

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

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The second meeting of the Nevada Mental Health Plan Implementation Commission was held on Thursday, October 9, 2003, at 8:30 a.m. in Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, 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:

Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, Vice Chairwoman
Jone Bosworth, Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services, Department of Human Resources (DHR)
Carlos E. Brandenburg, Ph.D., Administrator, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services, DHR
Maria Canfield, Chief, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Health Division, DHR
Charles Duarte, Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, DHR

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Senator Randolph J. Townsend, Chairman
Senator Bob Coffin
Senator Raymond D. Rawson
Assemblyman Joseph P. Hardy
Assemblyman William C. Horne

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Courtney Wise, Senior Research Analyst
Leslie K. Hamner, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel
Mary Alice McGreevy, Senior Deputy Legislative Counsel
Susan Furlong Reil, Principal Research Secretary
Melisa Aguon, Secretary/IS Support Specialist
Lucinda Benjamin, Senior Research Secretary

OPENING REMARKS

Senator Townsend opened the meeting and identified the Commission members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2003, MEETING

The Commission **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

DR. BRANDENBURG MOVED APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT OF THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2003, MEETING HELD IN CARSON CITY, NEVADA. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR COFFIN AND PASSED.

TRIAGE SYSTEM AND CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT) IN CLARK COUNTY

- Kathryn Landreth, Legal Counsel, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, and Chair, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Coalition, Las Vegas, provided a brief overview of the triage system and Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) in Clark County, Nevada. Referencing a Coalition report produced in 2002 titled "The Criminal Justice Mental Health Consensus Project," Ms. Landreth identified four recommendations that, if implemented, would assist in ensuring that mentally ill persons at risk of committing criminal offenses receive appropriate access to mental health services:
 1. Ensure ease of access to mental health services;

2. Establish a user-friendly mental health system;
 3. Provide priority service to mentally ill persons at risk of offending; and
 4. Secure adequate federal, state, and local funding.
- Janelle Kraft, Budget Director, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and Co-Chair, Chronic Public Inebriate Task Force, provided background on the development of Clark County's Crisis Triage Center (CTC). Please see [Exhibit B](#) for details of Ms. Kraft's presentation.
 - Officer Frank Pascoe, a member of Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's CIT, Las Vegas, provided information on the CIT training program and shared his experiences as a CIT responder.

The Commission **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

SENATOR COFFIN MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION ENDORSE THE CONCEPT OF THE TRIAGE SYSTEM AND THE CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM IN CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA; AND FURTHER, THAT THE COMMISSION EXPRESS ITS SUPPORT OF THE REQUEST FOR FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000 CURRENTLY PENDING BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE'S INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ASSEMBLYMAN HORNE.

Assemblywoman Leslie expressed reservations regarding the motion. Chairman Townsend requested that Ms. Leslie's verbatim remarks be included in the record:

ASSEMBLYWOMAN LESLIE: I am very uncomfortable with endorsing—having a motion to endorse a program to recommend to the IFC [Interim Finance Committee] subcommittee, which I also serve on. I'm not sure that is the appropriate role of this Commission. We are supposed to be looking at the Presidential recommendations and how they apply to Nevada. I'm more than comfortable saying this is a great concept that we ought to look at strengthening in southern Nevada and implementing throughout the state, et cetera, but I just don't feel this Commission should be getting involved in making recommendations to another committee's subcommittee. So I'm going to vote no. I'm just very uncomfortable with it.

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ASSEMBLYWOMAN LESLIE: Mr. Chairman, if I can just add a comment. I don't want Metro to walk away—Kathryn especially—to think that means I'm automatically voting no in the IFC subcommittee. It certainly does not mean that, so please don't interpret my no vote. It is more about process. I don't think it is appropriate for this Commission to recommend to the IFC subcommittee, and I hope this recommendation just, you know—I don't think it is going to help us at IFC. The one question that is still on my mind, Kathryn, for you guys to ponder before our IFC subcommittee is the legal 2000 issue. I think unless you can show us how your request is going to make that be able to happen, it is going to be very hard to get the IFC support because we've been sold that component as a reason for funding it. So hopefully you can take that back and when we have our subcommittee meeting come up with an answer in that area.

THE MOTION PASSED WITH COMMISSION MEMBERS BOSWORTH, BRANDENBURG, CANFIELD, AND DUARTE ABSTAINING AND ASSEMBLYWOMAN LESLIE VOTING NO.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE OCTOBER 21, 2003, COMMISSION MEETING

- Richard Siegel, Ph.D., President, Nevada Chapter, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), suggested the October 21, 2003, meeting offers the best opportunity to address the needs of the state's ethnic and racial minorities with respect to mental health services. Please see [Exhibit C](#) for a list of the Commission's proposed agenda topics and future meeting schedule.
- Sherrada James, Executive Director, Nevada Indian Commission, expressed concern regarding the historical relationship between tribal governments in Nevada and the state. She pointed out that Native Americans are different from other ethnic groups in that they have a unique legal relationship with the federal government.
- John Haldeman, Executive Director, Laughlin Family Resource Coalition, Laughlin, requested an opportunity to present his views to the Commission at a future meeting.

HOMELESSNESS AND MENTAL ILLNESS

Frances M. Murphy, M.D., M.P.H., Deputy Under Secretary for Health Policy Coordination, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration, and Commissioner, President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, Washington, D.C., discussed the work of the Presidential Commission and its recommendations on eradicating homelessness. She also outlined VA programs that might serve as models or best practices and reported on services the VA is providing for Nevada veterans. Please see [Exhibit D](#) and [Exhibit E](#) for details of Dr. Murphy's presentation.

EXPERIENCE OF PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS IN TREATING PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

- Dale Carrison, D.O., Director, Emergency Department, University Medical Center, Las Vegas, discussed the challenges attendant with holding mentally ill persons in hospital emergency rooms in southern Nevada. Please see [Exhibit F](#) for details of Dr. Carrison's

testimony.

- Gary Goldberg, M.D., Associate Medical Director, Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center, Las Vegas, outlined problems that result from holding mentally ill persons in hospital emergency rooms. Dr. Goldberg provided the Commission with a data on the number of mentally ill persons placed on hold at Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center while awaiting bed availability at a mental health facility from January 2003 through September 2003 (a procedure commonly referred to as a “legal 2000”). Please see [Exhibit G](#).
- Rick Henderson, M.D., Medical Director, Emergency Department, Saint Rose Dominican Hospital, Henderson, Nevada, offered his observations regarding the affect of inadequate mental health services on Clark County’s health care system. Please see [Exhibit H](#) for details of Dr. Henderson’s remarks.
- Kathleen Kelly, psychiatric nurse, Las Vegas, discussed the process for accessing services for mentally ill veterans and juveniles. She also noted the absence of reliable data on the costs of treating mentally ill persons and suggested that certain organizations might be available to assist in developing statistical studies.

HOMELESSNESS AND MENTAL ILLNESS (CONTINUED)

- Shawna Parker, M.S.W., Management Analyst II, Clark County Community Resources Management, Las Vegas, provided the Commission with statistical information regarding homelessness and the mentally ill. She also discussed affordable housing resources and offered recommendations to address the needs of the homeless and mentally ill in southern Nevada. Please see [Exhibit I](#), [Exhibit J](#), [Exhibit K](#), [Exhibit L](#), and [Exhibit M](#) for details of Ms. Parker’s presentation.

REPORT ON SUICIDE PREVENTION

Rena M. Nora, M.D., Commissioner, Governor’s Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services; Medical Advisor, Nevada Chapter, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; and Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, University of Nevada School of Medicine, provided an overview of the history of suicide in Nevada and recent suicide prevention efforts. Please see [Exhibit N](#) and [Exhibit O](#) for details of Dr. Nora’s presentation.

IMPACT OF MENTAL ILLNESS ON GENERAL HEALTH

Ole J. Thienhaus, M.D., FACPsych, University of Nevada School of Medicine, Las Vegas, discussed the relationship between mental and general health. Dr. Thienhaus also offered policy suggestions for addressing mental and general health issues. Please see [Exhibit P](#) for details of Dr. Thienhaus’ presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Linda Lera-Randle El, Executive Director, Straight From the Streets, Las Vegas, described the services she provides to the homeless and offered her assistance to the Commission.
- James Osti, M.P.H., Psychiatric Health Care Consulting, and former Administrator, CTC, Las Vegas, provided the Commission with background information on the creation of the CTC. He also shared his views concerning the reluctance of some persons to support the CTC.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Furlong Reil
Principal Research Secretary

Courtney Wise
Senior Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Senator Randolph J. Townsend, Chairman

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 document titled “Community Triage Center, August 2003, Six-Month Summary Report,” provided by Janelle Kraft, Budget Director, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and Co-Chair, Chronic Public Inebriate Task Force, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[Exhibit C](#) is a document titled “Nevada Mental Health Plan Implementation Commission, Proposed Agenda Topics and Meeting Schedule,” provided by Courtney Wise, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada.

[Exhibit D](#) is a document dated October 9, 2003, titled “Statement of Frances M. Murphy, M.D., M.P.H., Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Health Policy Coordination, Department of Veterans Affairs, Before the Nevada State Mental Health Commission,” provided by Frances M. Murphy, M.D., M.P.H., Deputy Under Secretary for Health Policy Coordination, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Veterans Health Administration, and Commissioner, President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, Washington, D.C.

[Exhibit E](#) is a document titled “Policy Options, Subcommittee on Housing and Homelessness” prepared by the President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, Subcommittee on Housing and Homelessness. This document was provided by Courtney Wise, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada.

[Exhibit F](#) is a letter dated October 3, 2003, from Dale Carrison, D.O., Director, Emergency Department, University Medical Center, Las Vegas, Nevada, provided by Dr. Carrison.

[Exhibit G](#) is a document titled “Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center, ED Legal 2003 Data,” provided by Gary Goldberg, M.D., Associate Medical Director, Sunrise Hospital and Medical Center, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[Exhibit H](#) is a copy of the remarks of Rick Henderson, M.D., Medical Director, Emergency Department, Saint Rose Dominican Hospital, Henderson, Nevada, provided by Dr. Henderson.

[Exhibit I](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Mentally Ill and Homeless, Needs, Gaps, and Project Suggestions,” provided by Shawna Parker, M.S.W., Management Analyst II, Clark County Community Resources Management, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[Exhibit J](#) is a document titled “Homeless and Mentally Ill Housing Resources,” provided by Shawna Parker, M.S.W., Management Analyst II, Clark County Community Resources Management, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[Exhibit K](#) is a document titled “Southern Nevada Homeless Coalition—Stand Down for the Homeless Survey Results—2002,” provided by Shawna Parker, M.S.W., Management Analyst II, Clark County Community Resources Management, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[Exhibit L](#) is an Internet article obtained from the Web site of the National Alliance to End Homelessness (www.endhomelessness.org/best/mdssioutrch.htm) on February 20, 2002, titled “The Maryland SSI Outreach Project, Baltimore, MD,” provided by Shawna Parker, M.S.W., Management Analyst II, Clark County Community Resources Management, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[Exhibit M](#) is a booklet titled “Building Homes, Strengthening Families, Affordable Housing in Clark County, Nevada,” provided by Shawna Parker, M.S.W., Management Analyst II, Clark County Community Resources Management, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[Exhibit N](#) is a copy of the testimony of Rena M. Nora, M.D., Commissioner, Governor’s Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services; Medical Advisor, Nevada Chapter, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; and Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, University of Nevada School of Medicine, provided by Dr. Nora.

[Exhibit O](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Nevada Suicide,” provided by Rena M. Nora, M.D., Commissioner, Governor’s Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services; Medical Advisor, Nevada Chapter, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; and Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, University of Nevada School of Medicine, Las Vegas.

[Exhibit P](#) is a document dated October 9, 2003, titled “The Impact of Mental Illness on Physical Health,” provided by Ole J. Thienhaus, M.D., FACP, University of Nevada School of Medicine, Las Vegas, Nevada.

This set of “Summary Minutes and Action Report” is supplied as an informational service. 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:www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm) (www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm) or telephone: 775/684-6827.

