

Washoe County Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board
Minutes, April 13th 2026

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Washoe County Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board (WRBHPB) meeting was called to order by Chair Steve Shell at 3:00 p.m. Chair Shell conducted roll call and established a quorum was present.

The following members were present: Chair Steve Shell, Vice Chair Dr. Kristen Davis-Coelho, Senator Angela Taylor, Frankie Lemus, Peter Ott, Jolene Dalluhn, Jennifer Rains, Dr. Traci Biondi, Cristin Uccelli, Dr. Chad Kingsley, Kim Palchikoff.

The following members were excused: Cindy Green

2. Public Comment

Chair Shell opened for public comment for the WRBHPB, reading the following instructions: "Public testimony under this agenda item may be presented by computer, phone, or written comment. Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for a later meeting. Due to time considerations, each individual offering public comment will be limited to not more than three (3) minutes. To provide public comment via Zoom, log into the ZOOM webinar at the above link and utilize the "Raise Hand" feature during any public comment period. To provide public comment via telephone only, press *9 to "Raise Hand" and *6 to mute/unmute." Chair shared that any public comments made during the public comment period would be recorded in each of the Board's minutes.

Chair Shell opened the meeting for public comment. There was no public comment.

3. For Possible Action: Approval of Minutes

Chair Shell asked for a motion to approve the March 9th, 2026, board meeting minutes. A motion was made by Senator Angela Taylor, and Frankie Lemus provided a second. There was no discussion and the board members unanimously approved.

4. Informational Item: Courage House Nevada

Chair Shell introduced Jenny Williamson, Founder and CEO of Courage Worldwide, who provided an overview of the Courage House Nevada program

Ms. Williamson presented on the organization's mission to serve minor victims of sex trafficking, emphasizing the need for specialized, long-term residential care for youth ages 11–17 who have experienced significant trauma. She noted that many youths served have histories of substance use, abuse, and instability, and explained that traditional shelter models are often ineffective due to the complexity of trauma and the risk of youth running away. The Courage House Nevada program is designed as a holistic residential campus utilizing a cottage model to support individualized care. Services will include intensive daily therapeutic programming, such as equine therapy, art therapy, and counseling, as well as education support and life skills development. Ms. Williamson also shared outcomes from the California program, including improvements in academic performance and reductions in trauma symptoms among participants. Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation and discussed the importance of developing specialized resources for this high-risk population.

5. For Information Only: BDR Draft Discussion

Chair Shell facilitated a discussion regarding potential Bill Draft Requests (BDRs) for the upcoming legislative session.

The discussion focused on exploring an increase to the state's cell phone surcharge, which is currently set at \$0.35 per month, as a potential funding mechanism to strengthen Nevada's behavioral health crisis response system. Board members discussed how Nevada's rate compares to other states and the opportunity to generate additional sustainable funding, particularly to support mobile crisis response services. Senator Taylor shared that the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) is conducting research to support potential BDR development, including comparisons across states. Board member, Kim Palchikoff offered to assist with additional research to complement these efforts.

The Board also discussed broader system considerations, including the need to expand and sustain mobile crisis services, reimbursement challenges, and mental health parity considerations. Board members requested inviting an LCB representative to a future meeting to provide an overview of the legislative process and BDR development.

6. Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator Update

Katie Metz provided an update on recent activities and upcoming opportunities.

Ms. Metz shared that Senator Angela Taylor was reappointed to the Washoe Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board by the the Legislative Commission for an additional two-year term pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes 433.429.

Ms. Metz highlighted several upcoming community and regional events, including the Access to Health Day community health and wellness expo on April 18, at Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows; the Washoe County Prevention Conference scheduled for May 13–14, 2026 at the Atlantis, and the next 988 Town Hall scheduled for August 27, 2026. Ms. Metz further noted ongoing coordination efforts related to regional behavioral health initiatives, stakeholder engagement, and planning for future Board activities, including combined policy board meetings and continued alignment with statewide efforts.

7. Informational Item: Board Updates

Chair Shell and Board members shared updates on relevant activities and upcoming events.

Chair Shell shared information about upcoming Behavioral Health Association of Nevada (BHAN) policy forums and Mental Health Awareness Month events, as well as ongoing engagement with the Nevada Psychological Association related to mental health parity. An announcement was also shared regarding the opening of the TB Building, a behavioral health facility.

Board members also discussed participation in the upcoming Diversity Summit hosted by the University of Nevada, Reno, which will focus on workforce development. Chair Shell acknowledged the upcoming departure of Julia Ratti and expressed appreciation for her service to the Board. Members emphasized the importance of continued collaboration and engagement across behavioral health systems and partners.

8. Informational Item: Future Agenda Items

The Board discussed potential topics for upcoming meetings.

Future agenda items include a planned overview of the legislative and BDR process, presented by a representative from the LCB, as well as continued discussion and development of BDR

proposals. Additional topics include updates on regional crisis response efforts, including follow-up related to the Renown Crisis Care Center, and a future presentation from Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD). The Board also discussed coordinating a combined regional behavioral health policy board meeting to support alignment across regions and share information around State initiatives.

9. Public Comment

Chair Shell opened the meeting for public comment. There was no additional public comment.

10. Adjournment

Chair Shell adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

Next meeting: May 11th, 2026 at 3 p.m.