

Department of Health and Human Services · Division of Public and Behavioral Health
Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Agency (SAPTA)

**STATEWIDE EPIDEMIOLOGY WORKGROUP (SEW)
MINUTES**

DATE: October 16, 2013
TIME: 9:00 a.m. *Video-Conference*
LOCATION: Truckee Meadows College
Redfield Campus
18600 Wedge Parkway, HTC Room 103
Reno, Nevada
College of Southern Nevada
Cheyenne Campus
3200 E. Cheyenne Ave., Room 2647 B
Las Vegas, Nevada

Committee Members Present

Alicia Hansen*	Public Member
Angel Stachnik	DHHS – Office of Public Health Informatics and Epidemiology
Brad Towle	NSHD- Health Statistics, Planning, Epidemiology, & Response
Capt. John Milby, proxy for Ron Pierini	Douglas County Sheriff's Office
Eric Ohlson	Join Together Northern Nevada
John Johansen	Nevada Office of Traffic Safety
Linda Septien	Crisis Call Center
Luana Ritch	Quality Assurance, Veterans & Military Families, MHDS
Richard Egan, proxy for Misty Allen	DHHS-Office of Suicide Prevention
Sue Meuschke	Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence
Tony Fredrick	Southern Nevada Health District
William Gazza – Committee Chair	Clark Co. Coroner's Office

Committee Members Absent

Ihsan Azzam	NSHD- Office of Epidemiology
Pauline Salla	DCFS- JJPO
Wei Yang	Nevada Center for Health Statistics and Informatics, UNR

Others Present

David Frankenberger	University of Nevada, Reno
Kristen Clements-Nolle – Ex-Officio	Associate Professor, Epidemiology, UNR
Laura Davidson	Washoe County School District, Department of Accountability
Marisa Crowder	Washoe County School District
Michael Coop – Consultant*	Coop Consulting
Stephanie Asteriadis – Ex-Officio	Nevada Prevention Resource Center / UNR

DPBH Staff Present

Bill Kirby	SAPTA Health Program Specialist
Charlene Herst	SAPTA Prevention Team Supervisor
Charlene Howard	SAPTA Health Program Specialist
Christina Brooks	DPBH – Mental Health
Chuck Bailey	SAPTA Health Program Specialist
David Sater	Aging Services, Information Technology
Linda Kreeger	SAPTA Health Program Specialist
Mark Foxen	DPBH, Information Technology
Meg Matta – Recorder	SAPTA Administrative Assistant
Nan Kreher	SAPTA Health Program Specialist

* Attended Telephonically

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair William Gazza opened the meeting in due form at 9:07 a.m.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Discussion and Approval of SEW/MPAC Combined Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2013

Michelle Frye-Spray submitted a re-write of the first two paragraphs of item 5 which concerned her presentation at the last meeting. There were two revisions suggested for the minutes. One was to correct for the record information provided at the last meeting regarding a sexual orientation question which was thought to be included in the BRFSS. Subsequently, it was discovered that the information was inaccurate, and the plan is to add it to next year's BRFSS. The second was a written submission by Michelle Frye-Spray. John Johansen moved, and Brad Towle seconded, to approve the minutes as revised. The motion carried.

4. Review and Possible Action on the Clark County Substance Related Deaths 2012 Data Report from the Clark County Office of the Coroner/ Medical Examiner

Michael Coop presented an overview of the second publication of Coroner's data. He began by thanking William Gazza for his cooperation in the quality of the data he provided. Michael said the 2012 report is structured very much like the approved report of 2011 data, and provides a comparison between the two years.

Michael walked the members through the findings and features within the report. While accidental deaths were down a bit, death by suicide was up to 32.1% from 28.2% the previous year. The causes of death were generally similar to the findings in the 2011 data, with the greatest exception being a rise in the deaths caused by alprazolam (Zoloft). The manner of death also remained consistent with 2011, with the most common manner being medication, followed by drug related, firearms, and motor vehicle. The age and gender data was also relatively unchanged from 2011.

William Gazza commented that the report is impressive. He reiterated that 65% of all suicide related deaths are attributed to firearms, which has remained fairly consistent. Statistics are still being finalized; some of the information is still pending and will affect the final data. Remember that this report only covers those who had substances inside their body at time of death. There are many who pass away from natural causes and will not be included here. The data is always changing due to market cycles for the drugs; e.g. deaths due to heroin are on the rise again. As the data is about a year old, it can be difficult to see the current trends.

When asked about including data on homicides, William Gazza explained that although it was a criterion that they originally considered adding to the report, when substance use is a factor in a homicide it becomes interpretive from the investigative standpoint. What can be known about a homicide is varied enough in a case-by-case study that it would not fit into the data fields. Michael Coop commented that he wasn't sure how to use the information, but invited more conversation on the subject.

William Gazza thanked everyone for their comments, and they will be incorporated into the next meeting.

5. **Update from September 10, 2013 Evidence-Based Workgroup Meeting (EBW)**

Charlene Herst asked members to read the past two or three EBW meeting minutes, and based on the discussions, be ready to make recommendations on the defined role of the EBW and what should be included in the guidance documents for policies and protocols.

6. **Discussion of ACES-Informed Data/Data Gaps for State Use**

Kristen Clements-Nolle posed the question on the best method of conducting the survey for the state's purposes: doing two years in a row and taking two year off; doing five years in a row and then taking five years off; or monitor continuously. Charlene Herst said that SAPTA and Mental Health are putting aside dollars to conduct all 11 questions for at least three years of data, and then perhaps two or three years off, and then another three years. One purpose is to close data gaps, and the other is to address agenda item 13 on the implications of that data.

Kristen said one of the difficulties is with gathering the data on a younger age group. The adolescent population is an easy and important place to intervene and build internal resilience. Early intervention is done in schools as part of the curriculum or in after-school programs. There is much work to be done within the juvenile justice system, and also working with teen parents to help to mitigate the effects of inter-generational transmission of unhealthy and risky behaviors. Many of the schools are beginning to screen for ACES beginning in kindergarten because it flags performance so well that they can intervene in the classroom setting at an earlier time.

7. **Presentation on the Climate and Safety Surveys by Washoe County School District's Program Evaluator**

Laura Davidson and Marisa Crowder presented the 2013 Student Climate and Safety Survey. She said the information is public and they will be happy to break down the information further if anyone needs it for a grant or needs assessment. This is an annual survey, given since 2001, and is required in all Washoe County Schools, so the data is solid. She discussed the way the survey is conducted. Research indicated that the learning environment in a school has a large impact on a student's success. The definition of school climate they use is by Tableman, 2004 which says: *School climate reflects the physical and psychological aspects of school that are more susceptible to change and that provide the pre-conditions necessary for teaching and learning to take place. I don't think any of us can expect our children to learn at their highest potential when they are concerned that they are going to be beat-up at lunchtime. I don't think we can expect any of our children to learn at their highest potential when they don't think the adults in the building care if they show up to school.*

The climate data is always presented together with the school's academic data so the school can understand how their context and learning environment may be impacting student achievement levels. Student IDs were linked to one survey so that studies could be made on how social and emotional skills impact student achievement. Questions were on topics of safety, bullying, sexual orientation, risk-taking behaviors, substance use, skipping class, and questions regarding perceived parental reactions to particular situations as compared to peer attitudes.

The survey is presented to students, parents and staff, and the differences in responses are measured. Those responses indicate that parents tend to over-estimate the occurrence of issues such as bullying, as compared to students and staff. Washoe County will be implementing social

and emotional learning curriculums with the hope that by training students the social and emotional resiliency skills at an earlier age, they may prevent learning risk factors at an earlier time. Eventually, the goal is to be able to link the students' social and emotional skills with risk taking behaviors and individual student achievement. There was discussion on the similarities between this survey, and the ACES and YRBS surveys; where they overlap and how they can reinforce each other.

For further information, go to: <http://www.washoe.k12.nv.us/students/student-climate-survey>

8. **Update of the Partnerships for Success Grant – Roles and Responsibilities of the SEW**

Charlene Herst gave an update on the status of the grant. The funding was about \$47,000 per year less than Nevada asked for, and the budget has been revised. The grant asks for a large role from the SEW with regards to data, both process data and outcome data, representing the lifespan from adolescents through seniors. Mental health, co-occurring, and suicide prevention are focuses of the grant, and the SEW will be helping to identify communities of high need. SAPTA has \$150,000 per year of the total award for SEW data activities. Charlene Howard asked about veterans' data, and Luana Ritch explained that the best way to collect the data is through surveys like the BFRSS that ask questions pertaining to veteran status. Charlene Herst brought attention to the handout for further details on the grant, and said as we move forward more action items will arise.

9. **Update of the Mountain Bluebird Data Warehouse**

Mark Foxen and David Sater provided an update on the Mountain Bluebird Data Warehouse. David Sater was working with SAPTA during the inception of the warehouse, and Mark Foxen is now taking over the project as David has transferred to Aging Services. David began by providing some background. Two years ago, the purpose of the Strategic Prevention Enhancement (SPE) grant was to create the infrastructure for reporting prevention data and to link that data with other relevant data within health and human services. David stated that they have succeeded in getting all prevention data into the system as well as in developing the framework. At this time, data from vital records has already been added, and data from immunization is in the process of being added. The system has proven to be a success in data integration.

The value of the data increases exponentially as data is integrated from related systems. The applications for this data will encompass multiple agencies to provide clear data on co-occurring disorders and aggregated demographics. The resulting information will be available and useful in diagnoses, treatment, and prescription drugs.

Security is of utmost importance and is implemented on Microsoft MBC IV architecture which provides the highest level of security for private health information. Patient level information is kept accessible only to health care professionals with the highest level of access, and only aggregate information is available to the public.

The Mountain Bluebird is a self-selling project and has not needed much in the way of marketing. As this project moves forward, other agencies in the Department of Health and Human Services are seeing the advantage of housing their data in the data warehouse to tie it together with the other aggregated information and benefitting from the reports.

The cubes and the reports from Mountain Bluebird were up and running by Memorial Day, and were fully operational up until last week. Last week there was a catastrophic failure of a hard drive on one of the old servers. The data warehouse system was restored but in a slightly diminished capacity, although the existing reports are still fully functional. To protect the system, it is being moved away from old servers, and virtualized into the Enterprise IT facility in downtown Carson City. The new servers will be brought in behind the F5 which will add another layer of security. Obtaining new servers has been placed on high priority and will hopefully be brought in within a week.

David Sater said that the report functions of the data warehouse have been fully functioning all along, and he demonstrated how to get to the reports and analytics within the system and how to download an Excel workbook. He added that further demonstrations would be provided as needed.

A question was asked about eventually bringing in other agencies, such as law enforcement (Spillman system) or the Department of Education. David Sater explained that as the project originated in SAPTA, it will serve those agencies within the Division of Public and Behavioral Health first. In addition, Aging and Disabilities has five systems they want to bring into the Mountain Bluebird. There is already discussion on creating an interface that will accommodate other non-state agencies. Education and law enforcement could be integrated now, but David feels it is best to begin with collecting all the data in The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) first to use as a base. There are currently plans to bring in the HIV-AIDS data, Mental Health, and SAPTA Treatment data.

Luana Ritch suggested doing a cost-benefit analysis before bringing in other data, to determine if the data fits within the design in an efficient way and justifies additional expense. David said that another grant was just approved that provides financial support for a long term commitment to the Mountain Bluebird. However, he feels that a priority focus should be on DHHS before reaching out to other agencies in Nevada because there are health and safety issues that need to be clarified. An example would be different entities prescribing drugs to one individual with co-occurring disorders that could result in over-prescribing or contra-indicative prescribing. The prevention of an adverse prescription drug reaction in a patient with co-occurring disorders is one example of cost justification. Charlene Herst commented that in the future, the kind of information that could come from sources such as John Johansen's Traffic Safety data could add valuable dimensions to the prevention data. She said that at the state level, there needs to be work on developing a policy to cover the data collection process. David Sater added that this data warehouse has the infrastructure for data marts. A data mart is like a portal that can perform an analysis using conformed dimensions to determine if data is being duplicated from different sources. The conversation has not begun on connecting nomads such as Welfare.

Mark Foxen closed by giving credit to Conrad Krinock as the architect of Mountain Bluebird.

10. **Update on the Safe Schools / Healthy Students Grant**
Tabled

11. **Update on the Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI) Grant**
 Nan Kreher explained that the purpose of the grant is to provide housing to chronically homeless individuals who have mental health and substance abuse disorders. It will be funded for three years for about \$711,818 per year, and serve about 120 people statewide per year.
12. **Update on the Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)**
 Brad Towle said that in the short term, the sample will be smaller. If more grant money is awarded, they will know by March and can increase the survey at that time.
13. **Update on Adverse Childhood Experiences Survey (ACES) Data Implications**
 Touched on previously in item 6.
14. **Discussion and Approval of Additional Members to the SEW**
 Charlene Herst said that relative to the Partnerships for Success grant, and the Safe Schools grant, it will be helpful to bring in new members. Laura Davidson said she would be interested in representing Washoe County School District as a member of the SEW, and Richard Egan said he may be able to invite people from Clark County School District. Charlene Herst invited further suggestions, and Kristen Clements-Nolle commented that someone from the prescription drug monitoring program would be helpful.

 Sue Meuschke moved to increase the SEW membership and to add Laura Davidson to the SEW, and Eric Ohlson seconded the motion. The motion carried.
15. **Discussion and Approval of Meeting Dates for 2014**
 After discussion, the dates proposed were: January 15, April 23, July 16 and October 15, 2014. It was moved to approve by Sue Meuschke and seconded by Linda Septien to approve the dates, and the motion carried.
16. **Discussion and Approval of Agenda Items for the Next Meeting**
 Kristen will provide an update on what other states are doing with the ACES.
17. **Public Comment**
 There was no public comment.
18. **Adjournment**
 There was no further business to come before the meeting. It was moved by Sue Meuschke and seconded by Richard Egan to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.