

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

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The fourth meeting of the Nevada Mental Health Plan Implementation Commission was held on Tuesday, November 4, 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).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:

Senator Randolph J. Townsend, Chairman
Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, Vice Chairwoman
Jone Bosworth, Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services, Department of Human Resources (DHR)
Maria Canfield, Chief, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Health Division, DHR
Charles Duarte, Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, DHR
Debbie Hosselkus, L.S.W., Deputy Administrator, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services (DMHDS), DHR, sitting for
Carlos E. Brandenburg, Ph.D., Administrator, DMHDS, DHR

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

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
Michael J. Chapman, Program Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division
Susan Furlong Reil, Principal Research Secretary
Melisa Aguon, Secretary/IS Support Specialist

OPENING REMARKS

Vice Chairwoman Leslie opened the meeting and identified the Commission members present, noting that Senator Townsend would be arriving later in the meeting. She indicated that Debbie Hosselkus, Deputy Administrator, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services (DMHDS), Nevada's Department of Human Resources (DHR), would be sitting for Dr. Brandenburg, who was testifying before the Subcommittee on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services in Washington, D.C. Ms. Leslie also announced that Jane Adams, Ph.D., who was scheduled to speak regarding mental health care for children, would be unable to appear due to a back injury.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2003, MEETING

The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

ASSEMBLYMAN HARDY MOVED APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT OF THE OCTOBER 21, 2003, MEETING HELD IN CARSON CITY, NEVADA. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MR. DUARTE AND PASSED.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NOVEMBER 20, 2003, COMMISSION MEETING

There was no public comment on the proposed agenda items for the November 20, 2003, Commission meeting.

UPDATE ON FEDERAL AND STATE MENTAL HEALTH PARITY LEGISLATION

Courtney Wise, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, reported on federal and state mental health parity legislation. Please see [Exhibit B](#) for details of Ms. Wise's remarks.

DIVERSITY ISSUES IN THE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH CARE

Josie Torralba-Romero, M.S.W., L.C.S.W., President, Board of Directors, National Latino Behavioral Health Association, Gilroy, California, provided a brief summary of Latino population trends in the United States. She also discussed the need for cultural competency in the delivery of mental health services and offered recommendations on providing cost-effective care to diverse communities. Please see [Exhibit C](#) for details of Ms. Torralba-Romero's presentation.

MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN (INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION EARLY SCREENING, MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDED AT OR BY SCHOOLS, AND THE ISSUE OF PARENTS RELINQUISHING CUSTODY OF CHILDREN TO ENABLE CHILDREN TO RECEIVE/OBTAIN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES)

- Amy Bobo, Mental Health Program Coordinator, School-Based Health Centers, Clark County Health District, Las Vegas, reported on the Health District's use of Columbia University's TeenScreen® Program to provide mental health screening to 12 Clark County public schools. These screening services are provided through the Health District's three School-Based Health Centers. Ms. Bobo noted that funding issues limit the ability of the Health District to expand services to additional schools. Please see [Exhibit D](#) and [Exhibit E](#) for details of Ms. Bobo's presentation and detailed information on implementing mental health screening programs for youth.
- Rosemary Virtuoso, M.A., N.C.S.P., Coordinator, Northeast Region, Psychological Services, Clark County School District, Las Vegas, provided an overview of the mental health services provided by the District to students. She reported the Clark County School District had been awarded a \$6 million federal grant over a three-year period to establish a comprehensive and sustainable system of prevention, assessment, intervention, and treatment programs and services for students. Please see [Exhibit F](#) for details of Ms. Virtuoso's presentation.
- Mental Health Consortia Members
 - Pam Becker, Chairperson, Washoe County Mental Health Consortium, Reno, Nevada, highlighted the activities, goals, and needs of the Consortium. She identified two areas that might benefit from legislative attention: (1) confidentiality laws; and (2) budgetary restrictions that limit the ability of different governmental agencies to pool funds for client services, e.g., prevent funds from following a client from one department to another. Please see [Exhibit G](#) for details of Ms. Becker's presentation.
 - Les Gruner, Director, Northern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), DHR, Reno, reported that the waiting list at Children's Behavioral Services was a little over 100. Continuing, he announced that the DCFS recently received funding for three-full-time therapist positions through the Mental Health Block Grant, the first new positions approved in 12 years. It is anticipated the wait list for Children's Behavioral Services will significantly decrease in the next three to five months.
 - Karen Taycher, Vice Chairwoman, Clark County Children's Mental Health Consortium, Las Vegas, outlined the goals, achievements, and recommendations of the Consortium. Please see [Exhibit H](#) for details of Ms. Taycher's presentation.
 - Christa Peterson, Ph.D., Deputy Administrator, Southern Region, DCFS, Las Vegas, reported that the Clark County Department of Family Services received a grant of \$500,000 per year for five years from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. These funds will provide additional family support services at neighborhood care centers and will specifically focus on special needs children in the child welfare system being cared for by relative caregivers.
 - Joanna Wilson, Member, Rural Mental Health Consortium highlighted challenges encountered by rural communities in providing mental health services and summarized the consortium's goals, activities, recommendations. Please see [Exhibit I](#) for details of Ms. Wilson's presentation.
- University Medical Center
 - Laurie Rhymer, R.N., Las Vegas, a pediatric emergency room charge nurse, University Medical Center (UMC), appeared on behalf of Jim Holt-Voight, R.N., Unit Manager, Pediatric Emergency Room, UMC, Las Vegas. Ms. Rhymer discussed the treatment of children who present to UMC's Pediatric Emergency Room with mental health and behavioral issues. Further, Ms. Rhymer spoke in support of the creation of a citywide crisis intervention team with a set standard of care for youth.
 - Natalie White, R.N., Clinical Nurse Manager, Pediatric Ward and Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, UMC, Las Vegas, advocated the creation of a mobile crisis intervention unit to provide assessments in the field. She also discussed the need for increased outpatient services to treat youth with mental health and behavioral issues.
- Nevada P.E.P., Inc.
 - T. J. Rosenburg, Community Outreach Coordinator, Nevada P.E.P., Inc., Las Vegas, discussed the role of the organization's family specialists in providing support to families of mentally ill children. In addition to facilitating support groups, family

specialists train parents of severely mentally ill children to be advocates for their children in the mental health arena.

- Patty Breslin, the parent of two mentally ill children, Las Vegas, provided testimony regarding the valuable assistance she has received from Nevada P.E.P. She noted that while services are available for mentally ill children, it is difficult for the parents of these youngsters to find support.
- Kim Hernandez, Collaboration Specialist, and Kathy Hughes, Family Specialist, both of Nevada P.E.P., Inc., Reno, provided an overview of Nevada P.E.P.'s "Collaborating for Children" project. They recommended that family values and family-driven care be an integral part of all children's mental health programs and that family support services be included in Nevada's mental health plan. Further, they requested that any behavior health redesign plan for Medicaid provide for family support. Please see [Exhibit J](#), [Exhibit K](#), and [Exhibit L](#) for details of Ms. Hernandez and Ms. Hughes' presentation.

CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

- Steven Graybar, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, Counseling and Testing Center, University of Nevada, Reno, and member, Board of Psychological Examiners, Reno, offered a number of suggestions to provide improved treatment to individuals who suffer from co-occurring disorders. Dr. Graybar recommended such clients be provided integrated treatment for the mental health disorder and the substance abuse. In addition, he advocated adopting a continuing care model similar to that utilized in treating chronic physical ailments that are characterized by periods of remission and exacerbation such as diabetes. Dr. Graybar also stressed the importance of mental health and substance abuse agencies and professionals working together as equal partners to provide services to individuals with co-occurring disorders. Please see [Exhibit M](#) for a bibliography of recommended references provided by Dr. Graybar.
- Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services
 - David A. Rosin, M.D., Statewide Medical Director, DMHDS, Carson City, discussed the treatment of clients with co-occurring disorders by DMHDS. He noted that with the exception of one program established to treat felons released from the Department of Correction, the DMHDS has no program designed to treat clients with co-occurring disorders. Further, he cited statistics indicating the majority of clients served through DMHDS in Fiscal Year 2003 suffered from co-occurring disorders.
 - Larry Buel, Ph.D., Director, Rural Clinics, DMHDS, Carson City, provided an overview of co-occurring disorder services available through Rural Clinics and Community Mental Health Centers. Please see [Exhibit N](#) for details of Dr. Buel's presentation.
 - Harold Cook, Ph.D., Director, Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS), DMHDS, Reno, highlighted services available for persons with co-occurring disorders through NNAMHS and current efforts to improve treatment options. He noted that ten or fewer NNAMHS staff are dually certified for mental health and alcohol and substance abuse. He suggested the Commission consider changing statute to remove the requirement that a person be free of alcohol or substance abuse in order to be placed on a legal 2000 hold.
- Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse (BADA)
 - Maria Canfield, Chief, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse (BADA), Health Division, DHR, Carson City, provided background information on co-occurring disorders treatment from a substance abuse and public health perspective. Please see [Exhibit O](#) for details of Ms. Canfield's presentation.
 - Tom Murtha, Chief Executive Officer, Bristlecone Family Resources, and President, Nevada Alliance for Addictive Disorders, Advocacy, Prevention, and Treatment Services (Nevada AADAPTS), Reno, Nevada, explained that the member organizations of Nevada AADAPTS treat mentally ill patients with substance abuse problems. He offered numerous recommendations with respect to the provision of treatment for co-occurring disorders. Please see [Exhibit P](#) and [Exhibit Q](#) for details of Mr. Murtha's presentation.
 - Theresa Lemus, Executive Director, Nevada AADAPTS, Reno, reported that the substance abuse treatment system in Nevada is privatized, and the state contracts with these providers for services. On behalf of the substance abuse treatment field, Ms. Lemus offered several recommendations around scope of practice and work force. Please see [Exhibit R](#) for details of Ms. Lemus' presentation.
 - Tom Bolan, Chief Executive Officer, Step 2/Lighthouse of the Sierra, Reno, urged the Commission to recommend the Legislature draft a bill to include parity for chemical dependency treatment. He asserted the state's mental health system cannot adequately address substance abuse without engaging substance abuse treatment providers and requested that such providers be included in future discussions on improving services. Please see [Exhibit S](#) for details of Mr. Bolan's presentation.
 - JoAnn Lujan, L.C.S.W., Interim Director, Community Triage Center, Westcare, Las Vegas, addressed the challenges encountered in providing appropriate medications to individuals with co-occurring disorders and stressed the need to develop access to reduced cost medications.
 - Dorothy B. North, President, Board of Examiners for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselors, and Chief Executive Officer, Vitality Center, Elko, Nevada, asserted substance abuse treatment must be a key element in efforts to improve mental health services to persons with co-occurring disorders. To further this goal, she requested the Commission write a letter to Governor Kenny C. Guinn asking that he take the necessary steps to request Nevada's participation in a U.S. Department of Health and

Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) conference on co-occurring disorders scheduled to take place in April 2004. She noted only ten states will be allowed to send delegations to the conference, and interested states must submit an application. Further, Ms. North requested that if Nevada is chosen to participate in the conference, substance abuse treatment providers be included in Nevada's delegation.

There being no objection from the Commission members, Vice Chairwoman Leslie indicated she would discuss with the Chairman the possibility of exploring Nevada's participation in the SAMHSA conference.

- Kathleen Kelly, M.S.W., L.C.S.W., Psychiatric Consultant, Adult and Pediatric Wards, UMC, Las Vegas, appeared as a private citizen. Ms. Kelly offered numerous recommendations pertaining to co-occurring disorders, including dual diagnoses, for the Commission's consideration. Please see [Exhibit T](#) for details of Ms. Kelly's testimony.

FINAL DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NOVEMBER 20, 2003, COMMISSION MEETING

The Commission briefly reviewed agenda items for the November 20, 2003, Commission meeting. Please see [Exhibit U](#).

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Gary Fisher, Director, Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies (CASAT), University of Nevada, Reno, provided an overview of the curriculum offered through CASAT and discussed the workforce development infrastructure currently in place in Nevada. He noted that in certain instances, alcohol and drug abuse counselors receive the same training as marriage and family therapists but are limited in their scope of practice. Please see [Exhibit V](#) for details of Mr. Fisher's presentation.
- Kirby Saint Romain, Las Vegas, shared the experiences of his daughter in attempting to secure mental health services before she committed suicide in 1997. He suggested that if she had been able to find a provider who offered services for individuals suffering from co-occurring disorders, her death may have been avoided.
- Glen Martin, Nevada RSVP Rural Counties, Inc., Carson City, reported that he and five other volunteers work with senior citizens to help them maintain their independence. He referenced a study conducted at Duke University that found exercise to be as effective as medication in treating depression and urged consideration of this treatment option. Please see [Exhibit W](#). Further, Mr. Martin suggested that retired professionals might be utilized to provide needed services.
- Frank Perna, Las Vegas, submitted for the record a written statement regarding homelessness and the location of the new mental health hospital in Las Vegas. He also offered recommendations to improve mental health service in rural Nevada. Please see [Exhibit X](#).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Furlong Reil
Principal Research Secretary

Courtney Wise
Senior Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

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 "Mental Health Parity," provided by Courtney Wise, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada.

[Exhibit C](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled "Behavioral Health Disparities by Latinos & Other Ethnic Communities,"

provided by Josie Torralba-Romero, M.S.W., L.C.S.W., President, Board of Directors, National Latino Behavioral Health Association, Gilroy, California.

[Exhibit D](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Columbia University TeenScreen® Program,” provided by Amy Bobo, Mental Health Program Coordinator, School-Based Health Centers, Clark County Health District, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[Exhibit E](#) is a booklet dated September 2003 titled “Catch Them Before They Fall,” provided by Carlos E. Brandenburg, Ph.D., Administrator, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services, Nevada’s Department of Human Resources, Carson City, Nevada.

[Exhibit F](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Safe Schools/Health Students Initiative, Multi-Dimensional Approach,” provided by Rosemary Virtuoso, M.A., N.C.S.P., Coordinator, Northeast Region, Psychological Services, Clark County School District, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[Exhibit G](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Washoe County Mental Health Consortium,” provided by Pam Becker, Chairperson, Washoe County Mental Health Consortium, Reno, Nevada.

[Exhibit H](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Clark County Children’s Mental Health Consortium,” provided by Karen Taycher, Vice Chairwoman, Clark County Children’s Mental Health Consortium, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[Exhibit I](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Rural Mental Health Consortium,” provided by Carol Johnston, Acting Deputy Administrator, Rural Region, Division of Child and Family Services, Nevada’s Department of Human Resources, Carson City, Nevada.

[Exhibit J](#) is a brochure titled “Collaborating for Children,” provided by Kim Hernandez, Collaboration Specialist, and Kathy Hughes, Family Specialist, both of Nevada P.E.P., Inc., Reno, Nevada.

[Exhibit K](#) is the fall 2003 issue of the Nevada P.E.P. newsletter *Collaborating for Children Communique*, provided by Kim Hernandez, Collaboration Specialist, and Kathy Hughes, Family Specialist, both of Nevada P.E.P., Inc., Reno, Nevada.

[Exhibit L](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Collaborating for Children,” provided by Kim Hernandez, Collaboration Specialist, and Kathy Hughes, Family Specialist, both of Nevada P.E.P., Inc., Reno, Nevada.

[Exhibit M](#) is a document titled “Bibliography,” provided by Steven Graybar, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, Counseling and Testing Center, University of Nevada, Reno, and member, Board of Psychological Examiners, Reno, Nevada.

[Exhibit N](#) is a document titled “Co-Occurring Disorder Services in Rural Clinics Community Mental Health Centers,” provided by Larry Buel, Ph.D., Director, Rural Clinics, DMHDS, Carson City, Nevada.

[Exhibit O](#) is a document titled “An Overview of BADA,” provided by Maria Canfield, Chief, Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse (BADA), Health Division, DHR, Carson City, Nevada.

[Exhibit P](#) is a summary of the testimony of Tom Murtha, Chief Executive Officer, Bristlecone Family Resources, and President, Nevada Alliance for Addictive Disorders, Advocacy, Prevention, and Treatment Services (Nevada AADAPTS), Reno, Nevada, provided by Mr. Murtha.

[Exhibit Q](#) is the full testimony of Tom Murtha, Chief Executive Officer, Bristlecone Family Resources, and President, Nevada Alliance for Addictive Disorders, Advocacy, Prevention, and Treatment Services (Nevada AADAPTS), Reno, Nevada, provided by Mr. Murtha.

[Exhibit R](#) is a document titled “Nevada Alliance for Addictive Disorders—Advocacy, Prevention and Treatment Services (Nevada AADAPTS),” provided by Theresa Lemus, Executive Director, Nevada AADAPTS, Reno, Nevada.

[Exhibit S](#) is a copy of the testimony of Tom Bolan, Chief Executive Officer, Step 2/Lighthouse of the Sierra, Reno, Nevada, provided by Mr. Bolan.

[Exhibit T](#) is a copy of the testimony of Kathleen Kelly, M.S.W., L.C.S.W., Psychiatric Consultant, Adult and Pediatric Wards, University Medical Center, Las Vegas, together with a list of recommendations, provided by Ms. Kelly.

[Exhibit U](#) 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 V](#) is a copy of the testimony of Gary Fisher, Director, Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies, University of Nevada, Reno, provided by Mr. Fisher.

[Exhibit W](#) is a copy of an article from *Archives of Internal Medicine*, Volume 159, October 25, 1999, titled “Effects of Exercise Training on Older Patients With Major Depression,” provided by Glen Martin, Nevada RSVP Rural Counties, Inc., Carson City, Nevada.

[Exhibit X](#) is the handwritten statement of Frank Perna, Las Vegas, regarding homelessness and the location of Nevada’s new mental health hospital in southern Nevada, provided by Mr. Perna.

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.