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DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES
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Kimberly Abbott
Administrator

Draft

Commission on Behavioral Health Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health Minutes May 29, 2025

Commissioners Present:

Arvin Operario
Braden Schrag
Dan Ficalora
Gregory Giron
Jasmine Cooper
Lisa Durette
Lisa Ruiz Lee
Natasha Mosby
Nichole Schembre

Staff and Guests:

Amna Kawaja
Annie Aucker
Autumn Blattman
Brenna Hardtner
Don Butterfield
Jeanette Bussey
Joleen Walker
Kary Wilder
Kathryn Martin
Kathryn Rosachi
Krisann Taylor
Kristen Rivas
Kyra E. Morgan
Linda Anderson
Nima Alinejad
Rachael Metz
Read.ai meeting notes (Char Frost)
Ryan Gustafson
Sarah Dearborn
Sarah Hunt

Serene Pack
Sherrita Williams
Stephanie Brown
Tara Burfoot
Tia Navarro
Victoria Erickson
Yeni Medina

Meeting Materials: <https://dphh.nv.gov/Boards/CBH/Meetings/2024/NVCBH2024/>

1. **Call to order and introductions.** Dan Ficalora, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.
2. **Public comment and discussion.** Members of the public may provide live public comment during public comment sections of the agenda. Due to time considerations, each caller offering testimony during the periods for public comment will be limited to not more than 2:00 minutes. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on the agenda as an item upon which action can be taken.

Sara Hunt, Executive Director of BeHERE Nevada, announced that their 2024 legislative report was submitted to the Commission on Behavioral Health as required annually. She provided an overview of the report and 2024 highlights in regard to recruitment into behavioral health careers. Work continues to build the Nevada workforce pipeline in partnership with UNR, UNLV, and grants offering student scholarships.

3. **For information only.** Commissioner announcements – Dan Ficalora, Chairman

There were no Commissioner announcements.

4. **For possible action.** Approval of outstanding meeting minutes – Dan Ficalora, Chair, and Subcommittee Commissioners
 - a. COBH Executive Committee Meeting Minutes 4/11/24
 - b. COBH with DCFS Public Meeting Minutes 9/12/24
 - c. COBH with DCFS Public Meeting Minutes 9/26/24

MOTION: Braden Schrag made a motion to approve the COBH Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from April 11, 2024.

SECOND: Lisa Ruiz Lee

VOTE: Unanimous with no abstention, further discussion or opposition.

MOTION: Braden Schrag made a motion to approve the COBH with DCFS Public Meeting Minutes from September 12, 2024.

SECOND: Lisa Ruiz Lee

VOTE: Unanimous with no abstention, further discussion or opposition.

MOTION: Braden Schrag made a motion to approve the COBH with DCFS Public Meeting Minutes from September 26, 2024.

SECOND: Lisa Ruiz Lee

VOTE: Unanimous with no abstention, further discussion or opposition.

5. **For information only.** Washoe County Children’s Mental Health Consortium 2025 Annual Report presentation – Annie Zucker,

Annie Zucker gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the progress of the Consortium in addressing gaps and identifying goals to strengthen the children’s mental health system in Washoe County. 2024 Challenges included Nevada workforce challenges, low Medicaid reimbursement rates, and lack of respite care and specialty services for youth. 2024 Key drivers were the US Surgeon general’s advisory emphasizing the need for empowerment and equitable health care access and the Department of Justice settlement that called for community-based services expansion. System progress in Washoe County included the localization of the Mobile Crisis Response Team. Strategic recommendations and 2025 initiatives were outlined and the Consortium’s call to action is for policymakers to invest in funding and workforce.

6. **For information only.** Sai Mental Health Residential Treatment Center presentation – Jeanette Bussey, Chief Executive Officer, Sai Mental Health

Jeanette Bussey presented an overview of the SAI Treatment Center program and gave a presentation with details of the Center’s policies, plans, and services. Ms. Bussey reviewed the Center’s history, ownership and staff members. The Center is CARF-accredited, and their mission is to provide individualized, supportive, and compassionate care to teens suffering with mental health and substance use symptoms. The Center is a 10-bed facility located in a home in Northwest Reno and works with adolescents ages 12-17 with co-occurring mild to moderate mental health issues. Ms. Bussey reported the Center’s seclusion policy is not to provide seclusion and restraint in the event an individual displays unsafe behaviors and attempts to engage self-soothing techniques such as mindfulness, emotional regulation, sensory experiences, peer support, and visualization. If techniques are not successful, clients will be assigned to a limited timeout in his or her room. Ms. Bussey outlined challenges with EMS calls and community members objecting to the facility and neighborhood disruptions. They are working to build a relationship with the Reno Police Department and the M.O.S.T Team. A second Reno location treatment center is planned and when open, residents will be split between the two homes by gender.

7. **For information only.** Medicaid updates and changes – Sarah Dearborn, Social Services Chief III, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy

Sarah Dearborn shared a presentation covering general Medicaid behavioral health updates, the Children’s Behavioral Health Transformation, and current state plan

amendments. New statewide managed care contracts were awarded and will begin January 1, 2025. The new provider enrollment solution “Provider Flex” will support providers when enrolling in Nevada Medicaid and includes a DocuSign feature. Nevada applied for a 1115 re-entry waiver which is under review with CMS that will provide behavioral health services and medical coverage for treatment for individuals who are incarcerated 90-day pre-release. She shared an infographic describing the work around children’s behavioral health services initiated by the Department of Justice Settlement Agreement. Different Medicaid specialties and new Medicaid Service Manual chapters are being developed for peer and family support services. Medicaid is reorganizing rate increase phases, and some additional rate increases and alignments for phase two will come in the fall, pending federal budget issues. Medicaid is hoping to roll out a specialty managed care plan for children’s health care services in January of 2027. Medicaid teams are working on legislative session bills and will present a review of all of the bills that impact Medicaid at the end of the legislative session public hearing. Ms. Dearborn encouraged everyone to contact her directly with specific questions.

8. **For information only.** Autism Treatment Assistance Program update – Rachel Metz, Psychological Development Counselor II, Autism Treatment Assistance Program

Rachel Metz reported monthly April caseloads showed 271 new applicants, which is an increase due to a new no-wrong door, portal/referral system. Average wait time is approximately 45 days. All services are currently funded.

9. **For information only.** Update on Denial of Rights and Seclusion and Restraint reporting pursuant to NRS 433.534 and NRS 241.030 – Kristen Rivas, Clinical Program Planner II, Division of Child and Family Services

Kristen Rivas reported that the Planning and Evaluation Unit is continuing to actively process Seclusion and Restraint reports and is developing a new process and trend report to be shared at future meetings. Lisa Ruiz Lee made a request for the new process for evaluating reports at public meetings to mirror the current DPBH report review process. She requested a DPBH representative be involved in defining the new process. Kristen Rivas will provide assistance to Commissioners who are having technical issues accessing their reports on Teams.

Additional discussion was held regarding the new process to review Seclusion and Restraint reports in public meetings instead of executive sessions. Braden Schrag reported a meeting was held with Richard Whitely to discuss the need of Commissioners to discuss the reports in executive meetings and he is hopeful that a resolution can be reached. Kyra Morgan offered to act as a conduit to facilitate the conversations and Kathryn Martin will schedule a meeting.

10. **For possible action:** Discussion identification, and approval of future agenda items – Dan Ficalora, Chair
 - a. Determine 2025 meeting schedule

The next meeting was scheduled for June 26, 2024 to add additional Commissioners as members of the Subcommittee. Gregory Giron and Lisa Durette volunteered to serve on the Subcommittee. An agenda item will be included to set the future meeting schedule.

11. Public comment and discussion. Members of the public may provide live public comment during public comment sections of the agenda. Due to time considerations, each caller offering testimony during the periods for public comment will be limited to not more than 2:00 minutes. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on the agenda as an item upon which action can be taken.

There was no public comment.

12. Adjournment. – Dan Ficalora, Chair

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 am.

CHAT TRANSCRIPT

8:46 AM Meeting started

8:47 AM Kary Wilder

Welcome to the Commission on Behavioral Health Children's Subcommittee Meeting. This meeting is being recorded.

Please enter your name, title, and organization name in the chat for the record. Thank you Kary Wilder, AA support for this meeting, PEU/DCFS, kwilder@dcfs.nv.gov

8:51 AM Annie Zucker

Annie Zucker, Youth Mental Health Collective Impact Advisor for The Children's Cabinet and Chairperson for the Washoe County Children's Mental Health Consortium

8:58 AM Rachael Metz

Rachael Metz, PDC at ATAP

9:00 AM Kyra Morgan

Kyra Morgan, Medical Epidemiologist with DCFS

9:00 AM Kristen Rivas

Kristen Rivas DCFS PEU

9:01 AM Char Frost

Char added read.ai meeting notes to the meeting (recording enabled). View Privacy Policy: <https://www.read.ai/pp>.

To opt out and delete this recording, click here: <https://app.read.ai/analytics/opt-out/01JWEBV777A5SPEM1VTNTKMYR4>

9:01 AM Brenna Hardtner

Brenna Hardtner, Youth MOVE Nevada

9:01 AM Jasmine Cooper

Commissioner Jasmine Cooper

9:01 AM Linda Anderson

Linda Anderson, Nevada Public Health Foundation

9:01 AM Sara Hunt

Sara Hunt, BeHERE Nevada
9:01 AM Tia Navarro
Tia Navarro, Nevada Early Intervention Services - South
9:01 AM Sherrita Williams
Sherrita Williams, Molina Program Manager
9:01 AM Jeannet Bussey
Jeanette Bussey, Sai Residential Treatment Center
9:02 AM Ryan Gustafson
Ryan Gustafson- Washoe County Human Services Agency
Joleen Walker, NV Medicaid
9:05 AM Sarah Dearborn
Sarah Dearborn, NV Medicaid
9:05 AM Serene Pack
Serene Pack, NV Medicaid
9:18 AM Jeanette Bussey
Thank you
9:47 AM Autumn Blattman
Autumn Blattman, Regional Coordinator, Aging and Disability Services Division
10:17 AM Autumn Blattman
[Access Nevada](#)
Access Nevada
10:17 AM Lisa Durette
Thank you!!
10:17 AM Braden Schrag
[https://adsd.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/adsdnv.gov/content/Boards/CSPD/2024/NWD Final Report 1 4 24.pdf](https://adsd.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/adsdnv.gov/content/Boards/CSPD/2024/NWD%20Final%20Report%201.4.pdf)another link
10:19 AM Sarah Dearborn
Nevada Medicaid Public Notice Website [Public Notices](#), June 24th Public Hearing for Peer Support service updates.
Public Notices
10:23 Jasmine Cooper
who am i to contact for help with Teams? I cannot access my teams account for the Commission.
10:25 AM Gregory Giron
I cannot access my teams account as well
10:30 AM Kathryn Martin
We do not have any other meetings set for the Subcommittee.
10:37 AM Gregory Giron
please add me to the subcommittee. I cannot be there for the June 26th meeting, however. And Kary will help me reconnect
10:37 AM Kary Wilder
I'm happy to assist.
10:38 Lisa Durette
I would like to add to the record that I would like to be added to the children's subcommittee.
10:39 AM Rachel Metz
Thank you!
10:39 AM Sherrita Williams
You did amazing Dan!! Have a great day
10:40 AM Tara Burfoot
Have a great day!

10:41 AM Meeting ended

Minutes Prepared by: Kary Wilder, AAILI, DCFS/PEU

Approved by:

DRAFT