

STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH
and Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health

State Advisory Council on Mental Health and Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health
Thursday, November 6th, 2025, 10 am – 11am
In-Person and Virtual Meeting

Attendance (bold = in-person)

Virtual- Aaron Wittnebel, Alyssa Greene, Rod Peterson, Elliot Butay, Laura Jean, Gary Travis, Patrick Rhone, Angela Laschinger, Erica Lammers, Shanna Langston, Wayne Garrett, Britt Olean, Kelley Demitria, Holly Hanson, Jen Springer, Dr. B./ Bravada Garrett-Akinsanya, Dr. Damir Utrzan, **Cheryl Lundsgaard**, **Dave Lee**, Tom Delaney, Britt Olean, **Alison Wolbeck**, Eren Sutherland, Sara Sundeen, Rakesh John, Sarah Driever, Amy Jones, **Cici Hughes**, Angela Laschinger, **Pamela McCabe**, **Claudia Daml**, **Jode Freyholz-London**, Elliot Butay, Shanna Langston, Rod Peterson, Wayne Garrett, Kelly Demetria, Susan Hasti, Jen Springer, Danny Porter, **Peter Fischer**.

Other attendees: Heather Ites, Kari Irber, Kristine Preston, James Xiong, Pam Sanchez, Devon Steen, Mikki Maruska, Mike Gallagher.

AGENDA and NOTES

1. Opening & Land Acknowledgement

- Meeting opened with instructions for participation and introductions.
- **Land Acknowledgement** read by Cheryl Lundsgaard:
Recognized the history of colonization, slavery, systemic racism, and the council's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and dismantling structural racism.

2. Attendance and Introductions

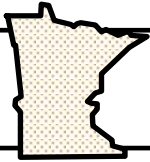
- Members asked to submit attendance details in the chat (name, pronouns, subcommittee affiliation, email).
- Cici Hughes welcomed new members, including Angela Laschinger, Department of Commerce, Director of the mental health parity office and Pamela McCabe, M Health Fairview, inpatient mental health units. Children's Mental Health Services Provider – Hospital.

3. Workgroup Updates

a. Mental Health & Juvenile Justice — Cici Hughes for Elliot Butay

- Group met earlier on morning of 11.6.25.

Notes: Respectfully Submitted by Mikki Maruska Miller, DHS, Project Planning Director, State,
Michele.Maruska@state.mn.us



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- We had conversations around the LLC for kids and mental health courts and wanting to make that part of the 2026 biennial recommendations.
- One of the recommendations will probably join with the mental health supports and wellbeing work group do a joint recommendation around mental health in courts. This workgroup is also looking at juvenile mental health courts and wanting to obtain more information on that. The group talked about data with juvenile mental health courts, veterans' courts and the drug courts sharing how outcomes are improved for participants of these courts.
- Open to new members; meets first Thursdays at 9:00 AM.

b. Mental Health in Schools — No update.

c. Outreach to Diverse Communities — Dr. B. (via chat)

1. Shared discussion on letter to increase membership on this workgroup through Local Advisory Councils and Adult Mental Health Initiatives,
2. Adult Mental Health Initiatives (AMHI) staff will attend next workgroup meeting to further discuss.

d. Mental Health Supports & Wellbeing — Cici Hughes

1. Meets 2nd Wednesdays at 9:00 AM.,
2. Workgroup had presentations on services that are supports and help well-being.
3. Looking at Mental Health Courts as part of their biennial recommendations.

Join from the meeting link (new group)

<https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=meb47c4f2cd89f786add0aebaa8d9759a>

e. Mental Health Awareness at the Minnesota State Fair — Dave Lee

1. Dave Lee shared that there are 297 days until the next MN State Fair. This will be the 9th annual Mental Health Awareness Day at the MN State Fair. 2026's Mental Health Awareness Day will take place on August 31, 2026

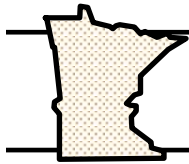
- No meeting held; next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, **January 7th, 2026.**

*Demitria Kelly with the Minnesota Disability Law Center asked how can new members join in some of these work group meetings? Mikki Maruska shared that the Council and Subcommittee Workgroups are being updated. Updates should be complete by Monday, November 17th, 2025, at [Workgroups / Governor's advisory council on mental health](#)

f. Local Advisory Council-Rod Peterson for Sierra Grandy

1. Developing letter with Outreach to Diverse Communities.

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2. Local advisory councils for minor mental health and discussing local town halls.

g. Integrated Care and Access

1. No meeting this month.

4. Member Updates

1. Aaron Wittnebel shared that it would be great to have a future presentation on child protection, changes and performance requirements. Aaron w. stated that four different entities/groups are working on the childcare system for child protection or foster care, but also the need for mental health screening, for children. Aaron shared that someone could come from those different groups and present so that we would know more of what's being updated and to learn more about what's kind of bringing those groups together.

2. The four groups are the Supreme court council on child protection and child safety, a human services performance council or performance management at DHS and DCYF working on foster care requirements. Child protection, and the person for foster youth and a joint legislative committee working on child safety permanency and placement. Aaron did not believe the groups were working together currently. Aaron requested that in the future the Council and Subcommittee arrange for a presentation from Aaron suggested one presenter from a.) child protection b.) child placement, c.) child permanency, and the d.) the juvenile justice system.

Claudia Daml shared that the Council and Subcommittee would like to hear from members about different topics they feel like would be valuable for the, for the Council and Subcommittee to hear about.

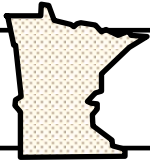
5. Presentation: Elliot Butay, Presentation, Criminal Justice Coordinator, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Minnesota, *Decriminalizing Mental Illnesses in Minnesota*

Please see PowerPoint presentation from email and Chat.

Overview:

- Sequential Intercept Model shared from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
- Crisis Response Overview

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Highlights:

- Jails, Competency Attainment, POST Board Rules
- Solitary Confinement, Probation, Collateral Consequences, Restorative Justice
- Sign up for NAMI's Legislative Update and Criminal Justice Update and more – www.namimn.org
- NAMI's Legislative Committee meets every second Tuesday 6pm-8pm

6. Second Presentation, Gary Travis, Department of Human Services, Behavioral Health Housing Policy and Services Lead, Homelessness, Housing and Support Services Administration (HHSSA). Presentation: HHSSA Homeless, Housing, and Behavioral Health Grant Programs Overview

Please see PowerPoint presentation from email and Chat.

Overview: Grants Programs Teams

- Housing and Behavioral Health Services Program
- Shelter, Outreach, and Infrastructure Grants Programs
- Safe Harbor Shelter and Housing;
Homeless Youth Act;
Special Projects

Highlights: Infrastructure and Program Services, Mission, Eligibility and Access, Crisis Housing, Bridges and Bridges Residential Treatment Centers, Homelessness and Housing Partnerships

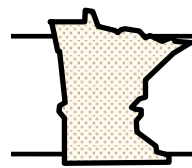
State Agency Updates

a. Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) — Sarah Sundeen

- See update attached to email.

b. Department of Human Services (DHS) — Kristine Preston

- Kristine Preston, Assistant Deputy Commissioner, DHS shared impacts of the Federal government shutdown and shared currently there is no impact to Behavioral Health Services. Kristine suggested the Council and Subcommittee invite someone from the Behavioral Health Services and the Crisis Team.
- Kristine Preston shared a link to a map of mobile crisis services at <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-8459-ENG>



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c. Direct Care & Treatment — Wade Brost

- No update.

d. Department of Education-Tom Delaney

Tom shared updates related to training opportunities for comprehensive school mental health systems, social emotional learning, and suicide prevention. Mental health education curriculum and early childhood practice modules. Tom will send opportunities and links for this to the Council and Subcommittee.

e. Department of Corrections-

Shanna Langston will send update to Council and Subcommittee.

7. Closing

- Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.
- Next meeting is December 4th, 2025, from 10AM – 1PM, virtually and in person (room 2370, 540 Cedar Street, Saint Paul, MN 55101).
- Send questions to Dr. Claudia Daml or Council and Subcommittee email
- Contact mhadvisorycouncil.dhs@state.mn.us with questions

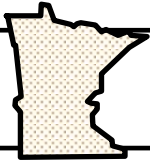
Thank You

Chat record: Attached to email.

Next Steps

Task	Who	By when
Notify Chairs/Co-chairs of any issues requiring help or explanation	Members	As needed
Review workgroup descriptions to join workgroup https://mn.gov/dhs/mh-advisory-council/workgroups/	Members	Now and ongoing
Workgroups website page updates	Mikki and DHS IT	11.14.25
If you are a person with a disability, or know a person with a disability, who needs an accommodation in order to participate in a work group, please let the chair of the workgroup know or send Tom Delaney an email thomas.delaney@state.mn.us to get you connected with what you need.	Members needing accommodation for workgroup participation	asap

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Email Dr. B if interested in joining Outreach to Diverse Communities workgroup bravada.akinsanya@aacwi.org	Members	asap
Please send all invoices and new member paperwork to mhadvisorycouncil.dhs@state.mn.us	Members/new members	asap
Council and Subcommittee List Serve updates	Mikki Maruska and IT, DHS	Asap or by November 17 th , 2025