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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

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Marla McDade

Williams

Administrator

Washoe County Children's Mental Health Consortium

Meeting Minutes

12/18/2025

DRAFT

1. Call to Order:

Chair Annie Zucker called the meeting to order at 10:07 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, Mala Wheattley, Stephanie Brown, Sandy Arguello, Natalie Sanchez, Holland Schubach, Misty Vaughan Allen, Venessa Justice

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Brenna Hardtner, Megan Weller, John Gracia, Joleen Walker, Kristen Rivas, Fireflies notetaker Elyse, read.ai meeting notes, Ashby McDonald, Amanda Avelar, Amy Helmers, Killian Keeli, Aimee Fitch, Tracy Ceragioli, Taylor Morgan, Kimberly Weller, Nicole Schembre, Sara Velasquez, Kelly Dickman, Edwin Centeno, Estephania Jimenez-Sabree, Kimerly Sarandos, Krisann Taylor, Natalie Filipic

3. Public comment and discussion:

Ashby McDonald provided an update as a Youth Mentor with Youth MOVE Nevada. She shared that the Youth MOVE flyer would be posted in the chat for members to distribute to any youth who are passionate about mental health, interested in learning how to advocate for themselves, or seeking connection. She noted that contact information for Youth MOVE Nevada would also be added to the chat for anyone who knows youth who may want to learn more or get involved. She concluded by thanking the group.

[Flyer](#)

4. For possible action:

Review and Approval of Outstanding Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2025

MOTION: Natalie Sanchez moved to approve the meeting minutes of November 20, 2025.

SECOND: Jessica Goicoechea-Parise

VOTE: Motion carried with 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 representing Nevada PEP reported they have been hearing from families who are experiencing challenges with Washoe County School District, particularly around supporting students with mental-health-related behaviors. Parents are looking for more individualized support. As a reminder, Nevada PEP offers a Family Support Group every Wednesday at 5:00 p.m., available in both Spanish and English. We also have several training courses coming up in January, so I'll drop that link in the chat for anyone interested.

6. **For information only:** Review, discussion and activities needed to continue progress on the submission of the WCCMHC 10 – year Strategic Plan updated by January 30, 2026 - Annie Zucker, chair and Dr. Megan Weller, voting members, and stakeholders. **Annie Zucker, Chair** reported that the group moving into the main portion of today's meeting: reviewing what we needed to continue progress on the Washoe County Children's Mental Health Consortium 10-Year Strategic Plan update, due January 30, 2026. Dr. Megan Weller is preparing this report, along with our annual report, which is also due January 30. Today's meeting is discussion only. The group will compare last year's report with the 10-Year Strategic Plan, Annie emphasized that it is very important for all voting members to attend the January meeting. Dr. Weller will present the final draft at that time, and full participation is needed to approve it. Stakeholders from last year should have received an email from Annie and Dr. Weller requesting updated reports. The only missing submission is from Sierra Regional Center. **Dr. Megan Weller** explained that the first part of the report will be the Executive Summary, which she will write after receiving information from all stakeholders. The next section will be the index and table of contents, which she will update once the report is finalized. She noted that the vision, mission, and goals will remain the same. Dr. Weller asked the group to share any relevant systemic factors they want included in the report. In past years, the report has included the Surgeon General's advisory, the Attorney General's findings, CDC data, and updates from the Silver State Health Improvement Plan. She asked for input on what is most relevant this year. **Annie Zucker** said she would place a form in the chat meeting for members to submit systemic factors or other items discussed. [Clone of WCCMHC Annual Report](#). She encouraged everyone to fill out the form so the information can be sent to Dr. Weller. Dr. Megan Weller reviewed the first recommendation, which asks the state to provide funding, infrastructure, and legislative support for programs that help youth and families. This includes recommending a \$600-per-day reimbursement for acute crisis care during the first seven days. She asked whether the group wants to keep or change this recommendation. Annie Zucker asked whether this is something the consortium is advocating for, and Dr. Weller confirmed that it is. Natalie Sanchez representing Health Psychology Associates explained that this reimbursement does not currently exist and that the original idea was simply to request it because it would benefit the community. Jessica Goicoechea-Parise representing Washoe County Mobile Crisis added that crisis stabilization is part of the Behavioral Health Transformation work, although she is not aware of specific reimbursement amounts, and she noted that early childhood acute care still does not exist in Washoe County. She said it makes sense to keep the recommendation. Dr. Weller noted that this recommendation has been included for several years. Jessica also mentioned that the DOJ settlement and Behavioral Health Transformation include some incentive payments, so the language in the report may need to align with that work. Dr. Weller agreed and asked whether the group wants to keep the current recommended rates for acute care and residential or inpatient treatment. Jessica said she is not sure whether Medicaid has finalized any incentive amounts yet. Dr. Weller next noted the consortium's continued support for peer support programs, including NAMI's Family-to-Family model, Nevada PEP's family peer support model, and CASAT's peer support model. There is no specific funding request, but

the recommendation is to expand peer support in Nevada. The next scheduled meeting will continue to cover the 10-year strategic plan that will be due on January 30, 2026. Annie Zucker reminded everyone to fill out the form she shared in the chat after the holidays. She said the more information partners provide, the better the report will be, and encouraged people to reach out to her or Dr. Weller with questions.

7. **For information only:** Consortium members announcement- to provide the voting members with 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. Misty Vaughan Allen representing DPBH, Office of Suicide Prevention shared that SOS in Washoe County is now handled by the Children's Cabinet, and the state's only youth suicide prevention grant currently focuses on Churchill, Elko, and Carson City. She said training like SafeTALK and ASIST are still being offered statewide, and updated materials will be coming. Taylor Morgan representing Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention, DPBH added that the updated training materials will take longer to roll out, likely sometime next year, and said he is available to provide training anywhere in the state will provide the website. [Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention, North Events Home](#). Misty also shared statewide data showing 22 youth deaths by suicide in 2024. Annie asked about county-level data, and Misty said regional data is available through the Office of Analytics.

8. **For possible action:** Approval of next meeting date and agenda items. The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2026, at 10:00 am. Proposed agenda items include discussing the WCCMHC FY 2025 Annual Report.
MOTION: Misty Allen motion to approve the next meeting on January 15, 2026, at 10:00 am
SECOND: Anna De la Maza
VOTE: Motion carried with unanimous approval.

9. **Public comments and discussion:** No Public comment.

10. **Adjournment:** Chair Annie Zucker adjourned the meeting at 10:57 am