

SUBSTANCE ABUSE WORKING GROUP

Minutes of Meeting

Date: March 27, 2019

Time: 10:00 am

Venue: *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
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Members: Aaron D. Ford, Attorney General – *Chair*
Mark Jackson, District Attorney – Douglas County – *Vice Chair*
Kyle E.N. George, Special Assistant Attorney General – *Coordinator*
Carol Del Carlo, Regent – Nevada System of Higher Education – *Secretary*
Chuck Callaway, Police Director – LVMPD Office of Intergovernmental Services
Linda Lang, Executive Director – Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership
Yenh Long – Deputy Executive Secretary – Nevada State Board of Pharmacy –
Designee
*Proxy for Dr. Larry Pinson, Executive Secretary – Nevada State Board of
Pharmacy*
David Marlon, President – State of Nevada Association of Addiction Professional
and Association NAADAC
Dinita Smith – Clinic Director of the Adelson Clinic – Designee
Proxy for Dr. Miriam Adelson – Interface Operations, LLC Adelson Clinic
Stephanie Woodard – DHSS Senior Advisor on Behavioral Health and the
Behavioral Health Commission for the state of Nevada – Designee
*Proxy for Richard Whitley, Director – Department of Health and Human
Services*

Absentees: Asheesh S. Bhalla, Board Counsel, Deputy Attorney General

Attendees: <u>Las Vegas</u> Chelsi Cheaton Program Manager Trac-B Exchange Ronda Holm – Assistant to Kyle George – Attorney General’s Office Katie Jeong – Health Resource Analyst – Division of Public and Behavioral Health – Department of Health and Human Services	<u>Carson City</u> Jessica Adair – Chief of Staff – Attorney General’s Office Cordelia Alexander-Leeder Kelly Clark – USDA Rural Development Bobby Davis Chris Ferrari Victoria Hauan
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Las Vegas, cont'd.

Tashia Puana – Legal Secretary –
Attorney General’s Office
Jamie Ross – Executive Director –
PACT Coalition
Greg Ott – Board Counsel, Deputy
Attorney General

Carson City, cont'd.

Elizabeth MacMenamin – Vice
President of Government Affairs –
Retail Association of Nevada
Elyse Monroy – Program Manager –
CDC Cooperative Agreement
Greg Ott – Acting Support Counsel –
Attorney General’s Office
Dave Wuest – Executive Secretary –
Nevada State Board of Pharmacy
Cyndi Yenick – Treasurer – Bub Hugs
Athletes Against Addiction
Foundation

1. Call to Order and Roll Call.

AG Ford called the meeting to order. Kyle George completed roll call. Quorum achieved.

2. Public Comment.

AG Ford opened up the floor to public comment.

Carson City:

Elizabeth MacMenamin invited the working group members to attend the legislative hearing presented before the Assembly Commerce and Labor Committee at 1:30 pm in support of AB 310. This bill is going to require prescribers to electronically transmit controlled substances prescriptions.

Cyndi Yenick made an introduction to AG Ford. She lost her son to an accidental overdose in 2015 and has turned her grief into an effort to prevent drug abuse for young adults by creating the Bub Hugs Athletes Against Addiction Foundation.

3. Welcome and self-introduction of Substance Abuse Working Group members.

Brief introductions were made.

4. Approval of December 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes

AG Ford presented the Minutes from the December 12, 2018 Meeting for review and approval.

MOTION by Linda Lang.

Move to approve the December 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Chuck Callaway and carried without dissent.

5. Appointment and swearing in of new member, Kyle George, to fill vacancy in Substance Abuse Working Group.

Kyle George was appointed to the Substance Abuse Working Group Committee and made a brief introduction.

6. Presentation on Nevada’s opioid grants; State Targeted Response and State Opioid.

Stephanie Woodard, Psy.D. gave a PowerPoint presentation on Nevada’s Comprehensive Approach to Addressing the Opioid Crisis. The PowerPoint presentation is attached hereto as “Attachment 1”.

Public Comment:

Kyle George asked for clarification on how data is being captured following drug use and which drug is attributed to the cause of death when multiple drugs were used.

Elyse Monroy responded. There currently is no standardized data collection across all jurisdictions but the best practice manual that will be created under the Coroner’s Project is intended to encourage standardized data collection & poly-drug reporting across the state.

Kyle George asked if self-administration of Naloxone in opioid overdoses is masking the significance of the problem since these overdoses are not being reported to hospitals or law enforcement.

Yenh Long responded. The effects of Naloxone lasts about 30 minutes & the opioid has a longer half-life. Once the effects of Naloxone wears off, the patient can re-experience the overdose. It is important for the patient to seek emergency medical assistance after the self-administration of Naloxone because the patient’s condition requires monitoring & ongoing administration of an opioid antagonist to avoid re-experiencing the overdose.

AG Ford asked about the producers of Naloxone and if they are also the producers of opioids.

Dave Wuest responded. The Naloxone used by the state is not produced by the producers of opioids. However, Purdue Pharma, producers of prescription opioids, has recently developed a long-acting version of Naloxone.

7. Presentation on Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP).

Katie Jeong gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Current Status of Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) and Coroner’s Project. The PowerPoint presentation is attached hereto as “Attachment 2”.

Public Comment:

Stephanie Woodard commended Terry Kerns for being instrumental in the implementation of the ODMAP program.

AG Ford reaffirmed the support of the Nevada Attorney General’s Office.

8. Presentation on Coroner Project.

Katie Jeong gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Coroner’s Project. The PowerPoint presentation follows the PowerPoint presentation on ODMAP and is attached hereto as “Attachment 2”.

9. Presentation on Amendments to the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy’s Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP).

Yenh Long, Phar.D., BCACP gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Opioid Prescription Pattern Pre- and Post- Implementation of AB 474 and PMP Enhancements. The PowerPoint presentation is attached hereto as “Attachment 3”.

Public Comment:

AG Ford asked if there has been any increase in illicit drug use due to the decrease in prescribers prescribing opioids.

Dave Wuest responded. That is a difficult question to answer but one that we are very interested to see. We see a mild increase in heroin use, but not a spike. Not all opioid users have transitioned to using heroin.

Stephanie Woodard gave a subsequent response. We want to monitor this since it may be a potentially unintended consequence. There are many factors that can contribute to an individual converting from one substance to another. One of the issues that we see is the cost of prescription opioids are increasing while the cost of heroin is decreasing. We also see an increase in youth trying heroin prior to any other substance because it is readily available. The other issue we continue to see is the inexpensive cost of methamphetamines and the rise in deaths related to it. Some individuals are co-using methamphetamines & heroin or using methamphetamines that has been adulterated with fentanyl and that is also attributing to the opioid / methamphetamines deaths. When we look at our treatment admission rates, we have not seen a spike related to heroin or other opioids. So when we look at the multiple factors that we would consider to make the determination of whether the decrease in prescribing opioids is correlated with the increase of illicit drug use, it would be difficult to make an exact correlation, but we have not seen the uptick in heroin admissions or even deaths that we would attribute to individuals switching from prescription drugs to illicit heroin.

AG Ford asked if there has been an increase in arrests for heroin use & a subsequent increase in prosecution for heroin use.

Chuck Callaway responded. There has been a slight uptick in arrests for heroin, but from all indications there appears to be more of a spike in arrests for methamphetamine than for heroin.

Mark Jackson gave a subsequent response. Methamphetamines are still the biggest problem in Douglas County and the surrounding rural counties. Regarding opioids, over the last five years, we have had 24 deaths in Douglas County related to opioids—two from heroin and the rest from prescription drugs with majority of them being an opioid combined with a benzodiazepine. The decrease in opioid prescriptions is not deterring use. Our proximity to the border allows patients to cross the border to obtain prescription opioids. We have also noticed an increase in heroin use in the high school level & the 20-35 year range. The key to the opioid problem is prevention and education.

Yenh Long gave a comment for the record. The focus has been on opioids, but prescription amphetamines have increased over time.

AG Ford asked if there has been an increase in addiction treatment programs since the decrease in opioid prescriptions hasn't deterred addiction. He also asked if methamphetamines are generally co-used with opioids and, if so, have we seen an increase in methamphetamines after the opioid prescriptions decreased.

Stephanie Woodard responded. Ease of access to addiction treatment programs continues to be one of our biggest barriers because we have vast geographical areas in our state that do not have access.

AG Ford confirmed the commitment of the Nevada Attorney General's office to allocate resources to where a lot of the hardest hit areas are by improving access to treatment centers and for the prevention & education of opioid abuse. Next, AG Ford brought up concerns he received from dentists who were upset about AB 474's rigorous process that they had to go through in order to prescribe pain killers for common procedures like root canals.

Dave Wuest responded. The Health Care Committee has a cleanup bill for AB 474 that will give practitioners a little more flexibility. It is a strong bill that has a good chance of getting passed. Senator Pickard also has a bill that would remove dentists entirely which would make them exempt from the requirements. Next, Dave Wuest brought up the Nplex program, a program that tracks the purchase of Sudafed and the quantities of Sudafed purchased by each person to prevent smurfing, so that the committee was aware of it and can divert resources to better track it if they so desire. He also explained that the system has another function that has not yet been utilized. It can be programmed to alert law enforcement if an individual attempts smurfing.

Mark Jackson commented in support of the Nplex program and how it significantly reduced one of the primary methods in which methamphetamines were manufactured.

Chris Ferrari commented that if additional dialogue is needed, he is currently working with the national group that worked with the Nplex program vendor to get it across the country. Chris Ferrari also commented on the dentists. He represents the state dental association and confirmed that there is 100% commitment to making sure that opioids aren't going where they're not supposed to be.

10. Presentation on Harm Reduction Strategies.

Chelsi Cheaton gave a PowerPoint Presentation on Harm Reduction Strategies. The PowerPoint presentation is attached hereto as "Attachment 4". The Data slide on page 5 was corrected as follows:

"Total syringes distributed in 2018: 480,632."

AG Ford asked if Trac-B also provides tests for Hepatitis B.

Chelsi Cheaton responded and explained that Trac-B provides monthly vaccinations for Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B, but they do not test for Hepatitis B at this time.

AG Ford asked if there is any kind of assistance currently provided by Trac-B for victims of sex trafficking.

Chelsi Cheaton responded. We are aware that a lot of our clients are engaging in sex trade and may be involved in sex trafficking so we try to find out what our clients need. We are looking to expand to offer more programs to people that may want to get out of sex trafficking as well as getting them access to drug treatment.

Mark Jackson asked about the return rate of syringes.

Chelsi Cheaton responded. There is a 65% return rate on the syringes that go out.

11. Public Comment.

Carson City:

Kelly Clark confirmed the USDA Rural Development's commitment to working in rural communities to combat the opioid problem

12. Adjournment.

MOTION by Chuck Callaway.

Move to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by David Marlon and carried without dissent.

Meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm.

Substance Abuse Working Group
Minutes of Meeting – Draft
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*Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Tashia Puana, Legal Secretary II – Nevada Office of the Attorney General*