

Joe Lombardo
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.



Marla McDade
Williams, MPA
Administrator

COMMISSION ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WITH DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

DRAFT

This meeting used Microsoft TEAMS technology for video and audio capability.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

1. Braden Schrag
2. Dan Ficalora
3. Gregory Giron
4. Jasmine Cooper
5. Lisa Durette
6. Lisa Ruiz-Lee
7. Natasha Mosby
8. Nichole Schembre

STAFF AND GUESTS

Alejandro Ruiz
Alinejad Nima
Amna Khawaja
Ann Jensen
Autumn Blattman
Belz & Case Government Affairs Scribe
Bernard Sands
Beverly Hart
Cody Phinney
Dominique Carter
Dorothy Edwards
Dr. Jackie Wade
Dr. Wendolyn Greene
Jenna Grant
Jessica Goicoechea-Parise
Joelle McNutt
Kelissa Plett-Meritt
Kelli Knutson
Khalileah Daniels
Kristen Rivas

Kristen Valentine
Marla McDade Williams
Melissa Washabaugh
Michael Flynn
Michelle Paul
Mignon Hoover
Nicole Mara
Read.ai meeting notes (Char and Michael)
Sabrina Schnur
Sara Jordan
Sarah Dearborn
Valerie Wilcox
Yeni Medina
(Teams meeting attendance record not available)

MEETING MATERIALS: <https://dph.nv.gov/Boards/CBH/Meetings/2024/NVCBH2024/>

1. **Call to Order and Introductions.** Braden Schrag, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:04 am. Kristen Rivas, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), conducted roll call and quorum was established.
2. **Public Comment and Discussion.** 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.

3. **For Possible Action.** Approval of the April 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes – *Braden Schrag, Chairman*

MOTION: Dan Ficalora made a motion to approve the April 11, 2024 meeting minutes.

SECOND: Jasmine Cooper

VOTE: Unanimous with no opposition or abstention

4. **For information only.** Commissioner announcements – Braden Schrag

Braden Schrag announced an upcoming change to the seclusion and restraint form process which will be brought to the Commission for review and feedback. The goal is to provide the proper guidance and oversight of these incidents per Nevada statute.

5. **For information only.** Presentation of the Rural Nevada Children's Mental Health Consortium Annual Report – Melissa Washabaugh, Chair

Melissa Washabaugh presented the five service priorities of the Rural Consortium and the progress to date; 1. Expand and sustain the Nevada System of Care to rural and frontier Nevada, 2. Increase access to mental and behavioral health care, 3. Increase access to treatment in the least restrictive environment, 4. Increase health promotion prevention and early identification

activities, and 5. Develop, strengthen and implement statewide policies and administrative practices that increase equity in access to mental and behavioral healthcare for youth and families. Several updates were made to the Consortium website to link resources, education opportunities, and support services. A scholarship program awarded funds to youth and families for transportation needs and other healthcare costs. Consortium members participated in several rural outreach events and healthcare wellness items funded by the Consortium were distributed to rural youth and families.

6. **For information only.** Discussion and review of materials regarding the drafting of the Governor's Letter for 2024 - Commissioners

Cody Phinney distributed the draft materials in June and Kellie Knutson reposted them to the meeting chat. A special meeting to review and approve the final materials was scheduled for September 26th.

7. **For information only.** Bamboo Sunrise update from January 11, 2024 presentation – Michael Flynn, Executive Director, Bamboo Sunrise and Curtis Haddrill, Care Coordinator Supervisor

Michael Flynn reported that the 6-bed program was closed after six months due to lack of referrals (only 4 were received), extensive overhead costs, and only two youth were actually in the program. Community partners were very difficult to work with and many of the children received had acuity rates much higher than what the program was capable of handling in an unlocked facility. This led to a number of staff injuries and issues with attempting to keep those kids stable. Discussion followed regarding referral process difficulties and some of the challenges and factors leading to the closure. Mr. Flynn explained that the process to getting the facility open was extremely complicated and long and was a barrier to moving faster and opening sooner. The lack of connections to managed care organizations (MCOs) was also a factor.

Lisa Ruiz Lee commented that these issues were not new and part of the challenge is that government agencies involved in children's mental health have never really identified what the process should be or created a standard mechanism to talk about how children's acuity is assessed and how treatment service needs are accurately identified. She asked how this issue could be resolved and what could be done? Dr. Durette commented there appeared to be a mismatch between what government agencies at DCFS are wanting for children and the standard children's mental health best practices and needs for a true clinical direction. Marla McDade Williams stated the discussion was off topic and would need to be agendaized for a future meeting.

Marla McDade Williams reminded the group that a contract was issued to allow a private sector provider to use a public facility to administer a service and the expectation of DCFS is to step in and fill gaps in the system. DCFS will continue to look forward to continuing to develop systems to care for the most difficult-to-care-for children.

Braden Schrag recommended identifying topics to consider to allow follow-up discussion for future agenda items which may help with the discussion and the development of solutions for the betterment of the community.

8. **For information only.** Desert Willow Treatment Center Presentation – Dr. Gwendolyn Greene, Hospital Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services

Dr. Gwendolyn Greene shared a PowerPoint presentation and provided an overview of the Center, which is a psychiatric residential treatment center and psychiatric residential treatment facility in Southern Nevada offering a variety of programs and services to serve severely emotionally disturbed children who meet acute or residential treatment center level of care recommendations. The scope of services provided include; psychiatry, psychotherapy, dietary, pediatric, therapeutic recreational activities, and Applied Behavioral Analysis. Mental health services were outlined including Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, and several others. The presentation outlined leadership, clinical, medical, and administrative staff and detailed the admissions and referral processes. The residential treatment program ranges from 30 to 120 days in duration and focuses on psychiatric conditions and behavioral concerns through the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) program. Families and guardians are continually engaged and discharge planning provides a continuum of care. The acute short-term program ranges from three to seven days and focuses on stabilization and preparing the youth and family for home reunification and ensuring continuum of care services. Dr. Green pointed out that Desert Willow partners with the Clark County School District and the Miley Achievement School to provide education, with onsite classrooms. Desert Willow continues to work diligently to meet community needs and partners with community agencies and providers to be the statewide safety net for treating and addressing Nevada's population needs.

9. **For possible action.** Presentation of the UNLV Behavioral Health Care Workforce Development Initiatives and Policy Considerations followed by a possible vote of the Commission to approve supporting this proposal to the upcoming legislature – Dr. Michelle Paul, Assistant Vice President of Mental and Behavioral Health, The Workday Endowed Executive Director, and UNLV Practice, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and Dr. Sara Jordan, Professor, Graduate Coordinator, and Program Director of Couple and Family Therapy Program, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Dr. Michelle Paul presented the UNLV practice mission to strategically unite UNLV's mental and behavioral health training programs, specifically the non-medical programs for the greatest impact in addressing Nevada's mental health crisis. Challenges include the fragmented nature of mental health disciplines, siloed training models and limited funding and resources. The practice opened in 2012 to offer counseling, clinical psychology and school psychology, moving from a community mental health training clinic to the current interdisciplinary mental health institute. A five-year plan has been developed to unite the dispersed UNLV programs to provide accessible, effective, and research-informed community mental and behavioral health care while preparing the next-generation workforce. Goals were identified to train students in providing value-based care using evidence-based practices and routine outcome monitoring. 11,500 Hours of service are provided last year with adult and youth individual therapy and routine care settings showing significant improvement rates. Goals for research growth and trainee workforce expansion were described along with related policy, sustainable funding and appropriations considerations. Discussion following regarding the need for a legislative ask for cost-based reimbursement for training clinics to provide sustainability long-term and how the Commission might provide support. Dr. Sarah Jordan stated that such a rate would benefit behavioral health professional training programs using a similar model as a Certified Community Based Health Centers (CCBHCs).

MOTION: Lisa Durette Commission made a motion for the Commission to provide support for the proposal to the Nevada State Legislature to request cost-based reimbursement rates for university and university-focused behavioral health professional training programs.

SECOND: Gregory Giron

VOTE: Unanimous with no abstention or opposition.

10. For information only. Medicaid updates and changes – Sarah Dearborn, Social Services Chief III, Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP)

Sarah Dearborn presented general Medicaid updates, State Plan Amendments (SPA) under review, Medicaid Services Manual (MSM) updates, The Children's Behavioral Health Transformation, legislative updates and an overall Medicaid project summary and timeline. Ms. Dearborn and Anne Jensen, DHCFP, highlighted the Children's Behavioral Health Transformation project which will provide new and improved Medicaid-covered home-based and community services for eligible children. Nevada is investing over \$200 million and making major changes over the next few years to the state's mental health system to improve Medicaid covered services for children, including those in foster care. A Working Group made up of children, families, providers, government agencies and other community partners is being launched with monthly virtual meetings beginning in late October. Regular community meetings open to all members of the public will begin during the end of 2024 or early 2025. Anyone interested in more information can email ChildrensBH@dhefp.nv.gov.

11. For information only. Aging and Disability Services Division update:

a. Autism Treatment Assistance Program (ATAP)– Luke Duraman, Psychological Development Counselor II, Autism Treatment Assistance Program

Yeni Medina presented ATAP program July 31, 2024 data and information. 114 New applications were received. 1069 Active children were being served (8.7 years old was the average age and 45 children in active status had an average age of 6.6 years). Average wait time for all ATAP children was 52 days. ATAP caseloads increased from 107 in July, 2011 to 1,068 in July, 2024. Professional Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) level service providers increased from 10 in January, 2018 to 15 in July, 2024. There were 15 Registered Behavior Technical (RBT) paraprofessional service providers in July, 2024 compared to 341 in January, 2018.

b. Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) – Khalileah Daniels, Psychological Developmental Counselor II, Nevada Early Intervention Services

Khalileah Daniels provided NEIS updates. Current activities included outreach community collaborations; the Annual Walk with the Heart of a Child and the Nye County Social Service Fair. Flyers were distributed with the NEIS program information.

12. For information only. Update on System of Care (SOC) Grant – Beverly Hart, Clinical Program Planner I, Training and Technical Assistance, System of Care Health Program, Division of Child and Family Services

Beverly Hart gave a reminder that the current grant sunsets on December 29th, 2024. Marla McDade Williams announced that the new SOC grant was funded and activities moving forward will be somewhat different than the last grant, truly focusing on building community and community provider capacity. DCFS is moving forward to accept the funds and begin the work.

13. **For Information Only.** Update on Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program Grant – Beverly Hart, Clinical Program Planner I, training and Technical Assistance, Division of Child and Family Services, and Nicole Mara, Education and Information Officer, Nevada Pediatric Psychiatry Solutions, Division of Child and Family Services

Nicole Mara reported the grant sunsets on December 29th, 2024 and wrap up and finalization of data collection is in process to prepare the federal report. Ms. Mara summarized overall program accomplishments. 300 Participants were trained this federal fiscal year in over 100 different learning events, both asynchronous and synchronous. 34 Clinicians completed the Circle of Security parenting facilitator training to further enhance their knowledge on parental attachment in early childhood. 17 Participants sponsored through the Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS-care) officially received their CAMS designation. 14 Pediatric primary care providers attended a three-day intensive event for the REACH Institute's patient centered mental health and primary pediatric primary care, mini fellowship. Six On-demand trainings were sponsored via the UNR CME library, with CMEs awarded to eligible participants. Six Clinicians were sponsored to attend the Train-the-Trainer opportunities through the Zero-to-Three and Zero-to-Five clinical training programs to provide training to clinicians who work with the state's early childhood population.

A collaborative project with NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and High Sierra Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) developed and offered a program to support youth mental health workforce development through a paid internship program for young adults with lived mental and behavioral health experience. Participants earned dual certifications as youth, peer recovery support specialists and community health workers.

Marla McDade Williams thanked Nicole for all her work. DCFS has a plan to continue some level of program maintenance and is working collaboratively with Dr. Wade and Dr. Durette to ensure that what was developed is maintained throughout the community

14. **For Possible Action:** Discussion, identification, and approval of future agenda items.

The next meeting is November 7th, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Commissioner Lisa Ruiz-Lee gave a reminder of the proposed DCFS Deputy Attorney General review of the seclusion and restraint issues and processes and the plan to bring that back as an agenda item for discussion. These reviews are done for both adults and children and the process should be similar.

Commissioner Lee recommended agenda items be stated correctly in order to have the necessary, well-rounded conversations between the Commission, state agencies and other presenters and partners in order to address challenging issues. Commissioner Lee requested

an agenda item to hold an in-depth discussion and conversation around the closure of the Bamboo Sunrise facility, to discuss the reasons for the closure, and identify next steps.

15. **Public Comment.** No action may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to comments by the general public until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.

None.

16. **Adjournment.** – Braden Schrag, Chair

The meeting adjourned at 12:26 pm.

CHAT TRANSCRIPT

8:47 AM Meeting Started

8:51 AM Kristen Rivas

Good morning and welcome to the Commission on Behavioral Health DCFS meeting. For the record, please put your name and agency in the chat. Thanks so much!

8:52 AM Michael Flynn

Good Morning!

Michael Flynn

Bamboo Sunrise

Michael@bamboosunrise.net

8:52 AM Mignon Hoover

Mignon Hoover - DCFS - PEU

8:52 AM Kristen Rivas

Kristen Rivas DCFS - PEU

8:54 AM Dr. Jackie Wade

Dr. Jackie Wade, DA-DCFS

8:56 AM Kristen Valentine

Kristen Valentine - DCFS - WIN

8:57 AM Goicoechea -Parise, Jessica

Jessica Goicoechea-Washoe County Human Services Agency

8:57 AM Cody Phinney

Cody Phinney, Administrator Division of Public and Behavioral Health

8:58 AM

Dorothy Edwards Washoe Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator

8:58 AM

Dominique Carter, DCFS

8:58 AM

Sabrina Schnur, Belz & Case Government Affairs

8:58 AM

Kelissa Plett-Merritt, DCFS

Daniel Ficalora - Commissioner

8:58 AM

Valerie Wilcox, Molina Healthcare-BH program manager

8:59 AM

Michelle Paul, University of Nevada, Las Vegas Partnership for Research, Assessment,
Counseling, Therapy & Innovative Clinical Education (UNLV PRACTICE)

8:59 AM

Commissioner Jasmine Cooper

8:59 AM

Amna Khawaja - DCFS - SOC

8:59 AM

Dr. Gwen Greene-DWTC/DCFS

8:59 AM

Nicole Mara, DCFS - NVPeds

9:00 AM Khalileah Daniels

Khalileah Daniels, Psychological Developmental Counselor, NEIS

9:00 AM

Beverly Hart, DCFS, SOC

9:00 AM

Alejandro Ruiz, DCFS - PEU

9:00 AM

Melissa Washabaugh RCMHC chair

9:00 AM

Kelli Knutzon DPBH

9:00 AM

Char and Michael added read.ai meeting notes to the meeting (recording enabled). Type 'read stop' to disable, or 'opt out' to delete meeting data. View Privacy Policy: <https://www.read.ai/pp>

9:01 AM Alinejad, Nima

Nima Alinejad

9:01 AM Jenna Grant DCFS

Jenna Grant DCFS

9:01 AM Bernard Sands

Bernard Sands DCFS

9:01 AM Yeni Medina

Yeni Medina ATAP

9:01 AM AnnJensen

Ann Jensen - DHCFP

9:01 AM Sarah Dearborn

Sarah Dearborn - Nevada Medicaid/DHCFP

9:03 AM Kristen Rivas

Thank you Commissioners. We have quorum.

9:14 AM Mignon Hoover

m.hoover@dcfs.nv.gov

9:16 AM Joelle McNutt

Joelle McNutt, Executive Director, NVBOE for MFT & CPC

9:29 AM Kristen Rivas

Thank you Melissa!

9:29 AM Gregory Giron

well done Melissa

9:30 AM Kristen Rivas

[2024 Report COBH.docx](#)

I am forwarding on behalf of Kelli.

9:31 AM Kelli Knutzon

We have a meeting scheduled for Oct 17th with DPBH

9:32 AM Kristen Rivas

DCFS meeting November 7th

9:33 AM Dan Ficalora

I am not able to access that file through the link - Not sure if I am the only one

9:34 AM Cody Phinney

DPBH will volunteer to do the clerical work of the meeting.

9:34 AM Kristen Rivas

I am able to access the letter through the link. We can send the letter via email after the meeting. Thank you

9:38 AM Autumn Blattman

Autumn Blattman, Washoe Regional Coordinator, ADSD

9:46 AM Dan Ficalora

Thank you

9:47 AM Gregory Giron

Please send the letter and material through another way

9:56 AM Kristen Rivas

Thank you Commissioner Giron. It will be sent to the Commissioners via email as an attachment as requested.

11:01 AM Khalileah Daniels

Hello, this is Khalileah Daniels for agenda number 11, I will miss my presentation as we have a fire drill occurring

11:02 AM Nicole Mara

This is such important, exciting work! It's refreshing and inspiring to see such a collaborative movement designed to expand and enhance the mental health workforce in our state.

11:02 AM Nicole Mara

Thank you Khalileah for letting us know. Take Care!

11:22 AM Khalileah Daniels

Hello again, our fire drill is over so I can still present for item agenda #11 after ATAP if that will still work

11:29 AM Michelle Paul

We propose the state support a cost-based reimbursement rate for behavioral health profession training programs: MD, PhD, CPC, MFT, LCSW.

11:30 AM Sara Jordan

Yes!

11:34 AM Melissa Washabaugh

The Nevada Regional Behavioral Health Policy Boards have access to BDR creation which might be a helpful next place to reach out. <https://nvbh.org/>

Nevada Regional Behavioral Health Policy Boards

Regional policy boards were launched in Nevada with the passing of AB 366 during the 2017 legislative session.

11:37 AM Sara Jordan

Thank you!!!

11:38 AM Michelle Paul

Thank you so much.

I apologize but I need to leave to attend a meeting at UNLV regarding academic health. Dr. Jordan will be available to stay. We appreciate the Commission and all of our partners and colleagues here today.

11:49 AM

Thank you for letting us know Michelle. Take Care!

11:55 AM Ann Jensen

Please email ChildrensBH@dhcfp.nv.gov with any questions or to be added to our listserv.

Thank you!

11:58 AM Kristen Rivas

Thank you Anna for the information.

12:16 AM Jenna Grant

Thank you so much for all your support and work Nicole!

12:17 AM Nicole Mara

It's been a true pleasure and privilege!

NVPAL will continue the work of NVPeds under the HRSA grant: <https://nvpal.org/>

Nevada Pediatric Access Line (NV PAL)

A post from bittyrant on Nevada Pediatric Access Line (NV PAL) provided by: <https://nvpal.org>

12:26 PM Meeting ended

DRAFT