

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

**SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT**

The fifth meeting of the Nevada Mental Health Plan Implementation Commission was held on Thursday, November 20, 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](http://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](mailto:publications@lcb.state.nv.us); telephone: 775/684-6835).

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT IN CARSON CITY:**

Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, Vice Chairwoman  
Carlos E. Brandenburg, Ph.D., Administrator, Division of Mental Health and Developmental 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

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:**

Senator Randolph J. Townsend, Chairman  
Senator Bob Coffin  
Assemblyman Joseph P. Hardy  
Assemblyman William C. Horne  
Christa Peterson, Ph.D., Deputy Administrator, Southern Region, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), DHR, sitting for Jone Bosworth, Administrator, DCFS, DHR

**COMMISSION MEMBER ABSENT:**

Senator Raymond D. Rawson

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:**

Courtney Wise, Senior Research Analyst  
Leslie K. Hamner, Principal 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 momentarily. Christa Peterson, Ph.D., Deputy Administrator, Southern Region, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Nevada's Department of Human Resources (DHR), announced that she would be sitting in for Commission member Jone Bosworth.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE DECEMBER 18, 2003, COMMISSION MEETING**

There was no public comment on the proposed agenda items for the December 18, 2003, Commission meeting. Vice Chairwoman Leslie emphasized that written suggestions must be submitted to Commission staff no later than December 1, 2003, to allow adequate time for the compilation and dissemination of recommendations to the Commission members prior to the December 18, 2003, meeting.

**ACCELERATING RESEARCH AND USING TECHNOLOGY IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY**

- Anil G. Godbole, M.D., Chairman, Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, and Commissioner, President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, Chicago, Illinois, explained that while the concept of cure is not yet practical, scientific advances and research allow humankind to envision a time when early detection and cure of mental illness will be possible. Dr. Godbole outlined

eight recommended courses of action to implement science in the field and to provide feedback from providers to researchers. In addition, he noted that scientific research and examination of effective delivery systems are equally important. Please see [Exhibit B](#) for details of Dr. Godbole's presentation.

- Vijay Ganju, Ph.D., Director, Center for Mental Health Quality and Accountability, National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, Arlington, Virginia, reported that the Center was established to promote evidence-based practices (EBPs) and performance measurement initiatives. He discussed promulgation of EBPs in the mental health field on a national level, options available to the states, and challenges that must be overcome. In addition, Dr. Ganju provided an overview of emerging models that might facilitate the incorporation of EBPs into the mental health field on a statewide basis. Please see [Exhibit C](#) for details of Dr. Ganju's testimony.
- Stephen W. Mayberg, Ph.D., Director, California Department of Mental Health, Sacramento, California, discussed the use of technology to access mental health care and information. He asserted that lack of knowledge inhibits access to mental health care and offered several recommendations on how to better provide information to consumers and providers. Dr. Mayberg also provided an overview of California's Web-based mental health service program. Please see [Exhibit D](#) and [Exhibit E](#) for details of Dr. Mayberg's presentation.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2003, MEETING**

The Commission **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

ASSEMBLYWOMAN LESLIE MOVED APPROVAL OF THE SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2003, MEETING HELD IN CARSON CITY, NEVADA. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR COFFIN AND PASSED.

## **MENTAL HEALTH COURTS IN NEVADA**

- The Honorable Peter Breen, District Court Judge, Second Judicial District Court, Washoe County, Reno, Nevada, presented an overview of the history of mental health courts both nationally and within Nevada and discussed his experience with the mental health court pilot project in Reno. Judge Breen highlighted the results of a small study which indicate mental health courts reduce the burden the mentally ill place on health care and governmental services such as hospitals and jails. He also stressed the need for adequate housing for the mentally ill. Please see [Exhibit F](#) for details of Judge Breen's presentation.
- The Honorable John S. McGroarty, District Court Judge, Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Las Vegas, related the events which led to the creation of Clark County's mental health court and acknowledged the efforts of those who assisted in establishing the mental health court pilot project. He reported that the mental health court team has formed an advisory committee to monitor the effect of the court's actions on the community and the judicial system. Please see [Exhibit G](#) for details of Judge McGroarty's remarks.
- Jonna Triggs, Ed.D, Agency Director, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services (DMHDS), DHR, Las Vegas, outlined the benefits of implementing a mental health court pilot project in Clark County. She reported that because the court is unfunded, only 35 persons will be selected to participate in the initial program. Please see [Exhibit G](#) for details of Dr. Triggs' remarks.
- Steve Grierson, M.S., MFT, LADC, Court Education, Clark County Justice Court, presented a brief synopsis of the proposed case flow of consumers referred to Clark County's mental health court and discussed the fiscal and humane advantages of targeted treatment for the mentally ill. Mr. Grierson reported the mental health team is developing enhancements to a current case management system that will allow the tracking of critical variables such as time spent in jail prior to mental health court; returns to the criminal justice system before, during, and after referral to mental health court; and the progress of those who opt out of the program. Please see [Exhibit G](#) for details of Mr. Grierson's remarks.

## **USING TELEHEALTH IN THE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

- Catherine Britain, President, Telehealth Alliance of Oregon, La Grande, Oregon, discussed Oregon's experience in implementing telehealth and telemental health services. Ms. Britain reported the most cost-effective telemental health programs are those that reside on multiuse networks. She acknowledged the lack of existing outcome studies that measure the effectiveness of telehealth and telemental health services, noting that conducting such studies involves more time and funding than is available to most states. Please see [Exhibit H](#), [Exhibit I](#), [Exhibit J](#), and [Exhibit K](#) for details of Ms. Britain's presentation.
- Larry Buel, Ph.D., Agency Director, Rural Clinics Community Mental Health Services, DMHDS, Carson City, reported that in October 2003, Rural Clinics initiated an ongoing telemental health project in its Silver Springs, Nevada, office. He discussed the potential benefits of utilizing telemental health services in rural Nevada and offered numerous recommendations for the Commission's consideration. Please see [Exhibit L](#) for details of Dr. Buel's remarks.
- Gerald Ackerman, Associate Director, Office of Rural Health, and Dan Tone, Telemedicine Coordinator, both of the University of Nevada School of Medicine (UNSOM), Reno, provided a brief summary of the activities of the Office of Rural Health and discussed the potential benefits of utilizing its telehealth sites to provide telemental health services. Please see [Exhibit M](#) for details of the presentation.

## **MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL AND CORRECTIONAL SYSTEMS IN NEVADA**

- Marilyn Rogan, Captain, South Tower Bureau, Clark County Detention Center, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Las Vegas, described the challenges of caring for mentally ill inmates in a correctional setting. She reported the Clark County Detention Center has undertaken a number of innovative programs to enhance its ability to care for mentally ill inmates, including the provision of crisis intervention team officers to work with the incarcerated mentally ill. Ms. Rogan also offered numerous recommendations for the Commission's consideration. Please see [Exhibit N](#) for details of Ms. Rogan's remarks.
- Ann Feher, LCSW, Unit Manager, Youth Parole Bureau, DCFS, Las Vegas, and Joseph R. Haas, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist and Director of Clinical Services, Northern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services, DCFS, Reno, provided an overview of efforts to address mental health issues in the juvenile justice arena. They highlighted the use of multidisciplinary teams in Washoe and Clark Counties, noting that such teams provide a cost-effective and integrated approach to the complex process of obtaining placements for juvenile offenders with mental health concerns. The teams also serve as an example of the role interagency collaboration can play in streamlining access to mental health services and improving outcomes for families without additional funding. Please see [Exhibit Q](#) for details of Ms. Feher's and Dr. Haas' presentation.
- Amy Wright, Chief, Division of Parole and Probation, Nevada's Department of Public Safety, Carson City, provided a brief report on the Division's efforts to address the needs of mentally ill offenders. She also offered numerous suggestions on how the Division might better serve the needs of mentally ill offenders under its supervision. Please see [Exhibit P](#) for details of Ms. Wright's remarks.

## PUBLIC TESTIMONY

- Theresa Anderson, Deputy Administrator, Northern Region, Division of Child and Family Services, DHR, Reno, suggested the Commission invite Ole J. Thienhaus, M.D., FACPsych, UNSOM, to a future meeting to discuss the development of a child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship at UNSOM.
- Chairman Townsend submitted for the record an undated memorandum to the Commission from Richard Siegel, President, and Gary Peck, Executive Director, Nevada Chapter, American Civil Liberties Union, containing recommendations for the Commission's consideration. Please see [Exhibit Q](#).

## FINAL DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE DECEMBER 18, 2003, COMMISSION MEETING

Chairman Townsend encouraged interested parties to submit their recommendations in writing to Commission staff no later than December 1, 2003.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Furlong Reil  
Principal Research Secretary

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Carol M. Stonefield  
Senior Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

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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 copy of an overhead presentation provided by Anil G. Godbole, M.D., Chairman, Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, and Commissioner, President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, Chicago, Illinois.

[Exhibit C](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled "Implementing Evidence-Based Practices: A National Perspective," provided by Vijay Ganju, Ph.D., Director, Center for Mental Health Quality and Accountability, National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, Arlington, Virginia.

[Exhibit D](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “National Implications for State and Local Mental Health Reform,” provided by Stephen W. Mayberg, Ph.D., Director, California Department of Mental Health, and Commissioner, President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, Sacramento, California.

[Exhibit E](#) is a copy of a brochure titled “Network of Care for Mental Health,” provided by Stephen W. Mayberg, Ph.D., Director, California Department of Mental Health, Sacramento, California.

[Exhibit F](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Mental Health Court,” provided by the Honorable Peter Breen, District Court Judge, Second Judicial District Court, Washoe County, Reno, Nevada.

[Exhibit G](#) is copy of the remarks of the Honorable John S. McGroarty, District Court Judge, Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Las Vegas, Nevada; Jonna Triggs, Ed.D, Agency Director, Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services (DMHDS), Nevada’s Department of Human Resources (DHR), Las Vegas, Nevada; and Steven Grierson, M.S., MFT, LADC, Court Education, Clark County Justice Court, Las Vegas, Nevada, provided by Judge McGroarty.

[Exhibit H](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Using Telehealth in the Provision of Mental Health Services,” provided by Catherine Britain, President, Telehealth Alliance of Oregon, La Grande, Oregon.

[Exhibit I](#) is a copy of Oregon House Joint Resolution 4 from the 2003 Regular Session, provided by Catherine Britain, President, Telehealth Alliance of Oregon, Le Grande, Oregon.

[Exhibit J](#) is a document titled “Informed Consent for Telemedicine Services,” provided by Catherine Britain, President, Telehealth Alliance of Oregon, La Grande, Oregon.

[Exhibit K](#) is a brochure titled “Telehealth Alliance of Oregon,” provided by Catherine Britain, President, Telehealth Alliance of Oregon, La Grande, Oregon.

[Exhibit L](#) is a copy of the remarks of Larry Buel, Ph.D., Agency Director, Rural Clinics Community Mental Health Services, DMHDS, DHR, Carson City, Nevada, provided by Dr. Buel.

[Exhibit M](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Telehealth in Nevada,” provided by Gerald Ackerman, Associate Director, Office of Rural Health, and Dan Tone, Telemedicine Coordinator, both of the University of Nevada School of Medicine, Reno, Nevada.

[Exhibit N](#) is a copy of the remarks of Marilyn Rogan, Captain, South Tower Bureau, Clark County Detention Center, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Las Vegas, Nevada, provided by Ms. Rogan.

[Exhibit O](#) is a copy of a document titled “Efforts to Address Mental Health Issues in Juvenile Justice,” provided by Ann Feher, LCSW, Unit Manager, Youth Parole Bureau, Division of Child and Family Services, DHR, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[Exhibit P](#) is a copy of the remarks of Amy Wright, Chief, Division of Parole and Probation, Nevada’s Department of Public Safety, Carson City, Nevada, provided by Ms. Wright.

[Exhibit Q](#) is a copy of an undated memorandum to the Nevada Mental Health Plan Implementation Commission from Richard Siegel, Ph.D., President, and Gary Peck, Executive Director, Nevada Chapter, American Civil Liberties Union, provided by Dr. Siegel.

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 online at [www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm) or telephone: 775/684-6827.