



APPROVED Minutes of the
Advisory Committee for a Resilient Nevada
Tuesday, October 5, 2021, 10:00 a.m. meeting

Meeting Video/Teleconference information: There was no physical location required for this teleconferenced meeting; public comments by teleconference were welcomed.

Agenda and/or Materials: https://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/Grants/Advisory_Committees/ACRN/Home/

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

(Connie Lucido, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Grants Management Unit (GMU))

The first Advisory Committee for a Resilient Nevada (ACRN) meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Connie Lucido, Chief of the Grant Management Unit (GMU). The Advisory Committee for a Resilient Nevada (ACRN) was developed in response to Senate Bill (SB 390) which will be codified in Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 433 by the 2021 State Legislature 91st session to obtain advice and council from persons who possess knowledge and experience related to opioid and substance use disorders. The goal is to effectively address risks, impacts, and harms of the opioid crisis in the State through the Fund for a Resilient Nevada. The Committee will provide guidance for a data-driven development by establishing priority funding areas through a statewide needs assessment and state plan. The state plan serves as the strategy document to determine the allocation of the proceeds obtained through specific opioid settlements or litigation.

Roll call was performed by Connie Lucido. Quorum was established for the meeting.

Members Present:

Barlow, Jessica
Collins-Jefferson, Brittney
Grady, Lilnetra
Kaymar, Dr. Farzad
Loper, Karissa
Loudon, Katherine
Luszczewski, Michelle
Maria, Cecilia
Monroy, Elyse
Patterson, Darcy
Salla, Pauline
Sanchez, David
Sheehan, Cornelius
Sherwood, Laura
Winbush, Quinnie

Members Absent:

Gustafson, Ryan (excused)
Loudon, Katherine (excused)
Saunders, Ariana

II. Public Comment #1

(Connie Lucido, DHHS, GMU)

Public Comment will be taken during this agenda item regarding any item appearing on the agenda. In consideration of others, who may also wish to provide public comment, please avoid repetition, and limit your comments to no more than three (3) minutes. No action may be taken on a matter discussed under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken.

Ms. Lucido invited public comment.

There was no public comment.

III. Discussion and possible action regarding election of Committee Chair, Committee Vice Chair, and Committee Secretary.

(Connie Lucido, DHHS, GMU, Chair, ACRN)

Connie Lucido called for nominations for the Committee Chair. David Sanchez volunteered for the position of Committee Chair. Karissa Loper seconded the nomination. Ms. Lucido called for a motion to accept Mr. Sanchez as the Committee Chair. Ms. Loper motioned to accept Mr. Sanchez was nominated and approved as the Committee Chair and a second was provided by Laura Sherwood. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sanchez called for nominations for the Committee Vice Chair position. Ms. Karissa Loper volunteered for the position, Michelle Luszczewski motioned to accept Ms. Loper nomination and approved as the Committee Vice Chair

Mr. Sanchez called for nominations for the Committee Secretary position. Pauline Salla asked what duties the Committee Secretary position entails. Sheila Lambert read the duties from the ACRN Bylaws. Ms. Salla volunteered for the Committee Secretary position. Elyse Monroy motioned to accept Ms. Salla nomination and approved as Committee Secretary and Ms. Barlow seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. Open Meeting Law Presentation.

(Senior Deputy Attorney General, Henna Rasul)

Senior Deputy Attorney General Henna Rasul presented information about Open Meeting Law, NRS Chapter 241 and responded to questions by the Committee members.

V. Senate Bill 390 (SB 390) Presentation.

(Dr. Stephanie Woodard, Psy.D., DHHS, and Christine Jones Brady, Second Assistant Attorney General)

Dr. Stephanie Woodard and Christine Jones Brady presented information from the presentation titled, "Overview of Senate Bill 390, Fund for a Resilient Nevada" including how the Senate Bill 390 legislation was developed, the role of the Advisory Committee for a Resilient Nevada (ACRN) as defined in the legislation. The Advisory Committee functions with support for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) GMU in completing the needs assessment and state plan activities related to the opioid settlement litigation funding.

Dr. Woodard said there has been a large movement generally between attorney generals, departments of health and human services, and behavioral health consortiums to ensure all states have some type of statutory authority in place to make sure the opioid settlement funds are allocated in a transparent and equitable way. Nevada has been identified as a state with core components in model legislation.

Ms. Jones gave a brief overview of the work the Attorney General's office with the Bureau of Consumer Protection and outside counsel performed in the litigation brought by the State to help remediate the harms, risks, and effects of the opioid epidemic in Nevada. SB 390 legislation requires the DHHS to conduct a statewide needs assessment and develop a state plan. The state plan will serve as the guiding document for DHHS to administer the Nevada Resilient Fund to remediate the harms, risks, and effects of opioids. Ms. Jones provided information regarding litigation, funding sources and amounts and opioid related bankruptcies.

Ms. Monroy asked if there was information regarding amounts distributed through the allocation agreement. Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Brady advised that allocation amounts have not been set. Ms. Brady will coordinate with Dr. Woodard and determine what information can be shared at a later date. Dr. Woodard said allocations will be made through the One Nevada Agreement, the Needs Assessment, and the State Plan. Ms. Monroy asked for clarification for the timeline when funds may flow into the community. Dr. Woodard said the Needs Assessment must be completed first and that everyone is focused on moving the funds as soon as possible.

Ms. Jones asked if the Resiliency Fund account is interest bearing? Dr. Woodard responded the account is interest bearing but is not able to be used for investments.

Chairman Sanchez asked for clarification regarding the timeline for the vendors preparing the Needs Assessment. Dr. Woodard replied the vendors have been retained and are currently working on the Needs Assessment. The vendor should be ready to provide information to the ACRN at the next meeting.

Brittney Collins-Jefferson asked if the Needs Assessment will be available to review in advance of the need to make recommendations? Dr. Woodward responded yes; the conduction of the Needs Assessment will be shaped by the ACRN members. DAG Brady said the ACRN members' experience, knowledge, and advocacy will help determine focus groups and questions to be asked in the communities.

Chairman Sanchez asked how the information about the Needs Assessment will be communicated to the ACRN? Dr. Woodard responded the vendor will communicate through the ACRN meetings with the ACRN members. DAG Brady directed any questions regarding communication between ACRN members to be directed to Henna Rasul, Senior Deputy Attorney General. Ms. Lambert said there will be opportunities for the ACRN members to receive information from community engagement which is a priority as well as the vendor at ACRN meetings. Chairman Sanchez identified community engagement as a high priority, and for the communities' served to have a voice.

VI. Discussion and possible action regarding the Advisory Committee for a Resilient Nevada (ACRN) Bylaws. (Sheila Lambert, DHHS, GMU)

Sheila Lambert presented information from the document titled, "Advisory Committee for a Resilient Nevada Bylaws." Ms. Lambert invited the ACRN members to present any comments on items which should be changed. Karissa Loper will send some technical adjustments to Ms. Lambert. Ms. Loper asked for more information regarding the regular meeting schedule. Ms. Lambert said the number of meetings in the Bylaws is the minimum requirement. As more subject matter is available it is likely more frequent meetings will occur as the State Plan is developed.

Ms. Monroy asked for clarification regarding section 6, subcommittees; are subcommittee meetings subject to Open Meeting Law and are the subcommittees made up of just ACRN members? Senior DAG Rasul replied the subcommittees are subject to Open Meeting Law. Ms. Lambert said subcommittees could include technical expertise personnel from outside the ACRN. Ms. Loper said per sub-section B it is possible to appoint additional non-voting members to the subcommittees. Ms. Loper asked for clarification on the section which states no more than two standing subcommittees may be created; does this mean there can be no more than two at one time? Ms. Lambert said yes, that is the message of that section. Ms. Loper asked for clarification about sub-section C, the Chair shall appoint the standing committee chairs except for the communications subcommittee chair. Ms. Lambert said because the ACRN Secretary is responsible for making sure the minutes and anything the ACRN engages in is posted publicly, that individual would also be responsible for making sure communication is open and public. Ms. Loper asked if the intent was for the Committee Secretary to be on every sub-committee? Ms. Lambert said if there was a communications sub-committee then the Committee Secretary would be the Chair of that standing committee. A standing communications sub-committee could be established at a future ACRN meeting.

Chairman Sanchez invited a motion to accept the Bylaws after the discussion. The By-Laws were approved with the GMU able to make technical adjustments. Ms. Loper motioned to approve the Bylaws as-is with basic technical adjustments such as punctuation corrections, a second was provided by Ms. Monroy. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. Advisory Committee for a Resilient Nevada (ACRN) Policy and Procedure Presentation.
(Connie Lucido, DHHS)

Ms. Lucido presented information from the document titled, "The Fund for a Resilient Nevada, Policy and Procedure Manual October 2021." Once the State Plan is established, the GMU will issue competitive announcements to distribute the State's opioid settlement funds in accordance with the State Plan and SB 390. The Policy and Procedure Manual includes the activities and processes that define our activities as we manage the Fund for a Resilient Nevada or FRN.

VIII. Review and discussion regarding the next steps towards the development of the required statewide needs assessment.

(Sheila Lambert, DHHS, and Dr. Stephanie Woodard, Psy.D., DHHS)

Ms. Lambert said the GMU is working through the Master Service Agreement and has selected a vendor to perform the Statewide Needs Assessment. The vendor will put together a presentation of their expertise and technical experience. The vendor will also present information regarding the draft Needs Assessment so that the ACRN can identify any additional information desired. The authority to move forward with the Needs Assessment is in place. With the ACRN's permission, the vendor presentation will be at the next meeting.

Cecilia Maria asked if the ACRN can know the name of the vendor before the next meeting. Ms. Lambert said the vendor is not named publicly until a signed agreement is in place. The name of the vendor will be on the next meeting's agenda if the ACRN so wishes.

IX. Public Comment #2

Public Comment will be taken during this agenda item regarding any item appearing on the agenda. In consideration of others, who may also wish to provide public comment, please avoid repetition, and limit your comments to no more than three (3) minutes. No action may be taken on a matter discussed under this item until the matter is included on an agenda as an item on which action may be taken.

Chairman Sanchez invited public comment.

There was no public comment.

X. Announcements – Requests from Advisory Committee for a Resilient Nevada (ACRN) members on information for next or future ACRN meetings.

Ms. Monroy asked if it would be possible to have bios for the ACRN members available for the members to read. Ms. Lucido responded the bios will be provided to the ACRN members.

Ms. Barlow asked how often the ACRN will be meeting. Ms. Lambert said it is recommended the ACRN meets monthly until the Needs Assessment is in place. Chairman Sanchez agreed meeting within a month would be good.

Chairman Sanchez asked if a motion was needed with regards to moving the State Needs Assessment forward? Ms. Lambert responded a motion was not necessary. Chairman Sanchez requested the presentation from the vendor regarding the State Needs Assessment be on the next meeting's agenda.

Chairman Sanchez asked if the Committee members had any other items, they wished placed on the next meeting agenda. Ms. Lambert said support staff will provide a draft agenda and reach out to ACRN members to solicit agenda items.

XI. Adjournment

Chairman Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.