

Joe Lombardo  
Governor



DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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



Richard Whitley, MS  
Director

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**Meeting Minutes from Public Meeting**  
**Advisory Committee for a Resilient Nevada (ACRN)**  
June 13, 2023/10:00AM to Adjournment

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

Members Present: Chair David Sanchez, Vice Chair Karissa Loper, Jessica Barlow, Brittney Collins-Jefferson, Ryan Gustafson, Lilnetra Grady, Dr. Farzad Kamyar, Katherine Loudon, Elyse Monroy-Marsala, Pauline Salla, Malieka Toston

Members Absent: Jamie Ross, Ariana Saunders, Cornelius Sheehan, Quinnie Winbush

Members Excused: Darcy Patterson, Dr. Karla Wagner

Staff/Guests Present: Joseph Engle, Debra DeCius, Dr. Terry Kerns, Alex Tanchek, Reagan Hart, Tray Abney, Linda Anderson, Amanda Annan, Sandie Ruybalid, Beth Slamowitz, Marianne McKown, Michelle Berry, Julie Gwin, Joan Waldock, Garrett Goodlander, Dawn Yohey

Chair Sanchez called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Mr. Goodlander called the roll and announced quorum was established.

**II. Public Comment #1**

There was no public comment.

**III. Approval of Minutes from October 4, 2022, Meeting**

Ms. Monroy-Marsala made a motion to approve, and Ms. Loper seconded. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Jessica Barlow abstained as she was not present at the meeting.

#### **IV. Updates from the Chair**

Chair Sanchez provided an update on committee membership, mentioning those who resigned and those who were added, Jamie Ross and Malieka Toston. Chair Sanchez mentioned the upcoming Cross-Sector Task Force Meeting on June 26, 2023. The focus of the meeting was implementing strategies and actionable items to address opioid overdose cases to help the community and invites everyone to join. He announced the Advisory Committee for a Resilient Nevada (ACRN) committee would be meeting every other month. Committee members were reminded their two-year terms would end in September, and they were asked to consider their continued commitment to the committee and respond.

#### **V. Updates from the Fund for a Resilient Nevada (FRN) and Substance Use Response Working Group (SURG)**

Ms. Yohey announced settlements with CVS (\$151.9 million) and Teva Pharmaceuticals (\$193 million); those amounts will be split between the state and the OneNevada signatories. Approximately \$66 million will be added to the Fund for Resilient Nevada from both CVS and Teva.

A notice of funding opportunity was released on March 1, 2023, with six target areas specifically for behavioral health treatment as well as criminal justice-targeted populations. Thirteen applications were received, four of which are being funded. Out of the six targets, the areas focused on are targets one, five and six.

TARGET 1: Increase the Availability of Evidence-Based Treatment

- Living Free Health - Frontier Treatment and Transitional Housing

TARGET 5: Increase Treatment for Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)/Pre- and Postpartum Services

- Roseman - EMPOWERED RISE: Recovery, Integration, Support and Empowerment

TARGET 6: Provide Opioid Prevention and Treatment Consistently Across Criminal Justice and Public Safety System

- Carson City Community Counseling Center Regional Wellness Center
- Department of Alternative Sentencing - STAR Program Expansion

Other recipients of funding include:

- Division of Emergency Management Services—Purchase of handheld mass spectrometers (2 per county) and training on use and maintenance.
- Pharmacist conference in October
- Rural county jail-based medication assisted treatment (MAT)/medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) surveys to identifying treatment options and needs for incarcerated patients

- Overdose detection mapping application program interface (ODMAP)
- Poison Control Hotline
- Biostatistician position in the Office of Analytics
- Opioid coordinator position in the Nevada Indian Commission
- Vending machine supplies- sharps and sharps containers

Items to be funded in the future include:

- Training and technical assistance center with opioid coordinators
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) projects
- Nevada Public Health Project ECHO
- Multi-tier systems of support (MTSS) to include opioid education
- Additional naloxone purchase and distribution, fentanyl and xylazine test strips
- Reporting software, etc.

Ms. Monroy-Marsala asked how xylazine test strips would be distributed. She noted the Center for the Application of Substance Abuse (CASAT) and Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) distributes them, and Trac-B (Southern Nevada Harm Reduction Center) places them in vending machines. She would like them to think about how to distribute products in Washoe County. She was concerned about the handheld mass spectrometers and whether law enforcement will use the data to arrest people rather than to curb overdoses. She asked for a presentation on what distribution looks like and whether an agreement or a policy will be created with law enforcement regarding how the spectrometers will be used. Ms. Yohey recommended a group session around allowable use and standards to focus on public safety/overdose and not prosecution.

Chair Sanchez asked if the committee would be responsible for establishing policy to ensure testing would not result in arrests. Ms. Yohey reiterated that a group session with experts like Dr. Kerns will need to be put in place to discuss what policies would look like.

Ms. Monroy-Marsala recommended leveraging the SURG working group to help with the policies.

Ms. Loper asked if the ACRN has an evaluation of measurable short- and long-term goals that will help drive the funding as outcomes from various funding initiatives are seen.

Ms. Yohey explained that her quality assurance specialist is working with national subject matter experts who distribute settlement funds in other states, to develop evaluations and reporting guidelines and offered to have a presentation for the next meeting.

Dr Kamyar reported a concern that focusing on fentanyl or any specific substance, could commit funding to programs for trending substances, instead of being able to have flexibility. He stated that future drug trends will change and warned the committee to stay cognizant of that.

Dr. Kerns stated the SURG annual report was approved. It contained recommendations from each subcommittee. The subcommittees have met regularly. She reported they had a full SURG meeting focused on harm reduction, covering topics such as Bad Batch app, drug checking, supply chain efforts, post-overdose response teams, alternative pain treatment, safe smoking supplies, and the role of community health workers in harm reduction. Dr. Kerns mentioned they have expanded beyond opioids to include areas like safe smoking and vaping. Recommendations from that meeting will be forwarded to the Prevention subcommittee for further work.

The next SURG meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2023. An update on legislation related to the SURG's recommendations will be provided. Dr. Kerns mentioned minutes and information can be found here:

[https://ag.nv.gov/About/Administration/Substance Use Response Working Group \(SURG\)/](https://ag.nv.gov/About/Administration/Substance%20Use%20Response%20Working%20Group%20(SURG)/)

## **VI. Presentation on State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant**

Ms. Berry discussed CASAT's role in each iteration of the state opioid response (SOR) grant. She explained its funding structure and target areas and gave information about the sub-award recipients. She also provided information on the allocation of funds toward direct service categories. Most of the funding was allocated to treatment. Categories for funding include:

- Treatment
- Recovery support
- Early intervention
- Harm reduction
- Provider training
- Media campaigns

Ms. Berry presented data on naloxone and fentanyl test strip distribution under the grant. She provided information about neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) projects, emergency room-based peers, and their respective successes. She informed the committee that Assembly Bill (AB) 156 provided a separate account for projects purchasing opioid antagonist so funding can go directly to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) to streamline its use. She informed them that over-the-counter naloxone was approved in March and is expected to be released in the fall; she will let them know when that happens.

Ms. Monroy-Marsala asked why spending in Nevada is below the national average. Ms. Berry replied that the cost per-client reimbursement rate is lower in Nevada.

Ms. Monroy-Marsala asked if SOR covered the insured and uninsured. Ms. Berry replied that insured, uninsured, and underinsured are covered, in addition to coverage for service areas that do not have another reimbursement mechanism.

Ms. Monroy-Marsala asked if the committee could do anything to increase Naloxone distribution. Ms. Berry explained that over-the-counter Naloxone is a potential way to increase distribution and recommended continuing to look at and distribute among priority populations and will offer more solutions as they are created.

Dr. Kamyar asked whether the saturation plan goal includes prescriptions for Narcan or pharmacy distribution that is not through a prescription and if they are considered as part of the saturation plan. Ms. Berry replied, the saturation plan was strictly written for the number of units that need to come out of the SOR program, and at the time the saturation plan was written, they did not look at anything that was being filled by prescription.

Chair Sanchez asked if Carson Tahoe Hospital in Carson City will have embedded peers and what their timeline is. Ms. Berry explained they have been looking at additional hospitals to embed peers and are working with several hospitals on emergency room induction. She continued that expanding services is really based on hospital readiness and their desire to want to expand.

Ms. Monroy-Marsala offered the Delaware model to incentivize hospitals to expand programs as a solution.

Chair Sanchez asked the committee to be more involved in developing postvention overdose teams and treatment in all hospitals in Nevada, especially Carson City.

Dr. Kerns reported the Las Vegas Fire and Rescue Community Paramedicine Program includes wraparound care, an emergency department induction program, and free naloxone without a prescription. She explained that hospitals with community advocates, like Dr. Morgan with Valley Health Systems, are using their connections to promote new programs that have been successful in Southern Nevada.

**VII. Take votes on Advisory Committee for a Resilient Nevada (ACRN) Officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary**

Ms. Salla nominated David Sanchez as Chair; Ms. Monroy-Marsala seconded. Motion passed. No one abstained or opposed.

Ms. Barlow nominated Karissa Loper as Vice Chair; Ms. Salla seconded. Motion passed. There were no abstentions or opposition.

Ms. Salla nominated herself as secretary; Ms. Loper seconded. Motion Passed. There were no abstentions or opposition.

**VIII. Meeting Schedule and Possible Agenda Items for the Next Meeting**

The committee will meet every other month for the next three meetings, switching to every month starting in January 2024 in order to complete the ACRN report to the DHHS Director's Office. The next meeting will be in August. Dr. Kerns will give SURG updates at each ACRN meeting.

**IX. Public Comment #2**

There was no public comment.

**X. Adjournment**

This meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am