

Meeting Minutes

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH: Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership (ICMHP)

Monday, April 21, 2025 | 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Location: WebEx

Attendees:

<u>Members</u>	<u>IDPH Staff</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Carla Marquez Ripley	Allison Nickrent	Alli Lowe-Fotos
Christina Bruhn	Jessica Bounds	Amy Starin
Colleen Cicchetti	Julia Strehlow	Carolyn Schofield
Cynthia Goodman	Matt Smith	Cicely Fleming
Deborah Humphrey		Dana Weiner
Heather Alderman		Dustin Knollenberg
Jennie Pinkwater		Jean Davis
Jennifer Jaworski		Jeff Judge
Joel Rubin		Jennifer Martin
Kristine Argue-Mason		Jennifer Seo
Lisa Betz		Jill McCamant
Marlita White		Lisa Masinter
Mary Satchwell		Mark Minier
Millicent Lewis-McCoy		Melissa Stalets
Paula Wolff		Mimi Macbeth
Sameer Vohra		Molly Dougherty
Senator Laura Fine		Rachel Hutka
Verletta Saxton		Rebecca Doran
Wendy Cohen		Regina Crider
		Sonja Clark
		Sonya Leathers
		Sonya Mathies Dinizula
		Summer (No last name)
		Tara Gill
		Tony Ohlhausen
		Zoe (No last name)

AGENDA MINUTES

Call to Order & Roll Call

The IDPH Director, Sameer Vohra, called the meeting to order at approximately 2:03 P.M.

Julia Strehlow and Jessica Bounds conducted the roll call and asked guests to type in the chat box with their name and association - Quorum was reached.

Review and Vote on Minutes: January 14, 2025

Motion: 1st Laura Fine, 2nd Christina Bruhn - the group unanimously approved.

Public Comment

The opportunity for Public Comment was made available and no public comment was presented.

Recent Federal Changes to Children's Health and Mental Health (Sameer Vohra)

- *Federal administrative actions*
 - Over 130 Executive Orders have been issued since January, many of which affect health, HHS grants, and children's services. Several notices of termination have been given out to:
 - a. COVID-19 preparedness funding (\$449 million dedicated to Illinois labs and immunizations)
 - b. SAMHSA 988/crisis-care grants
 - c. Various NIH and ACF research and evaluation funds
 - Illinois has managed to obtain a Temporary Restraining Order that permits the continued draw-down of infectious-disease funds.
- *Federal reductions in force*
 - Significant RIFs at DOE, HHS (CDC, SAMHSA, ACF), NIH; five of ten regional HHS offices closed (including Chicago, 300 positions).
- *Federal budget outlook*
 - Proposed FY 2026 cuts (not final) include > \$40 billion from HHS.
 - Illinois Medicaid is at risk, which would greatly affect youth given that 44% of enrollees are children.
 - IDPH's budget is also 65% federally funded - we are currently planning contingency efforts.
- *Q/A Highlights*
 - FY 2026 Impact: The scale of the impact is contingent on Congressional action; as mentioned earlier, there is work underway on funding scenarios.
 - Newborn-screening committees and CDC reorganizations: This concern has been noticed, and IDPH will continue to serve as a state-level evidence and guidance hub.
 - Philanthropic response: ILCHF and others are currently mobilizing "ecosystem-responsive" grants (e.g., \$2 million for nutrition funding).
 - Partnership support: Members are invited to share sector-specific impacts and philanthropic resources with Julia Strehlow for consolidation and distribution.

Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative Update (Dana Weiner)

- Beacon launch: a public portal has been launched and is now live as of January 2025; there are hundreds of families who are engaging with the portal daily.
- Residential bed tracking: Legislation has passed and there is 95% provider compliance, meaning that we have access to real-time bed/staffing data.

- In-home behavioral aides pilot: targeting families of children with ASD who lack other in-home services.
- Family-run organizations: Partnership with Illinois Children’s Healthcare Foundation to stand up peer-led supports.
- School-Based Universal Screening (Senate Bill 1560):
 - a. Requires districts (grades 3+) to offer behavioral-health screening in SY 27 – 28.
 - b. Contingent on state-provided, no-cost screening platform.
- Engagement: QR codes circulated for mailing list, resource library, and full Blueprint document.

Youth Council Update (Dr. Tara Gill & Mimi MacBeth)

- Recruitment: 45 applicants; 37 youth and 8 CBO representatives interviewed; cohort of youth aged 16–24 selected.
- Session 1: Orientation, public-health framework, Social Determinants of Health lens.
- Session 2: Community needs assessments; focus on local gaps in youth mental-health supports.
- Session 3: Review of existing public-health campaigns; refining advocacy ideas with CBO coaching.
- Next Steps: Youth to meet with Director Vohra for feedback; final presentations scheduled for July 21, 2025, meeting.

Community Networks Initiative (Regina Crider)

- Framework Alignment: Blending Systems of Care values (family-driven, strengths-based, culturally competent, data-driven) with a Public-Health prevention cycle (define, assess, develop, scale).
- Next Steps: Continued refinement of implementation strategy; input from Partnership members welcomed.

Motions

1. Minutes from 1/14/2024

1st Lisa Masinter, 2nd Colleen Cicchetti - the group unanimously approved.

2. Motion to adjourn the meeting

1st Paula Wolff, 2nd Wendy Cohen - the group unanimously approved.

Presentation and Discussion: Illinois Behavioral Health Workforce Center

- Presenters: Dr. Sonya Leathers (University of Illinois at Chicago)
 - Center Mission: Funded in 2022 at UIC & SIU to strengthen Illinois’s behavioral-health workforce via recruitment, training, and retention.
 - Provider Surveys: 1,500+ respondents; 80% of new staff rated “slightly” or “not” prepared for parent/family engagement.
 - Parenting Interventions: 60% of Chicago providers never use them vs. higher use elsewhere; evidence shows they reduce child behavior problems.
 - Chicago Parent Program: 20 sites, 67 staff trained, 229 families served; 90% of parents rate it “very helpful.”
 - Workforce Tools: Interactive job board, workforce dashboard, & community-college training pathways launched.
 - Supervision Training: Four-hour online module + learning collaborative to build supervisory skills.



69 West Washington Street, Suite 3500 • Chicago, Illinois 60602-3027 • www.dph.illinois.gov

- Upcoming Webinars:
 - a. Apr 30: Provider retention strategies
 - b. May 13: Early-career workforce preparation for educators
- Get Involved: Share resources and join advisory teams via the Center's contacts.

Announcements

- ICAAP is having a pediatric mental health conference on May 15, 2025, in Champaign-Urbana.
- The next ICMHP meeting will occur virtually on **Monday, July 21, 2025**, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Upcoming meeting dates for 2025 can be viewed on the IDPH website: [Events Calendar](#).
- Please email Julia Strehlow (Julia.M.Strehlow@Illinois.gov) to register for public comment or with any questions.

Adjournment

With nothing further to discuss, Paula Wolff made a motion to adjourn, Wendy Cohen seconded the motion, and the group unanimously approved.