



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

Meeting Minutes

Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership (ICMHP) Special Committee

Wednesday, July 16, 2025 | 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Location: WebEx

1. Welcome & Call to Order

- The IDPH Director, Sameer Vohra, called the meeting to order at approximately 3:03 P.M. Jessica Bounds and Julia Strehlow conducted the roll call.

2. Attendance

Members in Attendance	IDPH Staff	Guests
Heather Alderman Colleen Cicchetti Alli Lowe-Fotos Sonya Mathies Dinizulu Jennie Pinkwater Sameer Vohra	Allison Nickrent Jessica Bounds Arya Sreedhar Amy Hall Julia Strehlow	

3. Public Comment

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

4. Discussion and vote to approve meeting minutes from 4/14/2025

- Motion: 1st Heather Alderman, 2nd Jennie Pinkwater – the group unanimously approved.

5. Welcome Dr. Sonya Mathies Dinizulu – new ICMHP Co-Chair

- Dr. Sonya Mathies Dinizulu introduced as new ICMHP Co-Chair

6. Discussion: Federal Response Update

- Director Vohra provided several bullets about how the changes from the federal administration, specifically the House Reconciliation Bill, have and will impact children's health in Illinois and across the nation.
 - Terminations of federal grants in mental health, research, and education
 - Changes in ACIP regarding vaccine recommendations for children
 - Restrictions of immigrant families' access to Head Start, community health, behavioral health, and Title X family planning programs.

- Federal cuts to LGBTQ+ youth-specific services within 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifelines
- Potential Medicaid coverage losses and rural hospital closures
- Potential SNAP benefit eligibility and funding changes.
- Federal updates suggested to be shared at the beginning of the next full partnership meeting, rather than the end.
- Dr. Mathies Dinizulu to provide closing remarks at the next full partnership meeting following the Director's update.

7. Discussion: Future topics for the ICMHP

- ICMHP state plan and the Blueprint for Transformation discussed, questions provided in advance suggested as a means for more impactful, meaningful conversation with partnership work.
- Additional suggestions included utilizing talent and expertise of partnership members to create more effective work.
- The question of committees came up and the group discussed old committees such as justice-involved youth, schools, and early childhood. New subject matter committees to be considered as well.
- Morale building among members of partnership to be considered.

8. Vote to Adjourn

- With nothing further to discuss, Director Vohra made a motion to adjourn, Heather Alderman seconded the motion, and the group unanimously approved.
- Please email Julia Strehlow (Julia.M.Strehlow@illinois.gov) to register for public comment or with any questions.