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Governor

NEVADA HEALTH AUTHORITY

DIVISION OF MEDICAID

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CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION WORKING GROUP

MEETING MINUTES

November 13, 2025

The Nevada Health Authority held a public meeting pursuant to NRS 241.020(3)(a) online and by phone on Thursday, November 13, 2025, beginning at 4:30 PM.

1. INTRODUCTIONS & ROLL CALL

By: Ann Jensen, Administrator, Nevada Division of Medicaid

Administrator Jensen opened the meeting by welcoming members and thanking the group for its year-long contributions. She noted that the November meeting would focus on major accomplishments from 2025, updates to the Specialty Managed Care Plan (SMCP) procurement, the draft DOJ implementation plan, and planning for the Working Group format in 2026.

The roll call was completed at the start of the meeting. Jensen acknowledged the group's 10 meetings since October 2024 and invited participants to reflect on the progress achieved over the past year.

2. FOLLOW-UPS FROM OCTOBER WORKING GROUP

By: Ann Jensen, Administrator, Nevada Division of Medicaid

Specialty Managed Care Plan (SMCP) – RFP Release and Key Updates

Administrator Jensen announced that Nevada's Specialty Managed Care Plan Request for Proposals (RFP) was officially released on [NEVADAePro](#). She reviewed the purpose and scope of the plan:

- A single statewide managed care plan serving the DOJ focus population of children and youth with behavioral health needs.
- Coverage includes all Medicaid medical, behavioral health, pharmacy, and transportation benefits, along with new services being developed under the settlement.
- The plan will embed robust care coordination models tailored to children with behavioral health needs.
- If timelines hold, Nevada will be the first state in the country to launch a fully integrated, statewide children's behavioral health plan with these specifications on January 1, 2027.

The RFP includes:

- A 250-300 page Scope of Work describing plan responsibilities, required outcomes, care coordination tiers, provider standards, community reinvestment expectations, and compliance requirements.
- A tentative procurement timeline, including:
 - Bids due January 6, 2026
 - Evaluation in January 2026
 - Selection and contracting by April 2026
 - Board of Examiners approval in May 2026
 - 18-month readiness and implementation process leading to January 2027 go-live

Questions about procurement must be directed to the [Division of Purchasing](#). General program questions may be submitted through the [Kids Behavioral Health](#) webpage.

DOJ Settlement Agreement – Draft Implementation Plan

Administrator Jensen reviewed progress on the Settlement Agreement Implementation Plan, noting ongoing collaboration with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Independent Reviewer.

Key points:

- DOJ staff had been furloughed earlier in the month but were reengaging.
- Nevada has held monthly meetings with DOJ and the Independent Reviewer since January 2025.
- The Implementation Plan:
 - Outlines every requirement in the Settlement Agreement.
 - Describes what the State must do, how progress will be measured, and when each milestone will occur.
 - Includes timelines for compliance, data reporting, program buildout, and interagency coordination.

The draft Implementation Plan is posted on the [Kids Behavioral Health](#) webpage.

Public comment is requested by December 11, 2025.

Questions from Members:

- Karen Taycher (Nevada PEP) asked whether DOJ is actively engaged. Administrator Jensen confirmed that DOJ is deeply involved, providing detailed line-by-line feedback and participating consistently in monthly meetings.

3. PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION: WORKING GROUP FOCUS FOR 2026

Summary of 2025 Accomplishments

Presenter: Ann Jensen

Administrator Jensen presented a comprehensive review of the Working Group’s accomplishments in four categories: Community Engagement, Benefits Coverage, Delivery System Design, and Compliance.

Community Engagement Accomplishments

- Successful monthly Working Group meetings with sustained attendance.
- Youth & Family Deep Dive Summit on care coordination with strong participation and actionable recommendations.
- Statewide outreach with counties, tribes, mobile crisis teams, respite providers, and other partners.
- Participation in statewide youth mental health events.
- Integration of youth and family voices into policy design and the SMCP Scope of Work.
- Ongoing commitment to culturally responsive, accessible stakeholder engagement.

Benefits Coverage Accomplishments

- Medicaid coverage established for Youth Peer Support and Family Peer Support.
- Completion of major behavioral health rate reform packages for outpatient behavioral health, PRTFs, and inpatient psychiatric care (pending CMS approval).
- Continued development of respite, intensive care coordination, and wraparound benefits for SMCP go-live.
- Work to improve provider enrollment processes and reduce administrative burdens.
- Integration of stakeholder quotes and feedback into benefit design, including:
 - “Youth want peer support earlier, not only after crisis.”
 - “One child, one care coordinator, families should not have to tell their story five times.”
 - “Coordination fails when systems don’t talk.”

Delivery System Design Accomplishments

- Incorporation of stakeholder input into the SMCP Scope of Work—especially related to:
 - Youth and family voice,
 - Community reinvestment requirements,
 - Local care coordination,
 - Culturally responsive and trauma-informed care.
- Establishment of a required Youth and Family Advisory Council for the SMCP.
- Requiring a Tribal Liaison role within the SMCP to strengthen tribal partnerships.
- Clear expectations for measurable outcomes rather than utilization management alone.

Compliance and Data Transparency Accomplishments

- Development of the baseline data report aligned with Settlement Agreement §§ IX.83-87.

- Launch of quarterly internal reporting processes and preparation for the January 2026 public dashboard.
- Progress on county and interagency data-sharing agreements, including foster care, juvenile justice, and mobile crisis response data.
- Standing monthly meetings with DOJ and the Independent Reviewer.
- Emphasis on transparency: “Families should not have to guess whether Nevada is meeting its timelines.”

Discussion: Priorities for 2026

Administrator Jensen shared proposed 2026 priorities in the four categories from above. These include:

Community Engagement

- Continuing monthly Working Group meetings.
- Increasing youth and family co-facilitation.
- Launching a new CBHT web page with dashboards, timelines, and implementation visuals.
- Expanding targeted outreach and small-group discussions.

Benefits

- Finalizing and implementing intensive care coordination, wraparound, and respite benefits.
- Implementing CMS-approved rate increases and supporting smooth claims transitions.
- Preparing benefit guides, provider requirements, and draft policies ahead of SMCP launch.

Delivery System

- Selecting an SMCP vendor and initiating a full readiness review with an external quality review organization.
- Strengthening provider network development, especially in care coordination and HCBS.
- Aligning county and regional care management models with SMCP expectations.

Compliance & Data

- Quarterly DOJ metrics reporting and continued data system improvements.
- Launching public dashboards in January 2026.
- Ongoing compliance reviews and expanded work with the Independent Reviewer team.

Member Feedback Included:

- Diane emphasized the need to center children who cannot safely live at home and ensure the model reflects Olmstead principles.

Administrator Jensen affirmed alignment with this and committed to clarifying language.

- Donna asked about the screening summit; Ms. Jensen confirmed a survey would be distributed to select the date.
- Karen Taycher asked about age-group reporting for crisis data; Ms. Jensen confirmed age stratification would be included in both baseline data and dashboards.
- Members suggested better integration of school-based behavioral health data.

Working Group Format: 2026 Voting

Representatives will vote on meeting format options for 2026:

1. Keep monthly 1-hour virtual meetings, or
2. Shift to longer every-other-month meetings, along with topic-specific small groups.

A link to the anonymous voting survey was provided. Votes are requested by Friday, November 21, 2025.

Ann Jensen and Deborah Harburger, UConn Innovations Institute, shared responded to a question on the DOJ / Independent Reviewer team for the Settlement Agreement:

- Independent Reviewer Tim Marshall and the UConn team continue to work closely with DOJ and the State.
- The Quality Service Review (QSR) process will officially launch in 2026; stakeholder engagement will be part of the information-gathering approach.
- The Independent Reviewer intends to visit Nevada in 2026 to meet with partners directly.
- Future materials such as the finalized Review Plan will be made public.

4. CLOSING UPDATES

By: Ann Jensen, Administrator, Nevada Division of Medicaid

Administrator Jensen thanked participants and outlined upcoming deadlines:

- November 21, 2025 – Votes due on the 2026 meeting format
- December 11, 2025 – Feedback due on the Draft Implementation Plan
- December 2025 – Screening Provider Summit will replace December Working Group meeting
- January 2026 – Working Group reconvenes and public dashboard launches

5. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

By: Ann Jensen, Administrator, Nevada Division of Medicaid

Janelle Hoover (Carson Tahoe Health) announced that Carson Tahoe opened a new Youth Crisis Stabilization Unit (ages 12–17) two days prior to the meeting. The CSU:

- Operates 24/7,
- Provides a therapist within 30 minutes, and
- Can transition youth to their newly opened inpatient unit if needed.

She thanked the State for grant support and partnership in expanding crisis services for youth.

No additional public comment was offered.

6. ADJOURNMENT

By: Ann Jensen, Administrator, Nevada Division of Medicaid

Administrator Jensen wished the group a restful holiday season and adjourned the meeting before 5:30 pm.

For more information on the Medicaid Benefits Working Group and Nevada's Children's Behavioral Health Transformation visit nvha.nv.gov/kidsBH or contact the Nevada Medicaid CBHT team at: childrensbh@nvha.nv.gov.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

A complete list of Working Group representatives, guests, and Nevada Medicaid staff in attendance at Thursday, November 13, 2025, meeting is maintained on file and provided below

Youth, Family, and Disability Self-Advocate Representatives:

Matt Lehman, BCBA with Foster parent ABA Group
Leah Skinner, Parent - Absent
LaNesha Battle, Foster Parent, Washoe County School District - Absent
JayDee Porras-Grant, Foster Parent – Absent
Brenna Hardtner, Youth MOVE
Analicia Cruz, Black Youth Mental Health Project
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
Stephanie Brown, Reno Behavioral Health - Absent
Janelle Hoover, MSN, RN with Carson Tahoe Health

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:

Alletha Muzorewa, Amy Miller-Brown, Antonette Sorrick, Barbara Scaturro, Beverly Hart, Brendan Krause, Brooke Greenlee, Bruno Bevilacqua, Casey Melvin, Cheryl Fisher, Cynthia, Dana Walburn, Dawnesha Powell, De Yates, Deborah Harburger, Diane Thorkildson, Donna Liendo, Elizabeth Florez,

Esther Badiata, Garret Zayic, Grace Larkins, James Lutz, Jana Borden, Jess Angel, Jolen Zamora, Joy Thomas, Karen Rogers, Kelly Wooldridge, Kenneth McKay, Kimberly Purinton, Kresh Rogina, Koinonia Sandy-Arguello, Lee Tulumello, Lisa Mariani, Logan Clayton, Melany Denny, Megan Martinez, Michelle Gonzales, Nicole Figles, Nicholas Hollister, Nima Alinejad, Phillip Ramirez, Ruth Bush, Rob Baughman III, Sarah Fox, Sarah Paulsen, Shana Merrick, Shaneka Wiley, Tori Supple, Trina Bilich, Valerie Luevano, Vanessa Justice, Yadi Chaidez, Yeni Medina

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, Ann Jensen, Cristina Cobeo, Christina Pebbles, Darlene Wolff, Deborah Jordan, Heather Lazarkis, Marcel Brown, Matt Burdick, Melorine Mokri, Michael Gorden, Sarah Dearborn