



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

## DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



## Draft Minutes

### Advisory Committee for a Resilient Nevada (ACRN)

*Tuesday, October 4, 2022, 10:30 a.m.*

#### I. Call to Order, Roll Call of Members, and Establish Quorum

**Members Present:** Chair David Sanchez, Brittney Collins-Jefferson, Ryan Gustafson, Lilnetra Grady, Dr. Fazad Kamyar, Karissa Loper, Katherine Loudon, Cecilia Maria, Elyse Monroy, Ariana Saunders, Cornelius Sheehan, Dr. Karla Wagner, Quinnie Winbush

**Members Absent:** Jessica Barlow, Darcy Patterson, Pauline Salla

**Staff/Guests Present:** Dawn Yohey, Fund for a Resilient Nevada Unit (FRNU); Michelle Berry, Carina Rivera, Morgan Green, Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technology (CASAT); Tyler Shaw, Ferrari Reeder; Tracy Palmer, Heather Kuhn, Bureau of Health Wellness and Prevention; Henna Rasul, Office of the Attorney General; Carmen Hua, Southern Nevada Health District; Katree Saunders; Dr. Terry Kerns, Substance Use Response Working Group (SURG); Dominique Seck, Karina Fox, Nevada Office of Minority Health and Equity (NOMHE); Tray Abney, Abney Tauchen Group; Jennifer Atlas, Griffin Company; Linda Anderson, Nevada Public Health Foundation; Jolene Dalluhn, Lisa Lee, Washoe County; Joan Waldock, FRNU; and a representative from Restorative Behavioral Health

#### II. Public Comment #1

Dr. Kerns reported a new member was introduced at the October 4 SURG meeting. An update on the opioid litigation settlement fund and distribution was given. They presented and consolidated their subcommittees' recommendations. They have subcommittees for prevention, which includes harm reduction; treatment and recovery; and response. Each subcommittee will take the feedback and finalize their recommendations for the December 14 meeting. At that meeting, they will finalize their report, which is due in January.

Ms. Yohey read a statement from Dr. Stephanie Woodard. Governor Steve Sisolak, Attorney General Aaron Ford, and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Richard Whitley called together a joint committee task force to address the emerging trends in the opioid crisis seen across the state with increasing rates of fatal and nonfatal overdoses. The task force will convene the Attorney General's Substance Use Response Working Group (SURG) and the Advisory Committee for a Resilient Nevada (ACRN). Both groups are statutorily defined and comprised of subject matter experts in public health, behavioral health, law enforcement, and prevention, and individuals with lived experience. The SURG also has appointed elected officials. Over the past year, both groups have been identifying needs and strategies to make recommendations to address the opioid crisis. This group is poised to determine

immediate interventions for communities to be prepared to reduce further overdose increases and to respond if spikes occur. A state plan for allocating the Fund for a Resilient Nevada funding is being developed. The FRNU is preparing to request approval from the December Interim Finance Committee (IFC) to move available funds into spending categories so they can be used to address immediate- and longer-term solutions to the opioid crisis. However, the need to convene and act is now. Neighboring states see troubling trends in overdoses due to an increased infusion of fentanyl into the illicit drug supply and increasing rates of youth fatalities from overdoses. Additional details on the joint committee's convening will be forthcoming.

Ms. Loudon noted it would be helpful for those working in schools and those doing aligned work to have the official results of the Youth Risk Behavioral Surveillance System (YRBSS) from 2021. Her school district is gearing up for the 2023 administration of the YRBSS without access to the last year's data.

There was no further public comment.

III. **For Possible Action:** Approval of the Minutes from the August 17 Meeting

Ms. Loper made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Ariana Saunders seconded the motion. The motion passed without opposition. Mr. Sheehan abstained.

IV. **Informational:** Presentation on State Opioid Response (SOR) Tribal Needs Assessment

Ms. Berry reported the assessment revealed the need for more information to be collected. Ms. Rivera, SOR program evaluator, shared a [PowerPoint presentation](#). She explained they used secondary data due to the lack of primary data. She noted they are seeking stakeholder input for primary data collection.

Mr. Sanchez pointed out the presentation showed them where the Native American tribes of Nevada are regarding opioid response and what is needed to support this population. It is important to remember there are marginalized groups that need to be kept at the forefront of the ACRN response.

V. **Informational:** Update on Progress with Fund for a Resilient Nevada State Plan

Ms. Yohey reported the state plan will be a separate section of the needs assessment that was already completed. The needs assessment establishes a system of accountability for the allocation of the Fund for a Resilient Nevada to target its priorities. The statewide plan will be comprised of goals, strategies, objectives, and activities derived from the recommendations the ACRN prioritized. The strategies include infrastructure and capacity development to ensure local and community partners can implement and sustain recommendations. The structure of the goals aligns with the Office of National Drug Control Policy's National Drug Control Strategy. There are seven goals broken into the ACRN's prioritized recommendations.

The plan will serve as a dynamic or living document. Since some things are funded with federal funds or other state funds, the FRNU is mapping the use of opioid funds. As more funds and data become available, the state will update the strategic priorities to ensure that all funding priorities are data-driven and evidence-based. Current and future steps will map opioid funds to make better investments in communities. The Director's Office is currently completing a project and fund analysis review of opioid and substance use funds throughout the state, how key funding streams are invested, what is working and what is not working. Project mapping and planning is bringing information together across agencies

and departments to shed light on the amounts of funds being invested in key services, how effective they are, and how to align those investments with other priorities to improve outcomes.

The document will go to peer review in three weeks. A copy should be available for ACRN review shortly after that. She asked that members bring concerns to her attention.

Mr. Sanchez asked committee members to review what is sent out and give feedback or ask questions before their December meeting. In December, they can discuss how they feel about how things are going and the direction the State is taking.

**VI. Informational: Notice of Date for Upcoming ACRN Meetings**

Mr. Sanchez stated an invitation for the joint meeting with the SURG would be sent out as soon as possible. He asked members to make every effort to attend this meeting. It will be an opportunity to get clarification, ask questions, and share what this Committee is doing. This meeting will be held in November or December.

The next ACRN meeting will be held December 6 at 10:30. He asked whether they want to continue meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:30.

Dr. Wagner and Mr. Sheehan requested a poll for the 2023 meeting dates.

Mr. Sanchez reminded them of the joint meeting in November and their next meeting on December 6.

**VII. Public Comment #2**

Dr. Kerns stated the SURG views harm reduction as a tertiary prevention measure. They will devote one meeting to addressing harm reduction. She invited ACRN members to attend.

She noted the SURG members look forward to participating with ACRN members on the joint committee. Many SURG members feel that much of what they are doing is procedural, with mid- or longer-term types of action. They look forward to working on more immediate action items.

Ms. Katree Saunders requested information about applying for the open Committee position. Mr. Sanchez directed her to the NOMHE office.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.