

STATE OF NEVADA SUBSTANCE ABUSE WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 11, 2017 – 10:00 AM

Video Conferenced Between:

Office of the Attorney General
Mock Courtroom
100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Office of the Attorney General
Grant Sawyer Building
Room 4500
555 E. Washington Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Members present:

Adam P. Laxalt, Attorney General - Chair
Dr. Miriam Adelson, Adelson Clinic
Chuck Callaway, Police Director, Las Vegas Metro Police Department
Carol Del Carlo, Regent, Nevada System of Higher Education - Secretary
J. Brin Gibson, Bureau Chief, Office of the Attorney General
Mark Jackson, Douglas County District Attorney - Vice Chair
Linda Lang, Executive Director, Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership
Yenh Long, Program Administrator, Nevada State Board of Pharmacy;
Proxy for Dr. Larry Pinson, Executive Secretary, Nevada State Board of Pharmacy
David Marlon, President, Solutions Recovery, Inc.
Dr. Stephanie Woodard, Licensed Psychologist, Department of Health & Human Services;
Proxy for Richard Whitley, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Attorney General Staff Present:

Asheesh Bhalla - Board Counsel
Patty Cafferata - Coordinator
Marissa Kuckhoff
Taylor Musselman
Tarah Sanchez

Others Present:

Jeanette Belz
Mary Cannizzaro
Trey Delap
Agata Gawronski
Chelsey Parvin
Brandi Planet

1. Swearing in of new member Brin Gibson.

Attorney General Adam P. Laxalt swore in new member Brin Gibson.

2. Call to order and roll call of working group members.

AG Laxalt called the meeting to order. Secretary Marissa Kuckhoff called roll. Quorum present.

3. Public Comment.

None.

3. Approval of August 2, 2017, meeting minutes (Attachment One (1)).

Dr. Stephanie Woodard suggested one change to the minutes: paragraph 3, MAT-PDOA Grant was applied for, not yet received. David Marlon motioned to approve the minutes pending the change. Linda Lang seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mark Jackson and Brin Gibson abstaining from the vote.

4. Report on Governor's Opioid Task Force. Brin Gibson, Bureau Chief, Office of the Attorney General (Presentation and Discussion Only.)

Gibson reported that a work-program will be presented to the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) on October 19, 2017. It incorporates some of Governor Brian Sandoval's Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan and will be funded with VW settlement money. There are four requests included in this work-program. The first request is that there will be five incinerators located in the state to allow for the disposal of drugs. The second request is that an Attorney General's criminal investigator will be assigned to the Healthcare Fraud Task Force, a joint task force staffed by law enforcement from various agencies. AG Laxalt commented that he has discussed this with the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and they look forward to the investigator's participation. Gibson continued with the third request stating it is a prevention element funding a "healthy lifestyle" sub-grant and state-wide prescription drug awareness program. The Boys and Girls Club will be a key beneficiary for this program. The final request is the distribution of Naloxone/Narcan. AG Laxalt mentioned a fifth request and asked Lang to elaborate. Lang reported that as part of the prevention education in the near future there will be money to support the statewide prevention efforts around prescription drugs that will serve the twelve community coalitions and the statewide partnership serving the seventeen counties. A proposal was submitted that has four to five components including reaching out to special populations, evidence based programming, the continuation of the take-back days, and a state wide educational message from the Attorney General's Office. Mark Jackson stated that the number one issue with methamphetamine, and now with opioids is prevention. Further, he would like to appear to provide public comment on October 19, 2017. AG Laxalt thanked the group for their suggestions and work and opened the invitation to attend the IFC meeting on October 19, 2017.

It is noted that Dr. Miriam Adelson arrived for the meeting in Las Vegas.

5. Report on Addiction, Recovery, and Student Success from the Association of Community Colleges Trustees (ACCT) Leadership Congress. Carol Del Carlo, Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents, Regent, District 9. (Presentation and Discussion Only.)

Del Carlo reported that as a member of the Community Colleges Committee, she attended the national meeting in Las Vegas two weeks prior. The conference took place over the course of three days. Addiction, Recovery, Student Success was a seminar put on by Michael DeLeon, a recovering heroin addict who has been to prison twice and is the only ex-felon to sit on a board of

trustees at a community college in the country. Del Carlo stated that his message was impactful, that he is available as a speaker, and she bought the CDs if the group wants to review them. DeLeon sees addiction as the number one problem in schools. He became a drug counselor and authored a book called Chasing Detours. Ninety-five percent of female addicts and 80% of male addicts were sexually molested at one point. In Indiana, 50% of kids have lost their parents due to drug problems. DeLeon believes in a practice called “table-talks”, where parents discuss drugs and addiction with their children.

6. Introduction of the new Law Enforcement Coordinator Terry Kerns. Patty Cafferata, Special Assistant Attorney General for Law Enforcement Counties and Municipalities, Office of the Attorney General.

AG Laxalt reported that a reoccurring challenge the group has seen and worked to overcome is the lack of information sharing between law enforcement and the medical community. The AG’s Office, with the help of Dr. Whitley and the Department of Health and Human Services, will house a law enforcement coordinator to facilitate communication between these groups. Terry Kerns is a former agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and a registered nurse. Kerns thanked the attorney general and said she looks forward to bridging the gap between the medical community, the first responder community and law enforcement. Kerns reported that she was a nurse for 11 years and in the FBI for 21 years. During the anthrax attacks, Kerns worked closely with public health and the centers for disease control. Jackson asked Cafferata for an updated contact list, including Kerns and Gibson.

7. Nominations and Elections of Vice-Chair and Secretary (NRS 228.800.4). (Discussion and Possible Action.)

AG Laxalt proposed Jackson as the vice-chair and Regent Del Carlo as secretary and opened discussion of nominations. Gibson motioned to approve the nominations and Chuck Calloway seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. National Institute on Drug Abuse Overdose Death Rates Report – Informational Attachment Only, No Presentation. (Possible Discussion.) See Attachment Two (2).

Cafferata reported that the attachment was from the White House and has important information for the group. Jackson inquired as to whether the information would be incorporated into the IFC presentation on October 19. AG Laxalt stated that they will review the handout. AG Laxalt suggested that they invite the state-group to return to re-present their information to the group. Lang noted that Nevada mirrors the national statistics regarding Benzodiazepine and that this would be an area of focus for physician and community education. Dr. Stephanie Woodard reported finding similar results in that there are individuals who overdose while using opioids and Benzodiazepines. Dr. Woodard reported that they are currently trying to link death records to the PMP to track the substances. Calloway stated that he does not have the information but the coroner’s office doing the toxicology tests may be able to provide the information. Jackson reported that the tri-county area, including the Carson, Douglas, and Lyon counties, works with the Trinet Narcotics Task Force and has seen that most Benzodiazepines are prescribed, however, they are being abused and not being taken as directed. Yen Long reported that opiates and Benzodiazepines are commonly prescribed together due to patients having anxiety. In addition,

Soma (Carisoprodol) is added on to make the “holy trinity”, which also increases the risk of overdose. AG Laxalt asked Long why a patient would need all three substances. Long reported that seldom are all three substances needed but it could give the patient a better high. AG Laxalt asked Dr. Woodard if there had been any reported overdoses where benzodiazepine was the sole substance or is the substance always paired with an opioid. Dr. Woodard answered that it does not have to be paired with an opioid.

AG Laxalt asked David Marlon for an update on the recovery high school. Marlon reported that the school is being called Mission High School and currently has 18 students. The grand opening is scheduled for October 23, 2017. AG Laxalt asked the group if it would be appropriate to share information about the school state wide. Lang will discuss with Marlon how to spread awareness of the school. Long suggested contacting Jennifer Delett-Snyder, Director of Healthier Nevada, regarding public service announcements.

Dr. Adelson reminded the group of her presentation and study on drug testing of teachers and students in a private school and the negative effects of substance use on the adolescent brain. AG Laxalt reported that the group hopes to obtain a half a million dollar grant for the Boys and Girls Club of Nevada for substance abuse prevention. Lang asked to put on a presentation in conjunction with the Yenick family at an upcoming meeting. The Yenick family is working to bring a pilot program to health classrooms in the state. The Yenick family lost their son, a star athlete and former football player at the University of Nevada, Reno, to a drug overdose after being prescribed pain medication for an injury.

9. Mandatory Quarterly Meetings (NRS 228.810), Scheduling of 2018 meetings. (Discussion and Possible Action.)

AG Laxalt noted the dates and times of the upcoming meetings.

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

10. Public comment.

None.

11. Adjournment.

Del Carlo moved to adjourn the meeting and Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.