

**NEVADA LEGISLATURE'S
NEVADA MENTAL HEALTH PLAN
IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION**
(Senate Bill 301 [Chapter 445, *Statutes of Nevada 2003*])

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The first meeting of the Nevada Mental Health Plan Implementation Commission was held on Thursday, September 18, 2003, at 8 a.m. in Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas Nevada. A copy of this set of Summary Minutes and Action Report, including the Meeting Notice and Agenda ([Exhibit A](#)) and other substantive exhibits, is available on the Nevada Legislature's Web site at www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/72nd2003/Interim. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (e-mail: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775/684-6835).

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Senator Randolph J. Townsend, Chairman
Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, Vice Chairwoman
Carlos E. Brandenburg, Ph.D.
Charles Duarte
Mary Liveratti

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Senator Bob Coffin
Senator Raymond D. Rawson
Assemblyman Joseph P. Hardy
Assemblyman William C. Horne
Maria Canfield

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Courtney Wise, Senior Research Analyst
Brenda J. Erdoes, Legislative Counsel
Mary Alice McGreevy, Senior Deputy Legislative Counsel
Susan Furlong Reil, Principal Research Secretary

OPENING REMARKS

Senator Townsend welcomed the audience and introduced the Commission members.

OVERVIEW OF THE JULY 2003 FINAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S NEW FREEDOM COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH, ACHIEVING THE PROMISE: TRANSFORMING MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

Senator Townsend summarized the recommendations of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. Please see [Exhibit B](#) and [Exhibit C](#) for details of Senator Townsend's presentation.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

The Commission **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:**

SENATOR COFFIN MOVED THAT SENATOR TOWNSEND SERVE AS THE COMMISSION'S CHAIRMAN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYWOMAN LESLIE AND PASSED.

ASSEMBLYMAN HORNE MOVED THAT ASSEMBLYWOMAN LESLIE SERVE AS THE COMMISSION'S VICE CHAIRWOMAN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN HARDY AND PASSED.

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT STATUS OF THE MENTAL HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEM IN NEVADA

Carlos E. Brandenburg, Ph.D., Administrator, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services, Department of Human Resources, Carson City, provided an overview of the current status of Nevada's mental health delivery system. He noted that in developing a comprehensive state mental health plan, it is important the Commission review the plan established by the Mental Health Plan Advisory Council, which provides oversight to Nevada's mental health block grant. Please see [Exhibit D](#) for details of Dr. Brandenburg's presentation.

DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION'S GOALS AND PRIORITIES

The members shared their visions regarding the Commission's goals and priorities.

SCHEDULING OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND DISCUSSION OF FUTURE TOPICS

The Commission identified potential topics for consideration at future meetings. In addition, the Commission set its next meeting for October 9, 2003, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- At the request of the Honorable John S. McGroarty, District Judge, Eighth Judicial District Court, Las Vegas, Chairman Townsend read into the record a news release regarding the creation of a mental health court within the Eighth Judicial District Court. Please see [Exhibit E](#).
- Richard Siegel, Ph.D., President, Northern Nevada Chapter, ACLU, Reno, Nevada, identified certain issues for potential review by the Commission, including triage priorities, appropriate representation of minorities, the provision of care to individuals residing in rural areas, and the role of public and private institutions in providing mental health services.
- James Osti, M.P.H., Southern Nevada Mental Health Task Force, Las Vegas, reported he was promoting the establishment of a tracking mechanism to monitor the number of patients placed on hold, commonly known as a "legal 2000," while awaiting bed availability at a mental health facility. Please see [Exhibit F](#) for details of Mr. Osti's remarks.
- Brian Burke, an attorney for the Nevada Disability Advocacy & Law Center, Las Vegas, indicated he specializes in mental health issues and offered his assistance to the Commission.
- Tom Bolan, Chief Executive Officer, Step 2, Reno, appeared on behalf of the Nevada Alliance for Addictive Disorders—Advocacy, Prevention and Treatment Services (AADAPTS). Mr. Bolan stressed the importance of integrating services to avoid duplication and maximize the potential for recovery.
- Referencing Senate Bill 557 (Chapter 576, *Statutes of Nevada 1999*), which "requires certain policies of health insurance to include coverage for treatment of conditions relating to severe mental illness," Jeanette Belz reported she had inquired into the status of the measure on behalf of the Nevada Psychiatric Association. Ms. Belz was advised by staff that the legislation provided the mental health parity provisions would expire by May 1, 2004, if the Commissioner of Insurance issued a determination that the cumulative effect of those provisions had resulted in a premium increase greater than 6 percent as of January 1, 2003. Continuing, Ms. Belz indicated it was her understanding the Commissioner did not issue such a determination.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Furlong Reil
Principal Research Secretary

Courtney Wise
Senior Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Senator Randolph J. Townsend

Date: _____

LIST OF EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Meeting Notice and Agenda provided by Courtney Wise, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada.

[Exhibit B](#) is a copy of the Executive Summary from the July 2003 Final Report of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health titled *Achieving the Promise: Transforming Mental Health Care in America*, provided by Senator Randolph J. Townsend, Reno, Nevada.

[Exhibit C](#) consists of excerpts from a PowerPoint presentation titled "Achieving the Promise: Transforming Mental Health Care in America," provided by Senator Randolph J. Townsend, Reno, Nevada.

[Exhibit D](#) is a document titled "An Overview of MHDS Presented to Nevada Mental Health Plan Implementation Commission, SB 301," provided by Carlos E. Brandenburg, Ph.D., Administrator, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services, Department of Human Resources, Carson City, Nevada.

[Exhibit E](#) is a copy of a news release dated September 16, 2003, titled "Mental Health Court Seeks to Reduce Crime With Compassion and Treatment," provided by the Honorable John S. McGroarty, District Judge, Eighth Judicial District Court, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[Exhibit F](#) is a handwritten copy of the remarks of James R. Osti, M.P.H., Las Vegas, Nevada, provided by Mr. Osti.

This set of Summary Minutes and Action Report is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record. Exhibits in electronic format may not be complete. Copies of the complete exhibits, other materials distributed at the meeting, and the audio record are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the Library by [e-mail](mailto:leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm) (www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm) or telephone: 775/684-6827.