

**Washoe County Children’s Mental Health Consortium**  
**Main Meeting Minute**  
**12/19/2024**  
**DRAFT**

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Annie Zucker, Chair.

**2. Attendees:**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

Annie Zucker, Ana de la Maza, Britt Young, Jaquelyn Kleinedler, Jessica Goicoechea-Parise, Katherine Loudon, Vanessa Justice, Rebecca Arvans, Sarah Dearborn, Misty Vaughan Allen, Rhonda Lawrence, Holland Schubach, Chris Empey, Natalie Sanchez

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Dr. Megan Weller, Brenna Hardtner, Alaina Eggers, Megan Evans, Maria Fernandez, John Gracia, Katherine Loudon, Kathryn Rosaschi, Keeli Killian, Linda Anderson, Marisa Nabong, Nini McCartney, Taylor Morgan, Stephanie Brown, Brenna Hardtner, Kristen Rivas, Rhonda Lawrence Fireflies notetaker, Eric Ohlson, Kris Wilson, Nicole Schembre, Cindy Ly, Brent Andriese, Karina Gamarra-Hoff

**3. Initial Public Comment and Discussion:**

Brenna Hardtner, Youth M.O.V.E Nevada reported that there have been complaints regarding a lack of clarity on services provided by the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT). She would like reassurance that MCRT communication and information is accurate and consistent with what the youth and families receive throughout the entire process. Jessica Goicoechea-Parise reported that MCRT is a hospital diversion program. The primary purpose of MCRT’s program is to develop safety plans, stabilize the crisis through intervention, and de-escalate and connect individuals to local care and support to help prevent unnecessary trips to the hospital. She also mentioned there are numerous crisis response teams and programs in the Washoe County area that provide these services. Obtaining more detailed information would assist in addressing these complaints and concerns. Britt Young reported that Family Voice of Nevada is offering a workshop training for Individualized Education Programs (IEP) to support families and educators in understanding and navigating the IEP process. The link for the “Coffee and Tea and IEP” workshop was posted in the chat.

**4. For Possible Action:** Review and approval outstanding meeting minutes November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

**MOTION:** Natile Sanchez made a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented.

**SECOND:** Ana De la Maza

**VOTE:** Consortium members voted unanimously to approve the November 21, 2024 meeting minutes.

**5. For Possible Action:** Discussion, collection of data, construction and approval of the development of the 2025 Washoe County Children’s Mental Health Consortium Annual Report on the Status of the Long-Term Strategic Plan.

Dr Weller reported that not everyone responded in the updated section of the form. Kristen Rivas reported that Katherine Loudon from the Washoe County School District has completed her report section and is waiting for approval. Once she receives approval, she will submit it to Dr. Weller. Annie Zucker reported that a JotForm was sent out to all the members for feedback, updates, and information in the following sections:

a. **Notable Community Achievements 2023**

Annie Zucker reported that Quest Counseling & Consulting held a crisis collaboration meeting. The meeting aimed to create a safe and supportive environment where youth can explore their feelings, gain insight, and work toward positive changes. Also, the move of MCRT to the county from the state was a big community achievement. Megan Evans reported a Resource Fair for mental health professionals aimed to bring together mental health providers, educators, parents, and community members to focus on the importance of youth mental health in the school system. Over 50 community providers attended and 5 presenters spoke during the event to promote awareness of available resources and support systems for youth and families.

b. **Notable Community Challenges 2023**

Annie Zucker reported that lack of training for preparing adults, individuals, and the community to respond appropriately and safely to persons with mental health challenges (particularly children and youth) has been a challenge. Natalie Sanchez reported that the private practice sector encounters several challenges when it comes to insurance for children's mental services. This includes insurance network participation, low reimbursement rates, administrative burdens, and payment delays and lack of reliability. This causes delays in providing services that the youth and families need to receive in a timely manner. The University of Nevada Reno (UNR) Counseling Education Program (CEP) and other clinical programs do not have individuals dedicated to focus on children and adolescents. Limited access to comprehensive training has been challenging. Megan Evans reported that the lack of grant money for children in the Washoe County School District has been a challenge due to insufficient funds and limited access to services, causing increased demand and strain on existing programs. Jessica Goicoechea-Parise reported that challenges with limited access to services and early identification are barriers to providing immediate support and intervention for children experiencing mental health crises. Britt Young reported that limited access to services to individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) has been challenging. Families prefer to keep their children at home instead of sending them out of state. Access to individualized treatment, care, and support in a residential setting would assist these youths and families. Chris Empey reported that Juvenile Justice Services also struggles with limited access to services in the community for IDD youth. Building respite services for youth and families has been a challenge in Washoe County.

c. **Relevant Systematic Factors:**

Britt Young reported that the population growth in Washoe County has had a significant impact on youth with mental health services and providers, leading to higher demand for mental health services. Natalie Sanchez added that there are many providers in the Washoe County area that do provide services for youths and families but there is a lack of providers who accept Medicaid. Jessica Goicoechea-Parise reported several active

workgroups are working on Medicaid healthcare system updates.

**d. Community: Snapshot Connect Washoe County:**

Annie Zucker will complete this section and add an overall summary of the Washoe County Youth Mental Health Summit event.

**e. Community Snapshot: Nevada System of Care:** William Wyss is the System of Care Director and can be contacted at [wwyss@dcs.nv.gov](mailto:wwyss@dcs.nv.gov). Chris Empey will provide a summary and snapshot for Dr Weller.

**f. Summary of Recommendations for Funding Priorities and the Summary of Recommendation:**

Chris Empey provided an overview of the 2025 budget and reviewed sections of the budget with Consortium members. Budget categories discussed included; Personnel & Contractors (Consortia Annual Report), Supplies/Consortium Support (Tech Licenses and books for the Washoe County School District), Outreach Activities (lock boxes for medication and firearms and coping skills magnets with QR codes). Chris Empey encouraged all members to submit suggestions for spending FY 2025 funds. Britt Young reported that the scholarship program on the consortium website is a resource for families to apply for those funds. Dr Weller reported she will review the Nevada Regulatory Statute (NRS) regarding recommendations for funding this year and will include information on materials, magnets, and flyers in the report. Dr Weller requested all members submit their updates, information, and any reports by January 8th. Chris Empey can be contacted at [cempey@washoecounty.gov](mailto:cempey@washoecounty.gov).

**6. For Possible Action:** Approval of next meeting dates and agenda items.

- Budget Workgroup Meeting - 1/27/2025 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Main Meeting - 1/16/2025 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**MOTION:** Jessica Goicoechea-Parise made a motion to approve the January meeting schedule.

**SECOND** Britt Young

**VOTE:** Unanimous with no abstention or opposition.

**7. For Public Comment and Discussion:**

No public comment or discussion.

**8. Adjournment:**

Annie Zucker adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.