

STATE OF NEVADA SUBSTANCE ABUSE WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING

November 12, 2013

Due to technical difficulties, there is no audio recording of this meeting. Below is a general summary of what was said during this 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
Room 4500
555 E. Washington Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89101

1. Call to order and roll call of members.

Chairperson Catherine Cortez Masto called the meeting of the Substance Abuse Working Group to order at 2:13 p.m. Senior Deputy Attorney Henna Rasul called the roll.

Members Present:

Catherine Cortez Masto, Attorney General – Chair
David Marlon, President, Solutions Recovery
Richard Varner, Washoe Tribe Chief of Police
Linda Lang, Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership, EUDL Program
Rory Planeta, Chief, Carson City Alternative Sentencing (Retired)
Mark Jackson, Douglas County District Attorney
Richard Whitley, Administrator, DHHS, Behavioral and Public Health

Members appearing via video conference:

Peter Mansky, M.D., Director Nevada Professionals Assistance Program

Members Absent

Kevin Gehman, Chief, Fallon Police Department
Kent Bitsko, Dir. NV HIDTA

Others Present

Linda Fitzgerald, Executive Assistant to the Attorney General

Henna Rasul, Senior Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General
Dr. Tracey Greene, State Health Officer, Department of Health and Human Services,
Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health
Marti Washington, Grants and Projects Analyst, Attorney General's Office
John Johansen, Grants and Projects Analyst, DPS, Office of Traffic Safety
Michael Adams, Solutions Recovery
Johanna Jacob, Ferrari Public Affairs
Liz MacMenamin, RAN
Cheryl Bricker, Partnership of Community Resources

2. Comments from the public

Chairperson Masto opened the floor for public comment.

Marti Washington, Grants and Projects Analyst, Office of the Attorney General presented an update of the Drug Endangered Children (DEC) program.

The NV DEC Alliance meets on a quarterly basis and has representation from several disciplines as well as a Tribal representative. However, with 27 Tribal communities in NV, with 27 different processes and priorities, it became important to have a separate Tribal Alliance that will work hand in hand with the NV Alliance. A MOU has been signed to formalize each entity's role. The Tribal Alliance will assist the State Alliance with matters of cultural sensitivity. The State Alliance will assist the Tribal Alliance in the development of their Alliance and resource sharing. No other state in the National DEC network has a Tribal Alliance. Nevada is the first. And to honor the efforts of Monty Williams and Amber Neff of the Statewide Native American Coalition (SNAC) in setting up this alliance, I had nominated them for a Collaborative Leadership award at the National DEC conference. They were chosen, and will be given the award at the conference. SNAC and I will be presenting at the National DEC conference in Oklahoma City next week on the interface of these two Alliances in Nevada.

DEC will be conducting two trainings (one north on April 29, one south on May 1st) for law enforcement and child welfare on evidence collection in DEC cases. Also, as this group is aware, they are focusing on training for medical professionals this year. DEC will be conducting three trainings around the same time for the medical community in collaboration with Dr. Sandra Cetl, an expert on the identification of child abuse. The trainings will likely be in Las Vegas, Reno and Winnemucca. Dr. Mansky asked if they will be including discussion on child abuse and was told yes. Drug use by caregivers is a major factor in child abuse and the two really are inseparable. These trainings are timed for the end of April and beginning of May because this is the time of year when medical professionals are scrambling to complete their CMEs for the year. DEC is hoping this will encourage more people to attend. The NV Statewide Coalition Partnership is collaborating with them to pay for the application to offer CMEs, as this is very expensive and there is not enough money in the DEC grant.

Allison Smith, the NV Statewide DEC Coordinator is funded through June 30, 2014.

***3. Approval of May 14, 2013 Minutes.**

Agenda item #3 was postponed until members were given hard copies.

Minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

4. Swearing in of new members.

Members were sworn in by Attorney General Masto.

5. Update from Legislative Sub-Committee, and review of bills passed by the 2013 Legislative Session, including update on SB 374 – medical marijuana dispensaries, Mark Jackson, Douglas County District Attorney.

Mark Jackson discussed the process of SB 374 regarding the role of the Health Division to regulate the marijuana dispensaries and laboratories. The need to consolidate information and accessing the Health Division's website was discussed, so interested persons will be able to sign up for the website's list-serv notification service for locations of the dispensaries and other information, such as scheduling appointments and public workshops. In December, the Board of Health will begin taking action according to regulations. Approval was granted from IFC to hire contractors for workshops, etc... Brett Kandt added that discussions are under way on how to proceed with the ethical issues and questions attorneys will have regarding giving legal advice pertaining to the new regulations when sale/use is still a crime.

6. Appoint a chair and members to the Impaired Driving Sub-Committee.

Linda Lang was recommended to be appointed as Chair to the Impaired Driving Sub-Committee. Other members who were recommended for appointment to the Sub-Committee are:

Gary Rubinstein, Coordinator, UNR Substance Abuse Treatment Programs; Sandy Heverly, STOP DUI; John Johansen, Nevada Department of Public Safety - Office of Traffic Safety; Officer Karl Nieberlein, Sparks Police Department – Traffic Services Section; Linda Finch, Mothers Against Drunk Driving; Bruce Nelson, Clark County DA's Office – Nevada Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor; Rory Planeta, Sheriff's and Chief's Urban Rep. (retired); and Dr. Peter Mansky, Dir. Nevada Professionals Assistance Program.

Mr. Johansen commented that the new sub-committee would give the opportunity to other groups to expand. That impaired driving is common for other problems that need to be addressed. Referencing the Nevada Strategic Highway Safety Plan, which impaired driving is one of the five Critical Emphasis Areas, multiple agencies work together to prevent fatalities. Prevention targets young adults to reduce alcohol consumption and drug abuse. DUI Drug Courts are effective on treating the problem, that there is about a 10% recidivism rate. Mr. Johansen feels treatment should be longer, around the 18 month range. Too many offenders fall through the cracks.

It was moved and unanimously approved that Linda Lang be appointed Chair of the Impaired Sub-Committee. It was also moved and unanimously approved that the eight members also be appointed. Ms. Lang agrees with the selection on the new members and looks forward to continuing to work with the members.

7. Discussion of video contest between Nevada High Schools to combat substance abuse.

General Masto suggested that the Working Group initiate the idea of High Schools or Middle Schools to highlight substance abuse prevention campaigns in schools. To utilize the school children and their ability to create Anti-Substance Abuse videos to reach out to other schools with the message of the dangers of drug use. It was suggested that it could maybe be a competition, recognizing the top five schools. Winning videos could be put on school and various other websites, and possibly shown in movie theaters.

Mark Jackson commented that anything that deals with educating school kids is something he supports.

All the members were in support of this recommendation and see it as a valuable exercise within the schools. The Working Group will work with the coalition partners to come up with some parameters and finding sponsors. Attorney General staff will work with the coalition to discuss possible prizes/awards.

It was suggested that the campaign begin with High School students. It was felt that they have more knowledge on the issue and a better ability to create. It was also suggested that Middle School students look up to High School Students.

8. Update from the Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership.

Linda Lang provided the following report:

Current involvements funded through the Partnership

1. Community Health Worker Pilot Project
 - Supports Carson City, Elko County, Clark County, and Washoe County
 - 12 Community Health Workers serving the Latino population
 - Collaborative among 9 state funding sources

The Partnership is working with the state to establish state certification for Community Health Workers to expand the program statewide.

2. Mental Health Promotion
 - Supports the 17 Nevada counties
 - Certifies 30 Mental Health First Aid trainers to conduct local trainings to professionals

The Partnership is working with the National Council for Behavioral Health to provide this training in Las Vegas in November. The certified trainers will conduct trainings with first responders, school personnel, mental health professionals, service providers, health officials, and others in the 17 counties.

3. Tobacco Control Programs

- Supports 14 rural/frontier counties (exclusive of Clark, Washoe, and Carson City)
- 3 grants that support preventing the initiation of tobacco use, youth advocacy for policy and practice changes, eliminating exposure to secondhand smoke and promoting quitting.

The Partnership has been involved in rural/frontier tobacco control efforts for many years. This year the focus is on smoke free rental housing and training youth as advocates for policy changes.

4. Family Planning Project

- Supports Humboldt, Lander, Pershing, Lyon, Mineral, Storey, Churchill, Nye, Esmeralda and Lincoln Counties
- Collaboration with family planning clinics to increase services to youth with a focus on males and Latinos

The Partnership coalitions involved in this project also act as the coordination vehicle for Title X material reviews for the state.

5. TB/HIV Project

- Supports Nye, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Humboldt, Lander, Pershing, Lyon, Mineral and Storey Counties
- Coordination with treatment facilities to conduct TB/HIV testing and develop outreach plans to increase screening and counseling

The Partnership is working with SAPTA treatment facilities to increase screening, testing, and counseling for the at-risk populations seeking treatment services.

6. Drug Endangered Children Protocols

- Supports the 17 Nevada counties
- Coordinates local efforts to support the development of DEC protocols and MOUS
- Protocols and MOUs have been drafted and signed for 10 counties

- Protocols and MOUs have been drafted and are in the process of being signed for 3 counties
- Protocols and MOUs are still being developed in 4 counties
- Resolution has been signed with the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada

The Partnership members work closely with the Nevada DEC Coordinator to finalize the protocols and MOUs. The most challenging communities have been Lincoln, Washoe, and White Pine. The original signed protocols and MOUs are being collected and will be housed in the Attorney General's Office. Due to savings in several budget categories, the Partnership is working on sustainability of these established processes through regional trainings and tools for first responders.

New projects in the process of being developed

1. Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships for Success Project

- \$2,207,505 per year for 5 years to support prescription drug prevention and intervention efforts with a focus on 12-25 year olds and to support mental health efforts specific to suicide prevention
- \$1,748,878 to support local level efforts in Nevada's 17 counties

The Partnership is collaborating with the state to determine the best usage of these funds. Possible areas of focus include: college campus initiatives, prescriber trainings, mental health and suicide screenings, and legislation as determined needed to address the issue.

2. Safe Schools/Healthy Students Project

- Supports Washoe, Lyon, and Nye counties
- \$2,035,011 per year for 5 years with approximately \$1,570,000 supporting 3 local agencies
- Focus on improvements in school climate, reducing number of children exposed to violence, decreasing number of students who abuse substances, increasing support for early childhood development, and increasing behavioral health services to youth

The Partnership is working with the 3 funded agencies to ensure this project can be replicated in other counties in the future.

3. New Community Health Worker cohort

- Supports Lyon and Storey counties
- \$201,000 for 1 ½ years

- Services initiated prenatally or at birth through intensive services offered in the home

The Partnership will ensure this Community Health Worker project coordinates with the current project through shared training and collaboration across counties.

Marijuana Dispensaries Updates

Partnership Carson City – Carson City:

The Board of Supervisors “adopted a resolution to initiate the process for declaring a moratorium on the acceptance and processing of planning or other applications for construction or operation of medical marijuana establishments as contemplated by Senate bill 374 of the 2013 Legislative Session.” The moratorium is through April 2014.

Frontier Community Coalition – Lander/Pershing/Humboldt Counties:

Pershing County District Attorney and the Coalition Director presented an ordinance to the County Commissioners that would ban dispensaries in unincorporated areas of the County. This ordinance was not accepted, but the Commissioners did agree to set a moratorium on a decision and a moratorium of allowing dispensaries until July 2014.

Healthy Communities Coalition – Lyon/Storey/Mineral Counties:

Lyon County passed an ordinance prohibiting growth or sales of marijuana. It reads “10.01.03 D. Medical Marijuana Establishments. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code, medical marijuana establishments are not allowed, and shall be unlawful as a permitted use, special use or accessory use in any zone throughout the unincorporated areas of Lyon County. “

JTNN – Washoe County:

The Reno City Council passed a resolution to not accept applications related to medical marijuana establishments and placed a stay on the acceptance of any business license and/or land use applications related to medical marijuana establishments. JTNN has been working with City of Reno Code Enforcement (Alex Woodley) to coordinate community thinking and concerns with the City Council. A marijuana sub-committee has been established within the coalition.

Care Coalition and PACT Coalition – Las Vegas:

The City of Vegas issued a six-month moratorium on accepting any business license applications until the law takes effect April 1, 2014.

Richard Whitley commented that with the ACA, more people will be eligible for Medicaid and the Community Health Worker concept helps create a greater healthcare workforce leading to a richer, more diverse workforce that helps identify natural leaders to utilize training. He also acknowledges the good work the coalitions do.

Mark Jackson asked how prevalent tuberculosis was in the rurals.

Richard Whitley stressed the importance of identifying the disease early and to track it to prevent it from spreading.

General Masto commented how unique the coalition is and what a tremendous impact it has on the state. She stressed the importance of strategies, focusing on prevention and intervention.

Richard Whitley shared how he appreciates the actual data provided by the coalitions.

Mark Jackson said regarding the testimonies and past data on Rx drug abuse, it is shocking how much Rx drugs are used. The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PMP) problem in the past has not been followed up on.

Dr. Mansky agreed that patients are getting too much medication for pain, and there is a need to re-evaluate how chronic pain is treated. At his next meeting, they will be discussing this issue, and how best to use funding to address the issue of chronic pain management. Until the problem is properly addressed, Rx medications will be over-prescribed.

General Masto asked if this issue was beginning to be addressed by the Medical Association.

Dr. Mansky stated that it was. He is working with the medical community to reduce and eliminate the use of opiates for chronic arthritis conditions as well as in general.

Rory Planeta commented that he felt drug courts are receptive to this problem. That resources and training are needed.

Linda Lang said they have been working 2 – 3 years on strategies regarding training. Larry Pinson, Director of the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy, will continue with a new PMP before a survey can be completed. The older system was not working properly so they were not going to use it. Mr. Pinson will continue to develop the new PMP next legislative session and expects the first roll out of the program to begin in December, 2013.

Liz Macmenamin, Retail Association of Nevada, commented that algorithms for pain management are being used by pharmacies to try and solve the problems of over-prescribing of Rx drugs. Pharmacies are looking at the practice of not filling

prescriptions for patients by doctors who prescribe multiple medications. More pharmacies are interested in working on the problem of over-prescribing.

Dr. Mansky agreed that high-prescribers need to be identified. They need to be questioned regarding a possible need for training. He feels this is a big problem within the medical community, and that prescribing data needs to be used to identify the doctors who over-prescribe.

Mark Jackson commented that the roadblocks to identifying the doctors are prosecution and enforcement. Agrees that we need to start with education. If doctors fear prosecution they will be less likely to comply with surveys.

Richard Varner said the Tribal community will be happy to provide a report.

7. Future Agenda Items.

It was agreed that agenda items would be submitted to the Attorney General for quarterly meetings

8. Comments from the Working Group.

There were no additional comments.

9. Comments from the public.

There were no additional comments from the public.

10. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 p.m.