

**COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES  
DRAFT MINUTES  
November 29, 2016  
9:00 a.m.**

Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH)  
Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW)  
Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP)  
9670 Gateway Drive, Suite 200  
Reno, Nevada 89521

Toll-Free Dial Number  
(866) 434-5269  
Conference Code  
7501044

DPBH-CFCW-OSP  
3811 W. Charleston Blvd., Ste. 210  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE**

Heather Shoop, CADC, WestCare, Co-Chair  
Marlyn Scholl, LCSW, Veterans Health  
Administration, Sierra Nevada Health Care System,  
Reno, Co-Chair  
Mike Bernstein, M. Ed., representative of injury  
prevention, NV Coalition for Suicide Prevention  
Lesley Dickson, MD, Nevada Psychiatric Association  
John Fudenberg, Clark County Coroner  
Kathy Ingelse, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, FNP-BC,  
representative of providers of health care  
Senator Sheila Leslie, MA, Behavioral Health  
Program Coordinator, Washoe County Social  
Services

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Gregory Cowper, Director of Business  
Development, Montevista Hospital  
Carolyn DeTierra, MFT, Director, Washoe  
Tribal Healing Center  
Sergeant John Harney, Las Vegas Metropolitan  
Police Department

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF PRESENT IN RENO**

Misty Allen, State Suicide Prevention Coordinator, DPBH-CFCW-OSP  
Angela Friedman, Administrative Assistant, DPBH-CFCW-OSP

**DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS**

Richard Egan, Suicide Prevention Training and Outreach Facilitator, DPBH-CFCW-OSP

**OTHERS PRESENT BY PHONE**

Sharon Benson, Senior Deputy Attorney General, Attorney General's Office  
Dr. Laura Knight, Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, Washoe County Medical Examiner/Coroner's  
Office

Heather Shoop called the meeting of the Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities (CRSF) to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was properly posted at the locations listed on the agenda in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law (OML).

1. **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Misty Allen announced Gregory Cowper has been appointed to the committee, but had prior commitments and could not attend. She noted the Committee has a full roster for the first time in three years.

Attendees made their introductions. Dr. Laura Knight announced she will be the Chief Medical Examiner for Washoe County starting in January 2017.

Heather Shoop determined a quorum of the Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities was present.

2. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2016**

Mike Bernstein noted he should be listed as a representative of injury prevention. Lesley Dickson asked to remove a sentence in which she was misrepresented. Marlyn Scholl noted her name misspelled. No other corrections, deletions or additions were made to the minutes as presented.

**HEATHER SHOOP ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2016 MEETING WITH THE PROPOSED CORRECTIONS. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MARLYN SCHOLL. KATHY INGELSE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.**

Heather Shoop asked for additional public comment. Misty Allen explained the Director expressed Mr. Bernstein's and Kathy Ingelse's expertise in their fields continue to qualify them as representatives for the Committee even though their employers have changed. Ms. Allen noted if the Committee has a concern, the Committee can make a recommendation to the Director for change. The members had no questions or concerns.

Ms. Shoop asked for additional public comment. None was heard.

3. **UPDATE ON AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MOU BETWEEN THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION AND THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES**

Marlyn Scholl reported the new Privacy Officer has not been assigned and she has not communicated with the Interim Privacy Officer. She asked to table this agenda item. At Misty Allen's request, Ms. Scholl will invite Dr. Everett to participate in the meetings.

Heather Shoop asked for public comment. None was heard.

4. **UPDATE ON AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE VACANT MEMBER POSITIONS REPRESENTING MENTAL HEALTH AGENCIES, AND ADVOCATES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WITH MENTAL ILLNESS TO BE APPOINTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Misty Allen introduced Sheila Leslie. Senator Leslie shared her legislative accomplishments, including funding for the first statewide Suicide Prevention Line in Nevada, and the creation of the Child Death Review Teams. She talked about her current committee work regarding emergency room follow up, and her concern with Nevada's high suicide rates.

Heather Shoop asked for public comment. None was heard.

**5. DISCUSS THE MEETING OF THE SOUTHERN NEVADA ADULT MENTAL HEALTH COALITION, AND DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE SHORTAGE OF MEDICAID BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS.**

Lesley Dickson discussed Medicaid inpatient beds at emergency rooms, and the need for outpatient care and case management when the seriously mentally ill are released.

Dr. Dickson reported Dr. Tracey Green with the University of Nevada (UNLV) School of Medicine spoke to the Coalition regarding the future of Medicaid and Managed Medicaid including the development of Medicaid clinics, the increase in the Managed Medicaid population, the increased benefits for Managed Medicaid enrollees and the difficulties acquiring Managed Medicaid providers. Dr. Dickson noted Fee for Service (FFS) Medicaid enrollees should be put on Supplemental Security Income (SSI). A request for proposal was announced to add Aetna and Centene to the current Amerigroup and Health Plan of Nevada plans which might lead to competition, more services, and a better fee schedule. She noted providers need to be held accountable for following their contracts.

Sheila Leslie reported the same problems and frustrations in Northern Nevada. She noted the Mental Health America report for 2017 dropped Nevada to 51<sup>st</sup> in the nation in terms of access and work force. Senator Leslie discussed the increase in those waiting for Legal 2000 judgments, the overwhelmed court system, and the possibility of state mental health patients without Medicaid services eventually entering the jails and emergency rooms. She noted this concern comes up often and the state is making a good effort.

Dr. Dickson spoke about the new forensic hospitals opening in Southern Nevada, the Medicaid provider list, and the lack of outpatient providers. She stated concern with the release of seriously mentally ill patients before they are fully stabilized.

Kathy Ingelse believes the new University of Nevada, Reno, (UNR) Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program will help community rural areas obtain mental health providers. Although, students' difficulty acquiring preceptor expertise and practice in Northern Nevada is a barrier to finishing the program. She spoke of Nevada's challenge to accept mental health nurse practitioners.

Marlyn Scholl noted her difficulty assisting veterans, not eligible for veterans' services, with Medicaid services. She described a situation with a client with schizophrenia on Medicare who was not qualified for services at Mojave because he had Fee for Service (FFS) Medicaid.

Dr. Dickson believed Mojave in Southern Nevada accepts Fee for Service (FFS) Medicaid and Medicare clients. She believes the seriously chronic mentally ill get lost in the system. She noted having SSI first helps.

Senator Leslie said the state is working to obtain federal grants and state funding to establish Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) in Nevada. She noted in California every county has a behavioral health clinic. Westcare has been approached to open a CCBHC. Senator Leslie said the CCBHC includes services such as case management and outpatient care. Senator Leslie said the state received a planning grant but is waiting on the implementation grant. A budget has been created for state funding of CCBHCs. Senator Leslie asked to keep this item on the meeting agenda.

Heather Shoop is aware of the work with Westcare's CCBHC but her scope of work is broad and she was not aware of the details.

Ms. Shoop asked for public comment. None was heard.

**6. REVIEW AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE DOCUMENT RELEASED BY THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REGARDING THE LGBT COMMUNITY.**

Misty Allen noted the document is completed but is being held due to Adverse Childhood Events (ACES) data. She is hoping to have the document to share before the January 27, 2017 meeting. This item will remain on the agenda.

Heather Shoop asked for public comment. None was heard.

**7. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING POTENTIAL LEGISLATION BEING HEARD DURING THE 79TH (2017) SESSION OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE**

Lesley Dickson noted a bill to change the definition of mental health. She discussed a bill may be put forward related to court committed patients' information, the FBI database and law enforcement access to the database. She said the big issues will be related to the budget. She mentioned a bill to place mental health professions under one board.

Kathy Ingelse, Dr. Dickson and Heather Shoop discussed suicide prevention training requirements for behavioral health providers. Ms. Ingelse asked about physicians, nurses and other similar professions. Misty Allen noted the Veterans Legislative Advocacy group is working on a bill to require training as opposed to the AB93 bill which recommended training for all healthcare providers. The Nevada Nurses Association is working on a rural project to train nurses as suicide prevention trainers to train community members, but they are overlooking training within the healthcare professions.

Ms. Shoop questioned whether the committee should pursue action regarding death with dignity. She reminded the committee of the cases in which death with dignity as a medical option may have prevented trauma to the ill person and may also prevent negative effects on some others because of the suicide. Sheila Leslie said the death with dignity bill would be introduced again this session by the same sponsors. Senator Leslie noted Assemblyman Thompson's bill relating to suicide and veterans. Misty clarified the bill regarding education and healthcare providers. Senator Leslie noted Senator Woodhouse's bill establishing an interim study committee to research issues of the behavioral health and cognitive care of older persons and suicide awareness for the elderly. She also noted a bill for advance directives for psychiatric care. Dr. Dickson commented on the advance directives bill and its background. Senator Leslie believes this might be a good session to process these bills.

Marlyn Scholl met with a political organization working to introduce a bill related to Legal 2000 and temporary removal of firearms. Dr. Dickson noted a bill from the prior session and discussed the danger of removing a firearm from a violent person. Dr. Dickson noted the danger of firearm sales without background checks. Ms. Scholl recalled a law in which liability is placed on the seller.

Dr. Dickson questioned if bills regarding prescription drugs were being created relating to the Governor's Drug Summit Report.

Senator Leslie said to keep the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics on the list of budget items to track.

Ms. Shoop asked for public comment. None was heard.

**8. REVIEW, MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS, AND APPROVE THE FINALIZED DRAFT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE 12 RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE SUBMITTED WITH THE SEPTEMBER 30TH ANNUAL REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.**

Misty Allen noted the need to find partnerships toward implementation. Meetings with community partners need to be had. The recommendations have been positively received. She has not heard response from the division or department on legislative recommendations. Ms. Allen briefly described the 12 recommendations. She is hoping Recommendation #1 will have a legislative impact. Sheila Leslie noted Legislator sponsored bills are due by December 1<sup>st</sup>. John Fudenberg noted he will be in Carson City through the Legislative session. Ms. Allen will follow up regarding legislation after contacting her leadership.

Ms. Allen is waiting on her leadership's approval before the Committee can vote to approve the final plan. She noted the committee approved the draft for submission to the Director.

Heather Shoop asked for public comment. None was heard.

**9. REVIEW, MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS, AND APPROVAL OF THE YEAR 3 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Misty Allen reported 2015 data won't be available until July 2017. The report is not ready to submit until the new data is received. She would like to table this item until the next meeting.

Mike Bernstein questioned the approval of the draft implementation plan. Ms. Allen believes the recommendations were accepted by the Division and Department but will follow up regarding legislative actions. Ms. Allen clarified the draft implementation plan still requires timelines and commitments from partners to help implement the recommendations which is preventing the finalization. Surveys sent did not provide enough data to move forward.

Ms. Allen reported weekly data from the Division of Public and Behavioral Health regarding emergency department attempts and suicidal ideations show the heightened rates occur on Sundays, more men are attempting than women, and the age range of 20 – 59 has the highest rates. With 140 people reported each week with attempts and ideations, aftercare is crucial.

Heather Shoop asked for public comment. None was heard.

**10. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEXT FACE TO FACE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES**

John Fudenberg excused himself from the meeting.

Angela Friedman updated the members on the travel requests for the January 2017 face to face meeting. Misty Allen discussed an additional agenda item for January looking at prior attempts, means escalation, and connection to care prior to the suicide death. Kathy Knight discussed the need to find a person to collect the data. Ms. Allen reported on her phone call with a Harvard doctoral student working as part of a field emersion program in Utah with a healthcare organization. The student was inspired by Nevada to apply for the program. Ms. Allen and Dr. Knight discussed using doctoral students from this program to collect the data. Ms. Allen, Dr. Knight, John Fudenberg and Richard Egan will meet and discuss completing the application.

Marlyn Scholl excused herself from the meeting.

Heather Shoop suggested keeping the business part of the next meeting's agenda to an hour to two hours so the majority of the meeting is the review.

Ms. Shoop asked for public comment. None was heard.

**11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Shoop asked for further public comment. None was heard.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.