



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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RESPONSE SUBCOMMITTEE

Substance Use Response Group (SURG)

July 20, 2022, 12:30-2:00 pm

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88332381339>

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND
ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH
QUORUM**

Chair Tolles

1. Call to Order and Roll Call to Establish Quorum

Name	SURG ROLE	Committee Role
Gina Flores-O'Toole	SUD Treatment Provider	Member
Shayla Holmes	Rural Human Services (Lyon County)	Member
Christine Payson	Sheriffs' & Chiefs' Assoc.	Member
Dr. Terry Kerns	Attorney General Appointee	Member
Jill Tolles	Assembly Minority Appointee	Chair
Dr. Stephanie Woodard	DHHS Director Appointee	Member

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment

- Public comment will be received via the Zoom Meeting. Public comment shall be limited to three (3) minutes per person (this is a period devoted to comments by the general public, if any, and discussion of those comments). No action may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to comments by the general public until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken pursuant to NRS 241.020.

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVE
MAY 9, 2022 MEETING
MINUTES**

Chair Tolles

4. PRESENTATIONS ON COUNTY RESPONSES TO SUBSTANCE USE

LYON COUNTY

Shayla Holmes, Director and Public Guardian, Lyon County Human
Services

WASHOE COUNTY

Kate Thomas, Assistant County Manager



Introduction – Overview of Services

State-Mandated Services

- Property appraisal and assessment (Assessor's Office)
- Tax collection (Treasurer's Office)
- Recording and providing access to real estate transactions and marriages (Recorder's Office)
- Creation, maintenance and preservation of accurate public records (County Clerk)
- Voter registration and elections (Registrar of Voters)
- **Prosecution of criminals** (District Attorney)
- **Indigent defense in criminal matters** (Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, Conflict Counsel)
- **Death investigation** (Medical Examiner)

Introduction – Overview of Services *(Continued)*

State-Mandated Services

- Adjudication of civil/criminal/probate cases and family matters (District & Justice Courts)
- **Intervention, guidance & control programs for children under 18 (Juvenile Services)**
- Communicable disease surveillance & control; ambulance franchise oversight; environmental health compliance; recording/issuance of birth & death certificates (Health District)
- **Indigent program services, including funding for health care, temporary housing assistance, & indigent burials (Human Services Agency)**
- **Child protection and placement (Human Services Agency - CPS)**
- Safeguarding the assets of deceased citizens (Public Administrator)
- **Guardianship for vulnerable persons unable to manage personal and/or financial affairs (Public Guardian)**

Introduction – Overview of Services *(Continued)*

Regional Facilities and Programs

- **Housing and medical care for 1,300 inmates from 30+ local/state/federal law enforcement agencies** (Sheriff Detention)
- **Crime and forensic lab services for 13 Nevada Counties** (Sheriff Crime lab)
- Shelter operation/enforcement of animal control regulations (Regional Animal Services)
- Classrooms, burn tower & road courses for police/fire personnel (Regional Public Safety Training Center)
- Twelve branch libraries for children, youth and adults (Library)
- Park development/maintenance/preservation (Regional Parks and Open Space)
- Social, legal and health services for seniors (Human Services Agency)
- Training and exercises to test emergency plans and coordinate with local agencies (Regional Emergency Operations Center)
- **New in Fiscal Year 2022: Lead local agency for Regional Homelessness Services** (Homeless Services & Human Services Agency)

Introduction – Overview of Services *(Continued)*

Community Services

- **Enforcement of laws/response to calls for service, accidents & criminal investigations in unincorporated Washoe County** (Sheriff Patrol and Investigation)
- Snow removal and street repair (Roads)
- **Regional Drug Testing and Probation Oversight** (Alternative Sentencing)
- Business licensing, land use planning, building permits, building safety inspection, engineering, water and sewer services in unincorporated Washoe County (Community Services)
- **New in FY 2022 – Allocation and oversight of federal and grant funding for community benefit including community grant program** (Community Reinvestment)

Administrative and Other Functions

- Technology services, Payroll, HR, Facilities, Board of Commissioners, Legislative Relations

Issues

- Regional lack of “beds” causes staff/law enforcement/hospital/EMS inefficiencies and recidivism
- Prevalence of substance abuse and mental illness in homeless population (see reference material)
- Lack of staff to hire (university social work and counselor students)

Special Populations

Washoe County serves the populations associated with the work of this committee/subcommittee including:

- Homeless Veterans, elderly persons and youth
- Incarcerated individuals and those transitioning back into the community (both in the criminal justice and juvenile systems)
- Pregnant women and the parents of dependent children
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning persons
- People who inject drugs
- Children who are involved with the child welfare system
- Other populations disproportionately impacted by substance use disorders

What's Working Well / Evidence Based Practice

- **Washoe County Opioid Use Needs Assessment** underway
 - Stakeholder workgroup
 - Community Advisory Board – people who use drugs engagement/guidance
 - Identify/review primary data sources
 - Survey
 - Executive summary and implementation goals in
- **Narcan/Naloxone at shelters/detention facility**
- **Substance Abuse Task Force** - formed in 2019 to encourage organizations to work collectively to help reduce substance addiction, prevent overdose deaths, and improve the quality of life in Washoe County.
- **Mental Health Counselor staff at Cares Campus**

Gaps

- Residential and outpatient treatment **beds** (*i.e. Bristlecone program*)
- Adequate **infirmary and treatment program** expansion at the detention facility
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse **counseling staffing** and employees
- **Crisis Stabilization Programs** (*offer short-term “sub-acute” care for individuals who need support/observation, but not ED holds or medical inpatient stay, at lower costs and without the overhead of hospital-based acute care*)

References

- American Public Health Association "Defining and Implementing a Public Health Response to Drug Use and Misuse" 2013. Available from <https://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2014/07/08/08/04/defining-and-implementing-a-public-health-response-to-drug-use-and-misuse> >
- Didenko, Eugenia, and Nicole Pankratz. "Substance Use: Pathways to Homelessness? Or a Way of Adapting to Street Life?" Substance Use: Pathways to Homelessness? Or a Way of Adapting to Street Life? | Here to Help. Accessed December 14, 2016. <http://www.heretohelp.bc.ca/visions/housing-and-homelessness-vol4/substance-use-pathways-homelessness>.
- Fisher, G.L., ed., and Roget, N.A., ed. Encyclopedia of Substance Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery. 2009. SAGE Publications, Inc.
- Kleinman, Rebecca, Kehn, Matthew, Wishon Siegwarth, Allison and Brown, Jonathon "State Strategies for Coordinating Medicaid Services And Housing For Adults With Behavioral Health Conditions." 1 April 2015. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. Accessed 14 December 2016. Available at: <https://aspe.hhs.gov/basic-report/state-strategies-coordinating-medicaid-services-and-housing-adults-behavioral-health-conditions>
- National Health Care for the Homeless Council. "Addiction, Mental Health and Homelessness." 2007. Available at www.nhchc.org
- National Law Center On Homelessness and Poverty " Homelessness in America: Overview of Data and Causes" 2015. Available at: https://www.nlchp.org/documents/Homeless_Stats_Fact_Sheet
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration "2014 National Survey on Drug Use and Health." Available from www.samhsa.gov/disorders
- U.S. States Conference of Mayors, Hunger and Homelessness Survey: A STATUS ON HUNGER AND HOMELESS IN AMERICA'S CITIES – A 25-CITY SURVEY 2014. Available at: <http://www.usmayors.org/pressreleases/uploads/2014/1211-report-hh.pdf>.

Contact Information

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CLARK COUNTY

Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Clark County Commissioner

Kevin Schiller, Deputy County Manager, Clark County

**5. REVIEW PROCESS FOR
PRIORITIZING
RECOMMENDATIONS AND
UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Timeline & Process

July

- Subject Matter Expert Presentations: County Responses
- Review and Discuss Initial Priority Recommendations
- Review New Recommendations

August

- Subject Matter Expert Presentations: Legal Conflicts, Child Welfare, Tribal Communities
- Discuss and Refine Recommendations

September

- Finalize Subcommittee Recommendations for SURG

**6. REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS AND
PRELIMINARY PRIORITIZATION**

Priority Recommendations

- Amend NRS to assign lengthier prison sentences to dealers that sell fentanyl, with or without knowledge, in the State of Nevada. If a dealer's drug sales are directly correlated to an overdose event, fatal or non-fatal, additional charges should be applied. Trafficking weights of fentanyl should also be lowered to previous law standards.
- Crisis outreach response team (similar to or enhancing MOST, ACT, LEAD teams) to “respond to any suspected overdose and offer follow-up support, referrals, and services to the individual (and loved ones) for up to 45 days after the overdose.” Teams to be dispatched to anyone being released from an institutional setting who is being discharged post overdose or suspected overdose.
- Reform criminal justice services to include MAT, peers, social determinants of health, harm reduction strategies, reduce criminalization and punitive practices towards individuals with OUD.

Priority Recommendations

- Increase targeted Naloxone distribution.
- Harmonize criminal justice and public health responses to promote access to treatment and medical care.
- Funding for an independent medical examiner for reports that verify the specific cause of death in overdose cases where the source of the drug supply has been identified and can be prosecuted.
- Coordinate with specialty courts to provide front-end comprehensive evaluations to determine co-occurring disorders and provide comprehensive treatment.
- Identify which treatments are essential services within the criminal justice system and develop corresponding policies.

Priority Recommendations

- Standardized data sharing agreements between public safety and public health that support data sharing and allow for redisclosure to inform risk messaging.
- Collaborate with the Coordinating Council, other stakeholders and partners to collect data and measure criminal justice outcomes.
- A statewide forensic lab that would support surveillance sample testing and other types of bio-surveillance using standardized protocol.
- Funding an API for the ODMAP system.
- Policy change to cover non-pharmacological or complementary treatments for pain, also to increase coverage of preventive and non-pharm/CAM modalities.

Priority Recommendations

- Funding for additional police Overdose Response Teams, to respond to and investigate overdose related crimes.
- Implement follow-up and referral with linkage of care for incarcerated and court-involved individuals.
- Pain education and awareness at the community level for all age groups.

New Recommendations

- Resolve the conflict between the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act and Drug Induced Homicide Law (453.33). (Dr. Terry Kerns)
- Establish a pre-arrest deflection program that enables law enforcement officers, working with community providers to divert eligible individuals away from the criminal justice system and into community-based behavioral health interventions and social services, when appropriate. (Dr. Stephanie Woodard)
- Modernize Nevada Civil Protective Custody Laws (NRS 458.175 and NRS 458.250) to ensure that standards of care are followed and do not contribute to dangerous acute episodes of detoxification/withdrawal management without necessary linkage to follow-up care, recovery support, or formal treatment, and offer for Medication for Opioid Use Disorder/Alcohol Use Disorder. (Dr. Stephanie Woodard)

New Recommendations

- Establish statewide and regional Overdose Fatality Review Committees to effectively identify system gaps and innovative community-specific overdose prevention and intervention strategies. (Dr. Stephanie Woodard)
- Modernize Nevada's statute that can be interpreted that substance use during pregnancy constitutes child abuse (NRS 200.508). (Dr. Stephanie Woodard)
- Require all jails and prisons to offer all three medications for opioid use disorder. (Dr. Stephanie Woodard)
- Continue to update Nevada Revised statute to reflect the importance of public health interventions regarding harm reduction. Changes to NRS 453 were made in the 2021 session to exclude the use of fentanyl and analog testing from the definition of drug paraphernalia and provide immunity for individuals who in good faith support an individual in testing their drugs to identify toxins, etc. Further policy changes could provide protections for harm reduction interventions to allow for the distribution and protections for persons who, in good faith, engage in harm reduction interventions. (Dr. Stephanie Woodard)
- Establish a user-oriented searchable website for programs on prevention, treatment and recovery, and response for all substances. (Assemblywoman Jill Tolles)

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, RESOURCES & UPDATES AVAILABLE AT:

[https://ag.nv.gov/About/Administration/Substance
Use_Response_Working_Group_\(SURG\)/](https://ag.nv.gov/About/Administration/Substance_Use_Response_Working_Group_(SURG)/)



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8. ADJOURN
