

NNBHC Meeting

January 12, 2021

9:00 -10:30 AM

Zoom

Jake Wiskerchen, welcome to the meeting. Explained NNBHC to the group and did a group introduction. Invite your friends who you think would benefit from attending. All of us got here because someone invited us, and we've been having this meeting for 5 years now. Email jward@casat.org to be added to the listserv if you would like.

Agenda Item #1 – Mitch Bautista - ACCEPT

ACCEPT stands for “Access for Community and Cultural Education Programs and Trainings”. The mission is to serve a multicultural population, especially at-risk communities. ACCEPT started in 1995 after a family death related to AIDs complications. The goal was to raise awareness of HIV/AIDs among African American community in Nevada. ACCEPT received a federal research grant in 1999. A bulk of the funding is through Ryan White Part B as well as Join Together Northern Nevada. They are a **non-medical provider**.

African Americans account for more cases of HIV and AIDs than any other ethnic group. ACCEPT is the only community-based organization in Washoe county providing services and education in regards to HIV/AIDs. Though they primarily work with African Americans, they offer services to all, including qualifying veterans. Please reach out if you work with veterans so we can send you more information in how we can support them. Confidentiality is a priority.

Non-Medical Services include: medical support, social, community, legal, financial, employment, copays & premiums, and other public/private programs. They do have COVID adaptations in place.

HERR stands for Health Education and Risk Reduction. The program focuses on education about how HIV is transferred as well as risk. The goal is to reduce HIV transmission in Northern Nevada. There are meetings each month (2nd and 4th Wednesday) with guest speakers and partner agencies. Topics vary from HIV transmission related or Psychosocial Support Services. There is also at least one monthly subgroup meeting (women, youth, veterans, etc.). Additional HERR services include dinner, safe, confidential, and individualized social setting, supportive environment. Another goal is to improve resilience and health. COVID adaptations for the HERR program include things such as gift cards instead of dinner, partnering with shopping Angels, and Zoom Meetings

Medical Transportation Services: Provide Ryan White eligible consumers with transportation to a variety of appointments including HIV provider, primary care physician, dental, vision, pharmacy visits, mental health, eligibility and case management, lab work, HIV related support groups, and substance abuse treatment. Some types of assistance are gas cards, bus passes, ride share services. COVID adaptations include phone service instead of in office visits, mail of gas cards, arrangement of ride service arranged via phone.

The Positive Action Program works with schools and kids to teach ways that we can feel good about ourselves and the negative consequences of drug and alcohol abuse. It uses education and support rather than scare tactics to provide children with this understanding.

Q: What grade range do you target in schools? (Positive Action Program)

A: We mostly work with 4th and 5th grade but we do have people who work with teens and the juvenile detention center. We are working on expanding to middle schools and high schools as well.

Contact info: <https://acceptonline.org/contact/>

Agenda Item #2 – Ken Krater - Proposed Crisis Stabilization Center at Dini-Townsend Hospital

The Crisis Now Model is the next step in our mental health efforts in Reno. We have an amazing call center but we are lacking a Crisis Stabilization Center. This center will allow the police, sheriff's office, REMSA, etc. to have a place to take people who need immediate care for mental health. This gives them an alternative to the emergency room where they may wait for hours or ending up in jail. They receive care within minutes from licensed providers allowing for an entirely different level of care for mental health emergencies. The end goal is to work with other agencies and break the cycle to actually get people off the streets and get the help they need.

It is not only more fiscally responsible to get people off the streets and to a stable place, but it is also important because they are human beings. We need to find a way to help them have a life that a human being deserves and, in some cases, give them the resources to become productive members of society.

The building is being offered to rent for \$1 dollar a year. The next step is to find out who would operate the building and also the operation costs. The Open Bed Platform has been really helpful and would be utilized in the center. This building would really complete the Crisis Call Model in our community. Getting the MOST team funded again is a priority as well. It has been important to bring in the business community and downtown Reno to recognize that we need to change the way we do business when it comes to mental health and addiction.

Q: When would it open?

A: There is minimal work to be done physically on the building. Right now, it is just dependent on policy and funding. A personal goal is within 4-6 months but it depends on so many factors.

Q: If an individual comes in and they are possibly a danger to themselves or others, are they allowed to leave?

A: They would be allowed to place them on a 24 hour hold but it would be up to REMSA or law enforcement to see if it is safe to bring them to the building.

Q: This group has been a good lobbying arm in the past. What do you need us to do? How can we help?

A: I will keep you in the loop in regards to updates and further needs. There is a proposed 1% government service tax on vehicle registration. This tax would allow for a lot more money to be put into projects like this. We need some sort of revenue to help or there will be a lack of progress. It will ultimately be cheaper to have people off the street and programs like this than to ignore the homeless population.

Agenda Item #3 - Public Comments/Community Announcements

- As of 2015, the licensing boards must allow reciprocity for licensing.

- [Talkspace](#) is available for free for all Reno residents who need to talk to someone.

- The Community Help Improvement Plan Meeting is on January 28, 2021. RSVP here:

<https://casatunr.wufoo.com/forms/pk3hl061sekbbp/>

- Next regional policy board meeting is March 8th, 2021. It will be going to every other month.

CASAT Training will be offering virtual trainings until further notice. Email jward@casat.org to be put on the listserv for the NNbCH meetings and [Join Our Email List](#) here for the CASAT Training listserv.

-Information on how to post to the community job board and job listings can be found here:

<https://casatondemand.org/job-board/>

The next meeting date is TBD as meeting frequency may change. Location will be determined closer to event and announced through the listserv with an [RSVP](#) link as well.

ANNOUNCEMENT

All information regarding the NNbHC Meetings has been moved to a new website:

<https://casatondemand.org/nnbhc-2/>
