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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
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Marla McDade
Williams, MPA
Administrator

Nevada Children's Commission Behavioral Health Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, November 16, 2023

TIME: 3:30 P.M - Adjournment

VIDEO CONFERENCE:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZmVhYzkwYjktMTYzMv00Mzk3LThjYTUtZmViNjYyNjExMWYy%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22e4a340e6-b89e-4e68-8eaa-1544d2703980%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22be58909a-421c-4f56-857e-c5f7d4ef6f7f%22%7d

TELECONFERENCE LINE: 775-321-6111

CONFERENCE ID: 210 004 141#

- 1. Call to Order** – Gwynneth Smith, Dr. Sheldon Jacobs, Kim Abbott, Dr. Joe Haas
The meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. by Gwynneth Smith.
- 2. Welcome and Introductions (Roll Call)** – DCFS Staff
Members Present by Video: Gwynneth Smith, Dr. Sheldon Jacobs, Kim Abbott, Dr. Joe Haas

DCFS Staff: Marla McDade Williams, Elvira Saldana

Public: Sabrina Schnur, Jennifer Simeo

Marla McDade Williams stated she is the Administrator for the Division of Child and Family Services.

Sabrina Schnur stated she is on behalf of Belz and Case and is present for the Children's Advocacy Alliance and the Nevada Psychiatric Association.

Jennifer Simeo stated she is with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health.

- 3. Public Comment and Discussion**
There was no public comment.

- 4. For Possible Action:** Meeting Minutes – Gwynneth Smith, Dr. Sheldon Jacobs, Kim Abbott, Dr. Joe Haas
 - Review and vote to approve September 8, 2023 meeting minutes

Gwynneth Smith asked committee members if there were any changes or edits to the meeting minutes.

There were no recommendations.

Action: A motion was made by Gwynneth Smith to approve the minutes, seconded by Kim Abbott, and carried to approve the minutes of September 8, 2023. Dr. Sheldon Jacobs abstained.

5. For Information: Committee Priorities – Gwynneth Smith, Dr. Sheldon Jacobs, Kim Abbott, Dr. Joe Haas

- Review identified priority areas for 2024.

Gwynneth Smith stated the Justices requested each committee identify priority areas and an action plan. At the September 8th committee meeting, priority areas were identified and there was agreement Gwynneth Smith would take the topics and draft it into a report to submit to the full Commission. The report is attached to today's meeting invite. Gwynneth Smith asked committee members if there were reactions or thoughts about the report.

Dr. Sheldon Jacobs stated one thing he would like to put on the record and is a concern is lack of providers. There is a narrative regarding the area focused on the pipeline and the lack of behavioral health providers across the state. More and more, providers are moving away from private insurances including Medicaid because of the lower reimbursement rates and not being reimbursed on time. It is a big issue that no one is really talking about or addressing. There has been a lack of accountability.

Gwynneth Smith commented it is not an area she knows about; however, the committee does need to look at it more. Gwynneth Smith asked committee members if there were any other comments on the report.

Dr. Joe Haas stated the report captured what the committee has been talking about since the beginning of the committee meetings and ducktails nicely with the Department of Justice report. It captures the historically issues. Dr. Joe Haas agrees with Dr. Sheldon Jacobs. Dr. Joe Haas has a thought, maybe looking at the issue of insurance coverage especially focusing on managed care, Medicaid, and fee for service Medicaid.

Marla McDade Williams stated a Collaborative Pathways piece is not in there and is unsure if the committee wishes to include discussion about it. There is a system of providers that are also not stepping up. Institutional providers could help offset some of the challenges. Marla McDade Williams commented she does not know if the committee would want to have any discussion about it.

Gwynneth Smith stated the two points raised are good points. They are two things the committee should focus on especially the Collaborative Pathways and trying to revive the process. Putting an emphasis and making recommendations to the Commission would be important. Gwynneth Smith stated she will be flagging them for potential discussion and placing on a future agenda.

6. For Information: Data Points and Data Requests – Gwynneth Smith, Dr. Sheldon Jacobs, Kim Abbott, Dr. Joe Haas

- Discuss and identify what data points to track and data requests the committee would like to request.

Gwynneth Smith stated she would like to give Dr. Joe Haas credit for articulating that the committee can and probably should make a request for some kind of report card which can be provided to the Children’s Commission on some of the key data points. Gwynneth Smith thinks it is an area where the committee can make some specific recommendations, take them to the full Commission, and propose the commissioners make the request. The request may likely go to Director Whitley since a lot of the questions the committee is interested in answers for span over the different involved state agencies. It is an area the committee could make a very specific contribution in guiding the full Commission to what the committee thinks is important and who to ask for the data. Another meeting will be needed, if possible, before mid-December to talk about the specific data points the committee would like reflected in such a report card.

Kim Abbott stated it is a great idea, however, would argue it falls across several of the areas. The data is going to help the committee regarding the portion about the continuum of care and how they advocate and come to solutions. It is a good plan and a good way to get to actionable items both for the committee and the Commission as a whole.

Gwynneth Smith stated her plan would be to have a couple of working sessions where the committee looks at the continuum of care, and identify some specific data points the committee wishes to request maybe under each of the categories of the continuum of care. Perhaps a letter can be generated which identifies the request. The letter can be presented to the full Commission and make the recommendation the Commission make the request to the Department of Health of Human Services. In terms of aligning as a plan, Gwynneth Smith asked if the committee could take a vote or if it needs to be identified on the agenda.

Elvira Saldana stated it would need to be identified on the agenda. It can be discussed at today’s meeting, however going forward if the committee would like to take a vote, then it can be placed on the next meeting agenda.

Gwynneth Smith stated the committee should plan for voting on the proposal of requesting a report card and being able to propose it to the full Commission. The committee can let the Commission know of the plan and that early in the new year the committee will have something to present to the Commission, in terms of a request.

Marla McDade Williams commented it would be worthwhile to have Kyra Morgan or Alexia Benshoof present to the committee on data they already collect. The committee can then figure out if they would like more supplemental information. Marla McDade Williams is happy to have the conversation with them and work directly with Gwynneth Smith to understand what the committee is looking for. There are several dashboards already posted with all sorts of data.

Kim Abbott appreciates the suggestion. Kim Abbott thinks it would make sense for the group to get its priorities first as far as what data points the committee is looking for and then maybe have a working meeting with the data folks from the state.

Marla McDade Williams stated it would be worthwhile to have Kyra Morgan in the meeting if the discussion item will be set. Marla McDade Williams would not want the committee to go

down a path where the committee is asking for stuff they already have. When the committee gets to the discussion, Marla McDade Williams suggested Kyra Morgan be a part of the meeting to say whether they have the data, as the committee identifies what the priorities are.

Gwynneth Smith stated she agrees from an efficiency perspective and also agrees with Kim Abbott for the committee to decide on the key priorities and information they need to be able to report to the Commission. Once the committee knows what they want to gather, a meeting can be held with the state folks to see what already exists. Gwynneth Smith thinks the committee needs to align on the data points the committee needs, first.

Dr. Joe Haas asked if the committee would be looking at kids in the child welfare and juvenile justice system for the data and entry points of it.

Gwynneth Smith stated she thinks the committee should start with the continuum of care for children in the State of Nevada.

Kim Abbott commented she would agree. Going back to the issue of not wanting to drive families to the systems to access services, if the overall goal is to improve the continuum of care so they do not end up driving kids to the system, then the committee needs to know the data about the broader continuum.

Gwynneth Smith asked Dr. Joe Haas about his thoughts.

Dr. Joe Haas stated he is fine with either one. It would seem the first order of business for data would be the projected number of youths that would fall into the area of youth with serious emotional disturbance and youth with neurodevelopmental issues.

Gwynneth Smith stated she agrees. One of the areas Gwynneth Smith is very interested and did not see it broken down for the pediatric population in the report is Medicaid billing for medical emergency rooms. It should be possible to get the number of children who present at medical emergency rooms with behavioral health diagnoses statewide. It is a known community issue. It is an example of a specific data point Gwynneth Smith would recommend the Commission request. The Office of Analytics may be able pull it from the data they already have.

Kim Abbott commented she believes the data is referenced in the Department of Justice report.

Gwynneth Smith stated they should be able to request it be pulled and would also recommend to the Commission it be tracked over time. The proposal would be to request to establish some kind of ongoing report card with these data points that the committee aligns on and then have that data pulled, maybe quarterly for the Commission meetings. The plan would be to take the continuum of care slide that was previously reviewed, look at each of the categories, and come up with several data points for each that the committee wants to recommend being tracked. The committee can compose it into a letter which can be presented to the full Commission. Gwynneth Smith stated she does not know if the committee members would like to get started on it or if it should be planned for the next meeting.

Kim Abbott stated she liked the idea of committee members brainstorming and coming up with suggestions in preparation for the next meeting to efficiently go through the continuum of care and compare notes on the various topics and data points.

Gwynneth Smith stated it sounds like a good plan. The plan will be to use the next meeting as a working session. In advance of the meeting, the request will be for committee members to provide key data points to Elvira Saldana a few days before the meeting.

7. **For Possible Action:** Discuss and Decide Upon Next Steps – Gwynneth Smith, Dr. Sheldon Jacobs, Kim Abbott, Dr. Joe Haas
- Assign Tasks to Committee Members (if needed)
Committee members to provide key data points the committee should know about and would want to request formal assistance on obtaining the data.
 - Specify Agenda Items for the Next Meeting
Vote on the plan the committee has agreed on.
 - Confirm Next Meeting Date/Time
The next meeting will be scheduled in December.

8. **Public Comment and Discussion**
There was no public comment.

9. **Adjourn**
The meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.