

Nevada Association of County Human Services Administrators

Minutes

March 12, 2019

Active Members:

Mary Jane Ostrander, Carson City

Shannon Ernst, Churchill County

Tim Burch, Clark County (phone)

Shayla Holmes, Lyon County

Karyn Smith, Nye County

Toni Acuff, Lincoln County

Amber Howell, Washoe County (phone)

Niki Linn, Humboldt County (phone)

Associate Members:

Mike Pawlak, Clark County (phone)

Affiliate Members:

Karen Kelly, Clark County Public Guardian

Nicole Thomas, Douglas County Public Guardian (phone)

Tracey Bowles, Washoe County Public Guardian (phone)

Ashley Gurr, Elko County Public Guardian

Guests:

Debbie Lee, CAHS (phone)

Jessica Flood, Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator (phone)

Chris Linton, NCAA

Item 1: Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:08am by Tim Burch.

Item 2: Introductions

Tim Burch asked those attending the meeting to introduce themselves and introductions were made.

Item 3: Public Comment

Tim Burch inquired as to whether there was any public comment. There was none.

Item 4: Verification of the Posting of the Agenda

Karyn Smith verified the agenda had been posted according to NRS.

Item 5: Review and Adoption of Agenda

Tim Burch called for a motion to adopt the agenda as submitted. Shannon Ernst made a motion to adopt the agenda as submitted. Mary Jane Ostrander seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Item 6: State of Nevada Aging and Disabilities Services Update

None present to give updates.

Item 7: State Updates Not Previously Provided

No updates.

Item 8: Regional Behavioral Health Efforts

Jessica Flood stated that their biggest focus right now in the region is the Legislative Bill draft. On AB-56, Washoe County is looking to fund a Crisis Triage for Washoe and Clark County. The Northern Behavioral Health Board is looking in clarifying and standardizing the legal process statewide. With AB-76, the Southern Behavioral Health Board is focused on clarifying the Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board in providing more support to them for the leadership they need. The Rural Policy Board has AB-47 which is proposing and asking for funding for a pilot project to fund Crisis Intervention Training, Behavioral Health Transport and a Mobile Crisis Response Team that would be delivered regionally via TeleHealth and managing.

The other piece of legislation that Jessica thought everyone would be interested in is AB-191 which was brought forth by Assemblyman Kramer. That bill is asking for 1 million dollars for two years for the 15 rural counties with populations under 100,000 to develop Mobile Outreach Safety Teams or something to that extent. It is a flexible piece of funding that was modeled after the Family Support Funding last session. The idea is that every county, no matter how small or what the population is, could ask the state to make a proposal to have case managers, a clinician, or even do TeleHealth and have that funding go towards follow up or partnering with law enforcement and EMS to help stabilize individuals that are in chronic crisis in our communities.

Jessica Flood also wanted to let us know the First Episode Psychosis Program is being launched through Carson & Tahoe. Initially the scope of their services was for the northern regions, but they are now accepting referrals from the rural regions and Washoe County. I can send more information to the Secretary to get it out to everyone. A very small portion of the population is going to experience psychosis every year. If you are able to intercept those individuals in the first 6 months to a year of their

disease process, and provide wrap around services, it can really have a positive outcome for them to move forward. If you think you see anyone in your community with this disease, it is important to get them into the First Episode Psychosis Program.

Shannon Ernst asked if we had any information on where we are at with the contracting of this program with other counties. Jessica stated that the first year is almost up on June 30; however it is a two year funding program. Jessica stated that in order for it to become regional, we really wanted to use community providers who were local and have that expertise to support the individuals in their community. We've been partnering with Shannon Ernst in Churchill, Mary Jane Ostrander in Carson, Karen Beckerbauer in Douglas, and Shayla Holmes in Lyon so that their case managers can be part of the team and we can refer these individuals with First Episode Psychosis back into their communities to be supported. A big part of First Episode Psychosis is providing housing and employment support so it made a lot of sense to work with the experts in the community. Jessica sent an email out last week about the contract. Karen sent her a contract that everyone got from the HRSA Opioid Grant we were doing and she thought that would be adequate for Carson & Tahoe and should be done in the next week.

Jessica Flood stated that last year 8 of the counties in rural Nevada (Douglas/Lyon/Churchill/Mineral/Storey/Lincoln/Esmeralda/Nye) all came together to apply for the HRSA Opioid Grant because their indicators were really high surrounding opioids. Mineral County had the highest rate of prescription opioids in Nevada. We got the grant in partnership with Community Chest in Storey County and all the counties have been making progress in doing the Strategic Planning process. Each county is doing their own county focused Opioid Summit to some extent to engage in the community, provide education as to what the opioid crisis looks like, and then create next steps forward. Shannon just did hers, and Shayla did hers last week as well.

Shannon stated they launched their summit to get their stakeholders at the table (Judges/Law Enforcement). She mentioned that they decided what they were missing in their data and what they wanted to learn about their community in regards to opioids and the usage there. We are now creating the focus group information and going into the schools and into the community to start obtaining that info to help develop our Strategic Plan and where we want to go with it. Shayla said last week in Lyon County they held their Opioid Summit which brought out 21 individuals from area providers (medical and behavioral health), law enforcement, our District Attorney and County Manager were present. We had presentations from Law Enforcement, from people who have experienced or witnessed addiction. She said they had Healthy Communities present on harm reduction. Jessica presented on her data as well. They set up a good Strategic Plan for Opioid Addiction in Lyon County and how we can make that broad enough to address substance abuse. A big take away from the whole discussion was there was a stronger need for wrap around and community support from the bottom up that covers all age ranges. We will be scheduling community focus groups over the next month to move forward with that.

Jessica stated that all counties will be participating and it is apparent that Nevada has one of the highest prescribing rates in the nation. It is a silent issue right now and we may see more as AB-474 starts tightening down on providers. Jessica stated that she hopes everyone has received an email from all of the regional coordinators or at least invited to a meeting for the CAST tool. (Calculating and Adequate System Tool) We've been partnering with the state to rule this out into the communities. All of the coordinators have been really interested in and endorsed this and getting more information on the Behavioral Health needs of the community and we attempted to create our own Behavioral Health

survey. The state partnered with us to use one standardized survey, and Jessica really encourages everyone to participate in that. The state will be using that tool to understand regional needs and inform legislators on the issues. One final update is that if anyone hasn't met with Valerie Cauhape, she wants to connect with any stakeholders in her region. Jessica will email her information to Karyn Smith to connect the rural stakeholders with Valerie.

Item 9: Update on using Google Docs for meeting agendas and minutes

Karyn Smith stated that we are working on setting up the Google docs with Shayla Holmes. We will send out instructions probably within the next week on how to access and see everything we post. You should also receive an email anytime we upload any information (the agenda/minutes/backup) so you may view that.

Item 10: Updates on monthly Maximizing County Medicaid Workshops

Shannon Ernst stated that there was a group of us that were meeting with state Medicaid to look at how we can access community health workers and other different programs under Medicaid. It was an ongoing conversation and came back that it is changed to the state plan to make that happen and the approval with the Medicaid budget. It was denied to have that change in the very beginning of this year. There have been no other conversations about this since November. Tim Burch stated that he is meeting with the new Medicaid Director next week, and will mention about getting this back on topic in spring.

Mike Pawlak asked Tim if anyone has ever done an info graphic depicting who pays for which populations, when that happens and wanted to know if that was out there anywhere. Shannon stated that at NACO in Douglas this year, Cody Denning tried to give an outline about what that county pays for and mapped out the Medicaid and what services are being paid for so that there is a clear understanding. Tim stated he will bring it up at NACO and reference Cody as a starting point so we can get a map established for everyone.

Item 11: Discuss contracting with a transcription service or person for meeting minutes

Karyn Smith stated that we haven't heard anything and that she's doing ok for now with the minutes. But if everyone can keep an ear open for any service that can help, she'd appreciate it.

Item 12: Update on IRS Filing/Reinstatement

Mary Jane Ostrander stated that she doesn't have any updates. Everything has been turned into the IRS. We were expecting to hear something within 3 weeks, but haven't yet. She's not sure if the government shutdown prompted the delay or not. She has reached out to their accountant that is helping them and she hasn't heard anything yet either.

Item 13: Treasurer's Report- February 2019

Mary Jane Ostrander stated that they have written one check which was to reimburse Nye County for travel to the meetings in Carson City. The check has been cut for \$1,236.88, and was given to Karyn Smith today. She transferred \$1,000 from their savings into their checking account to cover the charges. That leaves us with a checking balance of \$789.54, and a savings balance of \$3,818.09 with a total balance of \$4,607.63. Hopefully we will get the whole IRS thing straightened out so we can start accepting dues. Shannon Ernst made a motion to approve the February 2019 Treasurer's Report. Shayla Holmes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Item 14: Setting of Annual dues

Tim Burch asked with the IRS issues, how that affects Item #14. Mary Jane Ostrander stated that some counties cannot cut a check without a W-9 on file. We are unable to create a W-9 until we have a tax ID number. She doesn't know whether we will reinstate our old number, or get a new one. Shannon Ernst stated that we haven't set the amounts for this year at the annual meeting, but it has been tabled until we get it figured out. Tim stated we can table it until the IRS issues get figured out.

Item 15: Approval of Minutes from February 14, 2019 Meeting

Mary Jane Ostrander stated that there are a few people under the "Guest" portion who should be listed as members. Niki Linn from Humboldt County and Desiree Barnson from White Pine County are members and need to be added to that section. Shayla suggested that we add an "Affiliate Members" and "Associate Members" section for the minutes. Shannon Ernst made a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections from the February 14, 2019 meeting. Shayla Holmes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Item 16: NACO Staff Update on Items Not Agendized

Tim Burch stated we will table this for next meeting because nobody from NACO is present at the meeting.

Item 17: Legislative Updates

Shannon Ernst stated that they have been having meetings every two weeks to discuss bills they are watching closely, new bills that are coming forward, and making suggestions for amendments. Churchill has had a couple amendments. We wanted to have a larger discussion specifically around SB-121, which relates to Guardianships. This has been a large discussion about investigations for potential Guardians. We wanted to have other Guardians' input moving forward. We had Dagny and Marla from Churchill County who is our lobbyist and I who looked at proposing language that states that in a county over 100,000 population, there is no authority to do the investigations. It has to be court ordered to take that Guardianship and dive in. We are looking at under a 100,000 population; we could pass the investigative authority.

Shannon was looking into it on behalf of Churchill because they are not structured in the way that when a Guardianship moves forward, it goes to the courts and they just assign us and the courts do the investigation. What we are seeing happening is that individuals are placed as a Temporary Guardianship and then they find us not appropriate that they should not be under Guardianship. At that point, you have come in and taken a lot away from that individual when it was not the best thing for them. So the confusion is on what is the best way to move forward with this bill, and we are looking for input from other counties. In Churchill it was to move forward with not doing investigations in the way that Clark and Washoe are doing it, but we would look at policy change also.

Karen Kelly stated that she and Shannon have had extended conversations on this and she is trying to understand the difference in rural counties. Doing the investigations would be a complete policy change for Clark and would require lots of changes. Our District Attorney is not in favor of it based on other statutes. Her concern with the authority in other statutes is the language strong enough to enable you to do the investigations, and are we trained enough in how we do the investigations. In Clark, we'd like to leave things the way they are and not to do the investigations based on the current statutes. The

investigations take so much of our time and currently Clark has 450 cases and takes on about 25 cases a month by appointment. Right now for them with the amount of cases they have, they'd rather do guardianship services rather than investigative services and the budget seems to be better spent that way. Shannon stated she's hoping to get some feedback from rural Public Guardians.

Nicole Thomas from Douglas County PG stated that she agrees with the rural counties that they have to have investigative services. Right now it would completely change the way guardianships work in their county. Right now Douglas is taking on about 8-9 referrals a month. If we don't have any say in what those guardianships look like, then we will end up with a bunch of guardianships that aren't appropriate and will be really difficult. Karyn Smith stated that Judge Wanker is signing us as investigators with about 3 cases at the moment, and we are finding that the more we investigate, the more we see they are not in the best situations. The people who are typically POAs are not doing what they are supposed to be doing, and our investigations are ordered by the Judge.

Karen Kelly in Clark stated that any investigations they have done as well have come from a Judge's order. Karyn stated that when the Judge assigns them any investigations, they also assign us a Guardian Ad Litem who is really good and involved in our investigations. Karen asked if an attorney is assigned for every case and how that works out in Nye County. Karyn stated that one of their cases they have an attorney for the Protected Person and the POA, but they don't usually have an attorney. Karen stated that in Clark County they haven't seen too many cases where they become involved and they haven't found that guardianship isn't appropriate. She thinks that it's because when they have an attorney, they're usually pretty good at establishing whether or not a guardianship is appropriate or not before the office becomes involved.

Shannon Ernst stated they are getting appointed at the time they received Temporary Guardianship in Churchill. Karen stated that they get appointed at the time of the Petition. Shannon asked Nicole if she's worked with her county on this. Nicole stated that she testified for the bill. They would not have a third party to come in to petition these cases, so their clients who end up with guardianship in home will not end up with guardianship because they cannot keep them in the home. Nicole's lawyer has been doing it for 30 years and doesn't see the same issues that Clark and Washoe deal with. Guardianship isn't as big in Douglas County, but she knows that will completely cripple the program.

Karen asked how much help Nicole gets from the Division of Aging & Disability and Elder Protective Services on their cases. Nicole stated they have 3 workers who work in their area. They have a high elder exploitation rate and receive at least 2-3 new reports of elder exploitation a month in their community. Karen stated that if Elder Protective Services feel there is a need for guardianship, they work with the State Attorney General's office with their cases and are typically the third party in Clark County and have the Petitioning power. Shannon stated that a majority of their referrals come from medical facilities/hospitals, so Churchill will work on getting the language changed in the bill to include medical facilities/hospitals. Clark County stated that once the cap is in there they don't have a fight on that. Homa Woodrum sent out an email from the state's perspective to get some uniformity through guardianship. Shannon said she will call Homa and explain. All the counties are sort of set up differently, but if we push this, our Judges would be receiving a lot of cases and a lot of them would be inappropriate guardianships. Tracey Bowles, Karyn Smith and Nicole Thomas were all in agreement with Shannon regarding guardianships.

Shannon stated there was also concern regarding SB-241, which is related to Child Welfare. We pay for developmental services for the youth across the rural counties, so would this impact the bills with the cost of psychiatrists being 24 hours a day. It came back from Douglas that no, they did not see an impact on it. Karen stated that SB-20 came out of the Guardianship Commission. There is a large piece that had to do with Protective Arrangement which was completely removed from SB-20. I think everyone was in agreement for it to be removed and going with more of the supportive decision making that is coming out of the State of Nevada Aging & Disability Services. Everything that had to do with the Protective Arrangement has been deleted by amendment. The only other thing from the guardianship perspective was trying to make some changes to the 10 day notice of move which has been very difficult the last 2 years. Hopefully the changes go through and we have some exceptions to that ten day notice so that we don't have to keep people inappropriately in a hospital and argue to get them out. Having the amendment in there allows us to not have to keep them in the hospital until 10 day notice is up.

Shannon wanted to give an update on SB-103 having to do with Affordable Housing. She and Jackie went on a visit to Action Nevada. They met with them to discuss their support of this and it's removing of the state's authority to relieve some development costs and give it to the county. The county will be able to decide where they want to waive hook-up fees and things of that sort. Another part of the discussion was to allow policy such as creation of Affordable Housing. One of the things on there was rent control. They were not in favor of rent control and were looking at splitting up and having two separate amendments so one would go and the other would not. They also spoke about Affordable Housing for the creation of tax credits which has not been released yet. It is looking at creating tax credits that mirror the federal program on the state level. It is a pilot program for a four year term that they think will create 10 million dollars annually. The tax credits can come forward for communities to assist.

Shannon said the last one, AB-133, was looking at the homeless population, and Tim Burch was going to take a look if there was impact with really changing the age from definition of a youth to 18-24. This would state that the counties must provide support to runaway and homeless youth. Tim stated that they went in and submitted and testified on this. The amendment that came forward was to drop the runaway language, because a runaway is defined as anyone over the age of 12. We did not think that we wanted the potentiality of a 13 year old walking into a county agency looking for resources. It was narrowed down to 18-24 which we feel like most social service agencies are already serving in their adult populations. Also, it was changed from "shall" to "may" in regard to permissive language around allowing counties to choose to set up individually defined programs for 18-24 year olds. So if you don't want to do quell out programs specifically for that age group and want to keep them in your larger adult array, you'd be able to do so. Shannon said they are still meeting every 2 weeks, and can possibly go every week as things pick up and continue to get more as she sends out the amendments to everyone. Tim also said he is heading to Children's Week today and tomorrow and if anyone has anything he wants to bring forward regarding NACHSA, let him know.

Item 18: Discuss each counties indigent policies and use of funds

Karyn Smith stated that we had talked about this a couple months ago, and she has information on the policies for a couple different counties. We were trying to put a workshop together to try and discuss how each county is using their indigent money to give some other counties ideas on how to use theirs. Karyn said she put it back on the agenda to see if there's any interest in having the workshop, and if so how we would do that. She sent out the policies she's received so far to anyone who has asked for them.

Mary Jane Ostrander stated that Carson City has prepared a Strategic Plan to implement a Transitional Housing Program for our folks that are going through courts. It's going to put them into Sober Living Arrangements which we are unable to do with our HUD dollars. In doing this, things keep changing with that reimbursement and she wanted to give the other counties a heads up. Originally we were told we would get reimbursements in February on our County Match invoices, but we are finding out it might be in June or July. Shannon Ernst and Dagny Stapleton are looking into it more, but it is concerning because she's ready to start this new program. The other thing is you can roll those funds from year to year as long as you have that earmarked and are planning on how that's going to be used. Mary Jane stated that they are going to open up a whole separate account number, so it's a whole separate line item to make it easier to account for when we have to go back to the NACO board.

Shannon asked with Mike Pawlak being on the IAF board if he could help them out. At the time of the hearing when it was decided, it was stated then that it would come in February. Also it was stated that in July that we are supposed to report back to the IAF board on how we were expending that so it has been a little confusing. Dagny sent out an email that we won't receive it until July, which made Shannon question the fact at the IAF meeting they told us we would receive it in February and that the reports that were due in July. So we need clarification on that. Mike said he will follow up with Dagny and then see who we need to talk to at the state. Mary Jane stated she thinks Dagny mentioned to her finance person that it needed to go through a Medicaid State plan.

Tim Burch asked if we want to schedule a 3 hour webinar where everyone can dial in and share each other's funding maps and focus on a creative way to use our indigent funds as a learning opportunity. Mike stated that we have an IAF Workshop scheduled sometime in the summer and maybe we can piggyback off of that workshop. Karyn Smith and Tim both stated they need to make changes to their Indigent policies as they haven't made changes in a few years. Tim asked if we can carve out more time for the meetings in July so we can all get together and go over it. Tim said that he will contact Dagny so we can line up the July meetings with the NACO meetings so we can carve out a policy workshop and even get some support from NACO on facilitation. Tim will report it back at the next meeting.

Item 19: Comments, Updates, Reports NACHSA Members Not Agendized

Shannon Ernst wanted to remind everyone that we adopted the Bylaws at the last meeting, and we have been emailing them out to get signatures from everyone. We are not getting a lot of response, so they would appreciate it if everyone can make time to sign and return back to Shannon. Niki Linn asked if she could get another email with the Bylaws, as she hasn't received the initial email so that she can sign them. Shannon stated Lauren will send out the Bylaws again to Niki.

Item 20: Scheduling of Next Meeting

Karyn Smith stated we have our next meeting scheduled for April 9th at 10am located at NACO in Carson City. The NCAA meeting is that same day at 1:30pm. We will have the September 25th meeting in Reno at the same time as the NACO Annual Meeting. The meeting in May will be held on May 7th in Fallon, NV.

Item 21: Future Agenda Items

Mike Pawlak asked if Tim Burch will be able to report back from his meeting with Medicaid. Tim stated he will include his updates on Item 10 next month. Also, the items that were tabled this month will be included on next month's Agenda.

Item 22: Public Comment

There was no public comment

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, Tim Burch called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shannon Ernst made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:25am. Karyn Smith seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

APPROVED: _____


Tim Burch, Chair
Nevada Association of County Human Services
Administrators


Karen Beckerbauer, Vice-Chair
Nevada Association of County Human Services
Administrators