

# ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE

## JOINT LEGISLATIVE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL REVIEW COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting

January 4, 2023

2:00 P.M., HHR 1

Members of the public may access a livestream of the meeting here:

<https://www.azleg.gov/videoplayer/?clientID=6361162879&eventID=2023011000>

#### Members Present:

Senator Nancy Barto, Co-Chair  
Deborah Geesling  
Rick Hazelton  
Josh Mozell  
Dr. Carol Olson

Representative César Chávez  
Dr. Bobbie Pennington  
Dr. Sara Salek  
Judge Lisa VandenBerg

#### Members Excused:

Senator Rebecca Rios

Representative Beverly Pingerelli, Co-Chair

#### Staff:

Ahjahna Graham, House Research Analyst  
Michael Madden, Senate Research Analyst  
Maelinn Chow, Senate Assistant Research Analyst

Co-Chair Barto called the meeting to order at 2:11 p.m. and attendance was taken.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Senator Barto stated that if there are no corrections without objection, the Committee minutes of December 15, 2021 are approved as distributed.**

#### REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROGRESS, SENATOR NANCY BARTO

Senator Barto distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Joint Legislative Psychiatric Hospital Review Council" (Attachment A).

The Committee offered comments.

#### PRESENTATIONS

##### Council Members' Presentations:

##### AHCCCS: Status of RFP for Secure Residential BHRFs, Dr. Sara Salek

**Dr. Sara Salek, Chief Medical Officer, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System**, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Attachment: Timeline of Secured Behavioral Health Residential Facilities Funding" (Attachment B). Dr. Salek answered questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered comments.

### **Family Experiences in Community Living Placement, Deborah Geesling**

**Deborah Geesling, President, P82 Project Restoration**, distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Closing the gaps in care for the severely mentally ill, A family's reflection" (Attachment C).

The Committee offered comments.

### **Invited Stakeholder Presentations:**

#### **A Family's Experiences at the Arizona State Hospital, Sommer Mutter**

**Sommer Mutter, representing herself**, expressed her concerns with the Arizona State Hospital's mistreatment of their patients. Ms. Mutter answered questions posed by the Committee.

#### **Overlap between Developmental Disability & SMI Services, Linda Mecham**

**Linda Mecham, Chair, Independent Oversight Committee**, expressed her concerns regarding the dually diagnosed that are currently being served at the Arizona State Hospital. Ms. Mecham answered questions posed by the Committee.

Ms. Mecham distributed and explained handouts entitled "DDD District West Independent Oversight Committee" (Attachment D) and "DDD District Central Independent Oversight Committee" (Attachment E).

#### **Psychiatric "Beds": The Right Bed for the Right Person; Provider Accountability Along the Continuum, Holly Gieszl and Will Humble**

**Holly Gieszl, Attorney, The Gieszl Firm**, expressed her concerns with issues that are occurring at the Arizona State Hospital. Ms. Gieszl answered questions posed by the Committee.

The Committee offered comments.

**Will Humble, Executive Director, Arizona Public Health Association**, expressed his concerns with accountability and conflicts of interest at the Arizona State Hospital.

The Committee offered comments.

## CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

**Josh Mozell** offered a recommendation to have the Arizona State Hospital answer to why they have failed to provide intellectual or developmental disability services.

The Council discussed and accepted the recommendation proposed by member Mozell.

Senator Barto offered a recommendation to have the caregivers put in practice the Caregiver's Bill of Rights according to statute.

The Council discussed and accepted the recommendation proposed by Senator Barto.

**Judge Lisa Vandenberg** offered a recommendation regarding transitional housing.

Josh Mozell added additional language to the recommendation proposed by Judge Vandenberg.

The Council discussed and accepted the recommendation proposed by member Judge Vandenberg and member Mozell.

**Dr. Carol Olson** offered a recommendation to add other categories that individuals may have and the problem of them not being treated appropriately.

The Council discussed and accepted the recommendation proposed by member Dr. Olson.

Senator Barto offered a recommendation regarding the meaningful clinical outcome data, not just the description of processes and SAMHSA metrics.

The Council discussed and accepted the recommendations proposed by Senator Barto.

**Judge Lisa Vandenberg** offered a recommendation to include a commitment for providing housing as an essential for the intellectual or developmental population.

The Council discussed and accepted the recommendations proposed by member Judge Vandenberg.

**Deborah Geesling** offered a recommendation regarding traditional housing and the different levels of care in each different population.

Senator Barto added additional language to the recommendation proposed by member Geesling.

The Council discussed and accepted the recommendations proposed by member Geesling and Senator Barto.

The Council offered comments.

**Michael Madden, Senate Research Analyst**, read the proposed recommendations for consideration by the Council.

Rick Hazelton stated as a state agency, DHS won't take a position or vote on these recommendations and that he would vote present.

Senator Barto requested a motion on the committee recommendations.

**Josh Mozell moved that the committee adopt the recommendations as presented on January 4, 2023 at 5:20 p.m. (Attachment F). The motion CARRIED by a voice vote.**

The Committee offered comments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brisa Roman  
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)