

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE WORKING GROUP

### Minutes of Meeting

**Date:** June 24, 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*  
Kyle E.N. George, Special Assistant Attorney General – *Executive Director*  
Chuck Callaway, Police Director – LVMPD Office of Intergovernmental Services  
Linda Lang, Executive Director – Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership  
David Wuest – Executive Secretary – Nevada State Board of Pharmacy  
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:** Mark Jackson, District Attorney – Douglas County – *Vice Chair*  
Carol Del Carlo, Regent – Nevada System of Higher Education – *Secretary*  
David Marlon, President – State of Nevada Association of Addiction Professional  
and Association NAADAC  
Asheesh S. Bhalla, Board Counsel, Deputy Attorney General

**Attendees:** Las Vegas  
Jessica Adair, Chief of Staff – Attorney General’s Office  
Rosalie Bordelove, Board Counsel – Attorney General’s Office  
Katie Jeong – Health Resource Analyst – Division of Public and Behavioral Health – Department of Health and Human Services  
Terry Kerns – Substance Abuse Law Enforcement Coordinator – Attorney General’s Office

Carson City  
Elyse Monroy – Program Manager – CDC Cooperative Agreement

Las Vegas, cont'd.

Dr. Marian Mosser – Program Director  
– Center for Behavioral Health  
Tashia Puana – Legal Secretary –  
Attorney General’s Office  
Jamie Ross – Executive Director –  
PACT Coalition

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**1. Call to Order and Roll Call.**

Attorney General Ford called the meeting to order. Kyle George completed roll call and informed General Ford that there was a quorum.

**2. Public Comment.**

None.

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

Brief introductions were made.

**4. Presentation on Criminal Justice Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Pilot Program.**

Dr. Marian Mosser gave a verbal presentation about a pilot program to initial Medication Assisted Treatment for inmates in Nevada jails and prisons.

Dr. Mosser explained that her first task was to learn everything she could about Medicated Assisted Treatment (“MAT”) and two new products, probuphine and buprenorphine. She trained doctors on the implant which is a slow release of buprenorphine in order to help fight the addiction of opioids. She has reached out to the courts, Department of Corrections and the Division of Parole and Probation to educate them on the treatment.

Dr. Mosser informed the Working Group that she has communicated with the supervisor for substance abuse from the courts and many judges throughout the state trying to understand what they needed in the courtroom and what they were seeing regarding substance abuse, and opioid abuse. She has worked to educate judges and substance abuse counselors through the Center of Behavioral Health on the benefits of MAT. In December, Judge Bell decided to create the first court with medicated assisted treatment in Nevada, called the MAT Reentry Court. It differs from other specialty drug courts in that it solely focuses on reentry from the Department of Corrections prisons. The program started in December with one patient and is now up to 13 patients.

In addition, Dr. Mosser has met with the Deputy Director of the Department of Corrections on multiple occasions, and went to Casa Grande Transitional Housing Facility to set up a program to educate the medical staff and substance abuse counselors about Medicated Assisted Treatment. A program began in December that invited the Center for Behavioral Health into the women’s prison and Southern Desert Correctional Center once a month in order to talk to

inmates that were exiting the prison within 90 days about their substance abuse. She is currently working with the Department of Corrections to train / talk to the medical staff about introducing Sublocade which is an injection to help fight opioid abuse. Currently, the only drugs provided are for mental health issues – no substance abuse drugs. The Department of Corrections only issues Vivitrol or gives a Vivitrol injection for opioid abuse upon release from the prison.

Dr. Mosser informed the Working Group that the Department of Corrections is evaluating and deciding how to best implement a Medicated Assisted Treatment program. In August she plans to go to Southern Desert Correctional Center to discuss Sublocade injection and other potential products. She has worked with jails and has been able to assist the Center for Behavioral Health in getting medication assisted treatment drugs to Henderson and Clark County Detention Center and is currently working on a partnership with NaphCare in Reno. If an individual is arrested, taken to jail and requires detox, the Center for Behavioral Health could deliver medication to Henderson and Clark County Detention Center to make sure the detox is humane. The Center for Behavioral Health is currently the hub and is reaching out to various behavioral health organization centers as well as community partners. When an inmate is released from prison they are provided with a list of services available in the community they are transitioning into in the state of Nevada. This has been expanded to provide information of medication assisted treatment programs and counseling in other states that inmates may be transitioning to as well.

She has also met with the Assistant Director of the Division of Parole and Probation. The Center for Behavioral Health or other counseling organizations, Medicaid and other services are located at the Parole and Probation office. This allows an inmate that is released or that checks in to be enrolled in Medicaid and get counseling services and screening that is required by the Parole and Probation officer. She is also working with Parole and Probation officers in prison to facilitate a handoff to assist in the reentry of prisoners into society.

Now there is an integration of behavioral health, with the Center for Behavioral Health leading at the forefront along with other behavioral health organizations, and other partners in the community in order to facilitate a smoother reentry for inmates in our state.

AG Ford asked if there is a comparable program in Reno? Dr. Woodard responded to AG Ford's question, and explained that she is working with MOST and the mobile recovery outreach team which are also imbedded with in-treatment providers to offer a diversion and deflection from law enforcement in emergency rooms back into the community and to treatment. There is a law enforcement assisted diversion program in Southern Nevada that specifically focuses on individuals with opioid use disorder and connecting them to case management and treatment. Grant funds are being used to assist them with case management so that they have navigators that can help individuals find the resources that they need in their communities.

Dr. Mosser explained that she is assisting the Center of Behavioral Health on the LEAD program. She has successfully worked with LVMPD and if an officer encounters an individual that is homeless or addicted to drugs, they transport the individual to Crossroads instead of just taking them to jail.

Jessica Adair asked about how many people have been able to go through the MAT Reentry Court since it started in December.

Dr. Mosser answered. The program began in December with two patients and has now grown to 13 patients. The MAT Reentry Court is based upon the success of the individual and has no set time frame. The court has recently asked the Department of Corrections to extend the screening program in the prisons to beyond 12 months so that she can get the selected individuals out of the Department of Corrections and into the MAT Reentry court earlier to have them for a 12-month period. So far two individuals have successfully graduated and they did so after about six months. Court is held bi-weekly with judge Bell.

AG Ford asked what it means to successfully graduate.

Dr. Mosser answered. An individual successfully graduates when they have completed a sobriety program or they have been on medicated assisted treatment and have remained clean and completed all requirements outlined by Judge Bell and the supervising counselor.

AG Ford asked about the date of the graduate who was released first.

Marion Mosser answered that she believes it occurred in May.

AG Ford asked if there are periodic check-ins.

Dr. Mosser answered. There is a conglomerate of people that are working with that individual. The individual checks in with a designated counselor, whether it's Center for Behavioral Health or another organization, and the housing counselor that is responsible for that individual. The goal is to build the skills of that individual so that they become productive and can be released on their own.

Kyle George asked if Dr. Mosser could talk more about jail detox to explain how it is being done and how she is notified.

Dr. Mosser answered. She does not know the details of how detox occurs in jail. She has met with the Chief of the Henderson detention facility and NaphCare is the health care provider of that facility. A major concern was that the facility had limited medication assisted treatment. The Center for Behavioral Health delivers the medication to jails.

Chuck Callaway commented that it is similar at Clark County Detention Center as well. Medically assisted treatment is not being provided for detox in jail unless there is an exception

such as a pregnant female experiencing a detox that could harm the fetus or an individual who already had sought and began a detox treatment prior to being incarcerated.

Kyle George asked if there are any mechanisms to train detention staff to identify the symptoms of detox in the absence of medical personnel.

Dr. Mosser answered and explained that NaphCare professionals are extensively trained in identifying signs of addiction and overdose.

Dr. Woodard followed up to Dr. Mosser's answer and explained that there is a very well-known and used tool that can be used to determine the severity of withdrawal of opioids. There are other tools for other drugs as well.

Kyle George asked about how long the implant lasts.

Dr. Mosser answered. There is a 90-day stabilization period before the implant can be inserted. It is subdermal and is placed in the arm and must be replaced or removed after six months.

## **5. Discussion of Upcoming Opioid Response Summit.**

Dr. Terry Kerns led the discussion of the upcoming Opioid Response Summit on August 14-15 at the Tuscany Suites and Casino in Las Vegas, NV.

On August 13, the day before the Opioid Response Summit, there will be another summit: The MOST, CRT and LEAD Symposium. It will be also be held at Tuscany Suites and Casino, in the Florentine Room, and will bring together people from around the state for education to focus on best practices and lessons learned for emergency response systems highlighting the Mobile Outreach Safety Team (MOST), Crisis Response Team (CRT), and Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) and discussion will address criminal justice reform and the crisis now model. We hope those traveling to attend the Opioid Response Summit can attend this summit as well.

The Opioid Response Summit is a follow up to former Governor Sandoval's 2016 Opioid Summit and there will be different tracks that will address prescriber education and guidelines, treatment options and third-party payers, data collection and intelligence sharing, and criminal justice interventions. At this time, registration is closed to everyone except for law enforcement.

Elyse Monroy from Department of Public and Behavioral Health is working on the CDC Opioid Crisis Grant and is helping to coordinate the summit. The 300-person capacity has been reached, however they are reviewing the budget to see if that limit can be increased. The summit will consist of about 20 breakout sessions, a state of the State to look at how far we have come and where we are now in regards to overprescribing since our laws have changed, overdose deaths and those numbers. There will be talks about standards of care for prescribing, treatment integration, harm reduction strategies, and there will be addresses from Governor

Sisalak and AG Ford. In addition to the foregoing topics, there will be an evening screening of Prescription for Hope which is an opioid documentary supported and paid for by the State of Nevada and it won an Emmy last week. If anyone who has not registered would like to, please send an email to [emonroy@health.nv.gov](mailto:emonroy@health.nv.gov) to be added to the wait list.

**6. Discussion of Sunset of Substance Abuse Working Group.**

AG Ford led the discussion of the past work of the Substance Abuse Working Group and current state of the Opioid Crisis in Nevada as the Working Group sunsets on June 30, 2019.

AG Ford commended the members and highlighted the following accomplishments that have resulted from the efforts of the Substance Abuse Working Group:

- The widespread distribution of Naloxone
- The decrease in number of fatalities from drug overdoses
- Settlement funding provided for youth substance abuse education
- ODMAPs was introduced through this working group
- The increase of implementation of incinerators throughout the state

AG Ford discussed possible future plans:

- We still need to work with Nevada Department of Environmental Protection to address the expanded use of incinerators to dispose of liquid drugs.
- We have applied for federal grants in the amount of \$700,000 over two years for statewide response and expansion of the ODMAPs system.
- There needs to be a greater focus on poly-drug use because it remains a problem and should not be overshadowed by opioids.
- There is also possibility of the continuation of this group in some form or another.

AG Ford thanked the members of the working group.

Dave Wuest thanked AG Ford and his staff for the leadership provided in passing AB 49 in the last session.

Dr. Mosser thanked Dr. Woodard for her vision that led into the molding of behavioral health centers and criminal justice. A lot of the work that is being done is a result of her vision.

Dinita Smith mentioned that the Adelson clinic has been talking with drug court and also plans to expand its services.

**7. Public Comment.**

None.

**8. Adjournment.**

**MOTION** by Chuck Callaway.  
Move to adjourn the meeting.

Substance Abuse Working Group  
Minutes of Meeting – Draft  
June 24, 2019

Seconded by Dr. Woodard and carried without dissent.

Meeting adjourned at 10:37 am.

**9. Next Meeting.**

Telephonic meeting to approve the minutes from the meetings held in March 2019 and June 2019 scheduled on Friday, June 28, 2019 at 11:30 am.

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*Minutes respectfully submitted by:*

*Tashia Puana, Legal Secretary II – Nevada Office of the Attorney General*