

Washoe Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board
Board Introduction and Priority Overview

Washoe County



Established In: 1861

Total Full-Time Employees: 2,478

6,551 Square Miles

Current Population: 471,000

Departments: 24

Current Board Members and Point of Contact (NRS 433.429)

JULIA RATTI

Director of Programs and Projects
Washoe County Health District
Policy Board Chair

SANDRA STAMATES

Community/Family Representative
Behavioral Health Families

STEVE SHELL

Vice President of Behavioral Health,
Renown Health
Policy Board Vice-Chair

WADE CLARK

Lieutenant, Reno Police Department,

SARAH PETERS

Assemblywoman, District 24
Nevada State Assembly

DR. KRISTEN DAVIS-COELHO

Chief Behavioral Health Officer
Officer/Psychologist
Northern Nevada HOPEs

HENRY SOTELO, Esq.

Reno Municipal Court Specialty Court
Paralegal/Law Program Director,
Truckee Meadows Community College

FRANKIE LEMUS

Behavioral Health Coordinator
Washoe County Human Services

DR. TRACI BIONDI

Chief Medical Officer
Prominence Health Plan

CINDY GREEN

EMS Coordinator
Reno Fire Department

PETER OTT

Executive Director
Bristlecone Family Resources

JOLENE DALLUHN

Executive Director
Quest Counseling

Dorothy Edwards
Washoe Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator
daedwards@washoecounty.gov

2021 Board Priorities

➤ Crisis Response System Implementation Plan (CRSIP)

- This regional planning project is designing a continuum of services to stabilize and engage anyone experiencing a behavioral health emergency and link them with appropriate interventions to address the crisis.
- Continuation of board focus on crisis response system
 - AB66, 2019 session: Goal to define crisis stabilization facilities in statute
 - SB69, 2021 session: Expand and clarify Crisis Stabilization facilities; Peer Support
- The core elements of this crisis response system are a statewide crisis call center to manage the new 988 behavioral health crisis line (Someone to Talk to), mobile crisis teams (Someone to Respond), and crisis stabilization Center (Somewhere to Go)
- 2021: Washoe County Health District/Regional BH Coordinator/SEI partnered to create implementation plan following SAMHSA National Guidelines for Behavioral Health Crisis Care
 - Stakeholders and subject matter experts recruited from all areas of County involved in behavioral health.
 - Law enforcement, leadership, technical, finance, responders, call center
- Some components identified and/or are in process
 - Location: Waiting on Lease Signatures/Execution
 - Vendor: Renown Hospital
 - 988 on July 16.
 - Crisis Support Services of Nevada
 - Still waiting to identify Mobile Support Services
 - Different from Mobile Crisis Teams already in place
 - CBCHCs will assist
- Hopeful for implementation in 2023

➤ Equitable Focus on Substance Use Disorders

- Behavioral Health encompasses mental health and substance misuse
- Some concern was expressed that the focus of programs, funding, and policy might be inequitable between the two.
- Understanding that the two are often co-occurring, the Board realized a need to work to ensure inclusion and collaboration of all sectors of behavioral health.
 - SB69, 2021 session:
 - Focused on several areas that positively impacted Substance abuse
 - Coalition recognition
 - YRBS participation
 - Substance Misuse School Education

➤ Behavioral Health Response: Before, During and After A Crisis/Disaster/Health Crisis

- Regional Behavioral Health Emergency Plan
- Resilience Ambassadors (Covid response)

➤ Behavioral Health Workforce

- Support the study and discussion on how Nevada, and Washoe County can affect change to this growing need through support of BDRs.
- Passage of SB69, which acknowledges the role peers can play in the workforce/certification
- Mental and Behavioral Health Needs of Children
- Diversity and Inclusion

*see full discussion in 2021 Washoe RBHPB Annual Report and Washoe BH Profile at:

Current Bill Draft Request for 2023, 82nd Legislative Session:

- *Increasing and Retaining Behavioral Health Work Force*