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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND POLICY

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Stacie Weeks,
JD MPH
Administrator

MEETING MINUTES

CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH: MEDICAID BENEFITS WORKING GROUP

January 9, 2025

The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services held a public meeting pursuant to NRS 241.020(3)(a) online and by phone on Thursday, January 9, 2025, beginning at 4:30 PM.

1. Call to order:

By: Ann Jensen, Innovations Officer, and Stacie Weeks, Administrator, DHCFP (Nevada Medicaid)

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Ann Jensen, Innovations Officer

State of Nevada Staff Present

Ann Jensen - Innovations Officer, Stacie Weeks - Administrator, Darlene Wolff - Administrative Assistant 3, Sarah Dearborn - Social Services Chief, Carin Hennessey - Social Service Program Specialist 3, Matt Burdick - Behavioral Health Policy Expert, Malinda Southard - Deputy Administrator, Melissa Knight- Social Services Program Spec 2, Marcel Brown - Social Service Program Specialist 3, Melorine Mokri – Special Projects Advisor, Christine Pebbles - Behavioral Health Clinical Advisor, Amber Cronn - Social Service Program Spec 3, Monica Schiffer - Social Services Chief 1, Tashanae Glass - Management Analyst 2, Heather Lazarakis - Social Services Manager 3, Patricia Beck-Weaver - Social Services Program Specialist 3, Joseph Filippi - Executive Director, Ann Polakowski - Clinical Program Manager 3, Deidre Manley - Social Services Chief 1, Nahayvee Flores-Rosiles - Social Services Program Specialist 3

Members of the Public Present

Megan Evans, Jeannie Warner, Sabrina Schnur, Leighann Knight, De Yates, Michelle Guerra, Dan Musgrove, Kelly Wooldridge, Patrick Kelly, Amy Hyne-Sutherland, Annie Vong, Linda Anderson, Brittany Loyd, Brian Evans, Chole Johnson, Rhonda Lawrence, Brandi A Johnson, Nadine Kienhoefer, Brent Andriese, Ryan Gustafson, Areida Gardner, Carley Murray, Katie Metz, Mina Fiddymont, Dana Walburn, Lisa Detting, Ana Cruz, Elyse Monroy- Marsala, Brandon Ford, Lea Cartwright, Areli Alarcon, Karen Rogers, Jason Yates, De Abs, Shawna Derosse, Tabitha Mueller, Kimberly A Purinton, Denise Hanlin, Allyson Hoover, Dawnesha Powell, Jake Wiskerchen, Esther Badiata, James Lutz, Phillip Ramirez, Brandi A Johnson, Ryan Gustafson, Sara Cooper, Valerie Wilcox, Jason Embra, Cheri Glockner, Lisa Mariani, Barbra A Scaturro, Christina Sa, Terry A Bahr, Regina C DeRosa, Kristen Wall, Amber Wilkins, Kimberly Gahagan, Linda Guastella, Laurie Curfman, Suellen Narducci, Joy Thomas, Sarah Paulsen, Megan Martinez, Nicole M King, Shelby Prows, Lisa Dettling, Cheryl L Fisher, Star Jones-Peat, Joshua M Coello, Nicholas Hollister, Stacey Stroia, Char Frost, Arlene Forsman, Lea Cartwright, Kim Abbott

2. Working Group Member Introductions:

By: Ann Jensen

Innovations Officer, Ann Jensen introduced the 29 selected Representatives for our Children's Behavioral Health Working Group.

Youth, Family, and Disability Self-Advocate Representatives:

Matt Lehman, BCBA with Foster parent ABA Group

Leah Skinner, Parent

LaNesha Battle, Foster Parent, Washoe County School District - Absent

JayDee Porras-Grant, Foster Parent

Devin Daniels, Black Youth Mental Health Project - Absent

Analicia Cruz, Black Youth Mental Health Project - Absent

Luke Dumaran, Autism Treatment Assistance Program

Behavioral Health Provider Representatives:

Alana Rogne, DNP, PMHNP-BC with Rural Nevada Counseling

Dave Doyle, Eagle Quest & Family Focused Treatment Association Megan McGrew, PhD, BCBA, LBA with Impact ABA Services

Megan Freeman PhD with Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Nevada

Takesha Cooper, MD, MS, FAPA with UNR Med and Renown

Glenda Cruz Juarez, LCSW with Veridian Wellness

Natalie Sanchez, LMFT with Health Psychology Associates - Absent

Stephanie Brown, Reno Behavioral Health - Absent

Janelle Hoover, MSN, RN with Carson Tahoe Health

Community Partner Representatives:

Angie Wilson, Reno Sparks Tribal Health Center

Nikky Redpath, LPC-S with Shoshone-Piaute Tribe - Absent

Gwynneth Smith, PhD, JD with Clark County District Attorney Juvenile Division

Jessica Goicoechea-Parise, MFT with Washoe County Human Services Agency, Children's Mobile Crisis Response Team

Meambi Newbern-Johnson, LCSW, PLLC with Clark County Family Services

Shayla Holmes, MA with Lyon County Human Services

Bre Taylor, MSN with Humboldt County School District

Karen Taycher, NV PEP

Robin Reedy, NAMI NV - Absent

Jonathan Norman, Esq with NV Coalition of Legal Service Providers (Legal Aid Center of Southern NV, NNLA, SLP, VARN)

Dr. Santosha Veeramachaneni, American Academy of Pediatrics, Nevada Chapter

3. DOJ Settlement Agreement Update:

Presentation By: Stacie Weeks

Stacie informed working group members and the public that the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) settlement has been signed by the Governor's Office and the DOJ. This settlement is effective January 2, 2025. Stacie and Ann walked through the different sections of the agreement. There are 13 sections that outline all the requirements for the state to meet within five years. Stacie also explained that there is going to be an independent evaluator contracted through the State of Nevada and that will report back to the DOJ about the Children's Behavioral Health Transformation's work. The purpose of the agreement is to prevent children from being removed from their family home to obtain treatment for behavioral health conditions. Nevada is working to prevent children from unnecessarily entering inpatient settings and residential treatment facilities due to unmet behavioral health needs by building a stronger home- and community-based behavioral health system.

Stacie further explained that Nevada wants to ensure children with behavioral needs have the support they need to remain at home and in their communities whenever possible. We have a duty as a state to ensure that children with disabilities have access to a robust array of state funded behavioral health services to ensure community-based living.

Ann Jensen:

Ann explained the focus population that is defined in the Settlement Agreement, as well as that the state will be defining eligibility for services even more broadly than that definition. Additionally, the state is required to use a new Specialty Managed Care delivery system to deliver benefits to eligible youth. The intention is for this model to be unique and provide enhanced benefits and protections beyond standard Medicaid Managed care. We have a chance to design this delivery system to uniquely serve the population of youth in Nevada we seek to better serve. Ann also walked through how to read the settlement agreement, including a highlevel summary of each section and the State's path to compliance. While Medicaid is the leading agency for this effort, strong collaboration with sister agency and county partners, as well as the CBHT working group and other members of the public, will be crucial for the success of this transformation.

4. Working Group Representative Discussion:

Please visit the Children's Behavioral Health Transformation public website to access a summary document with detailed responses to each item of feedback received from the Working Group members during previous monthly meetings.

James Lutz asked if the eligible members for the program based on the level of severity and being eligible for residential treatment

Leah Skinner asked if Nevada is including those children who are in juvenile detention who are under the FIAS services and can no longer apply for Katie Beckett.

Gwynneth Smith mentioned that if the child is not in custody and the child is residing in a detention center or they are living in the community they would meet the definition of the focus population

Dr. Christine Pebbles was introduced to the working group by Ann as the new Clinical Advisor for the Children's Behavioral Health Transformation.

Jake Wiskerchen stated his concern with the screen-all-children approach is we find either a) a lot of false positives or b) a lot of real positives that overwhelm an already overwhelmed system, which is something to be mindful of.

Lea Cartwright expressed less concerned with false positives in the screening and more concern with screening everyone and learning that we (Nevada) can't handle the needs of our children, but it is better to know the needs.

Dr. Santosha Veeramachaneni shared concern with not being able to provide services to positive screening kids as a potential stress/harm that the screening and positive result will bring to kids and families who then may not have the resources for treatment.

Rhonda Lawrence said training in high quality implementation of mental health practice takes an investment of time (unbillable/non-reimbursable), quality regular consistent clinical supervision/consultation/coaching, and development of train the trainer models.

5. Public Comment:

Karen Thatcher asked what happens when the youth is no longer eligible for these services when they turn 21 (or 26 if involved in foster care)

Dana Walburn noted it would be great to include NDE in the interagency and there are a lot of behavioral health services occurring in schools including prevention and behavioral health screening.

Jessica Goichoechea-Parise said if the state uses the CANS assessment then ensuring discussion on reimbursement would be important for providers.

Dana Walburn said many districts are using the SSRI-E/Systematic screening as a universal screener.

Jessica Goichoechea-Parise asked how mobile crises response team policy changes and input will occur, and whether county teams are included.

Karen Thatcher asked whether meeting materials could be shared ahead of time and whether the meeting could be extended beyond an hour.

Dr. Takesha Cooper raised concerns regarding provider shortages for these children's behavioral health services. She emphasized the need for a workforce that is well trained in evidence based practices, such as cognitive behavioral therapy and dialectical behavioral therapy. She thinks that having a Center of Excellence is a strong idea to address some of these concerns.

All meeting dates and times will be posted on the DHCFP Public Notices page. Public Notices will be sent to the Children's Behavioral Health listserv to notify of future meetings. If you would like to be added to our Listserv, please email ChildrensBH@dhcp.nv.gov. With that we still conclude with our Public Comment. This is open to anyone on this call if you have trouble providing telephonic comment, please press *5 to unmute.

6. Adjournment:

Ann Jensen adjourned the meeting at 5:06pm