

Washoe County Children's Mental Health Consortium
Meeting Minutes
5/15/2025
DRAFT

1. Call to Order:

Chair Annie Zucker called the meeting to order at 10:04 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, Natalie Sanchez, Sandy Arguello, Holland Schubach,

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Brenna Hardtner, Samantha Peman, John Gracia, Kathryn Rosaschi, Linda Anderson, Marisa Nabong, Joleen Walker, Kristen Rivas, Fireflies notetaker Elyse, read.ai meeting notes, Monica Notetaker, Kris Wilson, Lisa Mariani, Nicole Schembre Sarah Hartzell, 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, Ashby Bellows, Monica Romero, John Etzell, Emma White, Krisann Taylor, Kyra Morgan, Tara Burfoot,

- 3. Public comment and discussion:** Brenna Hardtner, representing Youth MOVE Nevada, shared that they host a youth-inspired and youth-led podcast on Spotify. The platform explores topics related to mental health and youth-serving systems. Noteworthy episodes include "Voices for Change" series and discussion on student - athletes and mental health. Members are encouraged to listen and share. For more details visit the podcast at. [Youth MOVE Nevada - Podcast - Apple Podcasts](#). Hardtner reminded members about #MindMatters 2025, a campaign dedicated to raise awareness through videos that focused on mental health topics. The initiative encourages adults to participate by creating short videos that empathize with the importance of asking for help when struggling, sending a powerful message to young people that seeking support is okay.

- 4. For possible action:** Review and approval of outstanding meeting minutes from March 20, 2025, and April 17, 2025

MOTION: Jacquelyn Kleinedler made a motion for approval of the minutes as written for March 20, 2025.

SECOND: Katherine Loudon

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Natalie Sanchez made a motion for approval of the minutes as written for April 17, 2025.

SECOND: Rebecca Arvans

VOTE: Unanimous

- 5. For information only:** Family Voice: Megan Evans from Washoe County School District reported that clinicians have noted concerns from students and families regarding the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Several callers experiencing mental health- related distress have reported extended hold time, leading to frustration and disengagement. Many ultimately hang up and return to school, where they report their struggles to Mental Health Professional. Rhonda Lawerence from the Department of Child and Family Services reported concerns regarding children and families not treated in clinics that do not specialize in infant and early childhood mental health needs. They face several challenges, including delayed diagnosis, ineffective interventions, and a lack of tailoring support. Early childhood mental health requires specialized approaches that consider developmental milestones, attachment, and family dynamics. Without this expertise, family may experience missed or delayed diagnosis, inappropriate treatment plans, insufficient support, and difficulties navigating the system. Improving the service should begin with social training, systemic support, and increased accessibility. Key priorities include expanding access to infant & early childhood mental health specialists, increasing providers awareness & training, strengthening family-centered care model, enhancing crisis response for young children, and advocating for policy and funding to address gaps in resources. Dr. Wilson asked what can be communicated to the referral department, acknowledgment of the issue, highlight gaps, such as delays in matching families to specialized clinics or lack of resources for early childhood mental health, empathizing timely and specialized care with DCFS ensure that child dyadic treatment is being provided with collaboration opportunities.
- 6. For information only:** Review, discussion and possible vote on next steps for WCCMHC Long term plan Objective 1B.6 Develop Policy and Create System Level Partners to Expand Children's Mobile Crisis Response Team Services to 24/7/365- Jessica Goicoechea reported that as of July 2024, the Children's Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) in Washoe County transitioned from the State Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) to the Washoe County Human Services Agency, allowing for expanded service capacity Meanwhile, DCFS continues to oversee the Clark County portion of the program, while Rural Nevada's children's mobile crisis services are now managed by the Department of Public and Behavioral Health. This shift aims to enhance crisis intervention efforts and streamline services for families in need. MCRT will continue operating under the same telephone, ensuring uninterrupted access to immediate crisis and short-term stabilization for youth experiencing behavioral or mental health crisis. Key duties include providing urgent support to children and families in distress, preventing unnecessary psychiatric hospitalizations, and connecting families with long-term mental health resources. Services are delivered in diverse locations- including homes, shelters, and community spaces-to foster a familiar and supportive environment. Each response requires a mental health counselor and a case manager, making it challenging for six teams to meet the needs of every child, 365 days a year. However, since the transition in July, we have seen great success. From July through April, we managed 228 crisis responses, with only 11 cases required hospitalization due to the need for a higher level of care-resulting in an impressive 95.5% hospital diversion rate. Natalie Sanchez praised the program and inquired about how providers can assist in ensuring

the consistent implementation of information and services. In response efforts are being made to offer specialized training, raise awareness about crisis services, expand peer support programs, and strengthen emergency mental health intervention.

- 7. For possible action:** Review, discussion, and possible approval of recommendations for the WCCHMC FY 2025 budget-All members Kristen Rivas reported that the FY 2025 budget exceeds \$889.42, empathizing the need to review specific area for adjustment and identify necessary allocations. Annie Zucker and the consortium members agreed on the following budget adjustments: deferring funds for school district books, magnets and the safe to next year's fiscal budget
MOTION: Katherine Loudon moved to adjust the budget deferring funds for schoolbooks, magnets, and the safes to next year's fiscal budget.
SECOND: Rebecca Arvan
VOTE: Unanimous
- 8. For information only:** A legislative update on Children's Behavior Health Issues being discussed at Nevada Legislature-All members, Annie Zucker reminded all the members to view the Children's Advocacy Alliance of Nevada website for weekly legislative update meetings every Tuesday
[2025 Legislative Session – Children's Advocacy Alliance of Nevada](#)
- 9. For possible action:** Nomination and voting of a new Treasurer for the WCCMHC-All members 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.
- 10. For information only:** Consortium members announcement. Natalie Sanchez, representing Health Psychology Associates, reported that Health Psychology Associates, in partnership with UC Davis Health, will be sponsoring an Autism CEU class 9:00 am -1:30 pm online. Following the session, a community engagement event will take place at 4:30 pm at HPA. Stephanie Brown, representing Reno Behavioral Healthcare Hospital, reported that the hospital has begun admitting youths from the community who are placed on hold, allowing them to go directly to the facility rather than waiting in the emergency room for an available bed. This expedited process applies to individuals ages from 12 to 17. Sarah Dearborn, representing Nevada Medicaid, shared that all members are welcome to attend the Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Working Group Advisory Meeting. The public website will be posted <https://dhcfp.nv.gov/Public/AdminSupport/PublicNotices/>. Rebecca Arvans representing Sierra Regional Center, shared that the ADSD Program has received a substantial grant to provide free training for professionals working with individuals who have intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as co-occurring mental health disorders.
- 11. For possible action:** Approval of the next meeting date and agenda items. The next scheduled meeting is on June 26, 2025, at 10:00 am.
MOTION: Rebecca Arvans moved to approve the next main meeting on June 26, 2025
SECOND: Ana De la Maza
VOTE: All in Favor

12. Public comment and discussion: No public comments.

13. Adjournment: Chair Annie Zucker adjourned the meeting at 11:05 am.