

## [Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services<sup>1</sup>](#)

### Meeting Items of possible interest to SURG members

March 11, 2024

- Overview of the Medical Licensing Process and Provisional Licensure, Potential Barriers to Licensing, and Future Considerations. Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners
  - Potential BDRs to clean up and simplify Continuing Medical Education requirements including:
    - SBIRT, misuse or abuse of controlled substances, pain management or addiction care, prescribing of opioids, cultural competency and DEI.
  - Chair Doñate referenced possibly changing renewal date to providers' birthdays.

February 16, 2024

- Public comment related to Pharmacist provision of MAT under regulation AB156/R059-23P.
  - Vice Chair Orentlicher supports AB156/R059-23P to implement best practices for SUD; need to take full advantage of health professionals, particularly with current shortages.
- Silver State Health Improvement Plan (Megan Comlossy, Public Affairs and Policy, UNR School of Public Health) include:
  - Access to Health Care Workforce to:
    - Increase integration of CHWs who increase minorities' access to care and serve as liaisons between health care providers and the communities they serve.
    - Improve cultural competence within HCP workforce to improve provider-patient communication, reduce health disparities, and improve health outcomes.
  - Mental Health and Substance Use – Crisis Response:
    - Enhance 988 call center operations and improve response times.
  - Substance Use Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment and Recovery
    - Increase public awareness and education about SUD and available services/resources and reduce stigma.
    - Improve access to affordable and equitable treatment.
    - Strengthen and elevate early intervention strategies, including creation of a robust drug surveillance program.
    - Support recovery-oriented systems of care, including access to harm reduction services.

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<sup>1</sup>For details, follow this [Committee link](#) and then click on the **Meetings** tab for this committee. Scroll down to the meeting of interest and click in the **View Meeting** box. To move the recording to a specific item of interest, click in the **Expand All Meeting Links** box, and then click on the **Agenda Item** of interest.

- Foster collaboration including government agencies, healthcare providers, school districts, community organizations, and law enforcement, to create a unified approach to addressing substance use issues.
  - Mental Health and Substance Use Investment
    - Increase overall State General Fund investment in Medicaid to raise reimbursement rates for behavioral health services.
    - Increase investment in (non-medical) wraparound services to assist those experiencing mental health challenges and substance use disorders.
    - Increase financial incentives to attract and retain behavioral health professionals in NV.
    - Increase private sector and philanthropic investment and financial support of robust behavioral health services to help all Nevadans receive appropriate care.
    - Pursue/encourage implementation of strategies to increase sustainable funding and reimbursement in Nevada’s behavioral health system.
- DHHS Director Whitley on ARPA Funding
  - Fiscal cliff and services cliff coming; providing spreadsheet to committee.
  - Rep. Gray wants BDR for Interstate Compaq to address Social Worker shortage.
- Updates from NV Medicaid<sup>2</sup>
  - Rate increases for range of providers effective 1/1/2024.
  - Received federal approval for CHW (expanded supervision) (SB117).
  - 1115 waiver – federal funds to cover cost of substance use treatment in residential settings; Approved May 24, 2023; Reimbursement approved Aug 1, 2023; updating rate methodology with CMS.
  - Coverage of services for incarcerated individuals (AB389); Recently secured vendor contract; waiver development to begin this quarter.
  - Covid Unwind: Able to retain 88% enrollees.
  - Chair Doñate:
    - Value Based Payments – Physicians don’t want to participate in managed care. What are the incentives?
  - Chair Doñate:
    - Public Health Unwinding – what kind of outreach?
      - Office in a Box, Food stamps card; notifications via text, pharmacist, “how to tear offs” regain access.
      - Coordinate with Dept. of Education, et al.
      - Outreach to MCOs to retain members.
      - Reapply within 90 days can retain coverage back to expiry date.
  - Chair Doñate :
    - What resources are in place to engage MCOs?
  - Senator Titus: Increased number of providers accepting NV Medicaid?
    - Will get information to her.

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<sup>2</sup> SURG may want a separate presentation from NV Medicaid

- Vice Chair Orentlicher asked about provider assessment with increased rates; how do they compare to benchmarks such as actual costs, Medicare, private insurance, et al.
  - Take question offline.

April 8, 2024

- Agenda is not yet available