

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

DATE: Thursday, June 29, 2023

TIME: 8:30 am to Adjournment

The meeting was held virtually, using remote technology, recorded, and in compliance with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 241.023.

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Chair Franklin Katschke. It was noted that there was not a quorum with only 5 members of the board being present. Melissa (Missie) Rowe and Coleen Lawrence joined the meeting at 8:45 am followed by Stacy Smith. The meeting then officially proceeded with a quorum.

- Members present: Franklin Katschke (Chair), Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner (Vice-Chair), Chief Scott Lewis, Sarah Dillard, Boonn Hem, Melissa (Missie) Rowe, Coleen Lawrence, Stacy Smith.
- Members Absent: Dr. Whitney Owens; Brenda O'Neill, Assemblyman Gregory Hafen
- Staff: Mark Funkhouser, Southern Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator
- Guests: Rosalie Bordelove, Joan Hall, Blayne Osborne, Mia Carney, Hannah Branch, and Laura Yanez.

Coordinator, Mark Funkhouser, noted that Vice Chair, Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner would be departing the meeting due to a scheduling conflict at 9:30 am. Ms. Rosalie Bordelove, Chief Deputy Attorney General, stated that the board could not take any action without a quorum present, and that all public comments and adjournment would need to occur prior to the loss of quorum. Chair Franklin Katschke stated that the agenda items would need to be taken out of order, so the board can approve items with a quorum present.

2. Public Comment

Chair Katschke opened the meeting for public comment. There was no public comment requested.

3. Approval of the Policy Board By-Laws

Chair Franklin Katschke advised that the meeting by-laws were already presented and approved in 2022, but there was no formal record of that action. Chair Katschke entertained a motion for approval of the by-laws. Vice Chair, Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner, motioned to approve the Southern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board's By-Laws. Chief Scott Lewis to second the motion. None opposed, motion carried.

4. Discussion on Board Member Vacancies

Chair Katschke clarified that this agenda item does not need action taken but requires a discussion about recommendations for potential board appointees to fill two positions (listed below).

"The Majority Leader of the Senate shall appoint to each policy board one member who represents law enforcement agencies and who has experience with and knowledge of matters relating to persons in need of behavioral health services." NRS.429.5

"The members appointed to a policy board pursuant to subsections 2 to 7, inclusive, may appoint to the policy board: . . . "(b) One member who represents the interests of owners or administrators of residential treatment facilities, transitional housing, or other housing for persons with a mental illness or persons who have an alcohol or other substance use disorder." NRS 433.429.8(b)."

Vice-Chair, Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner, stated that the majority leader of the Senate was open to appointing recommendations that the board put through for nominations for the “law enforcement” opening. The second position listed, “owners or administrators of residential treatment facilities . . .” can be appointed by members of the board without approval from other entities. Ms. Boonn Hem suggested that the coordinator reach out to Ms. DaCota Terry from WestCare. The coordinator discussed that there is a director for the Aurora Center for Healing out of Hawthorne that could be another recommendation to join the Southern Behavioral Health Policy Board. No action was taken on either position, but the coordinator will reach out to individuals who might fill both of those slots. Board members were encouraged to recommend anyone that fits as well.

5. Open Meeting Laws Presentation - Rosalie Bordelove, Chief Deputy Attorney General

Ms. Rosalie Bordelove with the Nevada Attorney General’s Office presented about Open Meeting Law. During the presentation involving removal of someone during public comment, Vice Chair, Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner asked for clarification about whether muting a person at the meeting would be considered kicking someone off the meeting. Ms. Bordelove clarified that muting someone would not be considered removing them from the meeting if it is to remove a distraction and not just someone attempting to make a public comment. Ms. Bordelove ended her presentation with an explanation of where training materials are available on the Attorney General’s website, OML opinions, and the AG’s OML manual as well as contact information.

Vice-Chair, Dr. Kevin Osten-Garner, stated that he would be leaving the meeting due to another meeting he had, but the quorum was noted as maintained with the additional attendance of Board member, Stacy Smith.

6. Presentation and Overview of the Role and Function of the Policy Board

Mark Funkhouser, Southern Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator, presented the outline of the Southern Regional Behavioral Health Board Functions and Role. In the presentation, the coordinator noted the counties that this region covers: Mineral, northern Nye, Esmeralda, and Lincoln. The coordinator also presented on the board’s roles and function regarding various other duties outlined in statutes (<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-433.html#NRS433Sec429>).

Chair Franklin Katschke asked the coordinator to expand on the roles and responsibilities in correlation to the board. The coordinator then stated that it is the coordinator’s responsibility to support the facilitation and coordination regarding this meeting and to report to the board regularly. The coordinator also touched on how it is the coordinator’s role to assess and gain input on gaps, needs, strengths, and opportunities in the region, and to report out and facilitate business of the board. The coordinator also noted that the coordinator role is a liaison for the region and board and noted that some needs are county specific, and some are more regional or statewide. He elaborated that the role of the board is to assess and report on the needs and barriers of the behavioral health system and develop initiatives, priorities, and potential legislation. Chair Katschke confirmed that if board members see a major need, those issues can be reported to the coordinator and potentially put on the agenda for future discussion and action and assess how this might relate to policy at the state level. He also encouraged board members to review NRS. 433.4295. The presentation can be found at https://dpbh.nv.gov/Boards/RBHPB/Board_Meetings/2018/SouthernRBHPB/.

7. Coordinator Presentation on Annual Report (2022) and Updates (2023)

The coordinator presented highlights on the Annual Report for 2022, going over treatment, education,

and behavioral health services to persons with serious mental illness as well as co-occurring and substance abuse disorders. The coordinator summarized the coordination with local task forces and stakeholders in the regional meetings and noted numerous meetings with organizations across the spectrum in state, local and regional work. The 2023 deliverables and scope of work were outlined: alcohol, tobacco, and other drug (ATOD) substance use-misuse prevention; mental health, and state opioid response. He also noted the goals and objectives, activities and strategies, and documentation to monitor progress and deliverables as well as evaluation. In the presentation, the coordinator highlighted strengths, and various resources as well as opportunities, gaps, needs, and barriers in addition to priorities and strategies that the board could use as a foundation for moving forward.

Coleen Lawrence noted that her organization, Thrive, is in partnership with UNLV. She noted a pediatric access line that Dr. Lisa Durette oversees. This is like a curbside consult to physicians and primary care doctors. She noted these are readily available assets along with psychiatry care. Thrive has a presence in Mineral County as well as other counties. Coleen Lawrence also added that they are applying for a HRSA grant right now that has the potential for expansion for programs in rural Nevada.

Sarah Dillard asked about whether Lincoln County has a mental health court. Chair Katschke clarified that Lincoln County does not have a mental health court but does have a drug court that simultaneously runs with a DUI court. Ms. Dillard emphasized that the region currently does not have a specialty court that addresses mental health. The coordinator reported that reviewing those needs or even potentially developing some components to address mental health may be something a county or the board could review and discuss. The presentation can be found at https://dpbh.nv.gov/Boards/RBHPB/Board_Meetings/2018/SouthernRBHPB/.

8. Discussion/Approval of Future Agenda Items

The coordinator suggested the board look at the state-wide opioid assessment as a presentation from Dr. Amy Hyne-Sutherland, Public Health Coordinator for the Nevada National Association of Counties. Another suggestion was to ask Dr. Kristen Clements-Knowles from the University of Nevada, Reno to do a presentation on the epidemiological report for the southern region. A third option was to have NAMI present on resources and programs. Ms. Stacy Smith shared her interest in the possibility of NAMI presenting. Coleen Lawrence said she could ask Dr. Lisa Durette, the Dean of UNLV Psychiatry program, to do a presentation on the pediatric access line and how it can assist communities with psychiatry care. Ms. Stacy Smith suggested UNR present on the specialty reports from YRBS, led by Dr. Clements-Knowles. Ms. Smith also stated that the 2021 data was available, while the 2023 data was being wrapped up for dissemination.

9. Determine Next Meeting Time and Date

The coordinator stated that the next meeting will be determined via the poll sent out.

10. Public Comment

Ms. Laura Yanez, Director of NAMI Western Nevada, commented on the tablet program that currently supports law enforcement that could be a potential topic for the board. This program allows law enforcement to do an onsite assessment, as well as a follow up for continued care through AVEL. Ms. Yanez stated that the program was used for diversion from unnecessary hospitalizations and can provide continued care for those who become involved with law enforcement. Ms. Coleen Lawrence asked where this program is being utilized. Ms. Yanez clarified that Lincoln County, Elko PD, Elko Sheriff's Department, Winnemucca PD, Eureka, White Pine, and two other departments.

11. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 am.