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Advocacy**
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Dear members of the Nevada Patient Protection Commission (PPC),

My name is Carissa Pearce, and I am the Health Policy Manager at The Children's Advocacy Alliance. We are a nonpartisan, independent nonprofit aiming to cultivate public policy that allows every child in Nevada to thrive. It is imperative that we address the mental health disparities facing children and families in Nevada.

We support the work in item 9 presented by Michelle Paul and Sarah Hunt. They are incredible partners in training the child behavioral health workforce. We support their efforts to bolster degree programs and post degree training programs. We have amazing programs in our state, and they need more investment from you to recruit students at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels. To improve our ability to deliver care, we must start with growing our own providers.

We also need a strategy to retain practitioners in the state after they complete their program, including **reviewing the practice scope for PAs**. Currently in Nevada, PAs have extremely limited range in their practice abilities without the oversight of a physician in their exact area of practice. This reduces the number of children and adolescents that can be seen by these practitioners and is not aligned with the scope of practice of other states. This **resource** that explains how the scope of practice has been expanded in other states. We feel Nevada should consider modeling our scope of practice to expand practitioner capacity.

CAA has convened a coalition on children's mental and behavioral health comprised of academics, trainers, practitioners, and parents. Some of the solutions that evolved through this thinktank are listed below:

1. **State-Level Leadership** - We are in dire need of state level leadership to coordinate child mental health efforts and resources across the state. The work that needs to be done in Nevada cannot be done without strong leadership guiding our path. Assembly Bill 265 was presented and passed in 2023 but was vetoed, and we believe this bill should be brought back in 2025.
2. **Centralized Information** - We have found a centralized data hub with available resources, support in navigating Medicaid and other insurance issues, and updated licensed practitioners is long overdue and would help children, families, and providers.
3. **Reimbursement Rates** - Currently our reimbursement rates are among the lowest in the country for pediatric services and child mental health services for both Medicaid and private insurance. To recruit and maintain high quality providers in Nevada, this must be addressed.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carissa Pearce".

Carissa Pearce, Children's Advocacy Alliance