

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

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The sixth meeting of the Nevada Mental Health Plan Implementation Commission was held on Thursday, December 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., Administrator, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services, Nevada's 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
Jone Bosworth, Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services, DHR

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS:

Senator Bob Coffin
Senator Raymond D. Rawson
Assemblyman Joseph P. Hardy

COMMISSION MEMBER ABSENT:

Assemblyman William C. Horne

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Carol M. Stonefield, 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

Chairman Townsend opened the meeting and discussed the format and review process for the Summary of Recommendations.

PRESENTATION ON MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR CHILDREN

Jane Adams, Ph.D., Executive Director, Keys for Networking, Inc., Topeka, Kansas, presented an overview of children's mental health needs. Dr. Adams emphasized the importance of providing consumer-driven peer support for families of mentally ill children. Referencing a publication titled *A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement*, she also urged the Commission to consider the impact of family involvement on child outcomes. Please see [Exhibit B](#) for details of Dr. Adams presentation.

PRESENTATION ON MENTAL HEALTH AND CORRECTIONS

William Emmet, Project Director, National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, Arlington, Virginia, provided an overview of mental illness and the criminal justice system from a national perspective. He discussed the fiscal impact of caring for mentally ill within the correctional system and offered suggestions on how the mental health, substance abuse, and criminal justice communities can work together more effectively to meet the needs this segment of society. Please see [Exhibit C](#) for details of Mr. Emmet's presentation.

REPORT ON MILLENNIUM SCHOLARSHIP LAW AND DISABLED STUDENTS

Richard Curry, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, University and Community College System of Nevada (UCCSN), Reno, Nevada, reported the Board of Regents of UCCSN voted to recommend to the Commission that it ask the 2005 Nevada Legislature to approve an amendment to *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 396.930 that would allow exceptions to the Millennium Scholarship eligibility requirements for disabled students. Currently, students who are ineligible for the Millennium Scholarship due to a disability are referred to financial aid directors for assistance in securing alternative financial aid that is equivalent to Millennium Scholarship awards based on a per-credit dollar amount. Dr. Curry acknowledged the UCCSN might improve service to disabled students by formalizing this process. Please see [Exhibit D](#) for details of the proposed amendatory language to NRS 396.930.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Larry S. Harrison, Broker, Harrison Insurance, Las Vegas, appeared on behalf of the Nevada Chapter of the National Association of Health Underwriters to advocate the creation of a comprehensive health insurance plan, including mental health coverage, for Nevadans able to pay premiums but who would otherwise be uninsurable. Mr. Harrison reported a committee is working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to secure start-up funds, but plan designs have not yet been developed.

Senator Rawson indicated the interim Legislative Committee on Health Care had commissioned a study to determine what federal funds might be available to Nevada that are not being utilized. He suggested funds identified in this study might serve as a potential source of revenue for a comprehensive health insurance plan and suggested Mr. Harrison contact staff for the interim Committee on Health Care.

REPORT OF DIVISION OF INSURANCE REGARDING 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

Kim Everett, Actuary I, Life and Health Section, Division of Insurance, Nevada's Department of Business and Industry, Carson City, explained that NRS 689A.044, 689B.0359, 695B.1938, and 695C.1738 mandated coverage for treatment of conditions relating to severe mental illness (SMI). In addition, the statutes provided that 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.

In November 2002, the Life and Health Section conducted a survey regarding the effect of the SMI mandate on insurance rates. None of the carriers surveyed indicated rate increases were required as a result of the mandate. Consequently, the Commissioner of Insurance did not issue a determination that the cumulative effect of the mental health parity provisions had resulted in a premium increase greater than 6 percent as of January 1, 2003, and the statute mandating such coverage remains in effect.

REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION REGARDING SENATE BILL 8 (CHAPTER 5, STATUTES OF NEVADA 2003, 20TH SPECIAL SESSION), WHICH MAKES VARIOUS CHANGES CONCERNING STATE FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Dino DiCianno, Deputy Executive Director, Compliance, Nevada's Department of Taxation, Carson City, provided an overview of the methodology used by the Department of Taxation in determining whether mental health coverage provided by an employer would be an allowable deduction under Nevada's modified business tax. Referencing two U.S. Treasury rulings, he noted that costs incurred for treatment of sexual dysfunction are considered a deductible medical expense while those for marriage counseling are not. Mr. DiCianno indicated that given the variety of counseling available through mental health plans and the purposes of treatment, e.g., drug and substance abuse, gambling, a determination as to whether the mental health coverage provided by an employer is an allowable deduction would need to be made on a case-by-case basis. Concluding his remarks, Mr. DiCianno suggested clarifying statutory language with respect to allowable deductions for mental health benefits might be beneficial. Please see [Exhibit E](#) for details of Mr. DiCianno's presentation.

PRESENTATION ON MENTAL HEALTH BLOCK GRANT AND STATE MENTAL HEALTH PLAN

Andrew Zeiser, Administrative Consultant, Nevada's Mental Health Planning Advisory Council, Reno, presented an overview of the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) Community Mental Health Services Block Grant for Nevada, including the block grant timeline, its structure, and funding distribution. He pointed out areas where the goals of the block grant and New Freedom Commission overlap, particularly with respect to consumer- and family-driven mental health care. Mr. Zeiser also offered examples of how the recommendations of the Presidential Commission's report are being implemented in Nevada. Please see [Exhibit F](#) for details of Mr. Zeiser's presentation.

PRESENTATION ON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE SYSTEMS INTEGRATION

- Rosetta Johnson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Human Potential Development, Reno, discussed the fragmentation of Nevada's mental health system, obstacles to achieving mental health service systems integration, and steps to overcome those obstacles. She also reported on the formation of a systems integration pilot project and indicated that preliminary results of this effort should be available by December 2004. Concluding her remarks, Ms. Johnson emphasized her desire to strengthen existing programs and services through systems integration and coordination and offered a number of recommendations for the Commission's consideration. Please see [Exhibit G](#) for details of Ms. Johnson's presentation. See also [Exhibit H](#) and [Exhibit I](#) for copies of additional materials provided to the Commission concerning service systems integration.
- Sharon Wilson, Ph.D., Psychologist, Regional Medical Center, Northern Nevada Correctional Center, Nevada's Department of Corrections (NDOC), Carson City, presented a status report on the Department's participation in the systems integration pilot project.

Dr. Wilson reviewed issues of significant importance in assuring a smooth transition of mentally ill inmates from correctional facilities to the community, including the availability of appropriate housing and coordination of mental health services. Please see [Exhibit J](#), [Exhibit K](#), and [Exhibit L](#) for details of Dr. Wilson's presentation.

- John Stevens, Ph.D., Psychologist, Regional Medical Center, Northern Nevada Correctional Center, Carson City, pointed out that paroled mentally ill inmates cannot leave prison until they have appropriate housing. He pointed out the economic cost associated with maintaining paroled inmates within the correctional system and advocated the creation of a transitional release center to address this issue.

PRESENTATION ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PLAN SYSTEM REDESIGN 2003

Charles Duarte, Administrator, and Mary Wherry, Deputy Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, DHR, Carson City, presented an overview of the proposed Behavioral Health Plan System Redesign. Mr. Duarte indicated the proposed redesign would change revenue flows for mental health services to ensure more and better community-based care. Ms. Wherry discussed the benefits and risks associated with the plan. She also highlighted areas in which the proposed plan integrates with the goals of the New Freedom Commission, including the focus on recovery, continuum of care, integration of family and peer support, and early mental health treatment. Please see [Exhibit M](#) and [Exhibit N](#) for details of the presentation of Mr. Duarte and Ms. Wherry.

REPORT ON STRATEGIC PLAN AND GOALS OF THE COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Rena M. Nora, M.D., Member, Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services, and Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, University of Nevada School of Medicine, Las Vegas, outlined the recommendations contained in the Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services' 2003 report to Governor Kenny C. Guinn. Please see [Exhibit O](#) for details of Dr. Nora's presentation.

REVIEW OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PRIOR COMMISSION MEETINGS

The Commission members and interested stakeholders reviewed compilations of the recommendations submitted at prior Commission meetings and made numerous revisions and additions. Chairman Townsend explained that the recommendations were categorized based on whether they might have a fiscal impact or require legislative action and then further separated under the six goals established by the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health. Please see [Exhibit P](#), [Exhibit Q](#), [Exhibit R](#), and [Exhibit S](#).

Following discussion, Chairman Townsend directed that the four lists of recommendations be updated to include new and revised recommendations and that they be merged into a single document. Further, he requested Commission members and interested stakeholders to select the three recommendations under each goal that they view as most important to implementing the goals of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health in Nevada. Chairman Townsend set January 6, 2004, as the deadline for members and interested parties to provide their priority recommendations to staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- T.J. Rosenberg of Nevada P.E.P., Las Vegas, provided an overview of the services provided by Nevada P.E.P., including federally funded neighborhood care centers and parent-to-parent support groups.
- Dan Musgrove, Intergovernmental Public Relations for Clark County, Las Vegas, commented none of the recommendations specifically addresses Clark County's Community Triage Center, and he urged the Commission to support efforts to fund the Center in the next biennium.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Furlong Reil
Principal Research Secretary

Carol M. Stonefield
Senior Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Randolph J. Townsend, Chairman

Date: _____

LIST OF EXHIBITS

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

[Exhibit B](#) is copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Transforming Mental Health Care for Children and Families,” provided by Jane Adams, Ph.D., Executive Director, Keys for Networking, Inc., Topeka, Kansas.

[Exhibit C](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Mental Illness and the Criminal Justice System,” provided by William Emmet, Project Director, National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, Arlington, Virginia.

[Exhibit D](#) is a document titled “Proposed Amendment to NRS 396.930 for Students With Disabilities,” provided by Richard Curry, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, University and Community College System of Nevada (UCCSN), Reno, Nevada.

[Exhibit E](#) is a document titled “Report of the Department of Taxation Regarding Senate Bill 8 of the 20th Special Session,” provided by Dino DiCianno, Deputy Executive Director, Compliance, Nevada’s Department of Taxation, Carson City, Nevada.

[Exhibit F](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Center for Mental Health Services Community Mental Health Services Block Grant for the State of Nevada,” provided by Andrew Zeiser, Administrative Consultant, Nevada’s Mental Health Planning Advisory Council, Reno, Nevada.

[Exhibit G](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Systems Integration, a Nevada Project, Fixing Fragmented Systems,” provided by Rosetta Johnson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Human Potential Development, Reno, Nevada.

[Exhibit H](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services, Service Integration Initiatives,” provided by Rosetta Johnson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Human Potential Development, Reno, Nevada.

[Exhibit I](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Systems Integration Project, HIV/AIDS Pilot Member Report,” provided by Rosetta Johnson, President and Chief Executive Officer, Human Potential Development, Reno, Nevada.

[Exhibit J](#) is a copy of a PowerPoint presentation titled “The Department of Corrections/Parole & Probation Pilot Project: Status Report, December 2003,” provided by Sharon Wilson, Psychologist, Regional Medical Facility, Northern Nevada Correctional Center, Nevada’s Department of Prisons, Carson City, Nevada.

[Exhibit K](#) is a copy of the remarks of Sharon Wilson, Psychologist, Regional Medical Facility, Northern Nevada Correctional Center, Nevada’s Department of Prisons, Carson City, Nevada, provided by Dr. Wilson.

[Exhibit L](#) consists of three draft forms titled “Nevada Department of Corrections, Mental Health Discharge Referral,” “Mental Health Parole Information,” and “Parole Board Report,” provided by Sharon Wilson, Psychologist, Regional Medical Facility, Northern Nevada Correctional Center, Nevada’s Department of Prisons, Carson City, Nevada.

[Exhibit M](#) is a copy of a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “DHCFP 2003 Behavioral Health Plan for System Redesign,” provided by Charles Duarte, Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, Nevada’s Department of Human Resources, Carson City, Nevada.

[Exhibit N](#) is a copy of a document titled “Behavioral Health Plan System Redesign 2003,” provide by Charles Duarte, Administrator, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy, Nevada’s Department of Human Resources, Carson City, Nevada.

[Exhibit O](#) is a copy of the remarks of Rena M. Nora, M.D., Member, Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services, and Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, University of Nevada School of Medicine, Las Vegas, Nevada.

[Exhibit P](#) is a document titled “Summary of Recommendations With Fiscal Impact Requiring Legislative/Commission Action,” provided by

[Exhibit Q](#) is a document titled “Summary of Recommendations With Fiscal Impact That Do Not Require Legislative or Commission Action,” provided by Carol M. Stonefield, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada.

[Exhibit R](#) is a document titled “Summary of Recommendations Without Fiscal Impact Requiring Legislative/Commission Action,” provided by Carol M. Stonefield, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada.

[Exhibit S](#) is a document titled “Summary of Recommendations Without Fiscal Impact That Do Not Require Legislative or Commission Action,” provided by Carol M. Stonefield, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, 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 online at www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm or telephone: 775/684-6827.