

Revise and Approve the Crisis Response Core Curricula

Ten months ago, this subgroup identified the need for a core curricula and associated training resources to support training across Nevada's crisis response system. The full Coalition reinforced this by selecting standardized training for crisis response personnel as one of the top three priorities for 2026. Steps taken in the past ten months were:

- The Coalition Support Team gathered national 988 training plans from SAMHSA and Vibrant, training plans from Nevada crisis response providers, and model curricula from other states. These materials were analyzed to identify core topics that were common across many resources or were of special importance in Nevada.
- Training resources from Nevada and elsewhere were researched and matched to each core topic.
- A core curricula document was drafted and went through two rounds of review, first by the State and our 988 partners (Carelton and CSSNV) and then by the full Coalition. Extensive feedback was received and incorporated into the document.

The goal today is to get to a version of the core curricula that the group approves for release to the full Coalition. These are recommendations for training, not requirements. The State will set training requirements as part of future regulations.

Attendees included Mark Disselkoen with CASAT, Laura Yanez with NAMI Western Nevada, and Rebecca Cruz-Nanez with Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD). These entities, together with the Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP), are the main Nevada providers of training linked to the core curricula topics.

The latest core curricula draft was reviewed in detail by the group, resulting in many improvements as listed below.

- NAMI Western Nevada has received funding to offer a hybrid model of the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Crisis Response and Intervention Training (CRIT) across Nevada. It will be taught in two sections. CRIT I will either be self-paced or instructor-led for 24 hours of foundational information. CRIT II will be in person for 16 hours, focused on role playing and skill building. These training resources will be open to community partners along with law enforcement and other first responders. The Coalition Support Team will work with Laura Yanez to change the description of NAMI Western Nevada's training to reflect the new model and will connect this resource to the individual core curricula topics that are covered in the CRIT sessions.
- CASAT received State funding to do six trainings in their 2026-27 contract. This includes updating CASAT's online "Introduction to Crisis Response Systems & Suicide Prevention" module to align with the 2025 National Guidelines for Behavioral Health Crisis Care. The module will be available for free when it's ready.

- SNHD should be listed as a training resource for Zero Suicide / Suicide Safer Care (safeTALK), Mental Health Issues (Adult Mental Health First Aid and Youth Mental Health First Aid), Motivational Interviewing, Intimate Partner Abuse, and Mandated Reporting. All of these classes are available at no cost to participants.
- CASAT has done training for CCBHCs on serving people with autism that could be a resource connected to the topic on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.
- In response to a request from Coalition members for training on dealing with actively suicidal and agitated/uncooperative people, CASAT's De-escalation training is being updated to include these topics. NAMI Western's CRIT II modules also include de-escalation, and role plays to deal with actively suicidal and agitated/uncooperative people.
- NAMI Nevada Cares is a training resource available statewide that covers the Follow-Up Care topic in the core curricula. SNHD's Better Care 101 training is a resource that discusses how to utilize the better care concept when working with people who use drugs and has examples of better care programs in Southern Nevada.
- Under Specific Crisis Response Service Skills, add a topic on personal safety. It should cover issues such as how to evade, knowing exit options, and other aspects of protecting personal safety when working with people in crisis. SNHD's Office of Disease Surveillance requires safety training for all staff; it is an online module that is an option. Other people commented that safety training is skills-based and must include in-person coaching and scenario practice. NAMI Western's CRIT training has these elements. DCFS' Mobile Crisis Response Team does safety awareness training with Youth Parole that is another resource. National trainings on personal safety include Pro-ACT (Professional Assault Crisis Training) and personal protective intervention courses. Wayne State University's clinician training uses a model that's mostly online but includes an 8-hour skills day that could be considered.
- Under Population-Specific Training, a topic should be added on how to work with families. NAMI's provider training is a potential resource, as it does have the family voice involved. Often, the family needs to be de-escalated as much as the person in crisis. Wraparound in Nevada (WIN) is another potential resource. Kristen Valentine with WIN will be contacted to see if she knows about affordable training to address this topic. SAMHSA's new publication, Navigating Mental Health and Substance Use Care: An Introductory Guide for Families, also has some training resources that will be reviewed for possible inclusion.

Other questions and comments raised about the core curricula and training resources:

- **Q:** Are there costs associated with the CASAT trainings? **A:** The cost of the six new/updated trainings is covered by the State contract and will be free to users. Other CASAT trainings may have a fee.

- **Q:** Do the training resources have some sort of knowledge check or evaluation component associated with them? We shouldn't assume that someone who has taken training actually understands the concepts and are skilled at implementation.
A: Self-paced modules from CASAT require learners to take and pass a post-test to complete the course. CASAT is working now on the broader issue of how to measure competency. This is connected to CASAT's work with DPBH on certification of mobile crisis teams.
- We need to be very clear that these training resources support learning, but do not qualify someone to perform crisis work on their own. Each agency still needs to determine readiness through its own training, supervision, documentation standards, quality review, and competency process.
- The core curricula should be aligned with the requirements of various licensing boards. There should be discussion with licensing boards to see which trainings the boards will accept and grant CEUs. It was noted that CASAT courses are approved for CEUs by all of the licensing boards, and OSP classes cover many CEUs for participants.
- CASAT makes sure that the people who develop and conduct their trainings are highly qualified, with personal experience in the subject matter. Mark Disselkoen is a clinical social worker with prior experience in mobile crisis services. Outside experts, such as an autism specialist for the CCBHC training noted earlier and experts from the VA for veteran services training, are engaged when needed.
- Add a recommendation that agencies providing crisis services do in-service skill refreshers every six months with role plays to keep skills sharp.

Attendees unanimously approved the core curricula via a live poll, affirming the revisions identified during the meeting and authorizing its distribution and use by the full Coalition.

Attendees also gave a thumbs-up to having this subgroup meet again in January or February 2027 to assess how well crisis services training needs are being met and discuss whether further updates to the core curricula are needed.

Implementation of the Core Curricula

Feedback from Coalition members on the previous draft of the core curricula expressed concerns that online training is emphasized and that training should include real-life scenarios and applied learning, such as role plays, that is best done in-person. The expanded access to in-person CRIT I and II training from NAMI Western Nevada, plus in-person classes from SNHD and OSP, should address this concern. Available training formats (self-paced online, live webinar, in-person) will be shown for each training resource in the next version of the core curricula.

Other feedback said that cost could be a potential barrier, since some of the online training modules do have a cost associated with them. This is especially an issue if peer support specialists or community health workers are utilized in our crisis response models. These positions typically pay \$18 to \$23 an hour, putting costly training outside of their realm.

A mechanism will be explored to provide scholarships to people where costs would prevent them from receiving necessary training. CASAT noted that they already offer scholarships with their peer modules, and that six trainings and potentially others will be available for free under the DPBH contract. Mark Disselkoen will discuss the cost concerns within CASAT and provide further guidance to the Coalition Support Team.

It was reiterated that all training from SNHD, NAMI Western, and OSP related to the crisis services core curricula is available for free. There would be an additional cost for CEUs for NAMI Western's CRIT I/II and Carson City CIT trainings.

Another challenge is that some people do not have online access. This has prompted SNHD to offer more in-person trainings.

Alignment of the Coalition's work on the core curricula with State projects and regulations related to training requirements was discussed next. Brandy Archuleta from DPBH, along with Mark Disselkoen, shared the following information:

- DPBH is working on crisis services regulations. Draft regulations have been written and reviewed by the Legislative Counsel Bureau. It is a long process within the State. Regulations probably will not be formalized and promulgated until next year. The core team at DPBH working on the regulations includes Rachel Isherwood, Kyle Devine, Helen Byrd, and Megan Quintana.
- Regulations for mobile crisis teams will include training curriculum requirements, covering topics such as a crisis response system overview, trauma-informed crisis response, crisis assessment and response, HIPAA, verbal de-escalation, suicide and prevention screening, care coordination and referrals, substance use, substance prevention, and other elements.
- Providers should retain records about all training that is completed, regardless of the source, until State regulations are fully approved. Also, providers should not try to anticipate what will be included in the regulations. Keep accessing training to build skills, keep all records about that training, and wait for further guidance from the State once regulations are promulgated. The State is aware of Coalition member's concerns about receiving credit for previously-completed training and is considering ways to take that into account.
- CASAT reviewed the previous draft of the Coalition's core curricula and used it to help inform what was already in place and what needs to be developed. Coordination will continue between the Coalition, DPBH, and CASAT to keep the Coalition's core curricula aligned with what is being developed by the State through the regulatory process.

A concern was raised about high levels of substance use and mental health issues among school-age youth and lack of awareness about 988 among youth. In reply, it was noted that a statewide campaign to increase public awareness about 988 was recently launched. The goal is to reach all parts of the state, and definitely to reach school-age youth. More information will be available soon.

Action Steps to Implement and Promote the Core Curricula

The information in this meeting summary will be used to revise the core curricula document. This will include follow up with the training providers (CASAT, NAMI Western, SNHD, OSP) on open issues noted in this summary and to ensure that their training resources are properly reflected.

Given the extensive nature of the changes that will be made, the revised document will be sent to the Essential Principles & Practices subgroup participants for one more look. After any fine-tuning from that review, it will be provided to the full Coalition. This will include efforts to promote awareness and utilization of the many training resources that are available.

The Coalition website at www.nv988coalition.org will be a hub for the core curricula and information about Nevada-based training for crisis services personnel. The hub is located under Projects, where the Crisis System Map has a page dedicated to Behavioral Health Crisis Workforce. Direct links to this hub will be available. CASAT, SNHD, and OSP are already listed on the hub. The Coalition Support Team will work with NAMI Western and Southern Nevada to get information about their trainings onto the Coalition website.

Later in the year, a scheduling poll will be sent out to help set a January or February 2027 date for the Essential Principles & Practices subgroup to reassess/revise the core curricula and opportunities to further strengthen training for crisis services providers.

Thanks were given to everyone who has contributed to this work – the participants at the first Essential Principles & Practices subgroup meeting that launched the project, everyone that provided feedback on draft versions of the core curricula, and everyone at today's meeting. Because of this collective effort, we have taken an important step forward in our quest for a statewide behavioral health safety net that embodies best practices in crisis care.