

STATE OF NEVADA SUBSTANCE ABUSE WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 8, 2016

**Minutes approved at the 10/5/16 Meeting**

Location of 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  
555 E. Washington Ave., Room 4500  
Las Vegas, NV 89101

**1. Call to order and roll call of members.**

Attorney General (AG) Laxalt called meeting to order at 10 a.m. Board Counsel Raelene Palmer, DAG called the roll.

**Members Present:**

Adam P. Laxalt, Attorney General – Chair  
Wesley Duncan, First Assistant Attorney General – Vice Chair  
Mark Jackson, Douglas Co. District Attorney  
David Marlon, President Solutions Recovery, Inc.  
Linda Lang, Ex. Director Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership  
Richard Whitley, Director Dept. of Health & Human Services  
Chuck Callaway, LVMPD Director of Intergovernmental Services  
Hon. Pat Hickey, Member Nevada State Board of Education  
Dr. Miriam Adelson, Adelson Clinic

**Members Absent**

Dr. Larry Pinson, Executive Secretary Nevada State Board of Pharmacy

**Others Present**

Michele Smaltz, Executive Assistant to AG Laxalt  
Barbara Cozens, Legal Secretary II, Office of the Attorney General  
Stacy Ward  
Liz MacMenamin, V.P. Retail Association of Nevada  
Elyse Monroy

Jeanette Belk  
Fred Olmstead  
Dave Wubsy  
Stephanie Woodard  
Shelly Capurro  
Chris Ferlani  
Liz Greb  
Monty Williams  
Michael Hillerby  
Nita Schmidt  
Kendara Shultz  
Fred Meyer  
Perry Olshan  
Brian Evans  
Margaret Pickard  
Kimberly Arguello  
Jamie Ross  
Mary Cannizzaro  
Dan Neill  
Trey Delap  
Lesley Dickson, MD.  
Loretta Moses  
Susan Fisher<sup>1</sup>

**2. Public Comments**

None

**3. Discussion and possible action on approval of March 29, 2016, meeting minutes.**

It was moved by Wes Duncan to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Dr. Adelson. Motion approved. Mark Jackson abstained from voting. Minutes approved as written.

**4. Discussion, nomination, and election of Working Group vice president and secretary. (For possible action)**

Wes Duncan was nominated as Vice Chair by AG Laxalt. David Marlon volunteered to be appointed Secretary.

It was moved by Chuck Callaway and seconded by Dr. Adelson to appoint Wes Duncan as Vice Chair and David Marlon as Secretary. Motion approved.

---

<sup>1</sup> Additional members of the public were in attendance; however, they did not sign in.

**5. Report on Clark County drug courts (Ms. Margaret Pickard, Esq., Specialty Court Manager, 8th Judicial District Court – for discussion only).**

Ms. Pickard's presentation focused on the Clark County Specialty Courts and various programs associated with those Courts (handout).

AG Laxalt requested further information from Ms. Pickard regarding how the AG's office can help with any of the specialty court/programs. Ms. Pickard indicated that the AG's office can help in three ways: (1) Mentoring Programs; (2) Community Support (funding); and (3) Researchers.

Mark Jackson had further comments regarding the data that was presented on the true success rate for drug court. More specifically, he is interested in Nevada statistics, not national statistics. Mr. Jackson suggested some further tracking take place to obtain better statistics regarding the actual success rate of the drug court system/program. Ms. Pickard provided further explanation on her presentation with regard to Mr. Jackson's comments and what the drug courts are doing to track Nevada's data and the success rate.

Dr. Adelson requested information from Ms. Pickard regarding the number of individuals who started a treatment program and successfully finished. Ms. Pickard provided information and data about the felony DUI program. Dr. Adelson and Ms. Pickard further discussed treatment programs and obtaining additional data concerning Nevada statistics.

David Marlon requested information from the doctor [name of doctor unknown] who was attending with Ms. Pickard about the use of the Naltrexone Implant and/or other FDA approved implant devices for addiction treatment. The doctor could not provide any information regarding implantable devices at this time.

**6. Report on how Clark County jails issue Methadone to inmates (Chuck Callaway, Police Director, LVMPD Office of Intergovernmental Services – for discussion only).**

Chuck Callaway provided follow up information regarding a discussion at the last meeting (March 29, 2016) concerning Methadone use in the Clark County Detention Center (CCDC) and whether Methadone is given and if so, how.

Captain Fred Meyer, CCDC, provided further information concerning the CCDC and operation of the detention center. In 2015, 56,611 individuals were processed through the CCDC. Captain Meyer provided information about the dissemination of Methadone to individuals while in the CCDC. For example, if a pregnant female comes into the detention center and is using Methadone, the detention center will provide that individual with Methadone in order to avoid detox of the fetus. This is an accreditation standard. If individuals come into the facility and they are actively compliant within a

treatment program, the detention center will contact the specific facility so Methadone can be brought into the facility for these individuals.

Additional comments and discussion was had regarding what percentages of individuals come into the CCDC who are using Methadone. Kendra Shultz, Health Services Administrator, provided information concerning what types of substances were being tracked based on health records that were contained in the CCDC data base.

**7. Report on “Take Back Day” (Liz MacMenamin, Retail Association of Nevada – for discussion only).**

Liz MacMenamin’s presentation centered on Northern Nevada’s Take Back Day and the participation of the Retail Association of Nevada (RAN).

Ms. MacMenamin is a volunteer with The Take Back Program. She provided information regarding expanding Nevada’s Take Back Program to include Southern Nevada. She recently met with Chuck Callaway and LV Metro to establish the program in Southern Nevada. She is very excited that Metro is coming on board to implement this program and will work with the DEA as well. RAN will be setting up dates to strategize set-up of the program in Southern Nevada. RAN has been in contact with several retail establishments to work as drop off locations.

*It is noted that AG Laxalt discussed Agenda Item No. 9 out of order.*

**9. Report on RX Abuse (Stacy Ward, Drug Abuse Coordinator, Reno Police Dept. – for discussion only) - [taken out of order].**

The first prescription drug Take Back Day for Washoe County was held in October 2009. Over 39,000 pills were collected at the first event. Collection sites are set up at various retail establishments. Since the first take back day, 15 take back events have occurred, in which 1.9 million pills have been collected. During the Northern Nevada take back day, pills are categorized into the various types. This is a unique component to the Northern Nevada collection, as the DEA deals in the weight of the pills. The Northern Nevada team wanted to determine what types of drugs were collected. 14% of the total pills collected are categorized as drugs of abuse.

After collection of the drugs, the DEA helps incinerate the pills. Prior to the DEA’s assistance with incineration, pills were incinerated just as evidentiary pills. At this time, the DEA bears the cost of the incineration of pills collected during take back days.

On April 30, 2016, 242,000 pills were collected in Northern Nevada. The amount is still trending up for pill collection. The need for this event is still great.

**8. Report on “Take Back Day (Mike Lewis and, DEA, Los Angeles Field Division and Daniel Neill, DEA, Las Vegas District Office – for discussion only).**

Daniel Neill presented on the 11<sup>th</sup> National Take Back Day. Nationwide, a total of 4,000 law enforcement participated. Nine agencies participated in Nevada. There were over 5,000 collection sites nationwide, with 26 sites in Nevada. A total weight of 447 tons of Rx drugs were collected nationwide, with 3,776 lbs. collected in Nevada. Nevada has Take Back Days every day, so Nevada numbers may be lower than the national average.

Take Back Day is also a tool that is used to get the word out to the public about Rx drug abuse. More media play is given to get the public involved to get drugs out of their medicine cabinets.

Discussion was made about the incineration of the pills. Nevada does not have an incinerator. Incineration is contracted out to a company in Utah. AG Laxalt suggested the group look into getting a local incinerator; however, the cost may be prohibitive at this time.

**10. Presentation on the Division of Public and Behavioral Health activities in Nevada (including treatment) (Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health and Stephanie Woodard, Psy.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health Bureau of Behavioral Health, Prevention, and Wellness) – for discussion only).**

A very detailed presentation was given from Julia Peek and Stephanie Woodard regarding opioid prevention and treatment efforts in Nevada. Ms. Peek provided vast amounts of data concerning the health epidemic that surrounds Rx drug abuse. (See handout.) Ms. Peek spoke to Nevada’s average as to the amount of prescriptions written per capita – 94 out of 100. She provided additional information regarding high school students’ use of Rx drugs – 1 in 5 self-reported they had used Rx drugs that were not written specifically for them.

Data was also presented regarding hospital related opiate dependence visits, as well as opiate related deaths in Nevada. Further discussion was made about tracking whether Naloxone was used during hospital visits and/or used by EMT’s as support in Rx drug related visits/calls.

Ms. Peek informed the group that recently Nevada received a large grant from the CDC relating to prevention/intervention efforts. 1 million dollars will be received through 2019, with the possibility of an additional \$500,000/yr. This grant will help gather data from various systems throughout Nevada agencies to help with prevention/intervention. HHS is looking to develop a program that will gather information across systems for individual persons and provide services tailored to that individual.

Additional questions arose as to providing Naloxone to the public, family members, and possibly EMT's to assist with individuals who have an opioid dependence. Additionally, it was asked if any programs are in place for this or any future programs anticipated. Ms. Peek advised HHS is working on getting a program started. They are looking at opportunities to assist with education and access to Naloxone. Dr. Adelson questioned whether Methadone treatment was being looked at as a treatment option. Dr. Woodward clarified that all types of FDA approved treatment are being looked at as possible options.

Dr. Woodward presented information regarding prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery. Additional data was provided regarding addiction. Dr. Woodard covered the definition and progression of addiction as well as access to addiction treatment. 10,600 discharges from state funded treatment facilities in 2012, and in 2015 that number decreased to 4,700 discharges. HHS is looking to expand opportunities for screening, interventions, and further expansion of medication assisted treatment.

Additional discussion occurred regarding gathering more robust data concerning treatment.

**11. Report on Prescription Drug Abuse efforts in Nevada (Linda Lang, NV Statewide Coalition Partnership – for discussion only).**

Linda Lang reported on what the coalition efforts are throughout Nevada regarding drug abuse education in the Nevada communities, provider education, and criminal justice intervention.

*It is noted that AG Laxalt discussed Agenda Item No. 13 out of order.*

**13. Report on outreach to other Attorneys General Offices (Wes Duncan, Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office – for discussion only). [taken out of order]**

Wes Duncan presented information regarding other state AG offices' approach to combatting opioid abuse, specifically information from Indiana, Massachusetts, and Montana.

AG Laxalt concluded the presentation discussing what legislation West Virginia and Wisconsin are proposing to combat Rx drug use/abuse.

**12. Establish goals for the Working Group (for discussion and possible action).**

AG Laxalt provided an update about working with the White House head of substance abuse. His office is still working on getting in touch with them; however, the White House is continuing to work with state AG offices on awareness campaigns and PSA's. AG Laxalt will continue efforts to pursue working with the White House on this front.

AG Laxalt requested group discussion on what the group would like to focus on as a whole.

Hon. Pat Hickey initiated discussion concerning IP1, now Question 2 -- legalization/commercialization of Marijuana – and the implications it may have on law enforcement and/or government. Hon. Hickey proposed that further discussion/presentations be made at the next meeting.

Dave Marlon proposed giving additional information regarding a team that is going to Colorado to discuss prevention, education, awareness, treatment, and how the legalization of marijuana has affected Colorado. Dave Marlon will be attending with this team, and volunteered to give a presentation of the findings from this meeting.

Margaret Pickard initiated discussion about working with the AG's office to acquire a researcher/research to collect data from one source instead of gathering it from various areas. UCLA Criminal Justice could be a possible connection for a researcher/research. AG Laxalt suggested that Ms. Pickard work with the AG's office and then present something to the group as a possible project.

Mark Jackson requested the current HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas) report (Report #3 – Nov 2015) be made available to members of the group so they can be educated and possibly provide questions for the individuals of the group that will be travelling to Colorado.

AG Laxalt will provide additional information/presentation at the October meeting. AG Laxalt further proposed if Question 2 is passed, that the group head up a project to get ahead of the repercussions of the legalization of marijuana and the issues that come along with the legalization of marijuana.

Wes Duncan suggested the group put forth some effort to establish best practices for prescribers along the lines of what West Virginia has put forth. Richard Whitley offered the assistance from the new Nevada HHS Health Officer, Dr. John Dimuro, to provide assistance with setting up this effort. It was moved by Wes Duncan, seconded by Dave Marlon to have the group focus on setting up best practices regarding Rx drug use/abuse. Motion approved.

AG Laxalt opened additional discussion regarding an awareness campaign. Dave Marlon provided comments about a PSA video contest the prior group had put together. Richard Whitley provided information about PSAs and what tends to work. For example, getting announcements out to individuals about where to go to get treatment and/or service is beneficial. The group should do research regarding what the target market is and where the issues are that could reach the target market. Need to target individuals that want to change and make the information available to those individuals. Mr. Whitley opined that being ready to respond is helpful. Mr. Whitley also mentioned the Wisconsin model of broadcasting to health providers is very useful. Nevada has the same type of system which could be used to broadcast to physicians. A system could

be set up to get information out about issues in the community and then broadcast to health care providers. Additionally, a program could put together information regarding what treatment is available and what insurance (i.e. Medicaid) will cover, i.e. treatment, etc.

AG Laxalt suggested that the group move forward with an awareness campaign focusing on treatment and the stigma of treatment. AG Laxalt requested input from the group on who could help gather the information for this campaign. Mr. Whitely offered Dr. Woodward and additional staff from his office to be a part of the team to research what types of campaigns to run.

AG Laxalt introduced discussion regarding sponsoring a bill regarding law enforcement notifications to doctors of stolen drugs/overdoses. Chuck Callaway provided discussion regarding mandatory reporting and issues regarding this complicated issue. AG Laxalt suggested that his office would put together a bill similar to the Wisconsin HOPE legislation and present it to the group at the next meeting. If the group would like to sponsor the proposed bill, they could vote on it then.

Dave Marlon provided information regarding a meeting he attended from the National Association of Recovery Schools. A committee has been formed to look at creating a recovery high school in Southern Nevada for high school students returning after having received treatment. Dave Marlon will update the group regarding this committee at the next meeting.

**14. Public comment. (Discussion Only) Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under public comment until scheduled on an agenda for action at a later meeting.**

No public comment from Las Vegas or Carson City.

**15. Adjournment.**

Motion to adjourn by Wes Duncan, seconded by Dave Marlon. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.