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Meeting Minutes

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

Monday, July 21, 2025 | 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Location: WebEx

Attendees:

<u>Members</u>	<u>IDPH Staff</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Alli Lowe-Fotos Carla Marquez Ripley Char Rivette Colleen Cicchetti Deborah Humphrey Jennifer Jaworski Jennie Pinkwater Joel Rubin Millicent Lewis-McCoy Paula Wolff Sameer Vohra Sonya Mathies Dinizulu Tiffany Burnett Wendy Cohen	Allison Nickrent Amy Hall Jennifer Martin Jennifer Seo Jessica Bounds Jill McCamant Julia Strehlow Lisa Masinter Matt Smith Julia Strehlow	Amanda Hansen Arya Sreedhar Bonnie Hassan Caleb Rodgers Camille Humes Carol Gall Cicely Fleming Claudio Santiago Rivera Cristina Vieyra Dana Weiner Eleanor Bowen Heather Saenger Jeff Judge Julio Flores Jose Rodriguez Karen C Simms Kelly Hamlin Kristine Argue-Mason Mark Minier Melissa Stalets Mimi Macbeth Mike Malone Mireya Lozano Mycal Turner Olujimi De Oliveira Xavier Abiodun Sarah Daniels Steven Rosado Susan Scherer Tara Gill Tony Ohlhausen Zoey Chen

AGENDA MINUTES

1. Welcome & Call to Order

- The IDPH Director, Sameer Vohra, called the meeting to order at approximately 3:02 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.

2. Attendance

3. Opening Remarks – Dr. Sameer Vohra, Board Co-Chair

Federal administrative actions:

- Hundreds of Executive Orders have been issued since January, many of which impact education, equity, inclusion, and health and human services. Several updates have occurred since April 1.
 - HHS released the Make Our Children Healthy Again assessment, focused on childhood chronic disease. Generated broad media attention, but questions about underlying evidence sources.
 - Changes at the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) have created confusion about vaccine recommendation processes for children; IDPH has issued communications (including “dear colleague” letters) to explain implications.
 - Federal restrictions were noted for immigrant family programs (Head Start, community health and behavioral programs, Title X family planning), with potential access limitations for affected families.
 - Federal enforcement of mental health parity rules highlighted as a risk to consistent parity protections.
 - Federal proposal to eliminate funding for LGBTQ+ youth-specialized services within the 988-suicide crisis line, Illinois’ public position by the Governor and state leadership affirmed that Illinois would continue to maintain LGBTQ+ specialty services for 988 locally.

House Resolution One (Big Beautiful Bill) Impacts

- Analysis shows a large impact on vital Illinois programs and populations due to House Resolution One.
 - Study by the American Hospital Association estimates changes to Medicaid eligibility rules and funding will result in 54,000 rural Illinois residents possibly losing Medicaid coverage and a \$2 billion Medicaid spending reduction over coming years. 3.4 million Illinois residents rely on Medicaid.
 - Illinois issues roughly \$4.7 billion through SNAP (food benefits) program and policy changes puts roughly 1 in 5 SNAP recipients at risk.
- IDPH has posted advisories and guidance via the Siren network and other channels.

4. Youth Council Presentation

- Convened 5 ICMHP Youth Council Sessions from February to June 2025, where attendees defined goals and timeline of the ICMHP Youth Council, conducted community needs assessment, developed recommendations, and met with policy stakeholders.
- Presentations included the following. Please see attached slides for proposal details.
 - *Kids Talk to Kids* – Ellie Bowen

- *Community Health Resource Ambassadors (CHRA): Youth Navigators for Health Equity* – Zoey Chen
- *Address the Impacts of Trauma on Learning Through the Promotion of Healing Centered Engagement* - Mireya Lozano
- *Expand On-Site School Mental Health Services with Post-High School Support* – Olujimi De Oliveira Xavier Abiodun
- *Resources for Student Learning Needs in School* – Calen Rodgers
- *Hear and Heal Initiative* – Mycal Turner
- Next steps: Proposals and policy recommendations will now go into implementation planning with further resources to be provided. Recruitment for next year's ICMHP Youth Council scheduled to begin for only 6 individuals, recommendations requested.

5. Old Business:

a. Vote to approve 4/21/25 Meeting Minutes

- Motion: 1st Paula Wolff, 2nd Colleen Cicchetti - the group unanimously approved with minor amendments (acronym of ICAP was spelled incorrectly).

6. New Business:

a. Brief update: Mental Health Screening in Schools from Dr. Dana Weiner (Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative) & Jen Saba (Illinois State Board of Education)

- About 649 schools/districts/organizations responded to survey that showed varied practices about universal screenings across districts: some use universal or targeted screeners, others do not screen because of resource, capacity, or follow-up concerns.
- Members raised issues and concerns about ensuring adequate follow-up services and referral pathways, training needs for staff administering and interpreting screenings, questions about parental consent and notification processes, and funding.
- Next steps: Continued stakeholder engagement, further development of technical assistance and materials, and coordination between ISBE, IDPH, school districts, and community providers to align guidance and identify pilot/scale opportunities.

b. Welcome to our new ICMHP Co-Chair Dr. Sonya Mathies Dinizulu

c. Welcome newly appointed ICMHP Members

1. Karen Crawford Simms
2. Sarah Daniels
3. Allison Lowe-Fotos
4. Char Rivette
5. Jocelyn Vega

7. Public Comment

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

8. Announcements

- The next ICMHP meeting will occur virtually and in person (hybrid) on Monday, October 20, 2025, from 10 a.m. to 12 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.

9. Vote to Adjourn

- With nothing further to discuss, Paula Wolff made a motion to adjourn, Joel Rubin seconded the motion, and the group unanimously approved.