

Nevada Association of County Human Services Administrators

Minutes

March 17, 2021

Active Members:

Mary Jane Ostrander, Carson City County (Zoom)

Shannon Ernst, Churchill County (Zoom)

Tim Burch, Clark County (Zoom)

Niki Linn, Humboldt County (Zoom)

Shayla Holmes, Lyon County (Zoom)

Toni Acuff, Lincoln County (Zoom)

Karyn Smith, Nye County (Zoom)

Associate Members:

Affiliate Members:

Tracey Bowles, Washoe County Public Guardian (Zoom)

Guests:

Vinson Guthreau, NACO (Zoom)

Kurt Englehart – Senator Catherine Cortez Masto’s Office (Zoom)

Tiffany Lewis, NV Medicaid (Zoom)

Valerie Cauhape Haskin, Regional Behavioral Health (Zoom)

Item 1: Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:03am by Tim Burch.

Item 2: Introductions

Tim Burch asked those attending the meeting to introduce themselves and introductions were made.

Item 3: Public Comment

Tim Burch inquired as to whether there was any public comment. There was none.

Item 4: Verification of the Posting of the Agenda

Karyn Smith verified the agenda had been posted according to NRS.

Item 5: Review and Adoption of Agenda

Tim Burch called for a motion to adopt the agenda as submitted. Shannon Ernst made a motion to adopt the agenda as submitted. Niki Linn seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Item 6: Review and approval of Minutes from the January 20, 2021 Meeting

Tim Burch asked if there were any revisions or changes to the minutes from the January 20, 2021 meeting. There were none.

Shannon Ernst made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2021 meeting. Mary Jane Ostrander seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Item 7: State Partner Updates

No state partner updates.

Item 8: Resilient Project

Mary Jane Ostrander stated that the ambassadors from the Rural Clinics are not meeting their numbers, nor does it look like they are going to. Our numbers have dropped a lot as far as positives and it is difficult. What we had done originally was incorporate them with their Covid Response Team and they were in doing the tracing and assisting with investigations to meet those contacts. We pulled them out because there are not that many. We are regrouping and seeing if we can use them elsewhere. Shayla stated the only thing we have been able to utilize them for is to come out and discuss their programs with the public. Shannon stated that they have not had any contact from them. Mary Jane stated that she told them several times to contact her due to them having limited resources.

Niki stated that they have one girl working at the Boys and Girls Club and has been connecting people with resources. Karyn stated that she has not been contacted or heard of anyone coming out to do those services. Tracey stated that she has not been contacted either. Tim stated that there were a handful of folks and we assigned them to our phone bank for folks calling and panicking about evictions and yet they still are not meeting the numbers or productivity needed.

Item 9: Peer Support Network concept

Shayla Holmes stated that this is going well, and we are meeting monthly on the second Monday of every month and have a great group of folks coming together. What we were working on at our last meeting was identifying our target population or who we want to be a part of the network. Everyone on the subcommittee contacted the groups we discussed about and invited them into the Peer Support Network. The next step for us is to work on our vision and our mission and get into the details on what we think will make it effective. We are utilizing the TEAMS platform. If anyone is interested in becoming a part of that committee, let me know. Kim Donahue from one of the state departments is showing us how to go into TEAMS and find the invite and showing us how to use the platform. I can ask to see if Kim will send out the instructions to get in there and see what we are working on.

Tim asked what the target population looks like. Shayla stated that we discussed it being open to our non-profit partners and our other local and state agencies that are doing similar work. We were talking about including our Public Guardians, Coalitions, Court Appointed Advocates, Domestic Violence partners, etc. We also talked about our National Guard and Veteran Services partners. The broader the network and peer support is, the more benefit it will bring to all of us. Tim stated that so many of our staff comes from non-profit agencies and will help build a better pipeline for us. Shayla stated that as we get farther into building the network, the goal will be to identify the evidence-based training we will want to get staff in. All our staff will have access and we will identify our own staff who we think will have the skill set and desire to be a great peer and work on what the protocols will look like. If we are lucky, perhaps within a year it will be operational.

Tim stated that the Center for Capacity Building for States helped Washoe and Clark adopt an Employee Coaching model, specifically for Child Welfare and we blew that out a bit. We have been able to train all our Administrators, Managers and Supervisors on how to coach individuals as a part of development. We started from a standpoint of wellness and coaching staff on personal wellness, specifically during the pandemic. I will make sure those folks are on the email I send out and I will CC Shayla on that as well.

Item 10: NACO Staff Updates

Vinson Guthreau stated that Dagny is in a hearing right now. She does not have an update; however, I have a question for Shannon. Do you want those legislative meetings to go weekly? Shannon stated that Dorothy was supposed to talk to Amber and get back to us. Vinson stated that there were no other updates from NACO.

Item 11: Behavioral Health Updates

No updates.

Item 12: Legislative Updates

Tim stated that he had questions on AB273, which revises a bill relating to mental health consortia for children. We just want to make sure that we will offer a friendly amendment around making sure we are members of this committee and want to have input into it. I was hoping to get someone to speak to about it. Shannon stated that we are reviewing every two weeks and want to switch to weekly but need Amber's approval to do so. We are watching so many bills. There is a new one coming out that is talking about the new mental health 911 (866) system. It will be a dedicated line for individuals in a mental health crisis and services are provided 24/7. In rural communities, we do not have dedicated services and would require a whole other program. It will go through 211 who will launch the services. Washoe has been a big part of this project and I want to make sure we have more members on our next call to dive in on these things. We will have to be providing amendments and feedback so we can have an in-depth conversation.

Vinson stated that he is not sure how we are going to fund it and what it is going to look like. We will keep an eye on it and will update. Shannon urged everyone to reach out to our Sheriff's offices to join in on these meetings. Tim stated that he has concerns about the system if there are no services to back it up. We have our own concerns with Children's Mental Health. If a 16-year-old called this line and is in a crisis, we are told the Crisis Response Team will not respond when the child is in the throes of the crisis.

If there is any potential that child may be reactive in a way that will cause physical harm to anyone, they will set them an appointment for the next day. Once the program is up and running, they will get calls from all ages and will need to respond appropriately.

Shannon stated that she will make sure AB273 is noted in our next meeting. There is truly a lot of different mental health bills and starting a new Youth Mental Health, we are getting spread so thin and it is quite a concern. Kurt Englehart stated that he would love to talk to you individually on the MOSTT stuff. The Senator has been looking at for a while to do federal legislation on and I am pretty sure there is stuff in the immediate future she wants to move. I would love to hear your concerns with the MOSTT programs. Tim stated that he would love to have that conversation. Tim asked if NACO could throw any mental health bills they know about into a list so that we catch them all. Vince stated that they make notes on the ones this group is concerned about. I can work on getting a list put together with an intern we have and start with the spreadsheet Marla sends out to the Legislative Committee. Shannon stated that she will send an email to Marla about lumping them together. Tracey stated that Senator Ratti is sponsoring a lot of these bills. Tim asked if the spreadsheet we are keeping track of the legislative bills can be put up onto the NACHSA Google Docs in a 2021 Session folder. Shannon stated that we can do that.

Item 13: County updates on COVID-19

Shannon stated that we built a whole new vaccine site and are building our Civic Center. We are having troubles getting our doses and are unable to fulfill second doses. There was a concern that came up this morning and they are activating private providers to vaccinate their populations. It impacts down to the counties in trying to get it completed. We have hardly anyone testing and are in the process of transferring authority from the state to the counties and working on our plan. I am trying to come up with ways and open to ideas to get people who have not been vaccinated or have had a previous positive within the last 90 days, to come in and get tested. Yesterday on our Governor's Task Force meeting, it was doubling down on what the county reopening plans are and are due on April 15. I know that NACO is working with all counties and making sure everyone is coordinating. For Social Services, we are not seeing people come in for Covid, rent or mortgage. We do have more elderly and disabled people coming out of isolation and are having trouble with the coping and failure to thrive and understanding there are resources. Our CHWs are out there at their homes and even vaccinating them at their homes. I am advocating in opening the Senior Centers to give them more interactions with each other, because it falls over into guardianship. We are getting ready to launch an education process on what guardianship is, so that people are aware of what it entails. We are starting our plan to start our Health District and are fully staffed in our Health Department.

Niki Linn stated that Humboldt they are seeing their numbers in positives going down and there is a lot less people going to get tested. We just had another drive thru vaccination pod that was very successful and got 1400 people vaccinated. We talked about our Senior Center as well and we are looking to reopen them on May 3. They are allowing people to come into exercise with social distancing. We are on a more positive note out here and things are improving, and we are hopefully looking at heading back towards normalcy.

Mary Jane Ostrander stated that in Carson City, we just opened our vaccines to people with 55 and older, with underlying conditions. It has opened to private vendors as well. We have had the National Guard at a lot of these events, since we were getting a lot of aggressive people show up. Testing has gone down along with the number of positive cases. They are doing vaccines just about every day. We were targeting about 1000 a day and were meeting those goals.

Karyn stated that we are continuing to do pods with scheduled or drive-ups. Our positive numbers have gone down and on March 15, we reopened the counties to the public and all workers have come back to the office to work. We are monitoring the amount of people in our lobbies and following all protocols and it is nice to have everyone back in the offices. We are still doing 65 or older at the pods and getting about 800 vaccines a week. Two weeks ago, in Round Mountain, they had to go into lockdown because someone threatened to go home and get a gun because they wanted the vaccine. We do get people upset showing up over here who are unable to get it at this time. Our pharmacies here are doing 55 or older population. Yesterday we started our Covid Relief Program to assist with Public Rent, Mortgage and Utilities, Small Business programs and direct Utility Assistance. Our department will be running this program and we have been very busy.

Shayla stated that since we are part of the Quad Counties, everything that Mary Jane said is for us as well. They are managing everything to do with the vaccine and testing out here in Lyon for us. We are aiding with the wait lists, call back lists for seniors without computers and maintaining a resource guide for what our local pharmacies are doing and how to register them. What we find for our older population is that they do not trust the Quad County group and think they have favoritism towards Carson City. We try to keep our resource guide local and bridge that gap. The folks that have gotten vaccinated all have had positive feedback with the staff and how efficient they are. I have a couple interns working right now on good marketing materials for the younger population getting vaccinated and educate them on the safety. Our older adults are all on board and willing, but we want to keep the vaccination numbers high. Our office is planning on our Child Abuse Prevention month activities and have proclamations planned for our School Boards, City Councils and Board of County Commissioners. Also, BLM is changing their overnight stay allowance for highway 50. What we are hearing is that folks are not wanting to be housed and want to stay where they are with their trailers and campers, so BLM is trying to crack down on the overnight camping. We are going to partner with them, so if there is anyone interested, they can hand out our flyers and information.

Mary Jane stated that one of populations we are trying to focus on right now is our homebound population for getting the vaccine. If anyone has creative ideas, please let us know. Shannon stated that they are using the Meals on Wheels and working with Geriatric Specialty and get their partnership to provide info on homebound people. We can do the homebound vaccines on Fridays and inmates on Thursdays. Like Shayla stated, we are trying to head back into some normalcy and launch the Crisis Intervention Training in May as in person and only do 25 people to stay in compliance with guidelines. Shayla stated that is good to hear and she will reach out to her Sheriff's office to hopefully bring back Crisis Intervention Training.

Tim stated that in Clark County, they are thankfully not responsible for vaccinations, but he is on the board for the Health District. Vaccinations for our front-line workers were included in phase 2 of the

vaccination process and have only seen a 50% uptick of folks getting the vaccine and want to increase those numbers. The original CARES Act monies given to Clark County for various activities, which was \$295 million, was all expended. Of that, \$108 million was given to Social Services, with \$80 million of that given for direct rent and utility assistance. \$35 million went to food insecurities and all the food banks. \$20 million of the states CARES Act dollars went to rental assistance. Last session, AB 309 gave Clark the ability to vote on a quarter cent sales tax. Our board passed it at an eighth of a cent and only for a year and a half. We were able to divert \$8 million of that to provide for emergency sheltering and helped 800 families affected due to Covid. 200 of those people came through the IsoQ Medical Project we had from June-September. Clark County has been adjudicating our \$32 million of rent assistance since February 8 when we got the Omnibus Bill monies. We had to go manual adjudication because the rules are more stringent and have been working with IBM to set up a new engine that will go live this weekend. We have done 4,000 apps by hand over the last 5-6 weeks. We will be adjudicating all the rent assistance for City of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, and Henderson with an extra \$69 million to Southern Nevada that will go to rent assistance.

Tim stated they are trying to work with judges, Legal Aid, and the Justice Court to figure out how to integrate Social Services into the eviction court process. There has already been 4,000 plus cases filed that did not get heard from before the new moratorium got extended. We have heard that there can be as many as 20,000 evictions filed within the first month, so we are trying to figure how to work through that. We have taken some of the AB309 dollars to create a family focused project and work with a local vendor who created a mobile home park with new manufactured homes. We are partnering with US Vets and they are going to run a Therapeutic Community Village model there and give preferential placement to families with veterans and is close to Nellis Air Force Base. Our office is still mostly working from home and are in the middle of union negotiations now. Tim stated that they have seen Child Welfare calls go up. Our December numbers are higher than the pre-pandemic Decembers.

Item 14: Guardianship Partner Updates

Tracey Bowles stated that they are watching AB174 and heard that it will likely be pulled. Washoe plans to do a reopening on May 3rd, so this is our target date to bring more people back to the office. They are starting in person visitation next month in eligible facilities and are starting our visits in group homes that have had the opportunity to get vaccinated.

There were no other Guardianship updates.

Item 15: Approval of Treasurer's Report and approval of bills submitted for payment

Tabled to next month due to people dropping off call and losing quorum.

Item 16: Scheduling of Next Meeting via ZOOM and the 2021 calendar year

Shannon stated that Vince has it scheduled out for the 3rd Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise stated. Vince stated the next meeting is April 17th at 9am.

Item 17: Future Agenda Items

Tim stated we will move the Treasurer's Report up on next agenda and the Resilient Project item no longer needs to be on the agenda unless requested. There were no other suggestions on future agenda

items, so Tim stated we will stick to standard agenda items. If you have any agenda items, please send to Karyn and Tim a week before the next meeting.

Item 18: Public Comment

Tim Burch inquired as to whether there was any public comment. Mary Jane stated she had an announcement, that they are going to fund a Mental Health Clinician and expand to a second MOSTT team with some of their IAF Refund dollars. Everyone congratulated her and she stated they are excited about it. Tim stated that he wanted to give a big thanks to Vince and Dagny on all the work they have done on the IAF board to get the refund on the table and passed. The work is very much appreciated. Vince stated that Dagny did so much work on that and did a great job. Kurt Englehart stated that he would like to follow up with people individually, regarding the problems with the supply of vaccines in the rural areas. The Senator has done a lot of phone calls to make sure the state was getting a proper allocation, so I want to follow-up to zero in on what some of the problems are. Tim stated that if you do not hear from Kurt, follow-up with him so that we can get it figured out. Mary Jane stated that she is going to reach out to the new manager in Douglas County and ask her to start attending these meetings.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the committee, Tim Burch called to adjourn the meeting at 10:20am.

APPROVED: _____

Tim Burch, Chair
Nevada Association of County Human Services
Administrators

Shannon Ernst, Vice-Chair
Nevada Association of County Human Services
Administrators