



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

September 3, 2020 – 10:00am-1:00pm

Attendees:

Dave Lee, Michelle Schmid-Egleston, Jeff Lind, Michael Trangle, Rozenia Fuller, Stephanie Podulke, Claire Courtney, Amanda Larson, Cece Hughes, Mary Kjolsing, Rod Peterson, Sam Hedden, Beth Prewett, Cynthia Christensen, Linda Hansen, Donna Lekander, Angie Schmitz, Ashwak Hassan, Amanda Larson, Alison Wolbeck, Anna Lynn, Claudia Daml, Donna Lekander, Ed Morales, Ken Moorman, Tom Delaney, Amy Jones, Diane Medchill, BraVada Garrett-Akinsanya, Jennifer Pederson, Jennifer Bertram, Jennifer Giesen, Robert Bosl, Mike Gallagher, Tanya Carter, Pa Kong Lee, Claudette Larson, Sam Smith, Kim Strand, Abigail Franklin, Anna Lynn, Courtney Iverson, Jeanelle Austin, Christine Walker

Joint Meeting Minutes

Welcome, Approve Minutes, Approve Agenda

- Monday, August 31 marked the Third Annual Mental Health Awareness Day at the Minnesota State Fair with a modification to the [At Home Edition](#). Videos and resources are online.
- Public Comment – Self Care Fair a project that emerged out of the work at intersection of Chicago and 38th in Minneapolis after the murder of George Floyd – to promote self-care and ensure people are taking care of their mental health needs hosted on 7/25. Another event will be held 9/26. For information, email Jeanelle Austin at welcome@raiofjustice.com or call 612-750-4730. <https://raiofjustice.com/>

Orientation for All Members

- See presentation slides at end of minutes
- Questions about what public education activities the Council and Subcommittee are engaged in: Mental Health Awareness Day at the State Fair is sponsored by the Council, Subcommittee, and NAMI-MN, Resources shared at other mental health awareness events, representation at Mental Health Day on the Hill, members are encouraged to take what they learn during meetings back to their organizations and communities, leftover food from in-person meetings are distributed to homeless encampments by member Rozenia Fuller who shares with them work of the Council and Subcommittee and other needed resources
- Want to invite the governor to attend a meeting. Chairs will discuss ideas on how to best extend the invitation and what meetings would be most appropriate. Will be a discussion at a future Council / Subcommittee meeting
- Need more representation from Legislature on the Council and Subcommittee. Currently there is an open Senate seat on the Council and an open seat of the Subcommittee for either Senator or Representative. Members who have personal connections to state legislators should reach out to them and encourage participation in the Council. They will need to apply on the Secretary of State website for either the [Council](#) or [Subcommittee](#).
- Very important to identify legislative champions to help move forward any recommendations coming out of the Council and Subcommittee



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

Report Recommendations Discussion

- Edits made to a few recommendations: Comprehensive School Mental Health (Sam and BraVada will provide edits by 3pm 9/4), BIPOC Loan Forgiveness, Enhanced Rate for Highly Acute Youth
- Leverage existing federal Medicaid funding to expand school-based mental health services recommendation is not being included at this time. More clarification on this is needed. The Governor's Children's Cabinet is working on a similar recommendation; Abbie will get this information from the Cabinet to share. There will be continued conversation about this recommendation so as it is not lost.
- Discussion about including LGBTQIA in the BIPOC Loan Forgiveness Program. At this time, this recommendation will focus on incentivizing BIPOC mental health professionals to work in non-profit agencies that are striving to increase and retain diversity in their workforce. Will have continued conversation about how to ensure LGBTQIA perspective is included in Council / Subcommittee recommendations.
- Comprehensive School Mental Health – how do we include Tribes and Tribal Schools / Native Immersion Programs into this while recognizing Tribal Sovereignty?
- Next steps: finalized report will be made web accessible and posted on Council / Subcommittee website as well as with the MN Legislative Reference Library. Abbie will work through approvals to print the report for distribution to the Governor and Legislature. Need: determine how to “package” pieces of the report so that it is read by key people and how to have continued communication with identified champions to keep recommendations moving.
- Ideas: write welcome letters to all Legislators prior to the start of the legislative session to introduce the work of the Council and Subcommittee and ensure they have copies of the report

Workgroup Plan Discussion

- This will be discussed during the October meeting. Please note that we will place emphasis on all workgroups incorporating current cultural, social, whole family, and person-centered needs into all aspects of their work efforts. Also, we will be scheduling on-going virtual meetings.

Letter to DHS Commissioner

- Due to the budget deficit in Minnesota, it is important to share the top priority of no budget cuts to the mental health system now instead of waiting until the report is published in October. Council / Subcommittee approved to send this letter to Commissioner Harpstead and copy others including the governor's office.

State Advisory Council Chair/Vice-Chair Nominations and Voting

- Chair Nominations: Dave Lee
- Voting results: Congratulations! Dave continues as Chair until 8/2022
- Vice-Chair Nominations: Michael Trangle
- Voting results: Congratulations, Michael continues as Vice Chair until 8/2022
- Member Rozenia Fuller wants to make note that, as an African American woman, she confidently nominated and supports two white men to be in these leadership roles because experience has shown they are helpful, respectful, and inclusive in the work they do. They lean



STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH

and Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health

generously into taking action and “walk the walk.” They are open and teachable and lead with humility.

Closing, Next Steps, Next Meeting

- Check your email and respond to any action items
- Submit your vendor invoices to mhadvisory.council.dhs@state.mn.us
- Reapply to the Subcommittee on Children’s Mental Health if your seat is expiring – members have been notified via email
- Submit your Member Profile to mhadvisory.council.dhs@state.mn.us
- Note: meeting ended at 12:45pm – 15 minutes early!

Updates from state agencies:

DEED / Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS):

- VRS offices that are stand-alone as well as DEED operated CareerForce Centers that have VRS offices co-located in them remain closed to the public. All staff/programs continue to operate virtually. COVID-19 Workplace Plans have been developed and submitted to Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) for each DEED location across the state. These plans are required by Executive Order and detail the procedures and safety measures we will follow to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 as we slowly bring some employees back to office locations.
- **100 years of the public VR program:** Minnesota’s VR programs (VRS and SSB/State Services for the Blind) celebrated the first 100 years of the public vocational rehabilitation program this summer. See a [timeline](#) of services from the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR).
- **VR State Plan:** State VR programs prepare and publish a State Plan as one of the requirements to receive annual grant funding through a federal/state partnership. Minnesota VR currently receives 74.9% of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education and 25.1% from a Minnesota state appropriation. The program is administered by Vocational Rehabilitation Services and State Services for the Blind, both of which are divisions of the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).
- With a full-time staff of more than 350 across the state, Minnesota’s VR program provides counseling and career services that assist students and adults with disabilities to achieve high quality careers in their communities. The State Plan details how the program intends to deliver services, collaborate with public and private organizations, and evaluate and measure its performance. It also provides an assessment of the state’s current and anticipated VR needs and establishes program goals and priorities for the next four years. ***The new 2020-2023 State Plan took effect on July 1, 2020.*** Review the [State Plan](#).
- Northwestern Mental Health Center (NWMHC), a longstanding Individual Placement and Support (IPS) partner, received national recognition in the 2020 National Council Awards of Excellence Program by the National Council for Behavioral Health for their transformation into a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC). See [Story #7](#) for a brief video.
- **Stories of Success in Time of Pandemic:** Parts of this story are adapted from a recent Rise newsletter and highlights how VRS partners with Community organizations like Rise and Hennepin County Mental Health Center to help people achieve success:
 - In time of pandemic, people with direct support skills and experience are in high demand. Andrea knows the importance of her work as a personal care assistant (PCA),



STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH

and Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health

even though her ultimate career goals are elsewhere. She has a long history of working in the health care industry, but after moving to Minnesota from Illinois last fall she hoped to move into something different, perhaps a retail position. Her therapist, Brian McCullough at the Hennepin County Mental Health Center (HCMHC), referred her to an **Individual Placement and Supports (IPS) program called Creating Access**, operated by Rise in partnership with Hennepin County Mental Health Center (HCMHC). In January, Hollie Petersen, a Rise employment consultant, and Erin Kampa, VRS career rehabilitation counselor, began to assist Andrea in developing new career goals. Erin helped Andrea develop an employment plan that included assistance with transportation, obtaining interview and work clothing, job placement services, job follow up, and training program exploration as she is hoping to return to college. With Hollie's assistance and support, Andrea had several successful interviews at retail stores. But before receiving any job offers, COVID-19 hit and the stores all closed. Needing an income during the pandemic, she accepted two separate PCA positions, which are valuable for building her transferable skills. Andrea continues to work with Rise, VRS, and HCMHC for assistance in maintaining her employment as she continues to explore the possibilities of retail employment and plan for her eventual goal of returning to college. Andrea hopes to resume her career development and job search again soon. In the meantime, she is successfully maintaining both of her PCA jobs. She has shown resilience in the face of numerous challenges – moving to a new city, living through an unprecedented time of pandemic – as she focuses on developing new skills for a new career.

DHS:

- Telemedicine Effectiveness Focus Groups – Effective March 19, 2020, [federal and state waivers](#) allowed DHS to temporarily expand access to health care treatment services by allowing providers to use non-HIPAA compliant methods of telemedicine, to deliver some services via telephone, and to leverage other flexibilities to enable greater use of telemedicine to enhance access. The waivers also expanded the number of providers whose services may be covered when delivered via telemedicine or telephone.
- The Behavioral Health Division (BHD) and Health Care Administration (HCA) are looking to identify partners and providers familiar with delivering telemedicine to participate in a focus group. Individual treatment providers are encouraged to participate as well as representatives from provider organizations that provide physical or behavioral health care treatment services through telemedicine or telephonic modes. The focus group will examine how telemedicine and other remote service delivery methods are able to deliver equitable, efficient, and high-quality treatment services to Minnesotans with physical and behavioral health needs. This focus group is part of a broader study to assess how telemedicine treatment services in health care, mental health, and substance use disorder settings have been used before and during the public health emergency, whether those treatment services are effective, and what barriers providers and patients face. The results of this analysis will help DHS make well-informed recommendations regarding the future of telemedicine in Minnesota and coverage under the state's public health care programs.
- **If you are interested in participating in a remote, video chat focus group, please provide your contact information at the following link:** <https://online.snapsurveys.com/si8s3n>.



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

- For questions about the telemedicine effectiveness focus group sessions, please contact melorine.mokri@state.mn.us.

Department of Corrections (DOC):

- Currently facing a budget shortfall of approximately \$14 million in FY21 alone. The bulk of the DOC's current deficiency is a result of increasing cost of contracts and healthcare costs. The lack of a supplemental budget and other budgetary challenges has resulted in the planned closure of 2 facilities (Willow River and Togo). There is a plan being developed the move CIP beds to the Moose Lake facility. There have been layoffs, but at this time, they haven't impacted the direct behavioral health services to the offenders.
- Preventing spread of COVID-19 within the facilities has resulted in the need to get creative when providing treatment to the offenders and technology challenges have limited some of the options. We have had to change how programming is provided, such as making groups smaller to provide social distancing and, during outbreaks, provide programming individually or through more homework type assignments.
- COVID-19 and budget issues have also resulted in suspending current WRAP programming and the postponement of increasing WRAP programming within the facilities.

MDH:

- Working to implement the [MN State Suicide Prevention Plan](#) through the MN State Suicide Prevention Task force as well as through Sub-Committee work.
- Suicide Prevention Community Conversation Series: Dr. Dan Reidenberg, SAVE, will provide overview of suicide prevention general information, best practices, and practical tips followed by a moderated discussion. [Register – Suicide Risk and Protective Factors](#) – September 22, 9:00 a.m. focus on risk and protective factors. [Register – Suicide/Sudden Death Postvention Planning](#) – October 20, 9:00 a.m. focus on postvention, or preventing additional suicides in a community, and the challenges and opportunities in providing postvention support during the pandemic.
- [Mental Well-being and Resilience Learning Community](#) - Between July 1 and September 31, seven sessions including the following topics:
 - Policies for Digital Wellbeing for Home, School, and Workplace
 - Handle With Care Pilot Project: A Police & School Systems Response to Trauma
 - Club Mom and Club Dad: Linking Parents to Concrete Supports, Relationships and Community
 - Yellow Zones: A Place Where You Can Flourish
 - Amplifying the Mental Well-being Elements of SNAP Education in Minnesota
 - Tools to Screen Well and Live More: Creating a Healthy Relationships with Technology during COVID 19 and Beyond
 - Social Connectedness as the Center of Mental Well-being
- **State Health Improvement Program (SHIP)**- Supporting community resiliency in their grants
- **Community Healing**- Following the George Floyd murder and civil unrest, meetings with DHS and MDH discuss ways to support community healers. MDH is sponsoring a Ramsey County community healer's summit in November and will be working with DHS and Ramsey County to hear directly from community healers about their needs.



STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MENTAL HEALTH

and Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health

- **MN Thrives**- launching an advisory/workgroup in September to: refine the vision for the MN THRIVES tool, develop a plan to advance and promote utilization of the MN THRIVES tool, and support implementation of the plan. The goal of this group is to align efforts and connect this resource to similar initiatives and community assessments regarding mental well-being and community resilience.
- **Title V**- For the first time ever- Children and Family Health Division included mental health promotion in the Title V workplan. Top priorities in that plan are to:
 - Help communities build capacity and resilience
 - Implement a public health communications campaign on mental well-being across the life span
 - Advocate for legislative policies that promote mental well-being for everyone
- **CDC ACEs Grant Proposal**- A surveillance grant and includes:
 - Community Assessment tool development
 - Community Resilience Learning Cohort
 - Access to supports for children of incarcerated parents
- **Video Project**: Gathering short individual videos about people's self-care practices, especially during COVID. It has been challenging finding participants and would welcome the opportunity to partner with anyone from the State Advisory Council on Mental Health or Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health
- **Social connectedness**—In the early stages of developing a brief or tool to elevate focus on social connectedness, which will include key facts, community strategies, data, and partnership opportunities. Please share ideas with anna.lynn@state.mn.us.
- **Trauma informed toolkit**- Partnering with MACMH working with Children's Cabinet to advance the trauma informed toolkit- a Preschool Development Grant project designed primarily for early childhood providers and caregivers.
- **COVID-response**: Persons with Disabilities Unit has been working with advocates and staff in other state agencies to put forward specific needs of the disability community. Advisory group is developing recommendations related to back-to-school services and supports for children with mental health concerns and other disabilities to ensure that all students have the supports they need to succeed. Clarifying infection prevention/control measures for children's residential mental health settings and level 4 school settings, especially considering the increase in number of children/youth that cannot tolerate a facemask in those spaces. Questions, reach out to elise.holmes@state.mn.us
- Additional resources:
 - [MDH: Everyday Tools and Tips for Mental Well-being \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Support for People with Mental Illness Who Are Sick with COVID-19 \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Supporting Senior Mental Well-being in Congregate Living during COVID-19 \(PDF\)](#)

Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA):

- The COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program has Launched! It provides housing assistance payments to help prevent eviction, prevent homelessness, and maintain housing stability for eligible renters and homeowners. Local administrators will review applications from individuals



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

and families requesting assistance, verify eligibility, and process payments for eligible expenses on behalf of households. For complete details on who is eligible to apply and what costs are covered by the program, visit www.211unitedway.org. 8am-8pm, interested applicants may also call 211 (Toll Free: 1.800.543.7709; Local: 651.291.0211) or text "MNRENT" to 898-211.

- Minnesota Housing Awarded Third Section 811 Project-Based Rental Assistance Program Grant: In early August, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced that Minnesota Housing was one of 12 housing finance agencies from around the country selected to receive a Section 811 Project-Based Rental Assistance (PRA) Program grant! This is Minnesota Housing's third Section 811 PRA grant from HUD. The first two awards provided rental assistance to 159 households across the state. This new award will support an estimated 183 households where at least one family member is under 62 who has a disability and is extremely low income. Minnesota Housing is working with HUD to finalize the selection in the coming months. We are also preparing the plan and timeline to make these PRAs available. Eligible developments will include both existing developments as well as developments that are still in the concept phase and will seek funding within the next several years. Minnesota Housing anticipates sharing this plan in fall 2020. Sign up for our [eNews list](#) to receive Section 811 PRA news and updates. Find out more about Section 811 PRA award announcement by reading [HUD's press release](#) and visiting [HUD's website](#).

Next Meeting:

Date: October 1, 2020
Time: 10:00am-1:00pm
Location: WebEx Only

Reminder:

More information about the State Advisory Council on Mental Health and Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health, including meeting minutes, reports, and membership lists, can be found online: <https://mn.gov/dhs/mh-advisory-council/>