



## Children's Mental Health Network Meeting Minutes November 7, 2025 • 10 am – 12 pm Virtual Meeting

### Meeting Focus: Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health

Meeting recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gyjqan7pVPc>

#### OCMH Updates

- **Youth Mental Wellness Champions** – OCMH has launched this statewide group of 15 high school leaders. The purpose is to build student leaders in mental health and wellness and build connections among the cohort. The group will meet monthly from September 2025 through May 2026. [Learn more](#).
- **OCMH Resources in Spanish** – OCMH's key children's mental health resources in Spanish are now available in one place on the OCMH website. See the [webpage](#).
- **Topics for 2026 Meetings** – in each November Children's Mental Health Network meeting attendees have the opportunity to share the topics they would like to learn more about in the following year's meetings. From the suggestions submitted in the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, the 2026 meeting agenda will be developed.

#### Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health – Meeting Topic

The topic will be explored in four domains:

1. Foundational understanding of infant and early childhood mental health
2. Child care
3. Families
4. Pediatricians

#### Foundational Understanding of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health

- Data points: the importance of early play, social emotional learning during preschool years, and investments in early years. See slides #9-11 in meeting Power Point.
- Panelists (view [meeting recording](#)):
  - Lana Shklyar Nenide – Executive Director, Wisconsin Alliance of Infant Mental Health
  - Dawn Nixon – Licensed Psychologist/Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, Valley Birch LLC
  - Gretchen Huletz – Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Manager, Children's Wisconsin Craig Yabuki Center for Mental and Behavioral Health

#### Child Care

- Data points: the availability of child care in Wisconsin, children with elevated mental health concerns, and unlivable wages of child care professionals. See slides #18-20 in meeting Power Point.
- Panelists (view [meeting recording](#)):
  - Connie Dunlap – Assistant Director, Thriving Wisconsin
  - Sarah Dillinger – Program and Policy Analyst Advanced, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families

- Dawn Nixon – Licensed Psychologist/Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, Valley Birch LLC

### Families

- Data points: parent mental health, maternal mental health, and household stress. See slides #25-27 in meeting Power Point.
- Panelists (view [meeting recording](#)):
  - Melanie Anderson – Parent Leader, The Parenting Network
  - Connie Dunlap – Assistant Director, Thriving Wisconsin
  - Gretchen Huletz – Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Manager, Children’s Wisconsin Craig Yabuki Center for Mental and Behavioral Health

### Pediatrician

Discussion with Dr. Sharyl Paley, Medical Director of Primary Care Mental Behavioral Health, Children’s Wisconsin, on the pediatrician’s role in infant and early childhood mental health (view [meeting recording](#)).

### Small Group Discussions

Meeting attendees selected the discussion to participate in: Child care, families, or coaching/consultation.

### Links Shared in the Chat

- Sign up for [OCMH’s monthly newsletter](#)
- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Helps Kids and Caregivers – [article](#)
- [Thriving Wisconsin](#)
  - [Find Your Local CCR&R and Family Resource Center](#)
  - [Family Resource Centers](#)
- UW Extension [Parenting and Family Relationships](#)
- Wisconsin Early Childhood Association – [Educator Assistance Program](#)
- Society of Research in Child Development – Informal exclusionary discipline practices in US schools: Recent evidence and policy considerations – [article](#)
- Wisconsin Alliance of Infant Mental Health
  - Micro learning videos – [English](#) / [Spanish](#)
  - [The Power of Connection](#)

### Member Announcements

- The **Wisconsin Maternal and Child Health program has funding opportunities** for multi-year projects addressing the needs of mothers, children (including children and youth with special health care needs), and families in Wisconsin. Applications are due Nov. 10. [Learn more and apply.](#)
- **Maternal Health Statewide Workforce Needs Assessment Funding Opportunity** – this funding request will support efforts by the Maternal Health Innovation program to evaluate the needs of the maternal health workforce in Wisconsin. Applications are due Dec. 1. [Learn more and apply.](#)
- **The Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health’s (WI-AIMH):**
  - **Member Meetup** for members of WI-AIMH will meet on Dec. 4, 2025, 12-1:30 pm, via Zoom. Contact Abby Taylor [ataylor@wiaimh.org](mailto:ataylor@wiaimh.org) for information.
  - Sign up for [WI-AIMH newsletter](#).

- WI-AIMH's Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Conference for 2026 is set for October 27-28, 2026 at the Osthoff Resort (Elkhart Lake, WI). Keynote speaker will be Dr. Rosemarie Allen.
- **Rogers Behavioral Health** is now offering an afterschool adolescent IOP virtually and in person at their Wisconsin locations. Most sessions start around 3 or 3:30 pm, go until 6 or 6:30 pm, and take place 3-5 days a week. Contact [tracy.wattron@rogersbh.org](mailto:tracy.wattron@rogersbh.org) for information.
- **Children's Wisconsin [Advocacy Network](#)**
- **Corynn Bernhardt** – I'm new to the state/area, trained as a consultant/social worker, and working on my EC endorsement, if you're interested in connecting about any opportunities you have, please reach out! [corynnbernhardt@gmail.com](mailto:corynnbernhardt@gmail.com)

## 2026 Meetings

February 6 / May 1 / August 7 / November 6

## Next meeting

Friday, February 6, 2026, 10 am-12 pm, virtual