr Wood, Northern Region Coordinator. The group discussed the historical context of the work and boards along with the results or impact of the efforts for the state and rural regions and the respective constituencies. There was also a robust discussion around issues and priorities and the group gave some tips, techniques, and guidance to assist the Southern Policy Board in learning from their experiences.

Questions from the Southern Policy Board started with Stacy Smith around the CIT and hospitals and their systems and for the “next steps” on another issue around licensure reciprocity. Valerie Haskin and Cherylyn Rahr Wood gave suggestions to work with and follow-up with other state and national stakeholder groups and organizations. Coleen Lawrence noted CIT and MOST Teams in counties she works with and asked about 988 and implementation and how that connects to other projects. Coleen expressed her concerns about the process and working out the systems and integration and other models. Dr. Hyne Sutherland noted that these issues can be addressed by having state officials come and answer questions or give presentations about initiatives and systems.

7. **For Possible Action:** the board then affirmed the next meeting on November 29 at 8 am along with regular meetings set for 2024 on the second Wednesday of each month at 8 a.m.

8. **For Possible Action:** the Chair and Coordinator gave a follow-up for the board to consider and submit recommendations on board member vacancies for a “*representative of the criminal justice system*” and a “*law enforcement representative*” with “*behavioral health experience/knowledge*.” The coordinator has been communicating with current potential candidates and will follow up when and if anyone applies. The board was encouraged to forward any potential candidates to the coordinator.
9. **For Information and Discussion:** Southern Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator update of deliverables, scope of work and activity including regional/state data and resources *Tabled and moved to an agenda item for the November Meeting.*
10. **For Possible Action:** the board discussed a possible future agenda item for discussion on state behavioral health priorities with Allison Genko, Public Health Resource Officer, or another designated representative from the Governor’s Office. Assemblyman Hafen reiterated the benefit of this and made a motion with Dr. Whitney Owens putting forth a second. The motion passed.
11. **Public Comment:** Carissa Tashiro, Nevada Disability and Law Center submitted public comment and advised that she will consider submitting her application to the board. No further public comment was given.
12. **For Possible Action:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:55 am.