

**CLARK COUNTY REGIONAL OPIOID TASK FORCE  
COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
CLARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER  
500 S. GRAND CENTRAL PARKWAY  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89155  
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024  
2:00 P.M.**

The Clark County Regional Opioid Task Force was created by AB132 from the 82<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 2023 Nevada Legislature and is comprised of fifteen (15) individuals appointed by the Board of Clark County Commissioners. The Task Force reviews data relating to opioid overdose fatalities and near fatalities and uses such data to identify gaps in community services relating to opioids and opioid overdose fatalities. The Task Force reviews data from existing state and community databases and, in particular, information relating to harm reduction and substance abuse. Task Force members identify trends in the social determinants of health relating to opioid overdose fatalities and identify opportunities for prevention to promote recovery and to collaborate to leverage existing resources to prevent substance misuse.

**MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The Clark County Regional Opioid Task Force was called to order by Chair Rouse at 2:03 p.m.

**Committee Members**

**Present:**

Melanie Rouse, Chair  
Jamie Sorenson, Vice Chair  
Meambi Newbern-Johnson  
Rosa O'Bannon  
Ebony Washington  
Brian O'Neal  
Thomas Alfreda  
Geoconda Hughes  
BachTrinh Dang  
Jerry Cade  
Brandon Delise  
Jessica Johnson

**Not Present:**

Chelsi Cheatom  
Dolletta Mitchell  
Greg Theobald

**2. Public Comment**

At this time, Chair Rouse asked if there was anyone wishing to make public comment.

Anjali Reddy, a Registered Nurse with Behavioral Health Group, introduced the Nevada Opioid Treatment Association (NOTA), whose primary focus is stabilizing and maintaining individuals who are undergoing withdrawal thorough outpatient treatment, while utilizing medication assisted treatment and counseling.

**3. \*Approval of Minutes of meeting on January 20, 2024 (For possible action)**

A motion was made by Ebony Washington to approve the Minutes from January 20, 2024, second motion made by Jerry Cade. The motion was unanimously approved.

**4. \*Approval of Agenda for March 14, 2024 (For possible action)**

A motion was made by Brandon Delise to approve the Agenda for March 14, 2024, second motion made by Jerry Cade. The motion was unanimously approved.

**5. Receive Presentation from Nevada Department of Health and Human Services Office of Analytics**  
*(For discussion only)*

Introduction by Kyra Morgan, State Biostatistician for the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, followed by a presentation by Natalie Bladis, Biostatistician III on Opioid Data Sources and Reporting. The presentation reviewed state databases and resources that track substance use; publicly available dashboards and reports; and areas of further study that the Office of Analytics is working on or areas that they have proposals of gaps to fill.

At this time, Chair Rouse asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the presentation. Interested parties addressed their questions, comments, and concerns regarding the presentation.

**6. Receive Presentation from the Attorney General's Substance Use Response Working Group**  
*(For discussion only)*

Presentation by Terry Kerns, Substance Abuse/Law Enforcement Coordinator on the Substance Use Response Working Group's (SURG) structure, mandates, and reporting; to bring awareness of other agencies working opioid matters; opioid reporting; and an overview of the guidelines/toolkits that SURG has used.

At this time, Chair Rouse asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the presentation. Interested parties addressed their questions, comments, and concerns regarding the presentation.

**7. Open discussion for future agenda items. (For discussion only)**

At this time, Chair Rouse asked if Task Force members have recommendations on future agenda items or comments and suggestions.

Jerry Cade mentioned a desire to hear from the Southern Nevada Opioid Task Force to learn what they are doing and hear their perspective on Southern Nevada.

Brian O'Neal would like to see a data break down of different medications, with narrower therapeutic ranges, (ex: morphine vs Fentanyl vs codeine), something that is less potent but with a higher likelihood to result in overdose due to miscalculation of the dose.

Chair Rouse responded that the Coroner's Office can break down the data by drug and recommended that the Task Force receive a presentation from the Coroners' Office. This presentation will explain the type of data that is collected, gaps in resources, and reasons why there is a delay in reporting.

Jessica Johnson is looking forward to a presentation from the Coroner's Office and Southern Nevada Health District on how the data is translated at the local level, and from Mr. Delise who also monitors other resources.

BachTrinh Dang asked if there is a way to get information on whether the overdose is the primary or secondary cause of death. Chair Rouse responded that the data is tracked and reported on the death certificate by the coroner.

Jerry Cade wondered how the coroner will get the overdose information if a physician omits the opioid overdose language when signing the death certificate. Chair Rouse responded that any deaths that are suspected to be from non-natural causes are required to be investigated by the Clark County Coroner's Office. The ones that would be missed are the ones who don't get reported. She recommends education on death certification and reporting.

BachTrinh Dang asked if there is a way to distinguish if the drugs were prescribed or obtained illegally? Chair Rouse responded that this information is collected, that sometimes it is difficult to assess, and that the Prescription Drug Monitoring Database is utilized to determine what drugs have been prescribed versus what drugs may have been obtained illicitly. A lot of that data is captured within the reports.

Geoconda Hughes commented that the hospitals look at PDMP if someone comes in with an overdose to see if it is something that they were prescribed or bought outside of prescription.

Jessica Johnson disclosed that she is the Chair of Southern Nevada Opioid Advisory Council and would be happy to connect with her co-chair about a future presentation to the Task Force.

**8. Public Comment**

At this time, Chair Rouse asked if there was anyone wishing to make public comment.

There were no comments from the public.

**9. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Jerry Cade, second motion made by Brian O'Neal. The motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.