

Steve Sisolak  
Governor



Richard Whitley, MS  
Director

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES  
*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



Cindy Pitlock, DNP  
Interim  
Administrator

## Nevada Children's Commission Behavioral Health Committee Minutes

**DATE:** Friday, December 10, 2021

**TIME:** 4:00 P.M.- Adjournment

**VIDEO CONFERENCE:** [Click here to join the meeting](#)

**TELECONFERENCE LINE:** 775-321-6111

**EXTENSION:** 701 453 997#

- 1. Call to Order** – Gwynneth Smith, Dr. Sheldon Jacobs, Kim Abbott, Dr. Joe Haas, Dr. Domonique Rice  
The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Gwynneth Smith.
- 2. Welcome and Introductions (Roll Call)** – DCFS Staff
- 3. Members Present by Video:** Gwynneth Smith, Dr. Sheldon Jacobs, Kim Abbott, Dr. Joe Haas, Dr. Domonique Rice

**DCFS Staff:** Elvira Saldana

**Public:** Valerie Balen, Lea Case, Morgan Briscoe, Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner

- 4. Public Comment and Discussion**  
There was no public comment.
- 5. For Possible Action:** Meeting Minutes from November 5, 2021  
Gwynneth Smith asked committee members if they were able to review the draft meeting minutes.

Committee members acknowledged via video.

**Action:** A motion by Gwynneth Smith was made to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Domonique Rice, and carried to approve the minutes of November 5, 2021.

- 6. For Possible Action:** Workplan Committee Goals  
Gwynneth Smith stated at the last meeting there was a valuable discussion on what the committee members have a shared vision of what some of the primary issues are and the directions the committee can take. In between the last meeting and this meeting, the topic is under constant flux and there is a lot going on in the community and a lot being covered in the media which is valuable. In addition, there has

been several changes in the leadership of some of the agencies involved. Gwynneth Smith stated her proposal to the committee would be instead of being prepared to go forward with specific proposals at the meeting later this month, she suggests the committee introduce themselves first and the committee be prepared for the March meeting to present to the Commission the key issues they see as important with some recommendations for the Commission to consider. Having been involved in a lot of discussions the last few months, Gwynneth Smith thinks it would be a wiser, strategic way to do it. Gwynneth Smith asked committee members if they had any objections or concerns pushing it to the March meeting.

Kim Abbott stated she agrees with the strategy. There are a lot of things influx and leadership changes happening. The stakeholder group that has been meeting with the state also has a meeting on Tuesday and there likely will be some developments coming out of it. Kim Abbott agrees with some preliminary discussions however the fact more time is needed to finalize some of the committee's recommendations makes sense. Kim Abbott informed she is unable to attend the Full Commission meeting next Friday.

Gwynneth Smith asked if any other committee members have concerns or thoughts.

Dr. Joe Haas stated he agrees with it. It would be best to be organized and in pace with what is happening then to present something incomplete, redundant, or not on target.

Gwynneth Smith stated if the committee agrees with it, it is what she proposes. In addition, Gwynneth Smith proposes the committee set a meeting in late January to get the workplan to be ready in March with some specific concrete ideas to share with the full Commission. At the full Commission meeting next week, Gwynneth Smith would like committee members to introduce themselves. Because the committee membership is currently mostly Clark County, Gwynneth Smith will be asking the full Commission to put forward some ideas of a person or people from the rural areas to join the committee for representation. Gwynneth Smith also plans to recap the discussion at the last committee meeting, let the Commission know what the committee sees as priorities in the workplan items and what the focus will be in each of the tasks. Justice Saitta requested to prioritize training for the judiciary. Training for attorneys in the child welfare system is very important. Gwynneth Smith would like to highlight the data category for the Commission and the committee's focus on understanding what UNITY can do, not do, and how to change it. Better data tracking capabilities are needed.

Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner stated she loves the vision and direction the committee is headed in and fully supports it. Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner suggests identifying the opportunity to engage in the development that is underway to ensure some level of alignment on the back end.

Gwynneth Smith stated she agrees and thanked Dr. Tiffany Tyler-Garner for her comment. Gwynneth Smith stated Kim Abbott and her can work together and others to make sure whatever recommendations come out here are aligned with what other stakeholders are already pushing forward. Gwynneth Smith would like for the committee to meet again in January. Prior to the next committee meeting, Gwynneth Smith requested committee members email Elvira Saldana, a list of top 5 priority areas/catalog of dilemmas to discuss and to decide which will be the 4 or 5 topics the committee will highlight to the Commission.

Dr. Sheldon Jacobs asked by when the priorities should be sent.

Gwynneth Smith stated at least a week before the meeting date to allow time for the list to be compiled, included in the meeting invite, and allow committee members to review it prior to the next meeting.

Dr. Joe Haas asked if it is too big of an ask to look at available data, i.e., out of state report, number of youths placed into custody to access mental health care, current capacities, and vacancies of System of Care service providers, at the January meeting.

Gwynneth Smith stated if the data is easily available, she would love to have it for the discussion in January. Gwynneth Smith asked Dr. Domonique Rice if the state has some of the numbers easily accessible and if they could be available for the January meeting. If it is not available, it could be one of the things the committee asks and identifies to the Commission as an issue.

Dr. Domonique Rice stated some of the data may be available, however she cannot guarantee the state will have all that data when it comes down to the provider level through the System of Care. Dr. Domonique Rice will check what data the state has access to.

Dr. Joe Haas stated his ask is not to do a deep dive or an individualized report.

Kim Abbott stated for purposes of the meetings with the state, the group of stakeholders compiled a document which lists some of the priorities. A chart was also developed to help track progress on the priorities. The meeting next week with the state, they are envisioning will be spent building out the chart. Once it is complete, the document can be shared with the group since it is relevant to what the committee will be working on.

Gwynneth Smith stated she agrees.

7. **For Possible Action:** Discuss and Decide Upon Next Steps – Gwynneth Smith, Dr. Sheldon Jacobs, Kim Abbott, Dr. Joe Haas, Dr. Domonique Rice
- Review subcommittee presentation to full Commission on 12/17/21 – Introductions; request for additional members representing broader geography/disciplines; description of subcommittee priorities  
The committee will introduce themselves at the full Commission meeting on December 17, 2021, request rural representation, and review committee priorities.
  - Assign Tasks to Committee Members (if needed)  
Committee members to provide a list of top 5 priority areas/catalog of dilemmas prior to the next meeting.
  - Specify Agenda Items for the Next Meeting  
No recommendations were made.
  - Confirm Next Meeting Date/Time  
A meeting will be scheduled in January.

8. **Public Comment and Discussion**

Kim Abbott thanked the folks from the Children’s Advocacy Alliance for being present. The committee is appreciative to have their involvement and input as the committee moves forward.

Gwynneth Smith stated if committee members know of anyone who would like to participate in the meetings or who should be included, please let her know.

**9. Adjourn**

A motion was made to adjourn by Kim Abbott, seconded by Gwynneth Smith, and carried to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.