

Improving Access to Care through Policy

Dr. Sara Hunt-UNLV
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 & Panelists




Learning Outcomes

1. **Understand how state and federal level policies translate to accessible mental health care at the local level.**
2. **Identify various stakeholders' priorities for improving access to behavioral health care in Nevada.**
3. **Discuss why coalition-building is vital for behavioral health policy success.**
4. **Learn advocacy strategies to engage policymakers and stakeholders to reform mental health care.**



Panelists

1. **Trinh Dang: Executive Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Southern Nevada**
 2. **Dr. Lauren Chapelle-Love: Licensed Psychologist; Owner of Elle Psychological Services**
 3. **Steven Cohen: Advocate on public policy creation with emphasis on behavioral health**
 4. **Char Frost: Statewide Family Network Director of Nevada PEP; Parent Advocate**
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Civic Processes & Public Policies

Interface between behavioral health and public agencies

Federal, state, & local agencies fund & manage behavioral health services

Schools, hospitals, clinics, jails, prisons, foster care, etc.

How is policy created?

Different levels of government create different types of policy

Policies from different governing bodies often dovetail

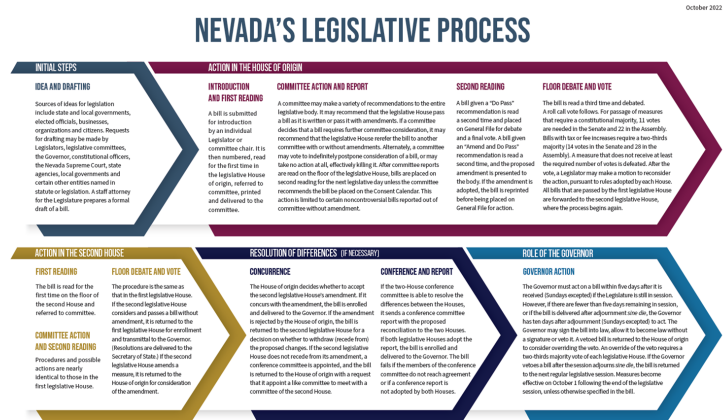
Advocacy efforts must coordinate between levels

Coalition work is absolutely necessary



Civics & Politics

Civics: Legal Process



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Note: This chart primarily describes legislative steps for a bill or joint resolution. The process for a one-House or concurrent resolution varies slightly. Deadlines for first action on bills and joint resolutions by committees and Houses typically are established by joint rule at the beginning of each legislative session.

Politics: The Political Parties

- Identify the problem to be solved
- Craft a solution that solves the problem
- Determine funding
- Find a sponsor
- Understand the political dynamics
- Try, try, and try. Do not quit!

What can you do next?

1. Go to the Nevada Legislature website:

Track a bill

Complete the bill's poll

Watch a hearing recording

Pick a public comment option

Engage your legislator

2. Let's try it together:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/>



Some Important Current Legislative Bills

AB37: Authorizes the establishment of the Behavioral Health Workforce Development Center of Nevada.

AB69: Expands the loan repayment program administered by the Nevada Health Service Corps to include certain providers of behavioral health care.

SB119: Provides for the continuation of certain requirements governing insurance coverage of telehealth services. (Telehealth services for mental health treatment)

SB237: Revises provisions relating to crisis intervention. (Funding for 9-8-8)

AB138: Provides Medicaid coverage for certain types of behavioral health integration services.

AB435: AN ACT relating to behavioral health; authorizing the administration of a program to award grants to promote the establishment of programs that provide integrated treatment for co-occurring disorders.

AB265: AN ACT relating to mental health; revising the duties of the Commission on Behavioral Health; creating a statewide mental health consortium.

Thank you! Questions?

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Resources

NAMI of Southern Nevada <https://namisouthernnevada.org/>

Nevada PEP <https://nvpep.org/>

Vote Nevada Behavioral Health Committee (Civics) infor@vote-nevada.org

