

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

RURAL NEVADA CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM MAIN MEETING MINUTES 5/15/2025 **DRAFT**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melissa Washabaugh
Jaymee Oxborrow
Heather Plager
Lana Robards
Britt Young
Abbey Bernhardt
Rebecca Mc Gough
Mala Wheatley
Marcel Brown

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Brenna Hardtner
Jolene Zamora
Linda Anderson
Brenna Hardtner
Sarah Hartzell
Krisann Taylor
Cherlyn Rahr Wood
Fireflies notetaker Elyse
read.ai meeting notes (unverified)
Amna Khawaja
Belz & Case Government Affairs Scribe by Rewatch
Carissa Pearce
Elyse Monroy-Marsala
John Gracia
Katie Metz
Kelly McKiddie
Kristen Rivas
Lindsey Bondiek
Linda Anderson
Natalie Filipic
Nicole Mara
Olivia GrafMank
Rose Staffen

1. Call to Order, Roll Call:

2. Introduction:

Chair Melissa Washabaugh called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm. Kristen Rivas, from the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), conducted a roll call, confirming that a quorum was established.

- 3. Public comment and discussion:** Brenna Hardtner, representing Youth MOVE Nevada, shared that they host a youth-inspired and youth-led podcast on Spotify. The platform explores topics related to mental health and youth-serving systems. Noteworthy episodes include “Voices for Change” series and discussion on student - athletes and mental health. Members are encouraged to listen and share. For more details visit the podcast at. [Youth MOVE Nevada - Podcast - Apple Podcasts](#). She reminded members about #MindMatters 2025, a campaign dedicated to raising awareness through videos that focused on mental health topics. The initiative encourages adults to participate by creating short videos that empathize with the importance of asking for help when struggling, sending a powerful message to young people that seeking support is okay.

- 4. For possible action:** Review and approval of outstanding meeting minutes for March 20, 2025, meeting. Melissa Washabaugh, Chair, reported a technical issue preventing the downloading of the minutes. As a result, the minutes will be approved for June 20, 2025, meeting. Additionally, the review and approval of outstanding meeting minutes for May 15, 2025, will also take place.

- 5. For possible action:** Support and construct RNCMHC Legislative Letter of support to include the bills- Chair, Melissa Washabaugh share her screen to all members to view; **Ab60-** adds certified prevention specialist, **Ab31-** mental health transport, **Sb174-** strengthens services for autistic students and background checks for volunteers, **Sb257-** simplifies autism diagnosis process and expands access to care for those treated by any qualified healthcare provider, **Sb185-** family caregivers through Medicaid for disabled children, **Ab380-** expands members of rural crisis team to use non-law enforcements personnel, **Ab184-** ok sports for mental health and other types of school transfers, **Ab340-** mandates coverage for neurodiverse screening, **Ab360-** syphilis testing for pregnancy, **Sb165-** establishes behavioral health and wellness practitioner's

MOTION: Rebecca McGough moved to draft letters of support for the following bills: Ab60, Ab31, Sb174, Sb257, Sb185, Ab380, Ab184, Ab340, Ab360, Sb165

SECOND: Lana Robards

VOTE: Motion passed. Marcel Brown abstained due to conflict of interest related to her work with Medicaid. Abbey Bernhardt abstained due to not being familiar with all the bills.

- 6. For possible action:** Update of Nevada's System of Care (SOC) Grant- Britt Young, representing Nevada PEP/sub-grantee, reported that they are collaborating with the Nevada System of Care (SOC) to support children and families facing behavioral health challenges. As part of this initiative, need assessments focus groups were conducted with six families
-

whose youth have Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) and a behavioral health diagnosis. The assessments highlighted key concerns, including a limited provider network, difficulties in accessing mental health services for youth with IDD, and complex insurance policies that create barriers to care. Additionally, schools in Washoe County are not adhering to the IEP process, failing to provide manifestation meeting before deciding on alternative placements for students, and maintaining a waiting list that further delays necessary interventions.

7. **For information only:** Update on the RNCMHC Website- Melissa Washabaugh reported that she had a meeting with the web designer, where she received training on logging in and updated the website. The site was updated with new content, including previous events, pictures and information from the last few months. Rebecca McGough will collaborate and assist in maintaining the website updates.
 8. **For possible action:** Update from Nevada PEP and discussion on collaborative initiatives- Britt Young reported an increase in calls with families regarding student suspensions. Additionally, this month marks Youth Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to show support for children mental health. Join us by selecting a virtual green ribbon from our Green Ribbon Giving Grid and exploring digital resource bags filled with helpful material and engaging activities. Our theme this year is: Together we will bring awareness, acceptance, and action to children's mental health.
 9. **For information only:** Update from Medicaid- Marcel Brown representing Nevada Medicaid Behavioral Health Coverage Unit, reported that statewide managed care expansion will take effective January 1, 2026. The program will serve Washoe and Clark County covering 75% of Nevada Medicaid population. Nevada Medicaid is requesting informational responses from healthcare providers, family members, and youth managed care organizations to help shape the Specialty Management Care Plan (SMCP) which Response must be submitted by May 23, 2025. More details can be found on the [Kids Behavioral Health](#) website. Additionally, Medicaid is involved in the Justice-Involved Reentry Program, which supports youths under the age of 21, and former foster youths up to age 26 who are post-disposition prior to their release. More information is available on [Reentry Initiative](#) website. The Children's Behavioral Health Transformation initiative holds monthly meetings to provide updates on new services, getting community input, and peer support. Meeting details can be found on the [Public Notices](#) website.
 10. **For possible action:** Review, discussion, and possible approval of recommendation for the RNCMHC FY 2025 budget- Melissa Washabaugh reported that reallocation of funds will need to be adjusted due to changes, cancellation, and budget modifications. Kristen Rivas reviewed the budget, providing the consortium members with an overview of how funds have been distributed throughout the year. Melissa Washabaugh requested a motion to allocate the remaining funds to promotional items.
MOTION: Lana Robards moved to roll over the remaining funds to promotional items.
SECOND: Rebecca McGough
VOTE: Unanimous
-

11. For possible action: Approval of the next meeting date and agenda items. The next scheduled meeting is on June 26, 2025, at 12:00 pm. Agenda items to be discussed include Planning for future events and an update on Mobile Crisis Response Team.

12. Public comments and discussion: No public comments.

13. Adjournment: Chair Melissa Washabaugh adjourned the meeting at 4:38pm.
