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DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
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Marla McDade,
Williams, MPA
Administrator

**RURAL NEVADA CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM
MAIN MEETING MINUTES**

10/16/2025

DRAFT

VOTING MEMBERS' PRESENT:

Melissa Washabaugh
Jaymee Oxborrow
Heather Plager
Abbey Bernhardt
Rebecca Mc Gough
Mala Wheatley
Marcel Brown
Abbey Bernhardt

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Kristen Valentine
Linda Anderson
Christina Cobeo
De Yates
Trinh Da
Patricia Hanisee
Brenna Hardtner
Carley Murray
Fireflies notetaker Elyse
read.ai meeting notes (unverified)
Aimee Fitch
Carissa Pearce
Elyse Monroy-Marsala
John Gracia
Krisann Taylor
Kristen Taylor
Katie Metz
Kelly McKiddie
Kristen Rivas
Lindsey Bondiek
Linda Anderson
Natalie Filipic
Nicole Mara
Olivia GrafMank
Patricia Hanisee

Rose Staffen

1. Call to Order, Roll Call:

2. Introduction:

Chair Melissa Washabaugh called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm. Kristen Rivas, from the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), conducted a roll call confirming that a quorum was established.

3. Initial public comment: No public comment.

4. For possible action: Review and approval of outstanding meeting minutes for March 20,2025, May 15,2025, and September 18,2025.

MOTION: Marcel Brown moved to approve the outstanding meeting minutes with the correction that the Medicaid update for peer support services Type (PT) 97 in Nevada

SECOND: Jaymee Oxborrow

VOTE: Motion carried. Abbey Bernhardt abstained, citing absence from previous meeting.

5. For possible Action: Review, discussion, and approval of recommendations for the Rural Nevada Children's Mental Health Consortium FY 2026 budget, Melissa Washabaugh chair confirmed that the \$6,000 consultant contract has been approved. Megan will renew the contract this year; she previously supported the team and is familiar with the work. Kristen Rivas added that the consultant also works with Washoe County and clarified that the 8% indirect cost will apply. Funds have already been encumbered to reflect this planned expenditure. Website operating costs remain unchanged from the previous year. For the upcoming community event, \$4,000 was allocated as a flexible placeholder to cover potential expenses such as vendors, food, or venue rental. The previous event benefited from generous donations, and any unused funds may be reallocated after the event. No speaker fees were budgeted at this stage due to early planning; if a professional speaker is selected, costs may be drawn from the event budget. An additional \$1,000 was set aside for promotional items, along with funds for event fees and supplies. Another \$1,000 was allocated to create new wellness baskets for community partners and mental health providers, and \$500 was designated as a donation to Youth MOVE for printing mental health awareness workbooks. Melissa noted that Section C of the budget should reflect the full total, though there may be a minor Excel formatting issue to resolve.

Please note: A Consortia Purchase Order Request Form must be submitted to Kristen when requesting funds

6. For information only: Update on Nevada's System of Care (SOC) Grant – SOC Staff
No SOC staff members were present at this time. No update was provided.

7. **For possible action:** Discussion and approval of RNCMHC supportive measures for Carson City School District students school options and variance allowances. The consortia members acknowledged that these challenges - bullying, mental health concerns, and suicidal ideation- are ongoing across rural Nevada and required coordinated support. Melissa suggested distributing wellness baskets in selected rural areas, utilizing existing supplies. **This action item is deferred to the next meeting agenda.**
8. **For possible action:** Discussion, planning and approval of activities for the RNCMHC Children's Mental Health Summit- All consortia members participate in identifying two potential dates and location for the summit. The group proposed Friday, April 17th or Saturday, April 18th as possible dates. Aimee Fitch representing Rural Nevada Mobile Crisis Response Team emphasized the widespread struggles facing youth across school districts, including significant loss, bullying, and mental health challenges. She expressed strong support for the wellness basket initiative in Carson City schools, highlighting the importance of showing presence and solidarity. Aimee encouraged continued collaboration with school districts to ensure accessible care for youth. Melissa Washabaugh clarified that consortium committees must hold official meetings and include at least three members to maintain voting ability. However, committee membership is open to non-voting individuals, allowing for broader community involvement. A planning committee for the Children's Mental Health Summit will be formed accordingly. **This action item is deferred to the next meeting agenda**
9. **For possible action:** Discussion, planning, and approval of activities for RNCMHC Annual report. -all members, Melissa Washabaugh confirmed that Megan has agreed to take on the contract and already has last year's information, including the outline of all report categories. Each community partner is expected to email Megan their major updates for the year. Melissa will provide legislative updates, including bills supported, photos, and highlights from Children's Day at the Legislature. She also discussed timelines for submission and empathized with the importance of highlighting measurable outcomes and community impact.
10. **For information only:** Update from Nevada PEP and discussion on collaborative initiatives - Nevada PEP Representative. Carley Murray, representing Nevada PEP and filling in for Britt Young, reported a concerning trend in rural counties where schools are using Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) to remove students from the classroom due to behavioral and mental health challenges. She noted that some schools are shifting students to homebound placements or reducing their school day to as little as one hour, often without parental agreement. Carley emphasized that these practices may result in students missing instructional time and not receiving a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). She advocated for increased support and training for school staff on implementing positive behavior interventions and supporting students with significant behavioral needs. IEP is designed to support students with disabilities by providing personalized education and services.
11. **For information only:** Update from Medicaid-Nevada health Authority Representative, Marcel Brown representing Behavior Health with Nevada Medicaid provided updates for Nevada Medicaid. Marcel Brown shared that the MSM 400 chapter for Mental Health Services has undergone multiple changes. These include updates to policies for Assertive

Community Treatment and Coordinated Specialty Care. Although these updates were initially presented at the September 30th public hearing, additional revisions are scheduled for October 28th, 2025, based on public input. The current version is available for viewing on the Medicaid website. He also discussed MSM 4400, a newly created chapter dedicated to crisis services. The public workshop for this chapter was held on July 22nd, 2025, and the public hearing took place on September 30th, 2025. This chapter is now posted online. Marcel noted upcoming updates to MSM 4100, which covers Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Coverage Services, and MSM 3800, which addresses Medication-Assisted Treatment. These updates will include expanded details on discharge criteria and coordination of care between ASAM levels, aligning with the 1115 SUD waiver. The public hearing for these chapters is scheduled for November 25th, 2025. She reminded attendees that the Children's Behavioral Health Treatment Workgroups are still in progress, with the most recent meeting held earlier this month. Notices for these meetings are typically posted a few weeks in advance. Marcel shared the public notice page link in the chat, where participants can find upcoming meeting dates and access links. Additionally, Marcel mentioned the juvenile justice virtual committee meetings, which aim to inform the public about policy developments in the juvenile justice arena. She will provide a separate link to access these meetings. [PublicNotices](#) (CBHT Workgroups) [Reentry Initiative](#) (Justice Involved Reentry Program)

12. for possible action: Approval of the next meeting and agenda items. The next meeting is scheduled for November 20.2025 at 3:00 pm. Proposed agenda items include discussion of support measures for rural Nevada students and wellness baskets, as well as planning for next year's Children's Mental Health Summit.

13. Public comment and discussion: Melissa Washbaugh, Chair reminded members that per consortium bylaws, they are allowed to attend and represent the group at community events like trunk-or-treats without requiring a formal vote. She encouraged participation and shared that members are welcome to bring candy or small items such as squishy brains to hand out. Melissa offered to coordinate item pickup and invited Jaymee Oxborrow to email her directly, as the supplies are now stored in Melissa's office following a recent reorganization.

14. Adjournment: Chair Melissa Washabaugh adjourned the meeting at 4:24 pm.