

**Washoe County Children's Mental Health Consortium**

**Main Meeting Minutes**

**October 19, 2023**

**DRAFT**

**1. Call to Order**

- a. Jessica Goicoechea, Vice Chair, called meeting to order at 10:10 am.

**2. Attendees:**

- a. **Voting Members Present:** Jessica Goicoechea, Ana De la Maza, Britt Young, Chris Empey, Crystal Ninete, Dr. Jose Cucalon Calderon, Kathrine Loudon, Katie Metz, Mala Wheatley, Rhonda Lawrence, Sarah Dearborn, Stephanie Brown, Vanessa Justice
- b. **Non-Voting Members Present:** Shannon Hill, Jana Borden, Natalie Sanchez, Jennifer Spencer, Denise Miles, Nicole Mara, Joe Dibble, Maria Fernandez, Char Frost, Anthony Lee, Annie Zucker, Amna Kawaja, Irene Rose, Kary Wilder, Kristen Rivas

**3. Public Comment and Discussion-** No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on the agenda as an item upon which action can be taken.

- a. None

**4. For information only. Provide Nevada Open Meeting Law (OML) 2023**

**legislative updates - Jennifer Spencer, Esq., DAG**

- a. Jennifer Spencer provided details of new OML requirements effective July 1<sup>st</sup> 2023. She reviewed the new requirement to verbally state meeting connection instructions prior to opening the first meeting agenda items for public comment. 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. 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.

**5. For possible action: Approval of recommendations of Washoe County Children’s Mental Health Consortium membership and vacancies including:**

- a. Youth Advocacy Representative – Natalie Sanchez
- b. Vote was taken and Natalie Sanchez was elected as a Consortium voting member.

Motion: Britt Young motioned to nominate Natalie Sanchez as a voting member in the role of Youth Advocacy Representative.  
Seconded by: Dr. Jose Cucalon-Calderon  
Vote: Unanimous; motion carried

**6. For possible action: Chairperson Selection:** Nomination and approval of Washoe County Children’s Mental Health Consortium Chair

- a. Vote was taken and Natalie Sanchez was elected as Chair of the Consortium.

Motion: Katherine Louden motioned to nominate Natalie Sanchez as Chair of the WCCMHC Consortium.  
Seconded by: Stephanie Brown  
Vote: Unanimous; motion carried

**7. For possible action: Review and Approval of outstanding minutes**

- a. August 17, 2023 Main Meeting
- b. September 21, 2023 Main Meeting

Motion: Sarah Dearborn motioned to approve the August 17, 2023 and September 21, 2023 Main Meeting minutes.  
Seconded by: Britt Young  
Vote: Unanimous; motion carried; Rhonda Lawrence abstained.

**8. For information only: Family Voice** – A time to hear from families and those in attendance who work with families about their successes, challenges, and themes.

- a. Britt Young reported Nevada PEP is seeing a continued trend of families getting calls to come pick-up children from Washoe County schools who are doing informal removals for behavioral issues without documentation or notification. Families continue to struggle with barriers to locating services and finding providers for their children. Waitlists are long and Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis and services waitlists are over one year long. Many families are asking for basic needs assistance due to the increased cost of living. Housing and rental resources continue to be a challenge.
- b. Dr. Jose Cucalon-Calderon reported he is seeing the same issues with long waitlists and families who are not able to access services; specifically for psychiatry, psychologists, counselors and Autism testing for children with Medicaid. Long waitlists are statewide issue and concerning because Autism treatment is most effective through early intervention (the first 3 years-child age).

**9. For information only: Medicaid Topic:** The latest information and updates – Sarah Dearborn

- a. Sarah Dearborn shared a PowerPoint presentation covering the Medicaid COVID Unwinding, Behavioral Health State Plan Amendments (SPAs), Service Manual Policy updates, SUPPORT Act Post-Planning Demonstration Grant Award, New Provider Type and Specialties, 1115 SUD Waiver Demonstration progress, Mobile Crisis Planning Grant, SPA 22-005 Crisis Services, Legislative work updates, Department of Justice settlement negotiations, and the Behavioral Health and CCBHC Expansion. The full presentation and notes are available on the Google Drive: **INSERT**.

**10. For information only: Approval of updates to Consortium Bylaws**

- a. Vote was taken to approve the updated, amended Consortium Bylaws.
- b. Next steps will be to submit the Bylaws to the Deputy Attorney General and follow all processes for official approval under NRS.

Motion: Rhonda Lawrence motioned to approve the WCCMHC Consortium Bylaws as amended and presented.  
Seconded by: Chris Empey  
Vote: Unanimous; motion carried

**11. For possible action: Legal Hold Process for minors. Review, discussion and approval to request an informal opinion from the Attorney General’s office on how to interpret the law.** Discussion topics included:

- a. Tabled. This item will be included on the November agenda for further discussion.

**12. For possible action: Discussion of Consortium progress and plans for the remaining year:**

- a. **For possible action:** Review, discussion, and approval of a plan for writing the Annual Report, which needs to include budget recommendations for the legislature.
- b. **For possible action:** Select a chair and convene Budget Workgroup.
- c. The Consortium voted to move forward to form a combined Annual Report/Budget Workgroup to prepare the report which is due at the end of January 2024. After the report is completed and submitted, a Budget-only Workgroup will

Motion: Dr. Jose Cucalon-Calderon motioned to approve the WCCMHC Annual Report/Budget Workgroup, with Chris Empey as Chair.  
Seconded by: Rhonda Lawrence  
Vote: Unanimous; motion carried

be formed to manage the FY 2024 budget and spending process.

- d. Chris Empey volunteered to chair the Workgroup and will contact Megan Weller, WCCMHC contract consultant to see if she is interested in helping develop the report. Britt Young would like to be part of the workgroup.

**13. For possible action: Consortium member announcements** – To provide the voting members a chance to share any updates they may have, and to discuss and take possible vote(s) on important issues impacting children’s mental health services.

- a. Dr. Jose Cucalon Calderon announced the Nevada National Hispanic Medical Association Annual Conference will be held on November 4<sup>th</sup> at UNR. The event will include discussions on Latino healthcare issues (chronic disease prevention/management, mental health stigma, and uses of services by Latinos across the nation). The flyer was posted in the Chat and is available on the Google Drive: **INSERT** . He is also working on an early-stage project for communication resources to allow school staff to reach out to providers for crisis management.
- b. Britt Young announced Nevada PEP is currently holding an anti-bullying campaign. She encouraged everyone to participate in posting anti-bullying messages on the NVPEP website. Youth M.O.V.E. meetings continue every Tuesday at 5 pm for youth ages 14-24.

**14. For possible action: Date for next meeting and agenda items**

- a. The next main meeting is November 16, 2023 at 10:00 am
- b. Continue discussion of Legal Hold Process for minors
- c. Update from the WCCMHC Annual Report/Budget Workgroup

**15. Public comment and discussion** – No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on the agenda as an item on which action can be taken.

- a. None

**16. Adjournment**

- a. Chair adjourned meeting at 11:53 am.

### **Chat Transcript**

9:35 AM Meeting started  
[9:37 AM] Kary Wilder

Welcome to the October Washoe County Children's Mental Health Consortium meeting. This meeting is being recorded. Please enter your name, title and organization in the Chat for the record.

[9:38 AM] Kary Wilder

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

[9:41 AM] Kristen Rivas

Kristen Rivas DCFS PEU

[9:54 AM] Crystal Ninete

Crystal Ninete Tribal Liaison ADSD Sierra Regional Center/Rural Regional Center

[9:57 AM] Shannon Hill

Shannon Hill - DCFS

[9:57 AM] Vanessa Justice

Vanessa Justice- Division of Welfare and Supportive Services

[10:01 AM] Nicole Mara

Nicole Mara, DCFS - NVPeds

[10:01 AM]

Dibble, Joseph (External) was invited to the meeting.

[10:01 AM]

Fernandez, Maria (External) was invited to the meeting.

[10:02 AM] Annie Zucker

Annie Zucker - Children's Cabinet (Guest)

[10:02 AM] Ana De la Maza (Guest)

Ana De la Maza - Quest Counseling, voting member

[10:02 AM] Natalie Sanche (Guest)

Natalie Sanchez, Health Psychology Associates

[10:02 AM] Rhonda Lawrence

Rhonda Lawrence, DCFS, Voting Member - Hi Everyone

[10:02 AM] Dibble, Joseph

Joe Dibble, Northern Nevada Public Health

[10:02 AM] Jana Borden

Jana Borden-DCFS-System of Care Grant Unit

[10:02 AM] Sarah Dearborn

Sarah Dearborn - Nevada Medicaid, voting member

[10:02 AM] Miles, Denise M

Denise Miles-WCSD Family School Partnerships

[10:03 AM] Anthony Lee

Anthony Lee, DCFS

[10:04 AM] Frost, Char

Char Frost, Magellan Health, Director of Family and Youth Engagement

[10:04 AM] Brown, Stephanie

Stephanie Brown, Willow Springs Center

[10:10 AM] Britt Young

Good Morning, Britt Young - NV PEP - Voting Member

[10:13 AM] Fernandez, Maria

Maria Fernandez - WCSD Parent University .

[10:16 AM] Jose Cucalon Calderon

Graphic: (NHMA Nevada Chapter event flyer is available on the Google Drive: **XXX**)

[10:18 AM] Britt Young

Congratulations Natalie

[10:20 AM] Mala Wheatley (Guest)

Mala Wheatley, Pacific Behavioral Health. I am sorry I could not join until now.

[10:20 AM] Brown, Stephanie

Congratulations, Natalie!

[10:21 AM] Natalie Sanche (Guest)

Thank you!!

[10:28 AM] Kary Wilder

Meeting materials:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19c4qFeFNw9N6P03rLGrJI3rtW0qZgmp2?usp=sharing>

2023 Meetings ALL - Google Drive

[11:41 AM] Britt Young

I would love to be a part of this work group.

[11:52 AM] Britt Young

[https://nvpep.org/icwc2023\\_divein/](https://nvpep.org/icwc2023_divein/)

[11:52 AM] Britt Young

<https://nvpep.org/childrens-mental-health/>

[11:52 AM] Britt Young

<https://nvpep.org/youth-move/>

[11:53 AM] Rhonda Lawrence

Great job, Jessica!!!!

[11:53 AM] Rhonda Lawrence

Thank you, Sarah!

[11:53 AM] Nicole Mara

Thank you all!

[11:53 AM]

11:54 AM Meeting ended