

[REDACTED]

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE WORKING GROUP**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

**December 12, 2018–10:00 AM**

*Video Conferenced Between:*

Office of the Attorney General  
Mock Courtroom  
100 North Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Office of the Attorney General  
Conference Room #4500  
555 East Washington Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

**Attendees present:**

Adam Paul Laxalt, Attorney General–Chair  
Brin Gibson, Bureau Chief–Office of the Attorney General–Vice Chair  
Asheesh Bhalla, Deputy Attorney General–Board Counsel  
Patty Cafferata, Special Assistant Attorney General for Law Enforcement Counties  
and Municipalities–Office of the Attorney General  
Chuck Callaway, Police Director–LVMPD Office of Intergovernmental Services  
Carol Del Carlo, Regent–Nevada System of Higher Education–Secretary  
Linda Lang, Executive Director–Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership  
David Marlon, CEO–Solutions Recovery, Inc.  
Paul Edwards, General Counsel–Designee  
*Proxy for Dr. Larry Pinson, Executive Secretary–Nevada State Board of Pharmacy*  
Stephanie Woodard–Designee  
*Proxy for Richard Whitley, Director–Dept. of Health & Human Services*

**Others Present:**

Nick Trutanich, Chief of Staff–Office of the Nevada Attorney General  
Terry Kerns, Substance Abuse Law Enforcement Coordinator  
Office of the Attorney General

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call of Working Group Members.**  
*Attorney General Laxalt.*  
Attorney General Laxalt called the meeting to order. Esmeralda Velazquez called roll. A quorum was present.
2. **Welcome and Self-Introduction of Members.**  
*Attorney General Laxalt.*  
Members and attendees introduced themselves.
3. **Public Comment.**  
None.
4. **Approval of June 20, 2018 Meeting Minutes.**  
David Marlon moved to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2018, meeting. Paul Edwards seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**5. Report on Public Service Announcements (PSAs) Related to Nevada's Opioid Crisis.**

*Linda Lang, Executive Director–Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership*

Linda Lang reported the PSA(s) began airing in mid-August, 2018. Lang presented a Cumulative Report regarding the Nevada Broadcasters' Association mid-August through the end of October PSA airings. To date, 2,040 total spots were aired, both on radio and TV. The total investment was \$15,000 with an air time value of \$215,500. Media value return on the investment is about 14 to 1 through the Nevada Broadcasters' Association. Lang reported she has monthly reports containing a detailed breakdown of each airing and would be happy to disseminate the report. The PSA(s) will continue to air in November and December, 2018.

Lang further explained these were Good Samaritan PSA(s). The intent is to encourage people to not be afraid to ask for help if witnessing an overdose and to reduce the stigma of calling 911. The PSA(s) contain data regarding overdose deaths, however, the focus is on assisting those in need and information regarding limited immunity for assisting.

Lang directed the group to the [healthierv.org](http://healthierv.org) website which contains law, a Good Samaritan description, and backup information.

**6. Final Report on the Substance Abuse Working Group's Initiatives during the Laxalt Administration.**

*Patty Cafferata, Special Assistant Attorney General for Law Enforcement Counties...and Municipalities–Office of the Attorney General*

Cafferata reported the Substance Abuse Working Group (SAWG) began with goals of education and prevention. SAWG began its first year with many briefings and recommendations of issue focus. It became evident the Opioid crisis should become a main focus. The federal government drug take-back days energized the group. She explained diverting prescription drugs from improper use is an important way to address the Opioid crisis. Grant funding was utilized to purchase five medium sized incinerators which were placed around Nevada to destroy drugs. SWAG worked with Nevada Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) on writing guidelines so the incinerators can burn both contraband drugs and take-back-drugs deposited in local law enforcement drop boxes. Kenny Furlong reported the Carson City Sheriff's Office was able to expand the use of their incinerator. The five new incinerators were placed in Mineral, Nye, Elko, and Storey counties and in Boulder City. They are geographically located to enable use by the entire

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state. Cafferata reported all incinerators are operational except for Boulder City, which is currently in the construction phase.

Cafferata reported she attended national meetings regarding the Opioid crisis. The priority of these meetings was the need to protect law enforcement and first responders from exposure to drugs like Fentanyl. SWAG purchased Naloxone with settlement funds for officer and first responder safety. There are almost sixty statewide law enforcement/first responder agencies participating in the Naloxone program. Trainings were held and are on the AG's website.

Through the national programs, SWAG learned the White House was encouraging coordination between law enforcement and the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS). DHHS provided a grant to hire Law Enforcement Substance Abuse Coordinator, Terry Kerns. Kerns is a former FBI agent and a nurse. She is funded by DHHS, but is located at the Attorney General's office and reports to the Attorney General. Additionally, to refocus on how to treat overdose victims, not to treat them as criminals by arresting and incarceration, but to treat them as victims. Also, looking for the source of their drugs and the arrest of the drug dealers and sources.

Kerns reported within a ten day period Washoe County used Naloxone three times. The first victim was dead and could not be revived. The second one, did revive, but died at the hospital. The third victim, an 18 year old, which Naloxone was administered, was successful in saving the victim's life.

Kerns reported Highway Patrol in Laughlin was flagged down because someone had overdosed on a bus. The victim was able to be revived after administering Naloxone.

Cafferata reported on the accomplishments of Statewide Partnership on the Opioid Crisis (SPOC), a SWAG subcommittee. She stated individuals from healthcare, law enforcement, coalitions, and the private sector participated. SPOC researched and recommended a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program and a free application called ODMMap from HIDTA. The ODMMap application was created by HIDTA to identify the location and source of drugs. First responders to an overdose obtain information and data for input. ODMMap is a simple application with just a few questions to answer such as, Was Naloxone administered? If so, how much? Did the victim

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survive? and then the location. To date Cafferata and Kerns have visited fifteen of the seventeen counties and will visit the last two by Friday regarding training on the ODMAP application. Excellent participation with thirty one state, local and federal agencies signed up, including thirty two overdoses reported.

The final accomplishment of SAWG was to propose a Bill Draft Report (BDR) for a mapping program which would be required by law enforcement and first responders. Kerns will be managing the program in the future.

Cafferata also reported on the education and prevention program through the Boys & Girls Club. All of these initiatives began under AG Laxalt's Administration and this committee.

Laxalt thanked this group and stated he participates in over twenty Boards and Commissions statewide, and this group is one of the more active committees. He thanked many individuals for their amazing talents, willingness to dig in to find solutions and for their concern of Nevada's citizens.

**7. Public Comment.**

Carson City:

Ed Yenick with the BubHugs Foundation thanked Laxalt for all he has done with the Substance Abuse Working Group. He also thanked Lang with the Statewide Partnership Coalition.

Cyndi Yenick with the BubHugs Foundation stated she believes Laxalt has a greater calling. She noted she is a woman of great faith and cannot thank Laxalt enough for what he's done for Nevada. She stated she will continue the fight for the prevention of Opioid abuse and misuse.

Laxalt thanked the Yenick's for their work in the Opioid abuse fight.

Las Vegas:

None.

**8. Adjournment.**

Laxalt adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:38 a.m.

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*Minutes respectfully submitted by:  
Sherrie Connell, Legal Secretary Trainee; Nevada Office of the Attorney General*