

March 24, 2015

Testimony before the Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

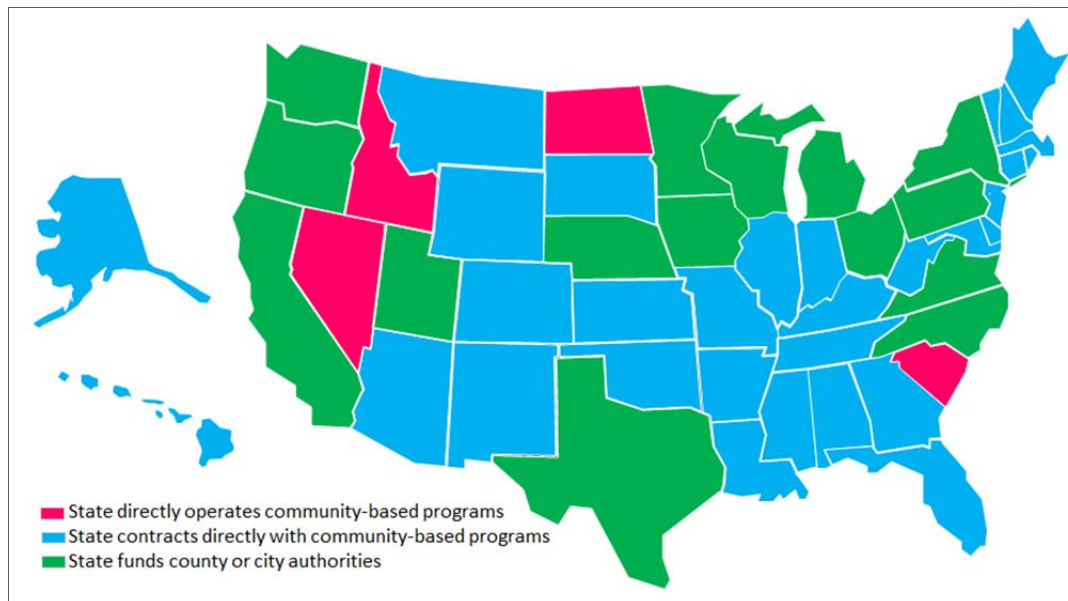
Prepared Statement of Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities

Last year, the Governor’s Behavioral Health and Wellness Council began exploring how to decentralize mental health services. In December 2014, the Guinn Center presented a report to the Council titled: *Mental Health Governance: A Review of State Models and Guide for Nevada Decision Makers*, in which we acknowledged that redesigning Nevada’s mental health system will take careful planning, leadership, and collaboration. The proposed interim study committee can use lessons learned from other states to design a regional structure that is tailored to Nevada’s needs.

Nevada’s Current Mental Health Governance System is Atypical

- Nevada is one of four states that directly operates community-based programs.
- In 31 states, the state contracts directly with community-based programs.
- In 15 states, the state funds county or city authorities to operate community-based programs.

Mental Health Governance Models: 2013



Seven state governance models reviewed: Arizona, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Virginia, and Washington.

- Mix of governance models (state control, regions controlled by state, county control)
- Some have expanded Medicaid (Arizona, Oregon, Washington)
- Some have long-standing models (Missouri, Ohio, Virginia), while others are currently going through major changes (Arizona, North Carolina, Oregon, Washington).
- Looked at: overall structure for behavioral and physical health; structure of governing boards; coordination across agencies; local funding; incentives and evaluation; and information technology.

Legislative Testimony

Assembly Bill 289: Interim Study of Mental Health Governance

Key Findings from Other States

- Affordable Care Act having big impact
- Integration of physical and behavioral healthcare becoming a major issue
- Amount of local control varies
- Various models for governing board structure
- Regions getting larger to absorb risk
- Local funding often leads to disparities, and
- Success varies with hospital incentives and performance based contracts.

Guiding Principles Adopted by the Behavioral Health and Wellness Council

- Best care at the lowest cost
- Integrate behavioral and physical health care
- Encourage savings across programs and agencies
- Money follows client from hospital to community
- Hold providers accountable for outcomes
- Cost neutrality by optimizing Federal funding

Decision Points for Interim Study Committee and Legislature

<p>Overall Structure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What should the role of the State be in community mental health? 2. Should services be provided regionally? 3. What type of entity should manage services? 4. What are the human resources implications for State workers? 5. Should the State do a pilot project first? 6. How should physical and mental health be integrated? 	<p>Governing Board Structure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. How should governing boards be organized? 8. What is the appropriate role for providers on governing boards?
<p>Funding</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. What funding sources should be included? 10. Should there be a local match? 11. How should Medicaid-funded services be administered? 12. What funding is available to transition to a new governance structure? 	<p>Outcomes and Information Technology</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. How can the state create incentives to achieve positive outcomes? 14. How can supportive housing needs be met? 15. What information technology changes are needed?

See full report: *Mental Health Governance: A Review of State Models and Guide for Nevada Decisionmakers*
http://guinncenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Guinn-Center-Mental-Health-Governance-Report-Dec_2014.pdf

Kenny C. Guinn Center for Policy Priorities: Contact Information

Kenny C. Guinn Center for Policy Priorities
 c/o InNEVation Center
 6795 Edmond Street, Suite 300
 Las Vegas, NV, 89118
 Phone: (702) 522-2178

Email: info@guinncenter.org
 Website: www.guinncenter.org
 Dr. Nancy E. Brune, Executive Director
 Email: nbrune@guinncenter.org
 Victoria Carreón, Director of Education Policy
 Email: vcarreon@guinncenter.org