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

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State Advisory Council on Mental Health  
Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, 11am - 1pm  
In-Person and Virtual Meeting

### **Attendance (bold = in-person)**

**Virtual-** Jen Springer, Donna Lekander, BraVada Garrett-Akinsanya (Dr. B.), Judge Rachel Sullivan, Dr. Damir S. Utrzan, Asia, Shanna Langston, Sierra Grandy, Cheryl, Dave Lee, Tom Delaney, Ayanna, Madeline Mitchell, Sen. Liz Boldon, Britt Olean, Alison Wolbeck, Eren Sutherland, Joy Gerdes, Judge Tim Carey, Mindy Ruml, Sara Sundeen, Rakesh John, Claudia Daml, Sarah Driever, Amy Jones, Judge Amy Lukasavitz, Jesse Coulson, Dave Lee, Chris, Cici Hughes, Elliot Butay, Deb LaCroix-Kinniry, Aaron Wittnebel, Anna Lynn, Eren Sutherland, Judge Tim Carey, Lindsay, Dave Johnson, Rod Peterson, Wayne Garrett, Judge Rachel Sullivan, Danny Porter

**Other attendees:** Heather Ites, Kari Irber, Kristine Preston, James Xiong, Pam Sanchez

### **AGENDA and NOTES**

#### **1. Opening & Meeting Guidelines**

- Meeting opened with reminders to mute microphones and use the **chat** or “**raise hand**” feature for discussion.
- **Respectful Meeting Guidelines** reviewed:
  - No verbal interruptions.
  - Use chat/raise-hand for engagement.
  - Hate speech or threats prohibited; violators will be removed.
- Participants introduced themselves with name, pronouns, affiliation, and workgroup.

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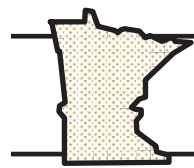
#### **2. Land Acknowledgement**

- Read by **Jonda**, member with lived experience.
- Acknowledged the nation’s history of colonization, slavery, and systemic racism.
- Reaffirmed the Council’s commitment to **diversity, equity, inclusion**, and dismantling systemic racism.

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#### **3. Attendance & New Members**

- Members submitted attendance information via chat and signed in physically (for in-person attendees).
- **New Member Introduced:**



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- **Deb LaCroix-Kinniry**, Mental Health Advocate — multiple organizational affiliations.

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#### 4. Legislative Updates – Elliot Butay (NAMI Minnesota)

##### Key Points:

- **Governor signed agreement** with Democratic leadership for a possible **special session** (Republican leadership not yet signed).
- Topics for the proposed session include:
  - Assault weapons and binary trigger bans
  - Eliminating “ghost gun” loopholes
  - Strengthening **Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO)**
  - Expanding school safety
  - Increased funding for mental health treatment

##### Recommendations from the Mental Health Legislative Network:

- Increase funding for **school-linked mental health** and **workforce supervision**
- Expand **community crisis services** (respite, residential crisis, mobile teams)
- Support **safe firearm storage** and **voluntary “do-not-purchase” firearm registry**
- Update commitment laws to include firearm removal

##### Federal Update:

- **Federal government shutdown** ongoing; duration unknown.
- **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline** remains operational.

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#### 5. Legislative Proposal Discussion – Tom Delaney (MDE)

- Reviewed proposed amendments to **Minnesota Statute 624.7171** (ERPO law).
- Suggested expanding authority for initiating ERPOs to include:
  - **Psychiatrists**
  - **Clinical Psychologists**
  - **Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners**

##### Discussion Highlights:

- Concerns raised about limiting authority to doctoral-level providers (Dr. Damir Utrzan suggested broader inclusion of licensed clinicians per MN Statute 253B.02).
- Dr. Bravada Garrett-Akinsanya emphasized incorporating **DEI language** and addressing communities disproportionately affected by gun violence.



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- Agreement to reconvene a **small working group** to refine proposed language and submit revisions promptly.
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## 6. Workgroup Updates

### a. Local Advisory Councils (LAC) – Sierra Grande

- Meeting schedule: Wednesday before full council (3:30 PM).
- Focus areas:
  - Updating **LAC guidebook**
  - Redefining term “consumer” for inclusivity
  - Training local councils to engage effectively with **county boards**
- Noted advocacy gaps in rural areas and need for stronger connections to state-level policy work.

### b. Mental Health & Juvenile Justice – Elliot Butay

- Meeting schedule: First Thursday monthly (8–9 AM).
- Reviewing **SAMHSA Sequential Intercept Model** for adult/juvenile systems.
- Areas of focus: **Crisis response, police training, jail-based care, and probation reform.**

### c. Mental Health in Schools – Amy Jones

- Partnering with **PELSB** to clarify teacher training requirements.
- Reviewing rules on **suicide prevention** and **mental health awareness**.
- Goal: Broader accessibility and language reframing to include “mental health and wellbeing.”
- Meets **3rd Tuesday monthly, 3:30 PM.**

### d. Outreach to Diverse Communities – Dr. Bravada Garrett-Akinsanya

- Hosted **Rep. Samantha Vang** for discussion on **BIPOC mental health priorities**.
- Identified key issues:
  - Access to **clinical supervision** for licensure
  - Support for **unhoused individuals** and families denied housing due to children’s behavior
  - Funding for **culturally specific mental health clinics**
  - Recognition of **intersectionality** among marginalized groups
- Emphasis on integrating **equity and inclusion** across all council initiatives.

### e. Mental Health Supports & Wellbeing – CiCi Hughes

- Meets **2nd Wednesday monthly, 9:00 AM.**
- Upcoming presentation on **Metro Transit Mental Health Partnership (HACT Team).**

### f. Mental Health Awareness at the Minnesota State Fair – Dave Lee



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- **Next event:** August 31 (9th annual).
- Meetings resume **January 7, 2:00 PM.**
- Seeking volunteers for future planning (2026 event).

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## 7. State Agency Updates

### a. DEED – Sarah Sandeen

- Managing grant for mental health and job placement services.
- Broadband expansion: 75,000 homes and businesses.
- **75% federal / 25% state funding** ensures continuity despite shutdown.
- October = **National Disability Employment Awareness Month** (80th anniversary).

### b. DHS – Kristine Preston

- No immediate impact from federal shutdown on **behavioral health funding.**
- Medicaid and SAMHSA funds stable for FY25.
- Current focus: **Program integrity and fraud prevention** under Executive Order 25-10.

### c. Direct Care & Treatment – Wade Brost

- **PRTF report** development with Health Management Associates.
- Stakeholder engagement in late October/early November.
- **MRTC hospital expansion** on track (groundbreaking 2026, opening 2028).
- New 16-bed forensic facility in **St. Peter** licensed and opening soon.

### d. Department of Education – Tom Delaney

- Multiple **free training opportunities:**
  - Early warning signs of mental illness
  - QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) suicide prevention
  - CALM firearm safety conversations
  - Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBA)
  - Compassion Resilience for School Leaders
- Collaboration between **MDE's EDI Center** and **NAMI Minnesota.**

### e. Department of Health – Anna Lynn

- **Pediatric Mental Health Access Grants** open (deadline: Jan 16).
- Released **988 Community Engagement Toolkit.**
- New initiatives:
  - **COMMENT Training** (Community Empathy & Connection) with UMN & Dept. of Agriculture
  - **Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights** implementation



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- **Community-Led Care Grants** via Office of Health Equity
- **Rural Transformation Grant** opportunity forthcoming

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## 8. Guest Presentation – Minnesota Mental Health Courts

**Presenters:** Judges Rachel Sullivan, Amy Lukasavitz, Tim Carey; Coordinators Madeline Mitchell, Mindy Rumpl, Jesse Coulson

**Overview:**

- Four active **Mental Health Treatment Courts** in Minnesota (North & South St. Louis County, Ramsey County, others).
- Purpose: Address overrepresentation of individuals with mental illness in jails.
- Operate as **treatment-focused alternatives** emphasizing rehabilitation, not punishment.

**Key Elements:**

- **Multidisciplinary Teams:** Judges, coordinators, attorneys, probation, and mental health providers.
- **Eligibility:** Adults with **serious mental illness (SMI/SPMI)**; felony or select misdemeanor charges.
- **Focus:** Stabilization, community treatment, reducing recidivism.
- Outcomes include successful reintegration, employment, housing stability, and family reunification.

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## 9. Closing

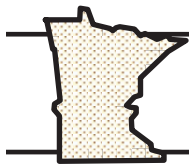
- Final reminders shared regarding next meeting and legislative follow-up items.
- Meeting adjourned.
  - Claudia thanks everyone for their time
  - Next meeting is November 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Send questions to Claudia or Council email
  - Contact [mhadvisorycouncil.dhs@state.mn.us](mailto:mhadvisorycouncil.dhs@state.mn.us) with questions

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\_\_\_\_\_ cheryl Lundsgaard email  
has changed to: [clundsgaard@stdavidsmn.org](mailto:clundsgaard@stdavidsmn.org) (include on last slide) \_\_\_\_\_

### Thank You!

The next State Advisory Council on Mental Health and Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health meeting will be held on Thursday, September 4th, 2025, from 10am until 1pm.



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August's meeting minutes and resources from guest speakers will be emailed to members.

Chat record:

## 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 <a href="https://mn.gov/dhs/mh-advisory-council/workgroups/">https://mn.gov/dhs/mh-advisory-council/workgroups/</a>	Members	Now and ongoing
Will elevate issue of Workgroups website page to leadership group for attention	Claudia	During planning meetings
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 <a href="mailto:thomas.delaney@state.mn.us">thomas.delaney@state.mn.us</a> to get you connected with what you need.	Members needing accommodation for workgroup participation	asap
Email Dr. B if interested in joining Outreach to Diverse Communities workgroup <a href="mailto:bravada.akinsanya@aacwi.org">bravada.akinsanya@aacwi.org</a>	Members	asap
Please send all invoices and new member paperwork to <a href="mailto:mhadvisorycouncil.dhs@state.mn.us">mhadvisorycouncil.dhs@state.mn.us</a>	Members/new members	Receipts due before 6/30/25
Next meeting is Thursday, November 6th, 2025, from 10am until 1pm	All	