

MEETING NOTES

Statewide Substance Use Response Working Group Meeting

Monday, January 13, 2025
1:00 p.m.

Meeting Locations: Offices of the Attorney General:
Carson Mock Courtroom, 100 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV
1 State of Nevada Way Building, AGO Suite #100, Conference Room 224, Las Vegas, NV

Zoom Webinar ID: 841 1615 6896

Note: All presentation materials for this meeting are available at the following link:
[https://ag.nv.gov/About/Administration/Substance_Use_Response_Working_Group_\(SURG\)/](https://ag.nv.gov/About/Administration/Substance_Use_Response_Working_Group_(SURG)/)

Members Present via Zoom or Telephone

Chelsi Cheatom, Senator Fabian Doñate (joined at 1:07), Dorothy Edwards, Dr. Shayla Holmes, Nancy Lindler, Debi Nadler, Angela Nickels, Christine Payson, Erik Schoen, Steve Shell, and Dr. Beth Slamowitz

Members Present in Las Vegas

Attorney General Aaron Ford, Dr. Lesley Dickson, and Jessica Johnson

Members Absent

Jeffrey Iverson

Members of the Legislature Excused

Assemblymember Heather Goulding, Assemblymember Ken Gray, and Senator Jeff Stone

Attorney General's Office Staff

Dr. Terry Kerns, Deputy Attorney General Todd Weiss, Ashley Tackett, and Teresa Benitez-Thompson

Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. (SEI) Support Team

Crystal Duarte, Laura Hale, Kim Hopkinson, and Kelly Marschall

Other Participants via Zoom or in person

Ally Abbatangelo, Linda Anderson, Annie, Jennie F. Bear, Michelle Berry, Lori Bryan (SNHD), Allison Cladianos, Eileen Colen, Denise Davidson, Dana Escamilla, Morgan Green, Cade Grogan, Heather Kerwin, Ms. Marcie, Hannah McDonald, Abe Meza, Elyse Monroy, Wendy Nelsen, Mari Nakashima Nielsen, Jazmin Orozco, Laura Oslund, Partnership Douglas County, Mary Rose Parkman (Nye CC), Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, Sabrina Schnur (Fireflies AI Notetaker), Katie M. Snider, Maureen Strohm, Samantha Szoyka (Samantha's AI Notetaker (Otter.ai)), Alex Tanchek (Fireflies.ai Notetaker), and Marcie Trier

1. Call to Order and Roll Call to Establish Quorum

Chair Ford called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Ms. Marschall called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

Ms. Nadler noted that she was on Zoom, but she had the flu. If needed to vote, she could stay on. Chair Ford said they would get to the two voting items as soon as possible, so that she could sign off.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Review and Approve Minutes for December 11, 2024, SURG Meeting

Chair Ford asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

- Dr. Dickson made the motion to approve the minutes.
- Ms. Nadler seconded the motion.
- The motion carried unanimously.

4. Selection of SURG Vice Chair

Chair Ford opened the floor for nominations, noting that Mr. Shell indicated interest in serving as Vice Chair.

- Dr. Dickson moved to appoint Mr. Shell.
- Dorothy Edwards seconded the motion.
- The motion carried unanimously.

5. Proposed 2025 Subcommittee Membership, Selection of Officers, and Meeting Schedule

Dr. Kerns reviewed Subcommittee Membership as follows:

Prevention

Senator Fabian Doñate
Jessica Johnson
Debi Nadler
Angela Nickels
Erik Schoen

Treatment and Recovery

Chelsi Cheatom
Dr. Lesley Dickson
Dorothy Edwards
Jeffrey Iverson
Steve Shell

Response

Dr. Shayla Holmes
Dr. Terry Kerns
Nancy Lindler
Christine Payson
Senator Jeff Stone

SURG Members Not on a Subcommittee as of January 13, 2025

- Assemblymember Heather Goulding (Appointed on December 13, 2024)
- Assemblymember Ken Gray (Appointed on January 9, 2025)
- Dr. Beth Slamowitz

Members who served as Subcommittee Chair or Vice Chair, respectively, in 2024 were reappointed for 2025, as follows:

Prevention: Jessica Johnson and Erik Schoen

Treatment and Recovery: Steve Shell and Dr. Lesley Dickson

Response: Dr. Terry Kerns and Dr. Shayla Holmes

Chair Ford approved all members serving in the Nevada State Legislature through the 2025 session to be removed from quorum requirements for the duration of the session.

The schedule of meetings for 2025 is as follows:

- Full SURG
 - Second Wednesday of the month from 2 to 5 pm
 - April, July, October, and December
- Prevention Subcommittee
 - First Wednesday of the month from 3 to 4:30 pm
- Treatment and Recovery Subcommittee
 - Members will be polled to avoid conflicts
- Response Subcommittee
 - Members will be polled to avoid conflicts

6. Review and Approve Annual Report and Discuss Distribution

(This item was taken ahead of item #5 to take the vote while Ms. Nadler was present.)

Ms. Hale noted the following changes to the report, based on member actions from the December 11, 2024, SURG meeting.

- Redundant language was removed from Recommendation #3 under Harm Reduction.
- Replaced “Narcan to be available” with “opioid antagonists must be available” for Recommendation #2 under Treatment and Recovery.

These changes were made for each incidence of the recommendations throughout the report, including the Appendices.

An additional change was made to Appendix E, SURG Appointments for 2024, to list each member and their respective affiliations.

Dr. Dickson noted that her organization had changed its name from Center for Behavioral Health to *Behavioral Health Group*, or *BHG Recovery*.

Ms. Johnson noted that her title had changed from Senior Health Educator to *Health Education Supervisor*.

Chair Ford asked for a motion to approve the report as amended.

- Ms. Payson made the motion.
- Dr. Holmes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Ford reviewed report distribution as follows:

Per AB 374 (2021 Session): Distribution to Governor, AG, Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice, any other entities deemed appropriate by the Attorney General and the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to (1) During an even-numbered year, the Legislative Committee on Health Care and the Interim Finance Committee; or (2) During an odd-numbered year, the next regular session of the Legislature.

Additional Entities:

- Regional Behavioral Health Policy Boards
- Prevention Coalitions
- All funded cities/counties in the One Nevada agreement
- Clark County Opioid Task Force
- Southern Nevada Opioid Advisory Council (SNOAC)
- Press conference
- Nevada Psychiatric Association
- Hospital Association
- Nursing Association
- Social Work Association
- School Boards

Chair Ford noted that this is a non-exhaustive list of the entities that will receive this report. Additional suggestions should be sent to Dr. Kerns via email, as there are no limitations.

Ms. Johnson thanked the Office of the Attorney General, and specifically Dr. Kerns, for an incredible job disseminating last year's report, including presentations to the Interim Health committee and many other groups. She looks forward to widespread dissemination again this year.

Chair Ford also appreciated Dr. Kerns' fabulous work. He noted they would talk about the best ways to present this year's report to the appropriate committees and invite SURG members to appear if there is an opportunity to talk through the recommendations. They would appreciate any support from Senator Doñate as well.

7. Review and Consider Items for Next Meeting

Dr. Kerns invited members to suggest topics they would like the full SURG to consider.

Dr. Dickson recalled that Dr. Partida-Corona made public comment at the December meeting regarding challenges getting treatment providers in the emergency room and other hospital settings. He and some of his fellow addiction specialists want to put a consulting service together, but it's not an approved specialty.¹

Dr. Dickson added that all the folks admitted with substance use problems are probably not getting as much evaluation and treatment as they could. The Addiction Medicine Fellowship is going into its 5th year in July, and most of the graduates have stayed in Las Vegas. Reno is starting their own Addiction Medicine Fellowship. They are turning out enough people to get a decent service together. She thought it would be a good presentation for the whole SURG, but it could also be under the Treatment and Recovery Subcommittee. Her organization is not getting very many people with opioid use disorder issues who survived an overdose because they are not getting referred to treatment. The other issue is to get the Bridge program working, which will require Peer Support Specialists. But, over half the people who are seen by ambulance after an overdose don't want to be taken to the hospital and don't want to be referred to treatment.

Dr. Kerns referenced a Response Subcommittee presentation from Bill Teel on trying to get MOUD (Medications for Opioid Use Disorder) in the rural jails, so that would be another good presentation. Dr. Dickson suggested an update on the prisons as well; her organization serves about 18 people in High Desert Prison, where nurses give them shots.

Chair Ford referenced the bill to add members to the SURG noting they might have some ideas as well, such as interdiction of drugs, that might be a good topic for the whole SURG. They could also look at things they see on the horizon, such as new forms of drugs, and updates on treatment. They could circle back to this once the new members are appointed *as soon as practicable after October 1, 2025*, as per current language in the bill draft.

Ms. Johnson had two suggestions for possible inclusion: 1) A presentation of the Clark County Opioid Task Force Report could be helpful for other groups looking at fatality reviews or a regionalized approach; and 2) a report from a national meeting on compassionate overdose response with published recommendations for best practices and response around different formulations of Naloxone. Perhaps there are lessons learned across several different committees.

Mr. Schoen suggested a discussion of legislative developments related to SUD/ODU, possibly in April or July.

¹ Dr. Partida had specifically referenced the inability to bill Medicaid, Medicare or other insurances to pay for these specialization services in the hospital setting.

8. Public Comment

Ms. Duarte noted that Maureen Strohm had raised her hand on the previous agenda item, but did not appear to want to speak under this item.²

9. Adjournment

Chair Ford adjourned the meeting at 1:34 pm.

Chat Record

01:07:40 Kim Hopkinson (she/her): Please do not utilize the chat for anything other than technical issues because the content is not necessarily available to the general public, which is a requirement of the open meeting law.

² Members of the public may only speak during public comment, unless they are listed on the agenda as speakers, or called on by the Chair.