

Joe Lombardo  
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS  
Director



# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES  
*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



Marla McDade  
Williams, MPA  
Administrator

## NEVADA CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

NOVEMBER 7, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

**DRAFT**

This meeting used Microsoft TEAMS technology for video and audio capability.

### VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

1. Alexa Rodriguez
2. Amanda Haboush
3. Char Frost
4. Dena Schmidt
5. Ellen Richardson
6. Jennifer Bevacqua
7. Karen Taycher
8. Marla McDade-Williams
9. Meambi Newbern-Johnson
10. Melissa Washabaugh
11. Michelle Sandoval
12. Sandy Arguello
13. Sarah Dearborn

### VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:

1. Braden Schrag
2. Jessica Goicoechea-Parise
3. Katherine Loudon

### STAFF AND GUESTS:

1. Alejandro Ruiz
2. Amna Khawaja
3. Ann Polakowski
4. Britt Young
5. Cassius Adams
6. Cherylyn Rahr-Wood
7. Courtney Hack
8. Danielle Meares
9. Dena Schmidt
10. Donna Laffey
11. Dr. Christine Moninghoff
12. Elyse Monroy-Marsala

13. EMM-Belz & Case
14. Linda Guastella
15. Jacqueline Wade
16. Jennifer Spencer
17. Karen Taycher
18. Kary Wilder
19. Kathryn Rosachi
20. Kristen Rivas
21. Linda Anderson
22. Marcel Brown
23. Mignon Hoover
24. Natalie Sanchez
25. Nicole Mara
26. Ronald Engebretson
27. Serene Pack
28. Shannon Hill
29. Shannon Montez
30. Shaquita Jones
31. William Wyss
32. 702-813-8640
33. 775-600-99097
34. 775-750-4632

1. **Call to Order and Introductions.** – *Ellen Richardson-Adams, Chair*

- a. The meeting was called to order at 2:02 pm.

2. **Public Comment.**

Melissa Washabaugh, Chair of the Washoe County Children’s Mental Health Consortium (RCMHC) announced the RCMHC Mental Health Summit is scheduled for spring of 2024. This event will be an opportunity to provide outreach, education, and information to Nevada’s rural communities. The event will be held in Fallon, NV and Ms. Washabaugh will bring more information to the next meeting.

3. **For Possible Action.** Approval of the June 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes – *Ellen Richardson-Adams, Chair*

MOTION: Sarah Dearborn made a motion to approve the June 1, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

SECOND: Amanda Haboush

VOTE: Unanimous with no opposition or abstention

4. **For Information Only.** Update on changes to Nevada Open Meeting Law (OML) from the 2023 Nevada Legislative Session – *Jennifer Spencer, Senior Deputy Attorney General, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS \)*

Jennifer Spencer provided details of new OML requirements effective July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023. She reviewed the new mandate to verbally state remote meeting connection instructions prior to opening the first meeting agenda items for public comment. Two public comment periods are generally required; one at the beginning of the meeting and one at the very end of the meeting. Different rules apply to public meetings which occur over multiple days. A social gathering of members that would make up a quorum is not an open meeting law violation as long as they do not talk about matters that are normally addressed by the public body during the course of business. Changes were also made to reorganize the definition of meetings and exceptions to clarify requirements for a quorum of members of the public body and when open law meetings occur for the purposes of the open meeting law. A copy of the meeting notice must be posted at the principle office of the public body, or if the meeting has a physical location at the that building in which the meeting is to be held. Physical meeting locations are not required for Consortium meetings which are currently all done via remote video technology. The requirement for a physical location applies to meetings with only elected official members or meetings related to NAC development. Nevada Open Meeting law regulations are defined in the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 241. Jennifer Spencer said the DAG(s) are available to help answer any questions or clarify concerns and she encouraged everyone to reach out to her for assistance.

5. Announcements –*Ellen Richardson-Adams, Chair*

6. **Possible Action.** Discussion and approval of the 2024 Nevada Children’s Behavioral Health meeting schedule:

- a. February 1, Thursday – 2:00pm to 4:00pm
- b. April 4, Thursday – 2:00pm to 4:00pm
- c. June 6, Thursday – 2:00pm to 4:00pm
- d. August 1, Thursday – 2:00pm to 4:00pm
- e. October 3, Thursday – 2:00pm to 4:00pm
- f. December 5, Thursday – 2:00pm to 4:00pm

MOTION: Char Frost made a motion to approve the 2024 Nevada Children’s Behavioral Health meeting schedule.

SECOND: Amanda Haboush

VOTE: Unanimous with no opposition or abstention.

7. **For Information Only.** Division of Child and Family Services update – *Marla McDade Williams, Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS)*

Marla McDade Williams started with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health in 2005, left in 2014, and recently returned to the Department of Health and Human Services last January. She has worked in state service for more than 30 years and started with the Legislative Counsel Bureau. Ms. McDade Williams is now serving as the Deputy Administrator of DCFS and highlighted work in progress since she started her position including:

- Working through regulations, development, and adoption process for Qualified Residential programs (QRTs).
- Licensure of QRTs as well as certification and oversight of services.

- Moving forward to regulatory changes to allow DCFS to submit the state plan to implement extended foster care, which would allow DCFS to provide services for children older than 18 years of age once they age out of the system.

Tonya Hernandez has been hired as Deputy Division Administrator of Child Welfare and she has been meeting staff and learning DCFS systems. Work continues to learn about challenges and determine what can be done to make things better in terms of getting more homes licensed to eliminate problems with placements.

Dr. Cindy Pitlock left the agency as of November 2<sup>nd</sup> and a recruitment will be made to fill her position.

Ellen Richardson welcomed Ms. McDade Williams and expressed the commitment and desire of the Consortium to support DCFS efforts to meet the challenges of Nevada's families and children. Ms. McDade Williams is looking forward to seeing how everyone can collaborate and do the work needed to support DCFS's significant challenges.

8. **For Information Only.** Care Management Entity (CME) Presentation – *Syralja Griffin, MA, LPC, Vice President, General Manager for Magellan Behavioral Health, Inc.*

Tabled until December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

9. **For Possible Action.** Discussion and nominations for Consortium Vice Chair Position – *All Members*

Two nominations were made for the position; Karen Taycher nominated Char Frost and Michelle Sandoval nominated Jessica Goicoechea. A vote was taken and after a hand count, Char Frost was voted as the final nominee.

MOTION: Dena Schmidt made a motion to approve Char Frost as the Consortium Vice Chair.  
 SECOND: Karen Taycher  
 VOTE: Unanimous; Ellen Richardson abstained.

10. **For Possible Action.** Dissolve the Legislative Workgroup until needed again for next legislative session – *All members*

MOTION: Char Frost made a motion to dissolve the Legislative workgroup/  
 SECOND: Michelle Sandoval  
 VOTE: Unanimous with no opposition or abstention.

11. **For Information Only.** Medicaid update and changes – *Sarah Dearborn, Social Services Chief II, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services*

Sarah Dearborn shared a PowerPoint presentation covering general Medicaid updates and news:

- a. State Plan Amendments (SPA) under review
- b. Medicaid Services Manual (MSM) Updates
- c. SUPPORT Act Post Planning Demonstration

- d. New Provider Types and Specialties
- e. 1115 Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Waiver Demonstration
- f. Mobile Crisis Planning Grant and Crisis Services
- g. Legislative Updates
- h. CCBHC Updates
- i. Department of Justice
- j. Summary and Timeline of Projects

Nevada continues settlement negotiations with the Department of Justice (DOJ) until an agreement can be made and there will be more information in the coming months. Ms. Dearborn will bring an update on DOJ/DCFS plans and progress back to the Consortium when available. The presentation also included a timeline and flowchart of Medicaid Behavioral Health and Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) Expansion.

The complete presentation and notes are available on the DCFS website:  
<https://dcfs.nv.gov/Meetings/NCBHC/2023MeetingandAgenda/>.

**12. For Information Only.** Update on System of Care (SOC) Grant – *William Wyss, Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS)*

Bill Wyss announced receipt of the SOC grant extension for year five which ends in September 2024. A new SOC grant will be submitted in March 2024 and Mr. Wyss will be reaching out to the Commission on Behavioral Health with DCFS, Children’s Mental Health Consortia and other community stakeholders to identify needs and priorities. Mr. Wyss described potential needs including developing workforce healthcare service providers, transportation network resources, and possibly a statewide school mental health approach to include a youth social emotional learning course and other school enrichment opportunities. Commissioner Ficalora recommended providing increased training, development opportunities, and retention of Nevada’s healthcare workforce serving children. Mr. Wyss encouraged everyone to contact him with ideas and suggestions.

Marla McDade Williams expressed her preference for direct services as one of the most important type of activities for funding as Nevada has such a deficiency of direct services. Karen Taycher would like to ensure there is a contribution of family narrative and family voice and can help facilitate getting family feedback. Melissa Washabaugh suggested providing travel allowances and funds for rural families to travel to locations in the Northern region to obtain Autism testing and diagnosis.

An item will be put on the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda to further discuss needs and provide feedback for development of the new grant.

**13. For information Only.** Update on the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program Grant Award to DCFS – *Beverly Burton, Clinical Program Planner I, Training and Technical Assistance, DCFS and Nicole Mara, Education and Information Officer, Nevada Pediatric Psychiatry Solutions, DCFS*

Nicole Mara announced the program received the HRSA Grant 12-month extension (without funds) which will allow continuation of work in progress and momentum in providing education, information, resources, and professional development opportunities for primary care providers, behavioral health/mental healthcare providers and other entities serving youth across Nevada. Ms. Mara shared program statistics showing over 756 participants were sponsored during the past federal fiscal year through 104 live and self-paced asynchronous training opportunities. Over 25% of those participants represented rural and frontier Nevada communities. Publications over the past year included 10,000 disseminations of 33 educational informational publications (issue briefs, telegrams, and infographics covering topics involving youth mental health). NV PEDS works with affiliates, High Sierra AHEC, UNR and NAMI Nevada on the “This is Me” youth program for young adult interns to become part of an integrated behavioral healthcare team with primary care providers and behavioral healthcare providers. Ms. Mara put her email address in the Chat and encouraged anyone interested in receiving news and publications to contact her. The NV Peds Infographic 5-Year Review report is available on the DCFS website at: <https://dcfs.nv.gov/Meetings/NCBHC/2023MeetingandAgenda/>.

**14. For Possible Action.** Make recommendations for agenda items for the next meeting – *All Members*

- Feedback for SAMSA System of Care grant submission
- Magellan Healthcare Inc., Care Management Entity
- Department of Justice Investigation update (when available)
- Rural Children’s Mental Health Summit update
- Office of Suicide Prevention update

**15. Public Comment.**

None

**16. Adjournment.** – *Ellen Richardson, Chair*

The meeting adjourned at 3:32 pm.

## CHAT TRANSCRIPT

[1:41 PM] Kary Wilder

Welcome to the November Nevada Children's Behavioral Health Consortium Meeting.

This meeting is being recorded.

Please enter your name, title and organization name in the Chat for the record. Thank you.

Meeting materials: <https://dcfs.nv.gov/Meetings/NCBHC/2023MeetingandAgenda/>

Kary Wilder, DCFS/PEU, AA support for this meeting, [kwilder@dcfs.nv.gov](mailto:kwilder@dcfs.nv.gov)

[2:02 PM] Alejandro Ruiz

Alejandro Ruiz, DCFS - PEU Clinical Program Planner 3

[2:03 PM] Nicole Mara

Nicole Mara, Education & Information Officer --DCFS/NVPeds

[2:04 PM] Alexa Rodriguez

Good afternoon, I do have to leave at 3:45 PM. today.

[2:04 PM] Dr. Christine Moninghoff  
Dr. Moninghoff, DCFS, Licensed Psychologist 2

[2:05 PM] Sandy Arguello (Guest)  
Sandy Arguello, Koinonia

[2:05 PM] Amna Khawaja  
Amna Khawaja - DCFS System of Care grant unit

[2:05 PM] Mignon Hoover  
Mignon Hoover, DCFS - PEU

[2:05 PM] Linda Anderson (Guest)  
Linda Anderson, Nevada Public Health Foundation.

[2:05 PM] Shannon Hill  
Shannon Hill - DCFS

[2:05 PM] Elyse Monroy-Marsala  
Elyse Monroy-Marsala, Belz & Case Government Affairs.

[2:05 PM] Jennifer M. Spencer  
Jennifer Spencer, NV Attorney General's Office

[2:05 PM] Ronald Engebretson  
Ron Engebretson, Wraparound Supervisor - DCFS

[2:05 PM] Jacqueline Wade  
Dr. Jackie Wade, Deputy Administrator, DCFS

[2:05 PM] Courtney Hack  
Courtney Hack - DCFS WIN

[2:05 PM] Cassius Adams  
Cassius Adams Title V NV CYSHCN Coordinator

[2:05 PM] Guastella, Linda  
Hello! Linda Guastella, Director of Health Equity and Cultural Competency at Molina  
Healthcare NV

[2:05 PM] Kristen Rivas  
Kristen Rivas PEU DCFS

[2:05 PM] Britt Young  
Britt Young- NVPEP - [byoung@nvpep.org](mailto:byoung@nvpep.org) Guest

[2:06 PM] Natalie Sanchez (Guest)  
Natalie Sanchez, Chair, WCCMHC

[2:06 PM] Shaquita Jones  
Shaquita Jones- DCFS WIN

[2:06 PM] Cherylyn Rahr-Wood  
Cherylyn Rahr-Wood Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator - Northern Region

[2:06 PM] Kathryn Rosaschi  
Katie Rosaschi, Clinical Program Manager, DCFS

[2:06 PM] Ann Polakowski  
Ann Polakowski, LCSW CPM II DCFS MCRT and DHHS Children's Behavioral Health  
Systems

[2:07 PM] Britt Young  
[https://nvpep.org/safeallies\\_whataremyrights/](https://nvpep.org/safeallies_whataremyrights/)  
SafeAllies\_WhatAreMyRights - Nevada PEP

#SafeAllies: What Are My Rights? #SafeAllies Home What is Bullying? What Can I Do About Bullying? What Are My Rights? Understanding the laws that govern bullying is important for students, parents

[2:10 PM] Kristen Rivas

Thank you Britt.

[2:24 PM] Cherylyn Rahr-Wood  
Northern Guide Final\_10\_23.pdf

[2:24 PM] Cherylyn Rahr-Wood  
nvbh.org

[2:25 PM] Kary Wilder

Proposed 2024 NCBHC Dates: February 1, Thursday – 2:00pm to 4:00pm, April 4, Thursday – 2:00pm to 4:00pm, June 6, Thursday – 2:00pm to 4:00pm, August 1, Thursday – 2:00pm to 4:00pm, October 3, Thursday – 2:00pm to 4:00pm, December 5, Thursday – 2:00pm to 4:00p

[2:27 PM] Amanda.Haboush (Guest)

I have to jump off but I am going to try to come back. I do hope we are able to hold to that schedule and can continue to make quorum!

[2:31 PM] Danielle Meares

Danielle Meares, Clinical Program Manager, MCRT Reno DCFS

[2:35 PM] Ann Polakowski

On a positive note...Jacquelyn Kleinedler has moved into the executive program director for the Nevada Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Association and will probably still be involved in some of these meetings and this work in her new role to move the infant and early childhood work forward in Nevada!

[2:39 PM] Ann Polakowski

I call you Charlene too, Char

[2:42 PM] Sarah Dearborn

I'm having audio difficulty; I'm going to log out and log back in.

[2:45 PM] Ann Polakowski

I would recommend we consider thinking about focusing on MH/IDD for the SOC grant

[2:46 PM] Michelle Sandoval

that is a great idea,

[2:46 PM] Michelle Sandoval

MH/IDD statewide

[3:26 PM] Nicole Mara

If you are not already on the NVPeds Listserv and would like to receive our publications and be notified of upcoming trainings and educational opportunities, please email

[NVPeds@dcfs.nv.gov](mailto:NVPeds@dcfs.nv.gov)

[3:29 PM] Frost, Char

I apologize. I'm on a hotspot due to being in Elko and need to stay off camera to maintain my connection and avoid freezing!

[3:32 PM] Nicole Mara

Thank you all for all you do!

[3:32 PM] Ellen Richardson-Adams

Thank you everyone

[3:32 PM] Meeting ended