

STATE OF NEVADA SUBSTANCE ABUSE WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING

March 29, 2016

Location of Meeting:

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

Videoconference To:

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

1. Call to order and roll call of members.

Attorney General (AG) Laxalt requested each member give a short introduction. AG Laxalt also explained how the working group was formed and expectations of the group. AG Laxalt called the meeting to Order at 11:08 a.m. Barbara Cozens, Legal Secretary called the roll.

Members Present:

Adam P. Laxalt, Attorney General – Chair
Wesley Duncan, First Assistant Attorney General
David Marlon, President Solutions Recovery, Inc.
Linda Lang, Ex. Director Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership
Dr. Larry Pinson, Ex. Secretary Nevada State Board of Pharmacy
Richard Whitley, Director Dept. of Health & Human Services
Chuck Callaway, LVMPD Director of Intergovernmental Services
Hon. Pat Hickey, Member Nevada State Board of Education
Dr. Miriam Adelson, Adelson Clinic

Members Absent

Mark Jackson, Douglas Co. District Attorney

Others Present

Michele Smaltz, Executive Assistant to the Attorney General
Barbara Cozens, Legal Secretary II, Office of the Attorney General
Patricia Cafferata, Esq., Special Assistant Attorney General for Law Enforcement
Liz Mac Menamin, V.P. of Government Affairs Retail Association of Nevada
Jeanette K. Belz, J.K. Belz & Associates

Max Brokaw, Sgt. Washoe County Sheriff's Office
Kevin Quint, Bureau Chief, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health
Erick Wilds, Sgt., Narcotics of Major Violations, Las Vegas Metro
Daniel Neill, Assistant Special Agent LV District Office DEA
Mary Cannizzaro, PAC Coalition
Charles Pierce, LV District Office DEA, Supervisor Tactical Diversion Squad
Paul Edwards, General Counsel, Pharmaceutical Board
Trey Delap, M.A., Director Group Six Partners, LLC.¹

2. Public Comments

None

3. Discussion and possible action on approval of August 19, 2014, meeting minutes.

There was group discussion about a possible change to the minutes; however, it was determined that at the time of the meeting the information provided was correct.

Lisa Lang moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by David Marlon. Minutes approved by members who were present at the August 19, 2014 meeting (Richard Whitley, Linda Land, and David Marlon), all other current members abstained from voting.

Minutes approved as written.

4. Presentation: Drug Abuse and Trends in a "Destination City," Las Vegas by Erick Wilds, Sgt. Narcotics of Major Violations, Las Vegas Metro.

Mr. Wilds' presentation centered on the trends of drug use/abuse in Las Vegas, Nevada, specifically heroin and methamphetamine use/abuse. A copy of LVMPD 2015 Narcotics Annual Report was provided to group members. This report provides statistical information concerning the increase of heroin use and what steps law enforcement is taking in combatting this epidemic.

Mr. Wilds discussed the report touching on several items including, methamphetamine use in the Las Vegas community. He also touched on the use of fentanyl and highlighted an incident of a seizure of 2.5 pounds of fentanyl in Las Vegas. Additional drugs were discussed such as cocaine, marijuana, MDMA and Spice, and arrests made due to these types of drugs.

Additionally, Mr. Wilds discussed the use of marijuana and the decline of arrests for the use of marijuana due to the opening of dispensaries for medical marijuana. Mr. Wilds stated that the use of illegal dispensaries is on the rise.

¹ Additional members of the public were in attendance; however, they did not sign in.

AG Laxalt requested more information concerning the definition of a “molly.” Mr. Wilds explained that a “molly” is similar to ecstasy or MDMA. It is taken orally and in capsule form. The molly is a “cut” form of ecstasy. It has a shorter “hit” time. Dr. Pinson added that “molly” is also a street name for the “date rape” drug.

AG Laxalt requested additional information regarding Spice - noting that Spice was a concern several years ago. Mr. Wilds advised that Spice use has gone down because other states are implementing more restrictive Spice laws. The “SCORE” team targeted Spice distributors who did undercover buys which led the team to the major stores that were aggressively selling Spice. They were able to shut down those stores and limit the selling of Spice.

AG Laxalt also questioned whether or not as a State, Nevada was up to date on the laws regarding Spice. There was group discussion regarding tightening up the laws in Nevada and whether that is an area the group should focus on.

The Honorable Pat Hickey requested additional information concerning illegal marijuana dispensaries and whether legal dispensaries are following regulations and laws. Mr. Wilds commented that the problem with the illegal dispensaries occurs on the internet and/or Craigslist. Additionally, aggressive action has been taken to shut down illegal dispensaries.

5. Presentation: Drugs on the I-80 Corridor, Reno by Max Brokaw, Sgt. Washoe County Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Brokaw discussed issues with drugs along the I-80 corridor. He stated the issues were very similar to what Las Vegas is dealing with just on a smaller scale. The issues with marijuana, heroin, and meth use are the main concern. The Reno area is also dealing with illegal medical marijuana dispensaries.

Mr. Brokaw discussed that heroin use is a big concern in the Northern Nevada area. He further discussed how the heroin “franchises” worked and how the franchises are taken down. He reiterated that Northern Nevada is facing the same type of issues Southern Nevada is facing and they are attacking it in the same fashion as Southern Nevada.

Additional group discussion took place regarding the demographics of heroin users. Dr. Adelson provided statistics for patients at her clinic. These statistics included age, sex, length of use, education, amount of methadone used to stay off heroin, and those who are positive for Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B, and HIV. Mr. Wilds also provided statistics regarding what law enforcement is seeing with regards to drug use/arrests.

6. Presentation: Prescription Drug Take Back Day by Dan Neill, Assistant Special Agent Clark County District Office DEA.

Mr. Neill discussed the 11th Annual Take Back Day, which is April 30, 2016. There are over 5000 "collection sites" across the country participating in this event. He discussed the benefits that have come about because of this program. In 2015, 31,000 lbs. of Rx drugs were taken back and disposed. AG Laxalt requested input regarding how the AGO's office or any of the members could assist in the Take Back Day.

7./8. Discussion of programs on substance abuse and possible goals and discussion on possible action on future meeting dates.

AG Laxalt requested discussion regarding possible goals of the group and action for taking on a program. He further proposed having the group focus on attacking the heroin and Rx drug epidemic. The group generally agreed that heroin and Rx drug abuse are related and needed to be addressed together. The group also discussed the need for community education concerning the link between Rx drugs and heroin.

Mr. Whitley offered to provide data from Health & Human Services to target strategies on the state-wide picture about the problem. He would make available the State biostatistician and epidemiologist to do the analysis. Group members were encouraged to send data to Mr. Whitley for compilation.

AG Laxalt asked Linda Lang to come up with some ideas regarding how to move forward on the Rx drug/heroin link and education component. Dr. Pinson agreed to work with Ms. Lang regarding this.

There was further group discussion regarding whether there is a reasonable network of treatment. Specifically, is the treatment adequate, accessible and effective? The group agreed that proper treatment is another item that needs to be given attention. Mr. Whitley will compile data and look at various methods of treatment. Kevin Quint will also work with Mr. Whitley to compile data and provide a presentation at the next meeting.

The group further discussed getting law enforcement involved at the detention centers and the courts. Dr. Adelson brought up that in her experience, detention centers were not giving the prescribed methadone and/or were refusing to give it. Chuck Calloway will follow up on methadone treatment (or lack thereof) in the detention centers. It was also discussed that an invitation would be sent out (possibly to Judge Escobar) to get the specialty courts involved in these matters.

AG Laxalt agreed that he would reach out to other Attorneys General Offices to determine what they are doing in regards to the topic of substance abuse. AG Laxalt also agreed to reach out to the White House head of substance abuse and accept their invitation to partner with the group regarding prevention. He will invite them to give a presentation as to how they can partner with the group.

Dates for future meetings were given: June 8, 2016, October 5, 2016 and December 8, 2016 at 10 a.m.

Topics for next meeting are: Elect Vice-Chair and Secretary. AG Laxalt suggested Wes Duncan to fill the vice-chair position.

9. Public Comment.

None

10. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.