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CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION

WORKING GROUP

August 14, 2025

The Nevada Health Authority held a public meeting pursuant to NRS 241.020(3)(a) online and by phone on Thursday, August 14, 2025, beginning at 4:30 PM.

1. Introductions & Roll Call

By: Ann Jensen, Administrator, Nevada Medicaid

Ann Jensen welcomed attendees and conducted roll call of Working Group Representatives. Based on attendance, quorum was established. She acknowledged the short interval since the June meeting and thanked members for their ongoing engagement.

2. Follow-ups from July Working Group

By: Ann Jensen, Administrator, Nevada Medicaid

Ann Jensen provided a brief overview of current efforts and shared several program updates:

- Working Group members are invited to [submit name suggestions](#) for the specialty managed care plan focused on youth with behavioral health needs. Submissions are due by July 25, 2025.
- A Youth & Family Deep Dive Session is planned for late August or early September to elevate lived experience in designing the care coordination structure of the specialty plan.

The monthly meeting was opened at 4:30 PM by Ann Jensen, Nevada Medicaid Administrator.

1. Introductions and Roll Call

Presenter: Ann Jensen, Nevada Medicaid Administrator

Ann Jensen confirmed quorum for the working group and invited members to provide their name and affiliation in the chat or verbally for the record.

2. Follow-Ups from July Working Group

Presenter: Ann Jensen, Nevada Medicaid Administrator

Ann Jensen reviewed the Specialty Managed Care Plan naming process and reminded members of the opportunity to vote on the final plan name. She also summarized the public feedback received in May 2025, which will inform plan design.

Details:

- Top 3 finalists: Nevada W.I.S.H. (Wraparound Intensive Supports for Healing), Pathways Plan, Silver State Kids Plan. Voting is open to all through August 29, 2025.
- Public feedback themes: support for wraparound and peer support, need for regional flexibility, concerns about provider networks and workforce, calls for accountability and transparency, and emphasis on cross-sector coordination.

3. Specialty Managed Care Plan Feedback and Timeline

Presenter: Ann Jensen, Nevada Medicaid Administrator

Ann Jensen outlined the Specialty Managed Care Plan development timeline, explaining the sequence of public comment, review of feedback, the upcoming Youth and Family Summit, and the anticipated bidders conference and RFP publication.

Timeline:

- May 2025: Public comment closed.
- June through August 2025: Feedback reviewed and integrated.
- September 2025: Youth and Family Summit to focus on care coordination.
- October through November 2025: Bidders conference and RFP publication.

4. Care Coordination

Presenters:

- Matt Burdick, Policy Consultant, Nevada Medicaid
- Deborah Harburger, Director of Policy and Financing, Innovations Institute, UConn School of Social Work
- Jessica Goicoechea, Human Services Coordinator, Washoe County (Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Co-Chair)
- Carley Murray, Statewide Family Network Director, Nevada PEP
- Brenna Hardtner, Youth MOVE Nevada

Care Coordination Requirements and Models

Matt Burdick, Policy Consultant with Nevada Medicaid, described the settlement requirements for care coordination. He explained that all children and families in the Focus Population must be offered Wraparound Facilitation, and if declined, Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) must be

offered. He clarified that Care Management Entities (CMEs) will provide these services, while the Specialty Managed Care Plan will coordinate for children who do not engage with a CME.

Deborah Harburger, Director of Policy and Financing at the Innovations Institute, UConn School of Social Work, reviewed the continuum of care management. She distinguished between navigation services, Intensive Care Coordination, and Wraparound, emphasizing Wraparound as the only evidence-based, high-fidelity model. She also explained the importance of fidelity to the Wraparound model and outlined its four phases: engagement, plan creation, implementation, and transition.

Youth & Family Summit on Care Coordination

Jessica Goicoechea, Human Services Coordinator at Washoe County and Co-Chair of the working group, described the upcoming Youth and Family Summit. She explained that the summit will take place virtually on September 16, 2025, as a three-hour facilitated session with structured discussion, visuals, and live note capture. The purpose of the summit is to ensure that youth and family lived experience guides the design of Nevada's care coordination model under the Specialty Managed Care Plan.

Jessica introduced Brenna Hardtner of Youth MOVE Nevada as the youth lead and Carley Murray of Nevada PEP as the family lead for the summit. Both will play key roles in gathering input in advance and co-facilitating during the event so that youth and family perspectives are central in shaping Nevada's approach.

Discussion and Feedback:

WIN Program and Tiered Care Coordination

- Ashley Greenwald, Nevada PBIS: Asked how the Specialty Managed Care Plan Wraparound and Intensive Care Coordination will differ from WIN, how to integrate schools, and referral pathway criteria.
- Beverly Hart: Asked if tiered care coordination is new to Nevada, noting WIN and Magellan already provide High Fidelity Wraparound and Intensive Care Coordination.
- Kathryn Rosaschi, affiliation not stated: Clarified that WIN also offers FOCUS as a lower-intensity option.

School Integration and Scheduling

- Ashley Greenwald, Nevada PBIS: Reported families face difficulty scheduling with schools and asked about integration strategies.
- Britt Young, Nevada PEP: Emphasized need for flexibility with family schedules.

Referral Pathways and Eligibility

- Ashley Greenwald, Nevada PBIS: Asked if educational diagnoses qualify for Wraparound and Intensive Care Coordination access.

- Karen Taycher, Nevada PEP: Asked about definition of 'At-risk' and available coordination levels.

Hospital and Crisis Coordination

- Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, Northern Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator: Asked about coordinating with hospitals during crises.

Workforce and Provider Participation

- Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, Northern Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator: Raised rural and frontier staffing concerns.
- Azraella Gravelle, Medicaid Advisory Council: Asked about provider feedback on Fee-for-Service rates.
- Megan Freeman, Creative Solutions and Boys & Girls Clubs: Stated low reimbursement forces use of students or uncompensated work.

Service Availability

- Carley Murray, Nevada PEP: Stated lack of services is a major barrier.
- Karen Taycher, Nevada PEP: Noted that there are few services to coordinate.

Disabilities and Complex Needs

- Grace Larkins, Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities: Asked how youth with IDD, complex medical needs, or nonverbal status will be supported.

Family Experience and Continuity

- Britt Young, Nevada PEP: Highlighted issues with provider follow-up and turnover.

Values and Principles

- Beverly Hart, affiliation not stated: Recommended System of Care values and principles guide the program.

Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare Populations

- Meambi Newbern-Johnson, Clark County Clinical and Community Services: Requested flexibility for large, formal teams and suggested inviting aged-out youth to the summit.
- Brenna Hardtner, Youth MOVE Nevada: Agreed on importance of underrepresented youth voices.

Rural Staffing Ratios

- Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, Northern Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator: Questioned feasibility of 1:8 to 1:12 staffing ratios in rural and frontier areas.

- (1) A presentation of Nevada's Q1 2025 baseline data on the DOJ-defined Focus Population, and
- (2) A policy discussion on the development of a Medicaid-covered respite care benefit.

3. Presentation & Discussion: Care Coordination

By:

By: Matt Burdick, Nevada Medicaid

Discussion and Feedback:

Matthew Lehman (BCBA, Foster Parent ABA Group) asked whether the report included metrics showing the average time between a child's behavioral health screening and the initiation of services. He also raised concerns about system-adjacent youth, such as those adopted from foster care or living with kin caregivers, who may no longer qualify for Medicaid but still have unmet behavioral health needs.

Natalie Sanchez (LMFT, Health Psychology Associates) recommended that future reports include data on unmet needs, specifically, instances where families attempted to access services but were unsuccessful.

Dr. Courtney Dandy asked whether denial rates related to prior authorization requirements were reflected in the baseline data.

Jessica Goicoechea-Parise (MFT, Washoe County Children's Mobile Crisis Response Team) and Cherylyn Rahr-Wood emphasized the importance of including regional breakdowns in the data. They noted that experiences with mobile crisis services vary widely between rural and urban areas, and that additional geographic granularity would be helpful for interpreting system performance.

Ann Jensen (Nevada Medicaid) responded that future iterations of the report could include regional analyses, data on denials, and metrics on unmet need. She thanked members for their insights and emphasized that the baseline report is a first step in identifying and addressing system gaps.

Matthew Lehman added that many children who fall outside the formal foster care system, such as those adopted or living with kin, are not eligible for wraparound supports but continue to experience high levels of need. He encouraged Nevada Medicaid to consider how the specialty managed care plan might fill this gap.

5. Wrap-up

By: Ann Jensen, Nevada Medicaid Administrator

Ann Jensen reminded members to submit Specialty Managed Care Plan name votes by August 29 and Youth and Family Summit pre-feedback by September 6th. She noted that the next full working group meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2025.

Ann Jensen thanked Working Group members and the public for their participation. She provided the following reminders:

- The next CBHT Working Group meeting will take place on Thursday, October 9, 2025, from 4:30 to 5:30 PM.
- A recording of the meeting, presentation slides, meeting minutes, and a feedback summary will be posted on the Nevada [Kids Behavioral Health webpage](#).
- All Working Group members and the public are encouraged [to submit specialty managed care plan name suggestions](#) by August 29th, 2025.

Summary of Dates & Deadlines:

- August 29, 2025: Specialty Managed Care Plan naming vote deadline.
- September 6, 2025: Youth and Family Summit pre-feedback due.
- September 16, 2025: Youth and Family Summit.
- October 9, 2025: Next CBHT Working Group meeting
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6. Public Comment

By: Ann Jensen, Administrator, Nevada Medicaid

- Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, Northern Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator: Suggested exploring legislative action for children's behavioral health in the next session.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM. Ann Jensen thanked all attendees and encouraged continued engagement.

For more information, please visit our webpage at nvha.nv.gov/kidsBH or contact: childrensbh@nvha.nv.gov.

ATTENDANCE

A complete list of Working Group representatives, guests, and Nevada Medicaid staff in attendance at the August 14, 2025, meeting is maintained on file and provided below.

Youth, Family, and Disability Self-Advocate Representatives:

Matt Lehman, BCBA with Foster parent ABA Group - Absent
Leah Skinner, Parent - Absent
LaNesha Battle, Foster Parent, Washoe County School District - Absent
JayDee Porras-Grant, Foster Parent – Absent
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 - Absent
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 - Absent
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 - Absent

Community Partner Representatives:

Angie Wilson, Reno Sparks Tribal Health Center - Absent
Open Seat, Tribal Health Representative - Open
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 – Absent
Karen Taycher, NV PEP
Robin Reedy, NAMI NV - Absent
Jonathan Norman, Esq with NV Coalition of Legal Service Providers - Absent
Santosha Veeramachaneni, American Academy of Pediatrics, Nevada Chapter - Absent

Guests and Observers:

Abraham Meza, Alexis Warnock, Alisa Cadenhead, Amber Wilkins, Amy Miller-Bowman, Angel Beus, Angela Stewart, Antonette Sorrick, Ashley Greenwald, Azraella Gravelle, Beverly Hart, Bree Melvin, Brenna Hardtner, Britt Young, Brittany Llyod, Candance Lewis Vaughn, Carley Murray, Casey Melvin,

Cherylyn Rahr-Wood, Ciarra Havon, Dan Musgrove, Dawnesha Powell, De Yates, Deborah Harburger, Erica Hanna, Esther Badiata, Eva Romero, Eva Velvez, Grace Larkins, Heather Heuke, Islena M Giron, Jana Borden, James Lutz, Jason Drake, Jason Embra, Jennifer Bevacqua, Jennifer Conrad, Jessica McCoy, Jimmy Tran, John P. Etzell, Jolene Zamora, Karen Rogers, Kathryn Rosaschi, Katie Metz, Kimberly Purinton, Kim Taitano, Lee McAllister, Linda Anderson, Lori, Lisa Mariani, Megan Martinez, Michael Flynn, Nicholas Hollister, Philip Ramirez, Ryan Gustafon, Sabrina Schnur, Stacey Lane, Stephanie Diodato, Stephanie Woodward, Suzanne Bierman, Sullen Narducci, Tara Merrill, Tiffanie Fleming, Tim Marshall, Valerie Luevano, Vera Sverdlousky, William Phipps, Yeni

Nevada Medicaid:

Ann Jensen, Cristina Cobeo, Christina Pebbles, Darlene Wolff, Deborah Jordan, Lindsey Bondiek, Marcel Brown, Matt Burdick, Melissa Knight, Melorine Mokri, Minden Hall, Monica Romero, Sarah Dearborn

Attendance

Working Group Representatives	Other Attendees
Jessica Goicoechea – Washoe County Human Services Agency (Co-Chair)	Ann Jensen – Nevada Medicaid Administrator
Carley Murray – Nevada PEP (Family Representative)	Matt Burdick – Nevada Medicaid
Brenna Hardtner – Youth MOVE Nevada (Youth Representative)	Deborah Harburger – Innovations Institute, UConn SSW
Karen Taycher – Nevada PEP (Community Partner Representative)	Grace Larkins – Nevada Center for Excellence in Disabilities
Cherylyn Rahr-Wood – Northern Regional Behavioral Health Coordinator	Megan Freeman – Creative Solutions and Boys & Girls Clubs
Beverly Hart – Affiliation not stated	Meambi Newbern-Johnson – Clark County Clinical and Community Services
Kathryn Rosaschi – Affiliation not stated	Ashley Greenwald – Nevada PBIS
Britt Young – Nevada PEP	Megan McGrew – Impact ABA Services
Azraella Gravelle – Medicaid Advisory Council	Sabrina Schnur – Cartwright NV Government Affairs