



---

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

---

Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health  
Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 9am – 11am  
In-Person and Virtual Meeting

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

**Lisa Hoogheem, Cici Hughes Co-chair on Subcommittee (MH/JJ), Sara Sundeen (DEED/VRS),** Shanna Langston (DOC), Donna Lekander (Subcommittee JJW), **Jamie Hayes,** Alyssa Greene (MDH), Tom Delaney (MDE), **Rod Peterson,** Diane Neal (DHS/BHA Director of Mental Health), Wayne Garrett (RN/IC) Aaron Wittnebel, Dave Einzig, **Anna Lynn (MDH),** Dr. BraVada Garrett-Akinsanya, **Jode Freyholtz-London, Pamela McCabe, Cheryl Lundsgaard, Susan Hasti, Mary Kjolsing,** Angie Laschinger, Dianne N. Naus, Jessica Gourneau, (OCD), Mike Gallagher (DHS), Sarah Driever, Danny Porter, Danielle Marie Indovino Cawley, Erica Lammers (Parent Child SED), **Dave Lee, Alison Wolbeck**

**Other attendees: Mikki Maruska, James Xiong, Devon Steen,** LaShawnda Bishop, J'Mag Karbeah, Marcos Perez, Andrea Orengo, **Kristine Preston,** Barbie Hess

**AGENDA and NOTES**

**1. Opening & Meeting Guidelines**

**Facilitated by Lisa Hoogheem**

- 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.

---

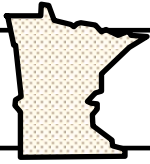
**2. Land Acknowledgement**

- Read by **Member Volunteer**
- Acknowledged the nation's history of colonization, slavery, and systemic racism.
- Reaffirmed the Council's commitment to **diversity, equity, inclusion,** and dismantling systemic racism.

---

**3. Attendance & New Members**

- Members submitted attendance information via chat and signed in physically (for in-person attendees).



#### 4. Guest Presentations

- **Adapting the EMBRace Curriculum for Black Immigrant Families presented by J'Mag Karbeah**
- **Overview:** Presentation centered on adapting and evaluating the acceptability of a family-centered mental health intervention for Black immigrant families.
- **Highlights:** EMBRace is a 5-session family-based program designed to increase family connection and positive attitudes in the community. The project aims to adapt existing curricula to better serve diverse Black immigrant communities in Minnesota. Emphasis on community engagement and collaboration for effective implementation and feedback.
- J'Mag requested networking, feedback and collaboration from the group and is hoping for funding for this program.
- **Q:** What is the licensing requirement for the person doing the intervention?
  - **A:** A psychiatrist is currently doing interventions, but licensed family therapist could also do it.
- **Q:** Could a licensed independent social worker do this work?
  - **A:** Will ask if this would be possible.
- **Q:** Is there a hope to scale this in all populations of youth?
  - **A:** This is a great curriculum and great potential for all youth.
  
- **Substance Use Disorder and Primary Prevention presented by LaShawnda Bishop and Andrea Orengo**
- **Overview:** Presentation centered on primary prevention interventions and prevention strategies for substance use disorders, emphasizing early intervention and community involvement.
- **Highlights:** Minnesota schools must implement comprehensive substance use education programs by the 2026 school year to address youth risks. The Minnesota Prevention Resource Center supports local prevention efforts through data, training, and community coalition development.
- **Q:** Do you have culturally specific data and is there parent involvement?
  - **A:** Data collected will be shared via email.

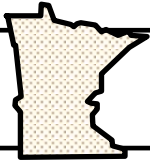
#### Links shared in the chat:

- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-minnesota-prevention-program-sharing-conference-tickets-1986339436726>
- <https://www.rpcmn.org/>
- <https://www.mnprc.org/mn-s-prevention-support-system>

---

#### 5. DHS Children's Mental Health Updates and State Agency Updates Facilitated by Cici Hughes

- a) MDE - Tom Delaney



---

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

---

- MDE is offering professional development opportunities for school staff, focusing on trauma-informed practices and mental health education.
  - Link shared: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/94/2026/0/SF/3551/versions/latest/>
- b) DHS - Mike Gallagher**
- Restructuring of DHS leadership – John Connolly has been named new DHS Commissioner.
  - Focus is accountability in Medicaid.
  - Working to protect healthcare in Minnesota while working to improve program integrity.
- c) MDH – Alyssa Greene**
- Currently working on reapplying for pediatric mental access federal health funding (ends in September). Working on doing outreach - aiming to improve access for primary care providers.
- d) DEED - Sara Sundeen**
- In March VRS federal funding was received which enabled people on the waitlist to receive public services.
- e) Commerce - Angie Laschinger**
- Mental health parity laws mandate insurance companies to cover mental health and substance use care. Currently tracking cases of providers or community members who are having issues with receiving insurance coverage.
- f) DOC - Shanna Langston**
- Holly Hanson has accepted a new position within the DOC, so we are searching for a new mental health director for MCF-Red Wing. Currently, an associate director of behavioral health is covering the position to ensure ongoing oversight of the behavioral health services at MCF-Red Wing.

## **6. Workgroup Updates**

### **Facilitated by Lisa Hoogheem**

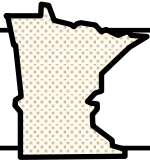
- Exhibitor list finalized for 40 slots (over 60 groups interested). Identified traditional drum circle to open event and will close the event in coordination with the American Community and Mental Health Advisory Council.

**Voting in June for co-chair for subcommittee. Nominations can be sent to Mikki Maruska at [michele.maruska@state.mn.us](mailto:michele.maruska@state.mn.us).**

---

## **7. Closing**

- Final reminders shared regarding next meeting and legislative follow-up items.
- Meeting adjourned.



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

- Claudia thanks everyone for their time
- Send questions to Claudia or Council email
- Contact [mhadvisorycouncil.dhs@state.mn.us](mailto:mhadvisorycouncil.dhs@state.mn.us) with questions

**Thank You!**

The next State Advisory Council on Mental Health and Subcommittee on Children’s Mental Health meeting will be held on Thursday, June 4, 2026 - Split Meeting: Children’s Subcommittee: 10a-11a  
 Full Council: 11am-1pm

**Next Steps**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>By when</b>
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 6/30/26