

Washoe County Children's Mental Health Consortium
Meeting Minutes
4/17/2025
DRAFT

1. Call to Order:

Annie Zucker, Chair. Called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Kristen Rivas, from the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), conducted a roll call, confirming that a quorum was established.

2. Introduction:

VOTING MEMBERS' PRESENT:

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

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Brenna Hardtner, Samantha Peman, John Gracia, Kathryn Rosaschi, Linda Anderson, Marisa Nabong, Nini McCartney, Joleen Walker, Kristen Rivas, Dr. Takisha Cooper, Nicole Mara, Fireflies notetaker Elyse, read.ai meeting notes, Monica Notetaker, Kris Wilson, Nicole Schembre, Jolene Zamora, Karina Gamarra-Hoff, Luke FRPA, Julia Ratti, Kimberley Sarando, Megan Evans, Katie Metz, Rose Steffen, Sharron Karina- Hoff Gamarra, Lisa Mariani, Taylor Morgan, Maria Fernandez, Kris Wilson, Bojana Vujeva

- 3. Public comment and discussion:** Brenna Hardtner, representing Youth MOVE Nevada, reported that they will be launching a campaign for Children's Mental Health Acceptance Month called #MindMatters 2025. The campaign aims to raise awareness by sharing videos that focused on mental health topics, self-care strategies, and personal stories. These videos are intended to reduce stigma, encourage open conversations, and provide guidance for those struggling with mental health challenges. A flyer has been placed in the chat.
- 4. For possible action:** Review and Approval of Outstanding Meeting Minutes from February 27, 2025. Chair, Annie Zucker, informed the members that the meeting minutes for March and April would be resubmitted for approval at the next meeting, scheduled for May 15, 2025.
- 5. For information only:** Family Voice- Britt Young, representing Nevada PEP, 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 four 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. Brenna Hardtner reported that they held youth focus groups and key issues were that the youth felt they needed more community support in independent living skills, though they appreciated the good support received in the area of being included in planning their care with their provider.

6. **For possible action:** Presentation, discussion, and next steps of the Washoe County Children's Mental Health Consortium 2020-2029 Strategic Long-Term Plan- Annie Zucker, from the Children's Cabinet, will distribute a plan progress survey to all the consortium members. Members are encouraged to complete the survey and return it to her by the next meeting. The survey is designed to foster meaningful engagements among members and organizations by recognizing achievements, identifying areas where additional support is needed, and ensuring the planned work is carried out effectively.
7. **For information Only:** Discussion on WCCMHC Strategic Long Term Plan Objective 1E.5 Recruit and retain a Child Psychiatrist in the state of Nevada-Dr. Takesha Cooper, Department Chair-Psychiatry and Behavior Science and Chief of Psychiatry-Renown Health- Dr Takesha Cooper shared a PowerPoint presentation to all members of the consortium members.
8. **For possible action:** Review, discussion, and possible approval of recommendations for the WCCMHC FY 2025 budget. This item will be carried forward to next month's meeting agenda, Budget-related issues will remain under discussion during the main meeting until a treasurer is successfully nominated.
9. **For information only:** A legislative update on Children's Behavior Health Issues being discussed at the Nevada Legislature. Annie Zucker provided a legislative update on children's behavioral health issues currently being discussed at the Nevada Legislature. She highlighted a bill tracker, which focuses legislation impacting children. This tracker can be accessed at CCA2025 Legislative Bill Tracker. The Children's Advocacy Alliance (CAA) aims to enhance mental health services and infrastructure for children. The priority bills include: SR165 focuses on building the child mental health workforce through higher education programs and the creation of a Behavioral Health and Wellness Practitioner role. AB340 Mandates insurance coverage for screening, assessment, and diagnosis developmental delays in childhood to ensure early intervention without financial barriers. AB339 establishes the Office of Children's Mental and Behavioral Health within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to coordinate and oversee services for children's mental health. Each of these bills addresses critical aspects of children's mental health, including workforce development, early intervention, and system coordination.
10. **For possible action:** Nomination and vote of a new Treasurer for the WCCMHC- Annie Zucker called for nominations for all members interested in the role of Treasurer. Until the position is filled, any budget-related questions will be addressed during the main meeting. Stephane Brown inquired about the criteria for the Treasurer of the consortium, Kristen Rivas provided an overview of the responsibilities associated with the role.
11. **For information only:** Consortium members' announcements- Annie Zucker reminded the consortium members that Washoe County Youth Mental Health Summit is an annual event focused on addressing youth mental health needs. September 17,2025 at Grace Church Reno. She will be reaching out to members for impute of their expertise. Rhonda Lawernee representing Northern Nevada Child and Adolescent Services, reported that Safe Babies is doing a virtual live presentation done by Dr. Mollie Nisen on May 7,2025 from 12:00-1:00pm. Continuing Legal Education Credits will be earned to all participants. A flyer will be

sent out to all members by email. The flyer will guide you on how to view a video and register for this presentation. Natalie Sanchez, representing Health Psychology Associates, reported that the organization has partnered up with ReDirect Athletics. Both groups are dedicated to promoting mental and physical well-being. Together, they combine fitness and mental health support, with a focus on serving youth and at-risk population. The partnership includes sharing building space to enhance collaboration and streamline services. Britt Young representing Nevada PEP, shared a live webinar on Positive Supports for Challenging Behavior will be offered for caregivers and professionals on April 22,2025. For more details view the link at <https://www.nvpep.org/>

12. For possible action: Approval of the next meeting date and agenda items. The next meeting scheduled is on May 15,2025, at 10:00am. Agenda items to be discussed include presentation from Jessica Goicoechea, and nomination and a vote for a new Treasurer.

13. Public comment and discussion: Mariani Lisa representing Magellan of Nevada, reported that the organization will be expanding statewide. The services provided include High-Fidelity Wraparound (HFW), Intensive Home-Base Treatment, and Targeted Case Management (TCM) These programs aim to support children, young adults, their families, and providers by offering comprehensive mental health treatment. Effective June 2025 referrals will be accepted. New care coordinators for the Reno and Carson City areas will be hired and required to complete training to become certified, enabling them to begin providing services in July 2025.

14. Adjournment: Annie Zucker, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:08am