

## MEETING NOTES

### Statewide Substance Use Response Working Group Prevention Subcommittee Meeting

September 4, 2024  
3:00 p.m.

Zoom Meeting ID: 825 0031 7472  
Call in audio: 1 253-205-0468  
No Physical Public Location

#### Members Present via Zoom or Telephone

Chair Jessica Johnson, Vice Chair Erik Schoen, Senator Fabian Doñate (joined call at 3:38 p.m.),  
Debi Nadler, Angela Nickels

#### Attorney General's Office Staff

Joseph Peter Ostunio, Esq., Terry Kerns, and Ashley Tackett

#### Social Entrepreneurs, Inc. Support Team

Emma Rodriguez and Mary O'Leary

#### Members of the Public via Zoom

Allison Cladianos, Becky Follmer, Brandon Beckman, Elyse Monroy, Heather Kerwin, Linda  
Anderson, Miranda Branson, Trey Delap, Abe Meza, Sgt. Katie Franco

### **1. Call to Order and Roll Call to Establish Quorum**

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 3:01 pm.

### **2. Public Comment (*Discussion Only*)**

Ms. Rodriguez read public comment guidance and Chair Johnson asked for public comment.

Seeing or hearing no public comment, Chair Johnson moved to agenda item 3.

### **3. Review and Approve Minutes from August 26, 2024 Prevention Subcommittee Meeting**

Chair Johnson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2024, Prevention Subcommittee.

- Vice Chair Schoen made a motion to approve the minutes.
- Ms. Nadler seconded the motion.
- The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Johnson thanked the staff for the quick turnaround of meeting minutes from the last subcommittee meeting.

### **4. Finalize Preliminary Recommendations (*For Possible Action*)**

For full recommendation details, please refer to the handout "2023 Prevention Recommendations" posted on the [SURG Website](#).

Chair Johnson expressed gratitude to the subcommittee members and subject matter experts in advance for their participation in the discussion to ensure that robust recommendations are ready to be presented in October for the next full SURG meeting.

Chair Johnson opened the discussion by presenting the three recommendations from the 2023 Annual Report were approved during the August 26, 2024, Prevention Subcommittee Meeting. The identified changes in red were approved during that meeting.

Prevention Recommendation #1 in 2023 Annual Report: *Recommend to DHHS/DPBH/the Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention to include in their Governor's budget request, a request to double the amount of investment in SAPTA primary prevention programming (i.e., increase from current \$12 million to \$24 million for this biennium) for ages 0-24 and review the funding allocations annually. This funding should not be at the expense of existing programming.*

Harm Reduction Recommendation #7 in 2023 Annual Report: *Recommend to DHHS to develop an annual or biannual saturation and distribution plan for overdose reversal medication. DHHS should utilize opioid settlement dollars to designate a baseline level of identification and overdose reversal medication for the next 10 years in Nevada (which should be based on the state's Naloxone Saturation Plan) to create a supply of stable, sustainable overdose reversal medication throughout the state.*

Harm Reduction Recommendation #8 in 2023 Annual Report: *Require the state office of Medicaid to develop a state plan amendment to implement changes to support the recommendation requesting rates and billing standards for CHWs and Peers be increased to align with the national average and CMS standard. \*Additional information gathered for justification, see information below.*

**Justification/Background:** *As detailed in the August 2023 meeting of the SURG Prevention Subcommittee, there has been tremendous movement and momentum for recognizing the important contributions of CHWs by ensuring that the funds (i.e., Medicaid reimbursements) are at a high enough level to provide competitive and livable wages.*

*Those working as Peer Recovery Specialists and Certified Prevention Specialists deserve similar compensation levels for their unique and important contributions to supporting our fellow Nevadans.*

*Currently, Nevada reimburses CHWs at about \$17 per hour. The average rates of all of the states (except Nevada) is \$23.14 per half hour unit for the (one patient) CPT 98960 code. If doubled, this would be \$46.28 an hour for Medicaid reimbursement which is in line with what agencies estimated would need to collect in order to provide CHWs with a livable wage and benefits and meet administrative costs.*

*Add as a link: Environmental Scan on Community Health Workers, A 50-State Scan of Medicaid Reimbursement Approaches for the CHW Workforce <https://www.cthealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/CHW-Medicaid-Policies-and-Reimbursement-Approaches-by-State.pdf>*

Chair Johnson thanked Vice Chair Schoen for adding some further information for the justification and background of Recommendation #8 (See below).

**Justification/Background:** *As detailed in the August 2023 meeting of the SURG Prevention Subcommittee, there has been tremendous movement and momentum for recognizing the important contributions of CHWs by ensuring that the funds (i.e., Medicaid reimbursements) are at a high enough level to provide competitive and livable wages.*

*Those working as Peer Recovery Specialists and Certified Prevention Specialists deserve similar compensation levels for their unique and important contributions to supporting our fellow Nevadans.*

(For further details, see slides 8-10.)

Vice Chair Schoen expressed appreciation for Mr. Cody Wagner from the Nevada Community Health Worker Association who had reached out to share key information related to building the stronger justification for the recommendation, which all fit into Senator Doñate’s vision. Vice Chair Schoen was thankful for the combined efforts to close the loop so quickly.

Chair Johnson echoed Vice Chair Schoen’s thanks and motioned to move forward with recommendation #8 as written on the slide.

- Ms. Nadler made a motion to move forward with this recommendation with additional justification.
- Vice Chair Schoen seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously and recommendation #8 was adopted as amended.

With that motion passed, Chair Johnson confirmed that three finalized recommendations, with their justifications, would move forward to the full SURG meeting in October for further discussion.

Chair Johnson then proceeded onto the six remaining 2023 recommendations for discussion and potential revision, along with two new recommendations received between the August 26<sup>th</sup> meeting and the current meeting. Chair Johnson thanked the committee members and staff who worked together on the recommendations up for discussion and consideration for the full subcommittee.

Chair Johnson moved to Recommendation #10.

Harm Reduction Recommendation #10 in 2023 Annual Report: *Create a bill draft request at the legislature to change the Nevada paraphernalia definition as it relates to smoking supplies. (See proposed draft language change to N.R.S. 453.554 in justification in handout.)*

*Create a bill draft request at the legislature to change the Nevada paraphernalia definition as it relates to smoking supplies, utilizing Maine or Colorado as examples. (See links to examples from Maine and Colorado to change N.R.S. 453.554 in justification.)*

- **Include links to 2021 Maine law and 2024 Colorado law as examples in justification**
  - **Maine legislation:**  
<https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=HP0732&item=1&snum=130>
  - **Colorado legislation:** <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb24-1037>

(For details, see slides 12-15 and/or the “2023 Harm Reduction Recommendations” handout.)

Chair Johnson stated that this recommendation was informed by a presentation from representatives from Colorado at the August 7<sup>th</sup> subcommittee meeting. This recommendation is related to a change in the Nevada paraphernalia definition as it relates to smoking supplies, either utilizing Maine or Colorado as an example to modify the NRS.

Chair Johnson explained that at the direction of members of this subcommittee, staff reached out to subject matter experts to get a better understanding and to get feedback on this recommendation. Those experts were DA Shields, representing the Nevada District Attorneys Association, Christine Payson, a SURG member appointed by Nevada Sheriffs and Chiefs, and the Director of the Department of Indigent Defense Services. Chair Johnson added that they are still awaiting feedback and further review from them

Vice Chair Schoen provided additional context, explaining that there is a feeling of cautiousness about making a recommendation before the subject matter experts weigh-in, especially when there could be implications particularly for law enforcement.

Chair Johnson echoed Vice Chair Schoen's recollection of feeling cautious moving forward with this recommendation without additional guidance or direction from subject matter experts. Chair Johnson explained that they were asked to reach out to the public safety sector for additional input and that she did briefly meet with DA Shields, who was going to try to attend today's meeting.

Chair Johnson explained that there did not seem to be a lot of support from the Nevada District Attorneys Association for the recommendation as written, but it did seem that there could be a future partnership to help move the recommendation forward. No suggestions were made at that time to help the recommendation become more actionable or concrete for the subcommittee to consider. They are still awaiting feedback at this juncture for the proposed recommendation.

Vice Chair Schoen noted not feeling comfortable moving forward with the recommendation until the subject matter experts weigh-in.

No additional feedback was offered from the subcommittee. Chair Johnson will work with SEI staff to reach out to SMEs to see if there are any additional modifications to the recommendation as written, or if there's a preference from the guidance from Maine or Colorado, as written in terms of what would make a more actionable bill draft request.

Chair Johnson expressed gratitude for DA Shields for his time, the opportunity to share about how the recommendation was written, and some of the background and justification that was provided. Chair Johnson acknowledged that she and DA Shields come from different fields in this work and so the thought partnership was helpful to bridge those fields.

Chair Johnson indicated that Recommendation #10 will be presented at the full SURG meeting in October to gain further guidance and then revisited in the November Prevention Subcommittee Meeting.

Chair Johnson moved to Recommendation #13.

Harm Reduction Recommendation #13 in Annual Report: *Establish a statewide initiative for community drug checking that incorporates qualitative and quantitative drug checking and includes the following parameters:*

- *Utilize a regional implementation approach with standardized, statewide indicators, since local jurisdictions are best equipped to respond to findings from community drug checking.*
- *Work with harm reduction community to identify partners/ locations and provide guidance and training.*
- *Start all sites with mail-based testing while piloting on-site drug checking in a subset of early adopters to refine implementation needs.*
- *Standardize the data collection, entry, testing, mailing, analysis, reporting as a best practice. Make this as transparent of a process as possible.*
- *Articulate principles and plans for what will happen to the data.*

(For details, see slides 16-18 and/or the “2023 Harm Reduction Recommendations” handout.)

Chair Johnson explained that feedback was received from subject matter experts on this recommendation at the earlier meeting on August 7<sup>th</sup> to utilize a regional implementation approach with standard statewide indicators. An additional action step was added as were some details around capacity and feasibility of implementation (for details, see slides 16-18).

Vice Chair Schoen noted that this recommendation would be a fantastic strategy for the reasons that were discussed in prior meetings, particularly for tracking purposes to give a big picture perspective. While noting this is not his area of expertise, Vice Chair Schoen added that while he is happy to move this recommendation forward, someone in the future who is familiar with setting up that kind of infrastructure or environmental scanning system would need to tighten up the language of the recommendation.

Chair Johnson agreed that the recommendation has improved but does not yet have the actionability that some of the other recommendations may have at this time. Chair Johnson posed the question to the committee of whether they feel ready to take a vote on the language as written for the 2024 recommendations or if there were any more discussion points to raise.

Vice Chair Schoen continued the discussion with the reminder that the last Annual Report came out in January. Ms. Rodriguez confirmed this and added that, by law, the Annual Report needs to be submitted by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Vice Chair Schoen then asked if this recommendation was included in the last report, to which Chair Johnson confirmed that Recommendation #13 was included. With that context in mind, Vice Chair Schoen posed that this recommendation may not have to be repropose since people have already seen and considered it.

Chair Johnson thanked Vice Chair Schoen for that point but noted that she would be in favor of moving this recommendation forward since there might be an opportunity for an entity or coalition group to start an initiative to centralize the efforts associated with the recommendation. Rather than starting at the state level and moving locally, the recommendation’s revised language encourages more regional implementation to then grow at the state level.

- With that additional context from the Chair, Vice Chair Schoen made a motion to move this recommendation forward.
- Ms. Nadler seconded the motion.
- The motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was adopted as amended.

Chair Johnson moved to Recommendation #14.

Harm Reduction Recommendation #14 in 2023 Annual Report: *Harm Reduction Shipping Supply: Provide for shipping costs for evidence-based harm reduction supplies (e.g., naloxone, sharps, fentanyl test strips, etc.) and for travel costs for the pickup of used sharps products to be returned for destruction. Increase advertising about shipping programs to rural Nevada. In collaboration with local agencies and through community conversations, establish local support for harm reduction efforts. Establish an alternative strategy for harm reduction supply delivery if people can’t receive delivery of the supplies directly.*

*In collaboration with local agencies and through community conversations, recommend to DHHS to provide for shipping costs for evidence-based harm reduction supplies (e.g., naloxone,*

*sharps, test strips, etc.) and for travel costs for the pickup of used sharps products to be returned for destruction. Increase advertising about shipping programs to rural Nevada. Establish an alternative strategy for harm reduction supply delivery if people can't receive delivery of the supplies directly.* (For details, see slides 19-21 and/or the “2023 Harm Reduction Recommendations” handout.)

Chair Johnson noted that they received additional information at the August 7<sup>th</sup> meeting from Mr. Rick Reich and Ms. Kat Reich to better identify what the gap was and to further workshop the recommendation. There was budgetary feedback that was received from the Impact Exchange team. Based on the summary proposed, they would need approximately \$80,000 to scale up the program with a particular focus on rural populations.

- Vice Chair Schoen noted that based on the testimony given at the last meeting about ancillary benefits, in terms of harm reduction materials and relationship-building, he would make a motion move the recommendation forward with the additional language added.
- Ms. Nadler seconded the motion.
- The motion passed unanimously, and the recommendation was adopted as amended.

Chair Johnson gave a big thanks to the folks at Track B and Impact Exchange teams for their insight and impact on Recommendation #14.

Chair Johnson moved to Recommendation #15.

Harm Reduction #15 in 2023 Annual Report: *Recommend a bill draft request to equalize PRSS so it is equal to or exceeds CHW reimbursement. Add an educational requirement around evidence-based harm reduction to both PRSS and CHW certification.*

*Recommend a bill draft request to support legislation that will (1) help to fund/establish a statewide association for Peers, and (2) better define supervision requirements for Peers under the age of 18.* (For details, see slides 22-24 and/or the “2023 Harm Reduction Recommendations” handout.)

Chair Johnson explained that Vice Chair Schoen has been working diligently to propose additional details and feedback on the recommendation, through outreach for updates from the Northern Nevada Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board, as well as any feedback from a presentation at the last subcommittee meeting. Chair Johnson also noted that she received a comprehensive memo from Mr. Trey Delap of Group 6 Partners, who is regarded as a subject matter expert on this topic.

Chair Johnson noted that the memo contained detailed background information on the history of this work in Nevada and how it had evolved over time. Chair Johnson expressed hope that Mr. Delap, if available and comfortable, could offer input on the call. She suggested that the memo be shared with the committee either during the meeting or later, to assist in reviewing and updating the recommendation's language. She then invited the committee to provide feedback and turned the floor over to Vice Chair Schoen for further input.

Vice Chair Schoen confirmed that the proposal being discussed was put forward by the Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board. He explained that the idea for the association is modeled after a similar approach used for community health workers (CHWs), serving as a vehicle to employ peer recovery support specialists across the state. Additionally, he noted that supervision

requirements for peers under the age of 18 were identified as necessary and have been put forward as well.

Chair Johnson again invited Mr. Delap to weigh in, thanking him for the detailed memo.

Mr. Delap weighed in to provide a historical context, explaining how regulations for peer recovery specialists evolved since 2017. As the regulations came out of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), they were challenged at every point for improvement. Eventually, the regulations passed, but the Governor did not allow their enactment due to concerns about inequality. The core issue was that peers working in facilities and in community organizations had different training expectations, leading to unequal standards for licensing. Although plans were made for a licensing process, it was never implemented, making the situation distinct from CHWs.

Chair Johnson thanked Mr. Delap for his contribution and asked for any additional feedback.

Vice Chair Schoen added that the recommendation put forward by the Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board was primarily led by two experts in utilizing peers, one from NAMI, and the other, the director of the Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board. Both experts felt comfortable with the proposed language, but Vice Chair Schoen suggested that based on the additional context discussed, the recommendation might benefit from some revisions to improve clarity and precision.

Chair Johnson thanked Vice Chair Schoen for his thoughts. She will work with the SEI to get the memo shared with the committee. Chair Johnson expressed gratitude for the work done by Vice Chair Schoen and Mr. Dulap on this recommendation.

Ms. Rodriguez noted that the memo is in the process of being posted on the website. There is a bit of a lag time. At the time of posting, committee members will be alerted that the memo is live.

Chair Johnson noted that Recommendation #15 will be held as is until the larger SURG meeting in October. If there are any additional revisions to the justification or background, Chair Johnson would be happy to present that at the meeting in October, in addition to finalizing the recommendation in November with the committee.

Chair Johnson moved to Recommendation #18.

Harm Reduction Recommendation #18 in 2023 Annual Report: Support Harm Reduction through: Create a recommendation to the legislature modeled on Maryland's STOP Act which authorizes certain emergency medical services providers to dispense naloxone to individuals who received treatment for a nonfatal drug overdose or were evaluated by a crisis evaluation team, and requires certain community services programs, certain private and public entities, and hospitals to have a protocol to dispense naloxone to certain individuals free of charge under certain circumstances.

*Propose removing recommendation.* (For details, see slides 25-27 and/or the “2023 Harm Reduction Recommendations” handout.)

Chair Johnson stated that at the last meeting there was discussion about amending the recommendation to involve CPR providers for overdose education or other entities. However, after further review, Chair Johnson noted that many of these trainings are private or unregulated, making the recommendation difficult to implement. Consultation with subject matter experts also

revealed that Nevada's law, which supports the dispensation of naloxone, does not prohibit these activities. As a result, Chair Johnson recommended removing Recommendation #18, as the efforts it addresses are already being pursued through other initiatives across the state. She invited the committee to discuss this further.

Hearing no discussion, Chair Johnson entertained a motion to remove the recommendation.

- Ms. Nadler made a motion to remove this recommendation.
- Vice Chair Schoen seconded the motion.
- Motion passed unanimously and Recommendation #18 was removed from further consideration for 2024 recommendations.

Chair Johnson moved to Recommendation #5.

Prevention Recommendation #5 in 2023 Annual Report: *Create a bill draft request to amend the NRS for a 15 percent set aside of tobacco control and prevention funds from the Fund for a Healthy Nevada. This would be distributed using a local lead agencies model to reach \$2 per capita, a recommended funding goal from the Nevada Tobacco Control & Smoke-free Coalition and subject matter experts.*

*Action Step: Bill Draft Request.* (For details, see slides 28-29 and/or the “2023 Prevention Recommendations” handout.)

To open the discussion on Recommendation #5, Chair Johnson explained that the recommendation focused on the tobacco control and prevention set-aside. She noted that, in the last subcommittee meeting, members decided to revisit the recommendation and support the potential creation of a separate recommendation related to cannabis. Johnson stated that subcommittee members have drafted this separate recommendation and will be happy to discuss it later in the meeting for input and consideration. Additionally, Chair Johnson highlighted the change in the action step, stating, "The action step previously was identifying funding sources, but the funding source recommendation was then incorporated into the actual recommendation language. So now the action step would be creating a bill draft request."

Before further discussion took place, Ms. Rodriguez noted that Senator Doñate joined the meeting.

Returning to Recommendation #5, Ms. Nadler raised concerns about separating cannabis from the tobacco recommendation, specifically regarding youth use. She expressed her reservations, saying, "I'm afraid the marijuana won't go through. I'm just wondering how hard it is, and why we can't add marijuana to the tobacco [recommendation]...it's a smoke-free coalition. People are smoking marijuana." Ms. Nadler emphasized that "kids are vaping more than they're smoking," and stated that "smoking cigarettes is not cool to them," raising concerns about whether the recommendation would sufficiently address youth vaping of both nicotine and cannabis.

In response, Chair Johnson acknowledged Ms. Nadler's concerns and explained that she had consulted a statewide subject matter expert on whether to combine cannabis control with tobacco. She explained that their recommendation was to create a separate bill draft request because the funds that would be recommended to be utilized would be a separate set of funds that would govern this effort. Chair Johnson clarified that while both recommendations would address similar public health concerns, the mechanism of vaping would be included as a strategy in both tobacco and cannabis prevention efforts.



Ms. Nadler continued to voice her concerns, stating, "I feel like marijuana is so dangerous, and it's legal in our city... I feel like the higher-ups don't want anything to do with marijuana because it makes our state a lot of money." She also expressed frustration that efforts to address youth marijuana use seem insufficient, saying, "Every time we start talking about education and prevention, it seems to flip into something else."

Chair Johnson reassured Ms. Nadler that vaping, including both tobacco and cannabis, would be addressed comprehensively. She emphasized that the efforts surrounding if the individual was vaping tobacco or cannabis, or another type of substance, could be included in either or both recommendations, depending on what the prevention audience was.

Following this robust discussion, Vice Chair Schoen stated, "I would move that we move this recommendation forward for [Recommendation] #5 regarding setting aside 15% of tobacco control and prevention funds from the Fund for a Healthy Nevada and the rest of the verbiage that's in there."

- Vice Chair Schoen moved to adopt the amended recommendation.
- Senator Doñate seconded the motion.
- Ms. Nadler abstained.
- The motion passed and the amended recommendation will be presented for further consideration in October for the full SURG meeting.

Chair Johnson then moved to introduce two new recommendations that had been proposed since the last subcommittee meeting on August 26th. The goal of sharing the new recommendations was to workshop them amongst the committee members and, if additional details are needed, they could be added between now and the next meeting.

New Recommendation on Cannabis Prevention: *Create a bill draft request to allocate a 15 percent set aside of cannabis retail funds to be distributed using a local lead agencies model to reach \$2 per capita, a recommended funding goal from the Nevada Tobacco Control & Smoke-free Coalition and subject matter experts.* (For details, see slides 31-35.)

The first of the two new recommendations focused on cannabis prevention and was modeled after the existing tobacco recommendation. Chair Johnson outlined the proposal, stating that it would create a bill draft request to allocate a 15% set-aside of cannabis retail funds to be distributed using a local lead agency's model to reach \$2 per capita. This allocation was based on recommendations from the Nevada Tobacco Control and Smoke-Free Coalition, which provided guidance on funding and best practices.

Ms. Nadler raised the question of whether there was a bill already in place regarding cannabis prevention or if this recommendation was to create such a bill. Chair Johnson clarified that no bill had been created yet for either tobacco or cannabis prevention, explaining that the recommendation would be to create a bill draft request for legislation related to tobacco out of this committee, and then this separate recommendation would create that for a set-aside of the cannabis retail funds for these prevention efforts.

Ms. Nadler then suggested tying cannabis prevention to school-based education efforts, asking, "Is there a way to tie it in with education, something to do with our classrooms, our schools?" Chair Johnson responded by referencing the background prepared by the Nevada Tobacco Control and Smoke-Free Coalition, saying, "The committee has worked with statewide subject matter experts, and the coalition created recommendations for funding allocation and best

practices. Education and prevention are listed alongside treatment and cessation, supportive school practices, youth engagement, parent and community outreach, data collection, and cannabis product waste disposal." She emphasized that the recommendation was focused on youth, aligning with the coalition's broader mission to impact youth populations.

Ms. Nadler expressed satisfaction with the direction of the recommendation. Ms. Rodriguez then added that the research links Ms. Nadler had sent had been incorporated into the proposal's supporting documents, further strengthening the recommendation's foundation.

As the discussion continued, Chair Johnson noted that certain sections of the recommendation—such as impact, urgency, capacity, feasibility, and racial and health equity—still needed further drafting. Chair Johnson invited committee members to assist with this work, stating that she wanted to prioritize working on the language at the committee meeting today and if there was not further input, she would be happy to work on these sections with staff and bring them back for more consideration at the larger meeting in October and for finalization in November. Ms. Nadler volunteered to help with the drafting.

Chair Johnson thanked Ms. Nadler and proposed that they collaborate with staff to refine the recommendation. She reiterated that the goal was to have the updated sections ready for the larger SURG committee meeting in October. The committee agreed to this plan, with Vice Chair Schoen voicing his support. Ms. Nadler also expressed her agreement, and with no further discussion, Chair Johnson concluded that they would move the recommendation forward for additional refinement and ultimately to be voted on at the November meeting.

Chair Johnson moved the second new recommendation.

New Recommendation on Student ID Cards: Conduct an audit of a sample of Nevada middle and high schools to determine if schools are in compliance with Nevada Revised Statute 388.14553. If the audit shows that Student ID cards are lacking required information (National Suicide Prevention Hotline; 988; and SafeVoice, [www.safevoicenv.org](http://www.safevoicenv.org), 1-833-216-7233), understand why and work with schools to ensure better communication and implementation. (For details, see slides 36-40.)

Chair Johnson introduced the second new recommendation regarding student ID cards and turned the floor over to Ms. Nadler, who had submitted the recommendation. Ms. Nadler began by explaining that there was already a bill in place, referencing NRS 388.145. However, she noted, "We were told that the suicide hotline, 988, and SafeVoice were required on all middle and high school student ID cards, but many students still don't have these numbers on their cards."

Ms. Nadler detailed her efforts to investigate the issue, saying, "I spoke with a bunch of parents throughout Henderson and Las Vegas, and half of them said their kids' ID cards don't have anything on the back. Instead, it says things like, 'If you lose this card, you have to pay \$25 to replace it.'" She further explained that she contacted multiple departments within the Clark County School District (CCSD) to identify the breakdown in communication. "I found out that each school has different photography vendors, and half of the vendors didn't get the memo to put those helpline numbers on the back of the student ID cards," Ms. Nadler shared.

The solution proposed by CCSD was to add stickers with the helpline information to the existing cards, and Ms. Nadler noted that Dr. Keating from the Government Relations Department was overseeing this effort. She remarked, "They told me two weeks ago that the stickers were being

printed, but when I asked how they would ensure the stickers were actually placed on the cards, I couldn't get a clear answer."

Ms. Nadler also pointed out that other states, such as California, are implementing similar measures, with some offering the information in Spanish, which Nevada has not yet done. "I thought that might be something important to maybe add in the future," she suggested.

Chair Johnson summarized the proposed recommendation: "The recommendation for consideration is to conduct an audit of a sample of Nevada middle and high schools to determine if they are in compliance with the NRS, and if they aren't, to understand why and work with the schools to ensure better communication and implementation."

Senator Doñate expressed opposition to the recommendation, explaining, "This was actually a bill sponsored by Senator Dondero Loop in the 2021 legislative session. If the bill is not being implemented, my recommendation would be to go through the bill sponsor and have them follow up with the school district, rather than conducting an audit ourselves." He emphasized that it should be the school district's responsibility to comply with state law, and the committee's time would be better spent addressing other matters.

Ms. Nickels supported Senator Doñate's stance, noting that the district has procedures in place, but suggested that any issues might be related to supervisory oversight rather than systemic failures.

In response, Chair Johnson proposed, "Rather than conducting an audit, we could amend the recommendation to follow up with both the bill sponsor and the staff member in charge of this to better understand the implementation and communication around the student ID cards."

Senator Doñate reiterated that a simple notification to Senator Dondero Loop would suffice, stating, "I don't think we need to waste any more time if it's just notifying them that the bill's not being implemented." He offered to contact her directly.

Ms. Nadler, passionate about the importance of the issue, responded, "Look what is going on with our youth today. It's horrible. We just had a school shooting today. These kids have got to have access to these numbers." She shared a personal story about her son's passing, explaining how he had never spoken to her about his struggles and how important it was to provide children with resources for help. "This is part of prevention right here. It's imperative that these kids have these numbers and have access."

Chair Johnson acknowledged Ms. Nadler's concerns, expressing gratitude for her efforts, and concluded that Senator Doñate would follow up with Senator Dondero Loop and the committee would revisit the issue in November. "I'd like to keep it as an agenda item for our November meeting, at the very least, to be able to follow up on any updates from the committee members regarding implementation," Chair Johnson said.

With no further discussion, the committee moved on to the next agenda item.

## **5. Presentation of Prevention Subcommittee Recommendations for October 9, 2024 SURG Meeting** *(For Possible Action)*

Chair Johnson moved to the next agenda item, which focused on the presentation of the Prevention Subcommittee Recommendations for the upcoming SURG meeting on October 9th. She explained, "As has happened in previous years, there will be a report out of the Prevention Subcommittee recommendations and the opportunity for feedback from other SURG members."

She added that the committee would meet again on November 6<sup>th</sup> to incorporate any feedback received at the October meeting before finalizing the recommendations for a full vote.

Chair Johnson offered to take the lead on presenting the recommendations, saying, "If the committee is comfortable with it as chair, I'm happy to take the lead on presenting the recommendations to the committee." She opened the floor to committee members, inviting input or requests for any specific elements to be included in the presentation. She also asked for their availability to help address any questions that might arise during the full SURG meeting.

Vice Chair Schoen expressed his full support, stating, "You have my full support on that. You are articulate, able to tease out the nuances, and I think you do a good job of communicating the intricacies of why we made the decisions as we did." He confirmed he would be available to offer support during the meeting. Ms. Nadler also agreed, saying, "Absolutely, I 100% agree."

With no further discussion, Chair Johnson thanked the committee for their support, closed agenda item number 5, and moved on to public comment.

#### **6. Public Comment** (*Discussion Only*)

Seeing and hearing no public comment, Chair Johnson moved to agenda item number 7.

#### **7. Adjournment**

Chair Johnson thanked subcommittee members and others in attendance adjourned the meeting at 4:17 p.m.