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# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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



Cindy Pitlock, DNP  
Administrator

## RURAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

### MEETING MINUTES

**MAY 19, 2022**

**All members participated via Lifesize technology (video or audio).**

#### **VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jan Marson  
Jaymee Oxborrow  
Heather Plager  
Lana Robards  
Melissa Washabaugh  
Sarah Dearborn  
Sarah Hannonen  
Michelle Sandoval

#### **VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Jessica Flood  
Mala Wheatley  
Rebecca McGough

#### **STAFF AND GUESTS:**

Amna Khawaja – System of Care, DCFS  
Amy Whalen – Enterprise Psychiatric Residential Treatment Center, DCFS  
Audre Large – Nevada PEP  
Carin Hennessey – Nevada Medicaid  
Cathi Spooner – Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services  
Charlene Frost – Nevada PEP  
Kary Wilder – Planning and Evaluation Unit, DCFS  
Kristen Rivas – Planning and Evaluation Unit, DCFS  
Lexie Beck – Youth M.O.V.E. Nevada  
Linda Anderson – Nevada Public Health Foundation  
Marcel Brown – Nevada Medicaid  
Nicole Mara – Nevada Pediatric Psychiatry Solutions  
Samantha Cohen – System of Care, DCFS

Shannon Hill – System of Care, DCFS  
Stephanie Dotson – Nevada Pediatric Psychiatry Solutions  
Tiffany Dyer – Enterprise Psychiatric Residential Treatment Center, DCFS  
Tomas Kizer – Nevada Pediatric Psychiatry Solutions  
Valerie Haskin – Regional Behavioral Health Center

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Introductions** – *Melissa Washabaugh, Rural Children’s Mental Health Consortium Chair*

Melissa Washabaugh called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. Kary Wilder, Administrative Assistant, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), conducted roll call and determined there was a quorum.

**2. Public Comment** – *(Discussion only: Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on an agenda for action at a later meeting).*

None.

**3. For Possible Action.** Approval of the April 21, 2022 Meeting Minutes – *Melissa Washabaugh, Chair*

**MOTION:** Michelle Sandoval made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 21, 2022 meeting.

**SECOND:** Lana Robards

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously with no opposition or abstention.

**4. For Information Only.** Update on System of Care (SOC) Grant – *Bill Wyss, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS)*

Bill Wyss was unable to attend. Shannon Hill, Health Program Manager II, System of Care, reported in-person outreach activities were held in Hawthorne and Fort McDermitt. Presentations were given and literature from Youth M.O.V.E Activity books, NV Pep, distributed. These events were excellent opportunities to ensure how existing supports can be continued and learn more about specific community needs related to mental health. She is working collaboratively with Michelle Sandoval and Nevada PEP to follow up on identified needs. They plan to attend the Rural Nevada Public Health Conference on May 24<sup>th</sup> – May 25<sup>th</sup> in Minden. A cross-agency collaboration meeting is scheduled with Cathi Spooner in Mesquite on June 1st. More opportunities to be out in the communities, talk about SOC, do outreach, and listen for opportunities for collaboration are planned.

Amna Khawaja, Health Program Specialist II, System of Care, provided updates on the promotion of the Respite Program. SOC recently attended Tribal Council meetings to present on the program and accessibility of funds. Funds are also available in Ketchum area as part of the grant for the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DBPH) Rural Mobile Crisis, DPBH Rural Health Clinics, Mobile Crisis Intensive Step-Down Team, and Tribal Health Clinics. The Wraparound in Nevada Program (WIN) was added due to high needs in those areas. Respite was also expanded and offered to the WIN wait-listed families while they are on the list

to support immediate concerns. Ms. Khawaja encouraged everyone to contact her if there is interest and need for families in individual programs.

Ms. Hill said SOC is working to build engagement with tribal communities and asked if there was anyone at the meeting who might be able to contribute thoughts, ideas, and suggestions to help build relationships. Jan Marson said she is involved with the Pyramid Lake Tribe and is working with tribal members on several projects. She suggested Ms. Hill send her email to arrange to attend a video meeting to talk about the Respite Program and help her reach out to other tribes.

Ms. Washabaugh asked about the process to sign up for the program. Ms. Khawaja explained that WIN Case Coordinators in the Rural Clinics can send referrals for families to SOC. Ms. Khawaja will email information to Ms. Wilder to distribute to the Consortium listserv.

Ms. Hill also reported the SOC Newsletter is being distributed again and will be sent on a quarterly basis. She encouraged everyone to notify her of events or items to be included in future newsletters.

**5. For Information Only.** Update on Pediatric Mental Health Access Care Grant – *Stephanie Dotson, Nevada Pediatric Psychiatric Solutions (DCFS)*

Nicole Mara, Psychiatric Case Worker II (DCFS), reported several education and information publications were distributed. Mental Health Acceptance Month was the focus of the Nevada Peds Telegram sent on May 29<sup>th</sup> and tips were included to encourage and promote empathy in young children. An Infographic was published May 26<sup>th</sup> with the main topic of integrating mental health into the primary care setting. Tips for primary care physicians and providers in those settings to normalize mental health care by using different language and methods were also included. Cumulative distribution data since October 2021 was; Nevada Peds Telegrams – 900 recipients, Infographics – 1,600 recipients, and Issue Briefs – 300 recipients. Issue Brief #4, The Prevention of Youth Suicide, will be coming out in the next couple of weeks. A Pride Month Infographic will be distributed June 1<sup>st</sup> with information on how to support children of the LGBTQIA+ community. In July, the next Telegram will focus on guidance for proactive parenting. Ms. Mara put the Nevada Peds email address in the Chat for anyone interested in receiving publications.

The program is focusing on expanding training and educational opportunities across disciplines in mental healthcare fields and they want to be able to support professional and workforce development. Ms. Mara asked for ideas and suggestions for helpful training topics and training needs of professionals. The next DC 0-5 training is currently being developed and Nevada Peds can be contacted if anyone is interested in attending.

Melissa Washabaugh noted there are a number of mental health focused trainings that do not receive Nursing Board Approval. She suggested getting approval for providing CEUs would encourage many potential attendees to take the training for credits. Ms. Mara appreciated the

suggestion and reported Samantha Cohen is working with the Boards so professionals can receive both training and CEUs for licensure. Ms. Cohen said she will reach out to the Boards and follow up.

**6. For Possible Action.** Update on Youth M.O.V.E. and discussion and possible action regarding collaborative initiatives – *Lexie Beck, Youth M.O.V.E. Facilitator*  
Lexie Beck reported the May podcast was released for Mental Health Awareness Month with the topic of how to go from awareness to acceptance, and then to action. She put a link in the Chat that can be shared with families. A training is being developed for student-led Individual Education Intervention Plans (IEPs) to get youth more involved in self advocacy of their own IEPs in the school system. Assessment of Youth/Young Adult Voice at the Agency Level (Y-VAL) training is also under development. This is a tool to assess where agencies are with youth voice. This training is one of the deliverables for SOC and they are planning to provide foundational information on the topic of youth voice and authentic youth involvement.

Ms. Beck is resigning from her role with Youth Move Nevada and this will be her last meeting. She thanked everyone for their encouragement and support. Several members thanked Ms. Beck for all of her engagement and contributions. Shannon Hill also recognized Ms. Beck for her work and collaboration with SOC.

**7. For Information Only.** Updates from Medicaid – *Sarah Dearborn, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP)*

Ms. Dearborn reported on the State Plan Amendment (SPA) related to establishing the reimbursement method for crisis stabilization centers. A daily rate methodology was proposed, allowing for facilities that have been involved as crisis stabilization centers for a year to apply to receive a new increased rate, based on cost information. They ask that the agencies split the cost of preparing an identified rate cost report, as they can be expensive. Work is underway with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to support these centers in not having to be burdened with submitting a prior authorization after 24 hours of admission. The Medicaid Services Manual (MSM) was also updated and Ms. Dearborn encouraged everyone to review the changed policy and provider standards. A new provider type was developed under inpatient hospitals for the enrollment of crisis stabilization centers.

American Rescue Act Funds (ARPA) were approved to hire a consultant to analyze their children's behavioral services, possibly re-organize policies, possibly identify other authorities to be used, and expand on services. They are working to identify a consultant and Ms. Dearborn said all of the consortiums will be involved in order to give input.

MSM Chapter 3400 and related SPA updates are being proposed to remove the restrictions around audio-only telehealth services. There are some exceptions to that within the updated policy and there is a public hearing on May 31<sup>st</sup> on the proposed updates.

Behavioral health providers were experiencing some difficulties with the enrollment process and they have reviewed MSM Chapter 400 policy to see how provider qualifications are outlined. Updates are proposed to provider qualifications and some reorganization of Chapter 400 to make it clearer. There is a proposed public workshop scheduled for June 2, 2022. Everyone was invited to join the workshop and provide feedback.

Applied behavioral data analysis updates were posted on the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Quarterly Dashboard on the Department of Health and Human Services Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP) website.

The Mobile Crisis Planning Grant is being reviewed with current providers to evaluate what is currently covered in the state plan, along with recommendations to determine if an update is required, including reimbursements for teams that will be joining in July. Also being discussed is development of a dedicated chapter in the Medicaid Services Manual for crisis services that will help agencies that are performing crisis services. Future code updates were also discussed. The planning grant concludes at the end of September.

Ms. Dearborn discussed the 1115 Substance Use Disorders Demonstration Waiver and reported that public comment opened on April 28<sup>th</sup>. She will include the link in the Chat for the new dedicated webpage.

The Substance Use Disorder Databook is complete and will be posted on the webpage. The book refers to substance use treatment trends, disorders, and utilization compacity. Ms. Dearborn will add the link in the Chat.

Melissa Washabaugh commented that it appears there is some push to make changes and update reimbursements. She also encouraged everyone to join the public comment.

**8. For Possible Action.** Updates from Nevada PEP and discussion and possible action regarding collaborative initiatives – *Charlene Frost, Nevada PEP*  
Charlene Frost reported Nevada Pep and Youth Move participated in the statewide summit hosted by Clark County Consortium. A swag bag was put together for the event. A new Children’s Mental Health page was added to their website which includes information for families. She asked everyone to encourage families they are working with to visit the website and she shared the website link which includes information about the swag bag.

Melissa Washabaugh thanked Nevada Pep for their hard work and for creating valuable resources. She also encouraged families to visit the website for the support and education provided.

**9. For Possible Action.** Discuss and Make Recommendations for Future Community Updates and Events – *RCMHC Members*

Melissa Washabaugh discussed participation in upcoming in-person events. She discussed having volunteers commit to at least one event throughout the year and shared the following list of events:

- Lovelock Show and Shine – 2 days, 1<sup>st</sup> week in June
- Lovelock Frontier Days – 2-3 days, last weekend of July
- Fallon Cantaloupe Festival – Multiple days in August (\$50 Entrance Fee)
- Winnemucca Pride – 1 day, September 24<sup>th</sup>
- Elko Rides & Rods – Weekend in September (\$100 Entrance Fee)
- Beatty Days – Weekend in October

Sarah Hannon said there is also a tribal health fair in Lovelock in July. After discussion the group decided to collect potential dates and then send a survey to determine who can commit to participating. Everyone will make a commitment to attend at least one event and will send suggested events and dates to Kary Wilder to create and send out the survey to the RCMHC listserv. There are funds in the budget for travel. Kristen Rivas stated that State Fiscal Travel reimbursement policy requires any individual who will be traveling to become a vendor and then submit a travel request for pre-approval prior to taking any reimbursed travel. Interested members will contact Ms. Wilder and Ms. Rivas for the vendor application. Ms. Rivas noted there are a number of RCMHC swag items available at the State Enterprise office in Reno, and she is happy to ship items out to anyone for these events. Shannon Hill will be attending the Rural Public Health Conference and will see if this is a good opportunity to hand out materials. Ms. Washabaugh encouraged partners (System of Care and Nevada PEP) to collaborate and join in the outreach efforts.

**MOTION:** JAN Marson made a motion to approve all Consortium participation fees at community events in the region which are \$100.00 or less, as they become available.

**SECOND:** Lana Robards

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously with no opposition or abstention.

**10. For Information Only.** Community Event Participation – *Melissa Washabaugh, Chair*

Discussed with Item #9.

**11. For Possible Action.** FY 2022 Budget Redistribution and possible vote on Spending Plan – *RCMHC Members*

Kristen Rivas reported that the state Fiscal Department is behind because they are short on staff, Melissa Washabaugh will work with Kary Wilder to take care of pending items needing her approval.

Ms. Washabaugh suggested transferring unused funds from the Travel Reimbursement budget category to purchase wellness items for use in different communities. Kristen Rivas commented that a wellness library and wellness items (such as weighted blankets) were purchased in the past for Tonopah community and families needing assistance.

**MOTION:** Sarah Hannonen made a motion to redistribute unused Travel funds and any other remaining funds to purchase specific wellness items to be used at upcoming events to promote mental health and wellness.

**SECOND:** Michelle Sandoval

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously with no opposition. Melissa Washabaugh abstained.

**12. For Possible Action.** FY 2023 Budget Development – *RCMHC Members*

Ms. Rivas recommended a budget workgroup meeting be scheduled to determine the final spend-down plan and prepare the FY23 budget to be submitted at the end of June. It was decided the workgroup meeting would be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June. Ms. Washabaugh will be on maternity leave through June and Sarah Hannonen, Vice Chair, will manage Consortium activities in her absence. Ms. Rivas and Ms. Hannon will coordinate to schedule the budget workgroup meeting. Jan Marson suggested planning for an in-person, Consortium-member retreat to re-connect and build relationships. Ms. Washabaugh suggested possibly scheduling the retreat during one of the outreach events.

**13. For Possible Action.** Make Recommendations for Agenda Items for the Next Meeting – *RCMHC Members*

- Consortium Retreat
- Legislative Updates and Reports - Ms. Washabaugh suggested this topic as a new standing agenda item.
- 988 and the Plan for Serving Youth and Families – Michelle Sandoval knows a contact and will work Sarah Hannonen and Ms. Washabaugh to coordinate arrangements.

**14. Public Comment.** *No action may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to comments by the general public until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.*

Michelle Sandoval reported that the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Western Nevada Team Warmline rolled out and she will send the flyer to Ms. Wilder to distribute to everyone.

**15. Adjournment.** – Melissa Washabaugh, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 4:42 pm.