



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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Meeting Minutes

Advisory Committee for a Resilient Nevada Prevention Subcommittee

May 1, 2026, at 11:00 a.m.

[Click here to watch this meeting on YouTube.](#)

I. Call to order: Welcome, introductions and announcements

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

Members present: Jamie Ross, Shayla Gransbery, Valerie Cauhape, Terry Kerns and Heather Kerwin.

Members absent: Wonswayla Mackey and Anne Elizabeth Northan.

Staff and guests present: Alyssa Planas, Henna Rasul, Tray Abney, Vanessa Diaz, Belkis Quezada, Elizabeth Folsom, Karina Fox, Tina Gerber-Winn.

II. Public comment

None.

III. For possible action: Approval of April 9, 2026, meeting minutes

The committee reviewed the minutes of the April 9 meeting.

Motion: Terry Kerns

Second: Shayla Gransbery

Vote: Passed unanimously.

IV. For possible action: Subcommittee membership

The subcommittee discussed potential new additions and outreach strategies to expand committee membership and ensure key sectors are represented:

- School district representation: Nominated Rosa O'Bannon (Clark County School District) and an equivalent representative from Washoe County School District to address youth prevention initiatives.
- Community coalitions: Nominated Wendy Madsen to represent rural and frontier communities (Lyon, Storey, and Mineral counties).
- Youth organizations: Discussed reaching out to leadership at the Boys & Girls Clubs (Mason Valley and Truckee Meadows).

- Member availability: Shayla Gransbery confirmed her continued availability to participate on the subcommittee for the remainder of the year.

V. For possible action: Biennial report recommendations

The subcommittee reviewed the prevention recommendations from the 2022 Nevada Opioid Needs Assessment and Statewide Plan to establish prioritized categories for the upcoming Biennial Report.

1. Primary Prevention (School & Community Focus):
2. Prioritize evidence-based and best-practice programming in K-12 schools.
3. Expand focus to include PACEs (Positive Adverse Childhood Experiences) and protective factors alongside ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) education to support families and healthy decision-making.
4. Align targeted awareness campaigns to youth-focused communication channels (e.g., social media platforms).
5. Secondary Prevention (Indicated & High-Risk Populations):
6. Target stigma reduction specifically toward healthcare and service providers working directly with individuals using substances.
7. Promote safe storage and drug disposal programs.
8. Expand screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) initiatives.
9. Tertiary & Overdose Prevention:
10. Transition terminology from "harm reduction" to "overdose prevention" to align with current federal funding standards and guidelines.
11. Address changes in federal guidance (e.g., Dear Colleague policy updates regarding test strip funding).
12. Continue support for no-barrier/low-barrier access to Naloxone and emergency department leave-behind distribution programs.
13. Peer Support Specialists & Systemic Barriers:
14. Highlight the importance of post-overdose peer support specialists in hospital emergency departments.
15. Acknowledged key systemic barriers to scaling peer support programs, including criminal background restrictions for hospital employment and federal CMS/Medicaid billing constraints (currently relying primarily on grant funds).
16. Priority / Special Populations:
17. Noted the need to ensure recommendations incorporate targeted strategies for specific groups, including veterans, pregnant women, and LGBTQ+ communities.

VI. For possible action: Review of upcoming meeting topics and timelines

The group discussed meeting length and agreed that internal meetings should generally target one hour, while meetings with external presenters may require up to 90 minutes. Members supported using focused agendas and appropriate scheduling of agenda items to help manage meeting time, while recognizing that open meetings cannot have a formal time limit.

VII. Public comment:

None.

VIII. Wrap-up and adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

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