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AN ACT relating to mental health; increasing the number of members of the Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services to include a current or former recipient of mental health services provided by the State; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law creates the Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services in the Department of Human Resources. The Commission consists of eight members appointed by the Governor. The term of the members of the Commission is 4 years. (NRS 232.303)

This bill increases the number of Commission members to nine and requires that the new member be a current or former recipient of mental health services provided by the State or an agency thereof. The initial term of this new member is 2 years to allow for staggering of the terms of the members of the Commission, and any subsequent term is 4 years.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 232.303 is hereby amended to read as follows:

232.303 1. There is hereby created in the Department a Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services consisting of ~~eight~~ **nine** members appointed by the Governor, at least three of whom have training or experience in dealing with mental retardation.

2. The Governor shall appoint:

(a) A psychiatrist licensed to practice medicine in this State, from a list of three candidates submitted by the Nevada Psychiatric Association;

(b) A psychologist licensed to practice in this State and experienced in clinical practice, from a list of four candidates ~~to be submitted by the Northern Nevada Association for Certified Psychologists~~ **submitted by the Nevada State Psychological Association**, two of whom ~~are submitted by the Northern Nevada Association for Certified Psychologists~~ **must be from northern Nevada** and two of whom ~~are submitted by the Southern Society for Certified Psychologists~~ **must be from southern Nevada**;

(c) A physician, other than a psychiatrist, licensed to practice medicine in this State and who has experience in dealing with mental retardation, from a list of three candidates submitted by the Nevada State Medical Association;

(d) A social worker who has a master’s degree and has experience in dealing with mental illness or mental retardation, or both;

(e) A registered nurse licensed to practice in this State who has experience in dealing with mental illness or mental retardation, or both, from a list of three candidates submitted by the Nevada Nurses Association;

(f) A marriage and family therapist licensed to practice in this State, from a list of three candidates submitted by the Nevada Association for Marriage and Family Therapy;

(g) *A current or former recipient of mental health services provided by the State or any agency thereof;*

(h) A representative of the general public who has a special interest in the field of mental health; and

~~(h)~~ (i) A representative of the general public who has a special interest in the field of mental retardation.

3. The Governor shall appoint the Chairman of the Commission from among its members.

4. After the initial terms, each member shall serve a term of 4 years. If a vacancy occurs during a member's term, the Governor shall appoint a person qualified under this section to replace that member for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Sec. 2. As soon as practicable after October 1, 2005, the Governor shall appoint the member of the Commission on Mental Health and Developmental Services described in paragraph (g) of subsection 2 of NRS 232.303, as amended by this act, to an initial term of 2 years.