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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
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Marla McDade
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Administrator

Washoe County Children's Mental Health Consortium Meeting Minutes 10/16/2025 **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, Jessica Goicoechea-Parise, Megan Evans, Rebecca Arvans Feeney, Sarah Dearborn, Rhonda Lawrence, Mala Wheatley, Stephanie Brown, Natalie Sanchez, Holland Schubach, Misty Vaughan Allen

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Brenna Hardtner, Dr. Megan Weller Samantha Peman, Rosa Hall, Sara Velasquez, John Gracia, Linda Anderson, Marisa Nabong, Joleen Walker, Kristen Rivas, Fireflies notetaker Elyse, read.ai meeting notes, Monica Notetaker, Lisa Mariani, Nicole Schembre Sarah Hartzell, Karina Gamarra-Hoff, Luke FRPA, Julia Ratti, Kimberley Sarando, Katie Metz, Rose Steffen, Sharron Karina- Hoff Gamarra, Lisa Mariani, Maria Fernandez, Kris Wilson, Bojana Vujeva, Ashby Bellows, Monica Romero, John Etzell, Emma White, Krisann Taylor, Tara Burfoot, Zoe Houghton, Natalie Filipic

3. **Public comment and discussion:** Brenna Hardtner, representing Youth MOVE Nevada, highlighted the Kindest Poster Contest, which is currently open to youth ages 14 to 24 and runs through October 26. She encouraged attendees to share the opportunity with young people who are artistic or enjoy entering contests. Brenna also mentioned Nevada PEP's annual "Eye Care, We Care" campaign, which invites community members to submit kindness messages for sharing on social media and the organization's website. This year's campaign includes several online toolkits, and Brenna noted that she would be dropping all relevant links in the chat [Youth M.O.V.E. | Nevada PEP](#)

4. **For possible action:** Review and Approval of Outstanding Meeting Minutes – May 15,2025 and September 18,2025

MOTION: Hollard Schubach moved to approve the meeting minutes for May 15, 2025, as written.

SECOND: Natalie Sanchez

VOTE: Unanimous approval

MOTION: Misty Vaughan Allen moved to approve the meeting minutes for September, 18,2025 as written.

SECOND: Rebecca Arvans

VOTE: Unanimous approval

5. **For information only:** Family Voice: A time to hear from families and those in attendance who work with families about their experiences, successes, challenges and themes. Brenna Hardtner provided an update on behalf of Britt Young representing Nevada PEP noted they have observed an increase in school suspensions and informal removals involving children with behavioral health disabilities. Parents have expressed concern about the loss of instructional time and emphasized the need for school staff to be equipped to support students with significant behavioral health needs. The update highlighted the importance of staff training in implementing positive behavior interventions. Annie Zucker confirmed with Natalie Sanchez that she is available to assist private providers in navigating the support process. Natalie responded affirmatively, expressing her strong commitment to helping as many children and families as possible and offering her support to providers.
6. **For information only:** A presentation on current community services that will assist in achieving the WCCMHC Long term plan Objective 3A: Inform and support implementation of standards of quality care in accordance with the System of Care values and principles, reducing toxic stress and preventing ACEs. 3A.3 Coordinate local agency ACEs studies, monitor, and develop responses to continue ACEs research- Dr. Kristen Clements-Nolle, university of Nevada Reno- Kristen D. Clements-Nolle presented updates on Nevada’s work around adverse and positive childhood experiences. Much of the data is collected through the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, supported by a five-year ACDC grant. Her team recently received their Year 3 award, rehired staff, and resumed operations. Kristen highlighted new behavioral indicators for adults with children in the home and shared that ACE and PCE special reports are now available for larger counties like Washoe, Clark, and Elko. She offered to collaborate on local reports where feasible. She also introduced the “Reach Out” campaign, developed with strong community input and featuring local Nevada families. A full toolkit is available online for co-branding and adaptation. The campaign emphasizes mutual support and connection, not just seeking help. Kristen encouraged partners to use the materials and contribute feedback. Additional efforts include working with the Children’s Cabinet on family-friendly workplace policies and upstream strategies to prevent ACEs. Kristen concluded by inviting questions and feedback, noting that the school-home environment infographic was well received and will continue to be refined.

7. **For possible action:** Review, discussion, and approval of recommendations for the Washoe County Children's Mental Health Consortium FY 2026 budget. Annie Zucker representing the children's Cabinet, presented the FY2026 budget with members. Kristen Rivas noted that the spreadsheet presented reflected the previous fiscal year and offered to assist with updates for the FY2026 figures. Annie reminded the group that the budget was reviewed and approved during the September 18, 2025, meeting and has since been submitted to Kristen Rivas for final processing and state approval. Kristen provided a reminder that all invoices or funding requests must include a completed consortia request form prior to submission to ensure proper routing to fiscal.
8. **For information only:** Nomination and vote – New Treasurer for WCCMHC - All members: Annie Zucker Chair opened the floor for nominations for the position of Treasurer for the Washoe County Children's Mental Health Consortium. She noted that a few individuals are currently considering the role but may not be able to accept today. Positive developments are expected, with potential candidates likely to be ready for approval at the next meeting. No nominations were received during this session. **Action item is deferred to the next meeting agenda.** Please note: A Consortia Purchase Order Request Form must be submitted to Kristen when requesting funds.
9. **For information only:** Consortium member announcements – To provide the voting members a chance to share any updates they may have, and to discuss important issues impacting children's mental health such as upcoming events, services, legislation, and related community factors. Sarah Dearborn represents Nevada Medicaid provided an update regarding recent and pending Medicaid rate increases for behavioral health services. She noted that two rate increases have already been implemented for day treatment services and partial hospitalization programs. Additionally, three state plan amendments are currently under review with CMS. These proposed changes include aligning inpatient psychiatric hospital rates with general hospital rates, shifting psychiatric residential treatment facilities to a flat rate instead of negotiated rates, and introducing add-on rates for providers serving individuals with behaviorally complex needs. A fourth amendment under review focuses on outpatient behavioral health services, with rate increases targeting children's services, rural areas, and in-home care. Sarah encouraged attendees to join the Nevada Medicaid Children's Behavioral Health listserv for updates and participate in monthly workgroup meetings. She also highlighted the public notice website as a valuable resource for tracking new Medicaid benefits and rate changes. Overall, she emphasized that there is significant movement underway in Medicaid's behavioral health policy landscape. [BehavioralHealthListserv](#) Stephanie Brown representing Reno Behavior Healthcare Hospital shared an important clarification regarding youth legal holds. She emphasized that if a child is placed on a legal hold in the community, they may be brought directly to RBH without first going through the emergency room. This approach is intended to reduce barriers to treatment and minimize trauma for the youth involved. Stephanie noted that this streamlined process is already functioning well in coordination with the school district and encouraged attendees to share

this information with their teams to ensure broad awareness and alignment.

10. For possible action: Approval of next meeting date and agenda items. The next meeting scheduled is on November 20,2025 at 10:00 am. Proposed agenda items include discussion regarding the selection of a new Treasurer for WCCMHC.

MOTION: Rebecca Arvins motions to approve the next meeting date on November 20,2025 at 10:00 am

SECOND: Stephanie Brown

VOTE: Unanimous approval

11. Public comments and discussion: No Public Comments

12. Adjournment: Chair Annie Zucker adjourned the meeting at 10:48 am
