



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

State Advisory Council on Mental Health
Thursday, March 6th, 2025, 11am - 1pm
In-Person and Virtual Meeting

Attendance (bold = in-person)

Council Attendees: Amy Jones, **Alison Wolbeck**, Alyssa Greene, Angie Schmitz, Anna Lynn, **Claudia Daml**, Dave Lee, Ellie Miller, Elliot Butay, Eren Sutherland, Jennifer Springer, Jessica Gorneau, Katie Twyman-Metzger, **Mary Kjolsing**, **Jode Freyholz-London**, Rakesh John, Sierra Grandy, **Susan Hasti**, Peter Fischer, Triasia Robinson, Wayne Garrett, Rod Peterson, Sarah Driever, Kristine Preston, **Teresa Steinmetz** joined (12:20)

Other attendees: **Sara Nelson**, **Lea Bittner**, **Kelly Deering**, **Cici Hughes**, Dan Porter, Dr BraVada Garrett-Akinsanya, Corey Harland, Tom Delaney, Jeffrey Lind, Angie Schmitz, Dani Indovino Cawley, Mike Gallagher, **Cheryl Lundsgaard**, **James Xiong**

AGENDA

- I. Welcome, grounding and housekeeping – Claudia Daml - 11:00 - 11:08 (11:00)
 - Opens meeting introducing self as Chair and welcomes participants
 - Mute mics when not speaking
 - Shares respectful meeting guidelines
 - Please say your name and what seat you represent when speaking to get to know one another
 - Meeting is recorded for note taking purposes

- II. Land Acknowledgement – Claudia requests member volunteer - 11:08 – 11:10 (11:02)
 - Jode Freyholtz-London reads as Vice Chair for Council
 - We, the members of the State Advisory Council on Mental Health and Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health, acknowledge that the wealth of this country was built on stolen land and with enslaved and underpaid labor of African American, Native American, and Immigrant people. We acknowledge that the recent global uprising, which was sparked by the murder of George Floyd here in Minnesota, paired with the COVID-19 pandemic, makes for a time of profound uncertainty, shame, fear, and distrust. We also recognize that despite those feelings, we all must actively challenge the impact of our own implicit biases and how they may influence our decisions as individuals and leaders.
 - Furthermore, we recognize that racism also expresses itself in policies and practices that either target or erase BIPOC communities and erect barriers to their prosperity. Therefore, we pledge to be vigilant in monitoring the formulation of policies and practices that produce harm to vulnerable populations. We also commit to being



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open to other people's truths as we acknowledge the resilience, creativity and generosity of the human spirit and we hold firmly to a persistence of hope.

- With these issues in mind, we commit to dismantling systemic and structural racism by initiating and supporting policies, practices, and the allocation of resources that promote diversity, equity, inclusion, and shared power.

III. Member roll call via Padlet chat – Sara Nelson - 11:10 – 11:15 (11:04)

- Invited via link in chat
- Please include first and last name and preferred pronouns
- Whether you are a guest, with the Subcommittee or with the Council
- And which workgroup you are a member of

IV. Claudia Daml introduces Elliot Butay, Sr. Policy Coordinator from NAMI to give legislative introduction and update - 11:15 – 12:00 (11:06)

- Hoping this information will be helpful for new members
- Elliot is on the Mental Health Legislative Network
- Shares slides: Policymaking 101; some may already know this info
- Each state has unique government which share same basic structure of Senate, house and Exec Branch (Governor and state agencies = upper chamber)
- Senate = upper chamber w 67 members serving 4 year terms and representing a larger number of people
- Lower chamber = House with 134 members serving 2-year terms
- Bill introduction involves authors and co-authors; submits to Revisor who writes actual end-stage bill
- Bills are read into chamber's official record and assigned a bill jacket with places for signatures of sponsors (authors); can have several co-authors
- Then bill is dropped to Senate or House
- Then referred to a committee after a floor session when a number is assigned
- Committee members, chair, staff and testifiers are involved in the process to pass a bill
- Committees will be set up by majority part to have more votes from majority party
- This year was unique for MN with tie of members
- Supreme court ruled needed 68 people for quorum and votes
- Leadership of Sen/Hs determine who sits on which committee which are set for biennium; first year is budget cycle and second year is policy and bonding
- Amendments will be made in committee and be voted on
- Process can be watched via YouTube
- Not every bill gets a hearing
- Can be open call for public testimony
- If bill gets votes to pass, can go to next committee
- Bills must pass through multiple committees based on subject areas
- Any bill costing money must go to the finance committee
- Each section of government has a finance committee



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- Each chamber has a final finance committee; in the House, this is the Ways and Means Committee
- Full chamber vote involves all members of the chamber
- Bill is debated, amended and voted on
- Jargon
 - Bills can be passed to another committee, laid over or passed to full chamber
 - Laid over means it's staying within the committee for more vetting for inclusion in the Omnibus bill where several bills are combined together
 - Can be placed on general register = full floor for vote
- Budget
 - Today is budget forecast from MMB with larger deficit (\$6B) than anticipated
 - Governor and Sen Majority Leader and Speaker negotiate agree budget targets for each committee (typically in March/April); this follows what Governor has published in January as preferred budget
 - MN requires having a balanced budget
- Omnibus bills are a vehicle to pass bills more easily
 - Will have own number so previous bill numbers will be subsumed into new #
 - House and Senates can have different priorities reflecting different priorities
- Conference Committee
 - In order to proceed to Governor, House and Senates bill must agree and be identical
 - If chambers don't agree they will assign 3-5 members each to negotiate a final bill in Conference Committee which can last several days
 - These negotiations often happen behind closed doors
- Bill goes to Governor's desk
 - Can sign, veto or line-item veto spending issues only
- Implementation
 - By government agencies such as DHS and MDH for mental health issues
 - Agencies convert law into programs and services
 - It's helpful for advocates to follow up with agencies on implementation
- Judicial branch
 - Must be lawyer to get things done in this system
 - Very slow process
 - Can declare a law unconstitutional in which case it must go back to be revised to meet criteria
 - Can involve consent decrees or fines for non-compliance
- Questions?
 - Cici: how does a bill get a sponsor?
 - A: legislative session starts in Jan/Feb and need a sponsor early on (fall) which can be challenging; voting cycles can also impact who is in seats; lobbyists have time and energy to talk to all legislators; people can go through their legislators;



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- Legislators sit on different committees so it's helpful to know what committees your legislator sits on
- Legislators can present a bill to a committee they don't sit on; may depend on whether they're in the majority/minority party
- Bi-partisan support can be helpful to getting bill passed
- Can work with legislator on writing language
- Claudia thinks **this topic could be expanded on to explore deeper advocacy work in future meetings**
- Claudia: how much information would someone need to give a legislator for them to author a bill?
- A: lobbyists have the advantage of being involved in the process and doing research on these topics; an individual constituent can approach their representative
- The more information provided the better depending on their familiarity with an issue
- NAMI and staff researchers are able to help with the process
- Claudia: dates are important to know these cycles; what dates are important for readings?
- A: deadlines are set by leadership
- Typically 3: 1st to be heard in committee, 2nd is to be heard favorably in other body; companion bills have to be tracked; 3rd deadline is for budget
- 1st and 2nd deadlines this year are both April 4th (not uncommon) and April 11th which were published last week
- These deadlines are typically March/April
- Much work can happen after Omnibus bills have been drafted
- Claudia: how long does conference committee take?
- A: 3rd deadline is for hearing by finance committee and involve amendments if needed
- Omnibus floor hearing comes before a bill is assigned to conference sessions before session end
- Claudia: This group's goals are to support recommendations so it's helpful to best understand the process and be able to interact appropriately
- Jode: individual bills vs omnibus bills; is there a better process – to be slid into omnibus or to be laid over or passed directly
- A: depends on support and complexity; bi-partisan support is best to get action
- Claudia: who is in charge of omnibus bills?
- A: chair works with members
- Claudia: there are authors and co-authors of bills; what is the responsibility of the co-authors?
- A: co-authors generally show support for the bill's ideas rather than actual work; can pull name if not agreeing
- Claudia: what do chief authors do?



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- A: must ask for hearing from Chair and Chair decides whether to hear or not; responsible for presenting bill and garnering support
- Authors typically have help from another body
- NAMI preps authors with testifiers and information to speak to
- Claudia thanks Elliot for an informative presentation
- Please forward questions to Elliot: ebutay@nami.org

V. Jode Freyholz-London introduces Rep Peter Fischer to give an update on Day on the Hill activities – 12:00 – 12:10 (12:03)

- Rep Fischer is in attendance but not prepped for this discussion so this is tabled for later meeting

VI. Workgroup updates – Claudia Daml - 12:10-12:30 (12:05)

- Claudia asks chairs to give updates on next steps from recommendations
- Integrated care and access – Mary Kjolsing = Chair – had 4 recommendations
 - Develop comprehensive needs assessment data bank for MN – Susan Hasti – trying to connect with Diane Neal (DHS) but have found this difficult; she is onboard with this goal; expect with time to develop relationship to get detailed structure of what this might look like to better advocate for this
 - To look at MH needs across the state and determine who's getting/not getting services and identify gaps in terms of infrastructure and placement; to be more proactive for funding
 - Reimbursement rates: Claudia – equity piece to bring up MH rates for sustainable services; DHS made recommendations last year; legislative bills = SF1402 and HF1005; hope to support in round 2
 - Prior authorization reform – Rakesh – different insurance companies have different practices; difficult to find much information on this; asking to prohibit this for psychiatric conditions and disorder treatment; was expanded last year for non-medication treatments for MH emergencies and disorder treatment; doesn't apply to medications; also want way to report and monitor approaches; requirement by utilization to MDH in terms of approval and denial data; medications remain
 - Will need support from Medical Assn to further
 - Collaborative Care Management: - Dr. Trangle = not in attendance today; Claudia saw HF958 has been created; can track my bills to be notified of actions; elevating psychiatric collaborative care model; NAMI is supporting this and it has been approved in both bodies
- LACs – Sierra Grandy – 3 recommendations
 - Expanding communities
 - Revise statute to use person-1st language
 - Equity between adult and children language in statutes
 - Updating Global Advisory Councils handbook to include useful information and best practices and resources to share among LACs
 - Yesterday's meeting had 20+ members attend; meet Wed before Council; trying to make a difference



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- Next meeting April 2nd 3:30 – 4:30
- LACs are county advisory councils mandated by statute
- Recommendations need legislative action
- Aren't taking steps to advocate at that point right now
- Helping to develop better understanding of county's overall MH funding and develop needs assessments; varies greatly throughout MN
- Some counties work regionally; not much cohesion or teeth to statute for those that don't follow through
- Hoping that resources will make it easier for LACs to be active
- Email Sierra with questions - ccgrandy@gmail.com
- MH and Juvenile Justice – Elliot Butay –
 - one recommendation was to get MH services in detention centers; have bill (no number) but is slow in the process; not much money to support; if this doesn't proceed, may have working group to discuss how to fund these services;
 - Corey reaching out to Rep Feiss about data recommendation as she's Corey's rep and very into data
 - Competency attainment for juveniles is another recommendation; last year bill raised age from 10 to 13; this hasn't gone into effect yet; another bill is up to return age; efforts are in place to delay this bill
- MH Awareness at the Mn State Fair – Dave Lee –
 - Update in chat: details available in April's meeting
 - Hold the day Aug 25th 2025 on calendars
- Amy Jones will give update on MH in Schools at next meeting (has left meeting)
- Family Systems, Intervention or Supports – Anna Lynn – no current updates
 - May consider merging with another workgroup
- Recovery Supports – not currently meeting – Angie and Gary Travis were only 2 attending meeting; struggling with attendance
- Outreach to Diverse Communities – Dr B –
 - Thanks Lisa for this morning's discussion on DEI in the Children's Subcommittee; many agencies are being paralyzed by recent funding and administrative decisions
 - Sees every member as a MH leader; need to know how to situate equity, diversity and inclusion palatably to be taken up
 - Need strategies to infiltrate areas where diversity isn't welcome; need to develop strategies for this
 - Trying to position work so that every member owns diversity work
 - Claudia will reach out to Dr. B about speaking at next month's meeting

VII. State Agency Updates – Jode Freyholz-London - 12:30 – 12:50 (12:37)

- DOC – Shanna Langston/Holly Hanson –
- DHS – Diane Neal and Kristine Preston – Teresa Steinmetz (AC DHS)
 - Regarding uncertainty about federal funding messaging



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- DHS doesn't often know more than what is being reported in the media
- DHS' mission continues to improve lives of MNs
- Temporary Commissioner Ghandi has been promoting these messages
- Haven't had to implement any changes regarding DEI work
- Release of executive orders is creating fear and uncertainty and will continue work until they hear otherwise
- Dept has legal obligation to provide a safe, inclusive workplace;
- Federal level changes are constant; DHS leadership group meets daily to examine changes and implications
- Suspension of federal funding would have huge impacts and real consequences to DHS and the people they support
- Trying to understand what's coming out and identify impacted programs
- Major changes relating to Medicaid program would also be devastating
- DHS sent out new materials to inform discussions about state public healthcare programs; 3 fact sheets available
- Want to address misconceptions with facts on services and #s of people impacted
- DHS is doing all they can to mobilize and understand; workforce changes have impacted hearing answers in the regions making this more challenging
- Met today with leaders of Children's Subcabinet
- **Kristine** Preston: discusses block grant work and planning process being improved
- Included link in chat - <https://mn.gov/dhs/medicaid-matters/>
- New application for this year not yet released by SAMSHA; may see more changes based on federal action; final application unlikely to be available until summer and due Sep 1
- Have done strengths and needs assessment including public engagement to identify gaps
- **Want to address this group again in May to engage in further discussion and feedback**
- Have multiple stakeholder initiatives to collect, validate data and submit by end of summer
- Block grant applications don't address every need
- MDE – Tom Delaney –
 - MN Autism resource Symposium April 9th looking at intersection between autism and mental health with many breakout sessions and networking opportunities; **link in chat**; at local MDE building; 8:30 – 4:00; want to get autism support prioritized along with mental health
 - PBIS summer institution – pos behavioral interventions and supports for school to provide evidence-base serves – Aug 14th – Tom will have more info as it is available
 - Continuing work until they hear differently
- MDH – Alyssa Green/Anna Lynn –



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- Anna: going through reorganization creating new title Injury Prevention and Mental Health and now establishing how this will role out; include suicide prevention team; want to expand and enhance internal coordination
- Alyssa had to leave meeting but may share updates later
- Black Youth MH Summit in Feb; about keeping black youth safe online; AG attended and had recently released report on social media and wellbeing; link [in chat to this](#)
- Interested in values and community-initiated efforts; have 8 existing grantees using block grant funding; will see more on this in future
- Anna is organizing meeting for state leaders to engage children in nature network working with Casey Foundation to incorporate nature to support MJH
- Rod: on SHAC which supports health and going through assessment for how regions do in areas including equity and inclusion
- Anna: included mental health in state health partnership workplan
- Dr. B – is thankful for this work
- DEED – no replacement for Claire yet
- Other agencies: none
- Claudia adds federal reps contacts via chat acknowledging that federal cuts would impact services; [find your rep to see if they are involved in this work \(Districts 1, 6, 7, and 8\)](#); consider whether Council wants to take action in future meeting

VIII. Updates from Members – Claudia Daml - 12:50 – 12:55 – **tabled to start of next meeting**

- Invites Children’s Subcommittee update from today’s meeting
- Asks for other updates; none offered

IX. Membership and DHS Updates – Sara Nelson - 12:55 – 12:58 (12:27)

- Will resend link for SWIFT accounts; lies outside her purview [but she will help those](#) as best she can to get accounts created; please email Sara with issues
- [Questions about SOS info – please email her directly](#)
- [Also email her with questions about invoicing](#)

X. Closing and Adjourn – Claudia Daml - 12:58 - 1:00 (12:59)

- Claudia thanks everyone for their time

Thank You!

The next State Advisory Council on Mental Health and Subcommittee on Children’s Mental Health meeting will be held on Thursday, April 3rd, 2025 from 10am until 1pm.

March meeting minutes and resources from guest speakers will be emailed to members.



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Chat record:

Triasia Yun-Robinson 3/6/2025 11:09 AM • I will have to leave early today

Eren Sutherland (they/them) 3/6/2025 11:22 AM • I will be back in about 20 minutes.

Eren Sutherland (they/them) 3/6/2025 11:39 AM • I am back!

Elliot Butay (they/them) 3/6/2025 12:03 PM • ebutay@namimn.org

Host 3/6/2025 12:07 PM • <https://mn.gov/dhs/mh-advisory-council/reports/>

amy jones 3/6/2025 12:17 PM • mental health in schools workgroup will share our recommendations at the April meeting. Thanks! I have to head to another meeting.

rod peterson, Dodge CC 3/6/2025 12:23 PM • Sierra is doing a great job

Sierra Grandy 3/6/2025 12:26 PM • ccgrandy@gmail.com

Eren Sutherland (they/them) 3/6/2025 12:29 PM • I can barely hear Elliot speaking!

Jen Springer 3/6/2025 12:29 PM • Elliot, can you say the name of the bill again?

Eren Sutherland (they/them) 3/6/2025 12:29 PM • Is there a microphone that could be moved closer to Elliot?

Thank you, that is better. Missed the first minute or so.

Dave Lee 3/6/2025 12:31 PM • I can give an update on the Mental Health Awareness Day at the MN State Fair at the April meeting. Put August 25th on your calendars!

Anna Lynn (she/her) 3/6/2025 12:38 PM • Really nice work with that DHS!

Love the information you have shared about MA

Kristine Preston, DHS 3/6/2025 12:42 PM • <https://mn.gov/dhs/medicaid-matters/>

BraVada (Dr. B) 3/6/2025 12:50 PM • Healing in Hard Times: Coping with Fear, Bias & Uncertainty through our podcase: Conversations with Al McFarlane; The Healing Circle via <https://YouTube.com/@InsightNewsMN/streams> on every Friday at 1:00pm

New messages

MDE Tom Delaney 3/6/2025 12:51 PM •



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MN Autism Resource Symposium is coming up on April 9. It will be a hybrid event. Registration for the Autism Resource Symposium will be coming, and you can always email me at thomas.delaney@state.mn.us for info. **What to Expect**

- **Keynote Presentations and Panels** – Hear from leading experts on the intersection of autism and mental health, including strategies for managing stress and accessing services and supports.
- **Workshops and Breakout Sessions**
- **Resource Fair** – Connect with organizations offering autism services, mental health supports, advocacy groups, and healthcare coverage.
- **Networking Opportunities** – Meet parents, self-advocates, educators, and service providers to build a strong, informed, and supportive community.
- Whether you are an autistic individual, a parent, a caregiver, or a professional, this symposium will provide valuable insights and tools to promote mental wellness and enhance quality of life.
- **Date:** April 9, 2025
- **Location:** Minnesota Department of Education 400 NE Stinson Blvd, Minneapolis, MN 55413
- **Time:** 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Let's work together to create a future where autism support prioritizes **mental health, self-care, and community well-being**. Stay tuned for more details!

Jen Springer 3/6/2025 12:53 PM • I have to jump off to get to a 1pm meeting, see you all next month!

Claudia Daml 3/6/2025 12:55 PM •

[Minnesota House of Representatives Federal Roster](#)

Anna Lynn (she/her) 3/6/2025 12:57 PM •

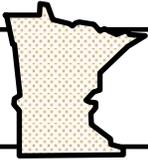
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Task	Who	By when
Revisit legislative procedures at a deeper level for possible advocacy work	Claudia schedule for future meeting	tbd
Ensure workgroup chair contacts are provided to members for questions about work/meetings, etc.	Sara	With meeting notes
Hold Aug 25, 2025 on calendars for State Fair MH Day	Members	immediately
Reach out to Dr. B about speaking in next month's meeting	Claudia	asap
Schedule Kristine/Teresa to address group again in May regarding funding changes	Leadership/Sara	4/15/25
<p>Include MDE event info to members:</p> <p>MN Autism Resource Symposium is coming up on April 9. It <u>will</u> be a hybrid event. Registration for the Autism Resource Symposium will be coming, and you can always email me at thomas.delaney@state.mn.us for info. What to Expect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote Presentations and Panels – Hear from leading experts on the intersection of autism and mental health, including strategies for managing stress and accessing services and supports. • Workshops and Breakout Sessions • Resource Fair – Connect with organizations offering autism services, mental health supports, advocacy groups, and healthcare coverage. • Networking Opportunities – Meet parents, self-advocates, educators, and service providers to build a strong, informed, and supportive community. • Whether you are an autistic individual, a parent, a caregiver, or a professional, this symposium will provide valuable insights and tools to promote mental wellness and enhance quality of life. • Date: April 9, 2025 • Location: Minnesota Department of Education 400 NE Stinson Blvd, Minneapolis, MN 55413 • Time: 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Let's work together to create a future where autism support prioritizes mental health, self-care, and community well-being. Stay tuned for more details! 	Sara	With meeting notes
Send links to members:	Sara	With meeting notes



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