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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 9/18/2025 **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:

775-745-3652
Linda Anderson
Christina Cobeo
Brenna Hardtner
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
Patience Ford
Rose Staffen

1. Call to Order, Roll Call:

2. Introduction:

Chair Melissa Washabaugh called the meeting to order at 3:01 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:** Brenna Hardtner, representing Youth MOVE Nevada, highlighted that September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. She shared that teens are actively engaging in conversations around mental health, particularly through their youth-led podcast available on Spotify. The podcast explores topics related to mental wellness and youth-serving systems, offering a platform for authentic youth voices. A featured episode, “YMNV Episode 57 – Voces for Change: Suicide Prevention Month,” is especially relevant this month. Members are encouraged to listen and share. For more details, visit *Youth MOVE Nevada – Podcast* on Apple Podcasts. Brenna also announced that Youth MOVE Nevada is hosting a Bullying Prevention Poster Contest for youth across the state. The contest aims to promote kindness, respect, and inclusion through creative expression.

- 4. For possible action:** Review and approval of outstanding meeting minutes for March 20, 2025 and May 15, 2025. Due to statewide IT outages, the meeting minutes for the above dates were not posted to the main website at the time of the meetings. However, confirmation was received via email that both the agendas and minutes were officially posted through alternate channels during the outage period. These minutes will be tabled for review and formal approval at the next scheduled meeting.

- 5. For possible Action:** Review, discussion, and approval of recommendations for the Rural Nevada Children’s Mental Health Consortium FY 2026 budget, Melissa requested Kristen’s assistance in navigating the budget Excel spreadsheet. The discussion covered the following budget categories: personnel contractor, supplies and consortium support, retreat and community events, and an additional category to be confirmed. All members participated in the review and discussion. Recommendations were considered for approval pending further clarification and guidance from Kristen. Kristen confirmed that the budget will remain at \$15,000 and will submit the finalized version to administration for approval, after which will circulate to all voting members. Please note: A Consortia Purchase Order Request Form must be submitted to Kristen when requesting funds.

MOTION: Lana Robards made a motion to approve the FY Budget 2026

SECOND: Rebecca McGough

VOTE: Consortium member voted unanimously to approve the FY Budget 2026

- 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.
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7. **For information only:** Update on the RNCMHC website – Melissa Washabaugh. Melissa reported that the website is currently up and running without any technical issues. While no major updates have been made recently, she noted that she has photos from recent events with legislators and plans to upload them soon. The web designer confirmed there are no bugs, and the site appears to be functioning properly. No questions or suggestions were raised regarding the website.
 8. **For information only:** Update from Nevada PEP and discussion on collaborative initiatives, Nevada PEP Representative. Britt Young shared that the start of the school year has led to an increase in families exploring alternative school options, particularly in the Carson area. Many families have faced challenges with the variance request process, with numerous denials and limited charter school availability. As a result, some families are turning to online schooling or homeschooling. Concerns cited include inadequate family engagement from schools and unresolved bullying issues. Britt also announced that Nevada PEP is preparing for its “Eye Care, We Care” Anti-Bullying Campaign, which will take place throughout October. The campaign will include community outreach efforts, activities, and resources aimed at raising awareness about bullying. Activity books will be distributed to schools across the state to help students learn how to be upstanders and understand their rights when facing bullying.
 9. **For information only:** Updates from Medicaid – Nevada Health Authority Representative. Marcel Brown provided updates from Nevada Medicaid, formerly known as the Division of Healthcare Financing and Policy. The agency is now officially operating under the Nevada Health Authority as of July 2025. Marcel noted that email communications should reflect the updated name and contact information. Key updates included progress on the Children’s Behavioral Health Transformation in response to the DOJ settlement. Nevada Medicaid has added Family and Youth Peer Support services, approved under MSM Chapter 4300, with a new provider type (Type 90) and specialties such as Peer Recovery Support Specialists. Marcel also discussed recent legislative and budget developments, including senate bill 300 and senate bill 54. Additional updates included budget requests for day treatment and partial hospitalization programs, with proposed rate increases currently delayed due to system outages. Marcel also shared progress on new program development, including the First Episode Psychosis Program and Assertive Community Treatment, both of which are moving toward CMS submission following stakeholder engagement and a recent public workshop.
 10. **For Possible action:** Approval of next meeting dates and agenda items. The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2025 at 3:00 pm. Proposed agenda items include discussion of support measures for Carson City students, planning for next year’s Children’s Mental Health Summit, and development of the annual report
 11. **Public comment and discussion:** No public comment or discussion.
 12. **Adjournment:** Chair Melissa Washabaugh adjourned the meeting at 4:56 pm.
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