

COMMITTEE TO REVIEW SUICIDE FATALITIES
MINUTES
May 5, 2017
9:00 a.m.

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

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

DPBH-BCFCW-OSP
3811 West Charleston Boulevard, Suite 210
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

Marlyn Scholl, LCSW, Veterans Health
Administration, Sierra Nevada Health Care System,
Reno, Co-Chair
Carolyn DeTierra, MFT, Director, Washoe Tribal
Healing Center
Lesley Dickson, MD, Nevada Psychiatric Association
Sheila Leslie, MA, Behavioral Health Program
Coordinator, Washoe County Social Services
Sergeant John Harney, Las Vegas Metropolitan
Police Department
Mike Bernstein, M. Ed., representative of injury
prevention, Nevada Coalition for Suicide
Prevention
Kathy Ingelse, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC,
FNP-BC, representative of providers of health care

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Gregory Cowper, Director of Business
Development, Montevista Hospital
John Fudenberg, Clark County Coroner

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (DPBH) STAFF PRESENT IN RENO

Angela Friedman, Administrative Assistant, DPBH-BCFCW-OSP

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (DPBH) STAFF PRESENT IN LAS VEGAS

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

OTHERS PRESENT BY PHONE

Sharon Benson, Senior Deputy Attorney General, Attorney General's Office

Marlyn Scholl called the meeting of the Committee to Review Suicide Fatalities (CRSF) to order at 9:05 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

Marlyn Scholl introduced herself. Angela Friedman called the roll. A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2017 OPEN AND CLOSED MEETING MINUTES AND MARCH 17, 2017 OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Marlyn Scholl asked for corrections or additions to the January 27, 2017 open and closed meeting minutes. No changes were suggested.

MARLYN SCHOLL ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 27, 2017 MEETING AS PRESENTED. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MIKE BERNSTEIN. KATHY INGELSE SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

Ms. Scholl asked for corrections or additions to the March 17, 2017 open meeting minutes. No changes were suggested.

MARLYN SCHOLL ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 17, 2017 MEETING AS PRESENTED. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY SHEILA LESLIE. JOHN HARNEY SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

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

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

Marlyn Scholl reported she will meet with the Privacy Officer of the Veterans Administration Medical Facility to discuss the use of the standing letter versus the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). She is confident of the Director's support and in the level of competence of those who will review the documents.

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

4. UPDATE ON, DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE SHORTAGE OF MEDICAID BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

Lesley Dickson noted the number of medical graduates choosing psychiatry increased. Ninety-nine percent of the residences have been filled nationwide. This year from the University of Nevada, School of Medicine, nine students chose psychiatry. Three residents have chosen to stay in Las Vegas, and one will stay in Reno. Starting in July the number of residences will expand to ten per year in Las Vegas, and six per year in Reno. Other than child psychiatry, Nevada lacks opportunity for specialty education which leads to residents leaving the state and not coming back. Salaries in Nevada are too low to bring in professors of specialty programs.

Dr. Dickson saw no improvement in behavioral health Medicaid reimbursement. The state's budget did not improve. Salaries increased at the Veterans Administration, but they are still having difficulty recruiting. The State's Assembly Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees saved mental health programs from being cut which resulted in a need to find \$10 million in other areas to balance the mental health budget.

Sheila Leslie noted the Governor's budget cut \$20 million over the biennium but was not accepted by the legislators. The legislators were informed of the difficult rollout by the private sector, the

inability of the public to understand and use the managed care organization (MCO) process, the uncertainty of Federal Government changes to Medicaid, and diminishing staff at Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS). The rapid stabilization unit which supports people in crisis, the medication unit and outpatient counseling were put back into the budget. Bi-partisan support occurred for saving the programs. The Governor is not opposed to putting the programs back into the budget. The Economic Forum has additional money for the Legislature and Governor to allocate. Both full legislative committees need to approve the subcommittees' recommendations and then the entire Legislature needs to approve the budget. Ms. Leslie believes the budget is 95% approved.

Dr. Dickson and Ms. Leslie don't recall discussion at the budget meeting regarding the rural areas.

Ms. Leslie and Dr. Dickson discussed the political actions of the Nevada representatives, the stance of the Governor, and the recently passed Federal healthcare bill (H.R.1628). Ms. Leslie noted although the change will not be immediate, and may be helped with the contingency fund, the losses to mental health services over time will be great, and will also affect the provider and insurance communities.

Kathy Ingelse noted difficulty placing psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner students with a mental health preceptor. Barriers include lack of support, lack of providers, a four semester commitment, no financial compensation, and slow down to the typical workload. The Veterans Administration (VA) is open to residences for psychiatry and provides stipends but struggles to support medical students. Doctors may not be available to students of the two new upcoming medical schools. Ms. Ingelse noted the VA seeks only full time providers.

Marlyn Scholl asked for public comment. None was heard.

5. UPDATE ON, DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING LEGISLATION BEING HEARD DURING THE 79TH (2017) SESSION OF THE NEVADA LEGISLATURE

Lesley Dickson discussed Assembly Bill 105 (AB105) which requires physicians to complete a suicide prevention Continuing Medical Education (CME) course. She noted testimonies to support, no testimonies against, and the doctors of osteopathy being neutral. The Nevada State Medical Association (NSMA) is very unhappy with the bill. She said the amendment decreases the requirement to two hours every four years for all disciplines. Because Assemblyman Thompson did not see the training as an ethics issue, suicide prevention training will increase the total CME hours required. Dr. Dickson is going to provide a two hour CME course for the next annual NSMA meeting. A presentation at the February 2017 annual meeting is on video and is being prepared for online access. Medical licenses are due to renew in June 2017.

Dr. Dickson discussed Senate Bill 201 (SB201) which bans conversion therapy for homosexuality and transgender people. Sheila Leslie believes SB201 will pass. The bill for doctor assisted suicide, Senate Bill 261 (SB261), will be heard soon. The Psychiatry Association asked for a statement to be added to SB261 requiring the patient be assessed for depression. Because the medical society has different opinions about the bill relating to fraud and signing of the death certificates, they are going to look into how other states handle death certificate wording.

Dr. Dickson discussed the bill in which mental health professionals may form corporations with doctors and nurse practitioners in all disciplines. The benefit is integrated care and equal partnership.

Ms. Leslie noted Assembly Bill 366 (AB366) the regionalization bill is pending and passed out of the first committee. The bill is pending allocations from the Economic Forum which could provide money for each board to fund their community. The AB366 is in the Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. Leslie discussed Senate Bill 192 (SB192) which expands the operations of the Mobile Outreach Safety Teams (MOST) in Washoe and Clark Counties. Talks are occurring with the Governor to provide funds to support hiring more therapists. Washoe County is taking the program over from the state. Clark County is contracted to work with WestCare taking referrals from law enforcement, which is different than Washoe County who respond more in the moment with those in crisis. Ms. Leslie has been working with Misty Allen on follow up procedures with high risk patients after discharge. In the last two years rural areas have been asking for MOST. Rural Mental Health has provided mental health support and Law Enforcement would like to expand the work.

Ms. Leslie will connect Marlyn Scholl to Jessica Flood to help Ms. Scholl with a project involving the rural areas of Nevada.

Kathy Ingelse excused herself from the meeting. A quorum was still present.

Angela Friedman relayed a text from Misty Allen who attended the hearing on AB105. Ms. Allen stated the bill was recommended “do pass” and passed out of committee unanimously.

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

6. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO SUICIDE RATES AND PREVENTION OF DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS, GENDERS AND CULTURES

Marlyn Scholl tabled the agenda item for the next meeting due to Misty Allen’s absence from the meeting.

7. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EMERGENCY ROOM FOLLOW UP AFTER PATIENT ADMISSION FOR SUICIDE EVENTS

Marlyn Scholl tabled the agenda item for the next meeting.

8. DISCUSS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS TO PREVENT MISCOMMUNICATION AND INACCURATE DATA

Marlyn Scholl tabled the agenda item for the next meeting.

Sharon Benson clarified public comment is not requested when an agenda item is tabled, although those who want to speak to a tabled agenda item may do so during Agenda Item #10, Public Comment.

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

Richard Egan asked to add an agenda item discussing the Psychological Examinations for Suicide course he completed. He and a person working with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department would like to present psychological examinations of cases being reviewed by the Committee.

Angela Friedman announced Heather Shoop has resigned from the Committee and an agenda item to vote in a new Co-Chair is needed. Ms. Shoop filled the position representing substance abuse and prevention. Mike Bernstein said Ms. Shoop may now be working for Clark County Social Services. Ms. Shoop's proxy Leo Magrdichian will be recommended for Ms. Shoop's replacement. Misty Allen had instructed Ms. Friedman to proceed with the application process. If appointed, Mr. Magrdichian will not automatically fill the Co-Chair position. Ms. Friedman will confirm Mr. Magrdichian's desire to be on the Committee and obtain necessary paperwork to complete his application packet. Dr. Dickson suggested Jaime Ross of the Prevention, Advocacy, Choices, Teamwork (PACT) Coalition be considered should Mr. Magrdichian decline the offer. Dr. Dickson noted Ms. Ross has been active and taking the lead in opioid abuse prevention.

Marlyn Scholl reminded the members in Las Vegas to think about their interest in filling the vacant Co-Chair position.

Ms. Scholl noted the next meeting will be July 21, 2017 in person in Reno at the Office of Suicide Prevention. Ms. Friedman explained she needs Bureau approval of the agenda then she will begin to work with the members to get travel documents prepared.

Dr. Dickson noted concern for Friday meetings due to the lack of late night Southwest flights back to Las Vegas. Ms. Friedman said she will look into the issue and consult with Misty Allen if a meeting change is necessary.

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

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lesley Dickson noted the publicity Brooke Wanser, reporter for the Las Vegas Review Journal, gave to the Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers spoken about at the last Committee meeting. Dr. Dickson shared with Ms. Wanser what occurred for Mental Health Awareness Month and the dedication to family put on by National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Marlyn Scholl noted the importance of positive publicity for the work being done in the mental health community.

Ms. Scholl asked for public comment. No further comments were heard.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.