



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

New Member Orientation

Council & Subcommittee History

- State Advisory Council on Mental Health established in 1987 by [Minnesota Statute 245.697](#) and appointed by the Governor
- Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health established in 1989 with the addition of 245.697 [Subd. 2a](#) and appointed by the Chair of the Council
- Membership has expanded over the years and includes: individuals with lived experience of mental illness, parents and family members of those with mental illness, county commissioners, social service directors, advocacy organizations, educators, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, community corrections, legislators, and representatives of state agencies
- 32 seats on Council with 5 current vacancies
- 28 seats on Subcommittee with 4 current vacancies

Duties of the Council and Subcommittee

- advise the governor and heads of state departments and agencies about policy, programs, and services affecting people with mental illness;
- advise the commissioner of human services on all phases of the development of mental health aspects of the biennial budget;
- advise the governor about the development of innovative mechanisms for providing and financing services to people with mental illness;
- encourage state departments and other agencies to conduct needed research in the field of mental health;
- review recommendations of the subcommittee on children's mental health;
- educate the public about mental illness and the needs and potential of people with mental illness;
- review and comment on all grants dealing with mental health and on the development and implementation of state and local mental health plans; and
- coordinate the work of local children's and adult mental health advisory councils and subcommittees.

Additional Duties in Statute 245.697

- Subcommittee must make recommendations to the advisory council on policies, laws, regulations, and services relating to children's mental health
- Report from time to time on its activities to the governor, the chairs of the appropriate policy committees of the house of representatives and senate, and the commissioners of health, employment and economic development, and human services
- File a formal report with the governor not later than October 15 of each even-numbered year
- Report to the chairs of the appropriate policy committees of the house of representatives and senate not later than November 15 of each even-numbered year

Current Activities

- Finalizing 2020 Report to the Governor and Legislature
- Writing communications to state agencies about recommendations and time sensitive actions
- In partnership with DHS Behavioral Health Division, developing plan to be involved in the grant making and RFP process
- Mental Health Awareness Day at the State Fair (virtual events on 8/31/2020)

Current Needs

- Develop a diversity and equity plan to be incorporated in all aspects of Council & Subcommittee work
- Consider current cultural, social, whole family, and person-centered needs in all aspects of Council & Subcommittee work
- Develop a communications plan to maintain ongoing communication with the Governor's Office, Legislature, and ALL state agencies
- Develop a plan to identify and communicate with legislative champions to keep recommendations moving

Important Statutes & Administrative Rules

- [Public Welfare and Related Activities](#)
- Mental Health Act [Chapter 245. Department of Human Services](#)
- [Chapter 245G. Chemical Dependency Licensed Treatment](#)
- Juvenile Justice [Chapter 260B. Delinquency](#)
- [Chapter 121A.031 School Student Bullying Policy](#)
- [Minnesota Administrative Rules Department of Human Services](#): 9520 Mental Health Services, 9530 Chemical Dependency Programs, 9535 Program Grants, 9544 Positive Support Strategies

Note: *This is not a comprehensive list and will continue to be updated*

General Meeting Information

- Chairs set the agenda for the meetings. Please share your agenda ideas with mhadvisory.council.dhs@state.mn.us
 - Meetings are very full so it is impossible to get updates from all members; Submit written updates prior to the meeting to be included in meeting minutes
- 1st Thursday of every month 10am-1pm virtual
 - Test your technology before the meeting to ensure speakers, headphones, microphone, etc. are properly working
 - Always mute when not talking!
 - Be patient! These are large, discussion based meetings and it is difficult to avoid confusion
 - When speaking, announce your name so that everyone knows who is speaking
- All perspectives are heard with respect
- Email mhadvisory.council.dhs@state.mn.us if unable to attend meeting or have questions
- Submit vendor invoices in a timely manner via email - per diem available for full council and workgroup meetings

Website

- <https://mn.gov/dhs/mh-advisory-council/>
- This is one tool to stay informed of what is going on with the Council and Subcommittee
- [Meeting information](#) and [documents](#) are posted online as soon as possible
- Memos and letters the Council and Subcommittee have submitted are available in the documents section
- Review prior legislative [reports](#) to see previous recommendations

Thoughts, Comments, & Questions?

- Please use the Council email for communication
- Action items are sent via email

mhadvisory.council.dhs@state.mn.us