

Washoe County Children’s Mental Health Consortium
Meeting Minutes
1/16/2025
DRAFT

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Annie Zucker, Chair.

2. Introduction:

VOTING MEMBERS’ PRESENT:

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

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

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

3. Public Comment and Discussion:

Brenna Hardtner, Youth M.O.V.E Nevada reported that they have a podcast on Spotify. The episode Title “Youth Voice in a System of Care” and encourages all the members to listen and share. She will put the link in the chat transcript.

4. Review and Approval of Outstanding Meeting Minutes from December 19, 2024, meeting.

MOTION: Britt Young motioned to approve December 19, 2024, meeting minutes with the Correction of the spelling of Natalie Sanchez.

SECOND: Natalie Sanchez

VOTE: Consortium members voted unanimously and the December 19, 2024, meeting minutes were approved.

5. For Information Only: Family Voice – A time to hear from families and those in attendance who work with families about their success, challenges, and theme.

Britt Young, NVPEP reported that they continue to receive telephone calls from families regarding bullying at the middle school level and an increase in bullying at the elementary school level. The families that have reached out reported that they have no knowledge of Safe Voice Nevada, how to report bullying, or the process.

6. For Possible Action: Review, discussion, and votes on recommendations for the 2024 Annual Report to include discussion and possible actions to approve – Dr. Weller

Dr. Weller reported that she needs an update in Community Snapshot, Relevant Systemic Factors, and the United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Investigation.

Sarah Dearborn reported that she had submitted updates in this section of the report. Dr Weller continued with the annual report and addressed a new section under Relevant System Factors. The release of the Silver State Health Improvement Plan (SSHIP) which is linked to a

webpage aligned with the Consortium’s vision, mission and goals. She reviewed the challenges and achievements as noted by community providers. Natalie Sanchez commented that the section on challenges and achievements was cohesive and accurately reflected the Commission’s discussions throughout the year. They have been working together diligently to address these issues. Dr. Weller will need information and an update on the following long-term plan for Family Voice.

Families reported difficulties in reaching child find and that evaluation for special education services and not completing them in a timely manner. (Goal 1&3) -

Britt Young reported that the Department of Education had addressed this on-going issue. The evaluations were resolved at the beginning of 2024 school year.

Families reported that they are unaware of the bullying investigation process and how to report an incident of bullying. Families reported that school staff have discouraged them from reporting bullying via Safe Voice (Goal 2&3) - Britt Young reported that this remains an ongoing concern with youth and families.

Washoe County School District (WCSD) staffing shortages both in the education setting and in transportation have been a barrier in accessing timely evaluation and

individuated services for children and youth (Goal 1&3) - Katherine Loudon reported that substantial progress has been made in addressing WCSD staffing shortages this year. However, the school district faces a funding cliff, which may result in possible loss of mental health professionals and counselors. She believes this section of the report was for the family’s perception and concerns. Britt Young reported ongoing issues in the areas such as affordable housing, mental health services and facilities, crisis reporting, and education in Washoe County. Rebecca Arvans reported that Spanish-speaking families experience language barriers that limit their access to community services, which remains an ongoing concern.

Community Snapshot: Dr. Weller reported that she did not receive an update on the Washoe County Annual Summit. Annie Zucker will send information and an update on the Summit. Katherine Loudon will send information and an update on WCSD Mental Health Highlights. Mala Wheatly will send information and an update on Pacific Behavioral Health. Rhonda Lawrence will send information and an update on Northern Nevada Children’s and Adolescent Services (NNCAS). Chris Empey will send information and an update on National Alliance on Mental Health. (NAMI).

Summary of Recommendations: Dr. Weller reviewed the community funding for Washoe County with the Consortium members. She reported that although there is no spending recommendation for this year, recommendations for adjustments to services that benefit youth and families in Washoe County are needed. Jesssica Goicoechea-Parise will send information and an update on the Mobile Crisis Response Team. Britt Young will send information and an update on support groups for Washoe County. Katherine Loudon reported that the school district continues to sponsor the procurement of books focused on trauma-informed practice in schools, and new books were purchased.

Plan activities for 2025: Anna de la Maza reported that “Aca Entre Nos” presentations across Spanish language communities will continue. A meeting is scheduled to develop a plan and determine which schools will be selected. Katherine Loudon will send information and an update on Hope Squad Program and on NAMI. Misty Vaughan Allen, Office of Suicide Prevention, reported that they will continue to offer Suicide Prevention 101 in Spanish. She will send information and an update on suicide attempt reports and software modules. Kristen Rivas reported that she will send an updated list of consortium members and whom they

represent. Dr. Weller will need all the information and any updates by 1/22/2025.

MOTION: Britt Young made a motion to approve the Annual Report with the additions and changes that were agreed upon.

SECOND: Chris Empey

VOTE: Consortium members voted unanimously to approve the changes to 2024 Annual Report.

7. **For Information Only:** Consortium members announcements – to provide the voting members a chance to share any updates they may have, and to discuss important issues impact children’s mental health such as upcoming events, services, legislation, and related community factors. Chris Empey announced he will be retiring from Juvenile Services on 2/15/2025. Juvenile Services will provide an intern representative. Britt Young from Nevada PEP reported that an upcoming training for families and providers a live webinar called “Behavior and Discipline in School” is scheduled for January 30, 2025, from 5:30p.m. to 6:30p.m. The link will be put in the chat transcript.

8. **For Possible Action:** Discussion and approval of recommendations for future agenda items and meeting date.

The next Budget Workgroup meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2025, at 11: 30 a.m. The next Main Meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Agenda item to be included: Vote and selection of a new treasurer.

MOTION: Chris Empey made a motion to approve the February’s Budget Meeting and the Main Meeting

SECOND: Britt Young

VOTE: Consortium members voted unanimously for the approval of next month’s meetings.

9. **Public comment and discussion.**

There was no public comment.

10. **Adjournment:** Annie Zucker, Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.