

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

State Advisory Council on Mental Health
Thursday, May 7, 2026, 11am - 1pm
In-Person and Virtual Meeting

Attendance (bold = in-person)

Claudia Daml – Chair, **Cici Hughes – Subcommittee Co-Chair**, Sierra Grandy – Vice Chair, **Lisa Hoogheem, Alison Wolbeck, Sara Sundeen (DEED/VRS)**, Shanna Langston (DOC), Donna Lekander, **Jamie Hayes**, Alyssa Greene (MDH), Tom Delaney (MDE), **Rod Peterson**, Diane Neal (DHS/BHA Director of Mental Health), Wayne Garrett, Aaron Wittnebel, Dave Einzig, **Anna Lynn (MDH)**, Dr. BraVada Garrett-Akinsanya, **Jode Freyholtz-London, Pamela McCabe, Cheryl Lundsgaard** (Children's Subcommittee), **Susan Hasti, Mary Kjolsing**, Angie Laschinger, Dianne Naus, Jessica Gourneau, Mike Gallagher (DHS), Sarah Driever, Danny Porter, Phyliss Bengtson, John Rakesh, **Dave Lee**

Other attendees: Mikki Maruska, James Xiong, Devon Steen, Andrea Orengo, Kristine Preston, Marcos Perez, Barbie Hess

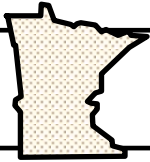
AGENDA and NOTES

1. Opening & Meeting Guidelines
Facilitated by Claudia Daml

- 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.
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3. Attendance & New Members

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

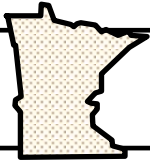
4. Guest Presentation

- **Substance Use Disorder and Primary Prevention presented by Andrea Orengo**
- **Overview:** Presentation overview centered on definition of primary prevention interventions and prevention strategies.
- **Highlights:** Emily's Hope is a youth-based SUD program being proposed into implementation state-wide.
- **Q:** In our packets there was information regarding positive trends in last 10 years. Do you see any correlation between moving away from the positive community norms trends and the positive trends in the last 10 years?
 - **A:** We are not moving away from the positive community norms.
- **Q:** Will there be space for restorative justice programs?
 - **A:** Please put your information in the chat and I will share it with Andrea Abel (Supervisor).

Link shared: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-minnesota-prevention-program-sharing-conference-tickets-1986339436726>

5. Biennial Report Recommendations, All Workgroups Share Recommendations, All Workgroups Share Recommendations, Council Votes on All Recommendations Facilitated by Cici Hughes

1. **Juvenile Justice Workgroup Draft recommendations**
 - a) Mental health services critically needed in correctional facilities
 - b) Increase crisis stabilization and placement options for younger youth
 - c) Expand access to treatment courts in Minnesota
 - d) Centralized Data Collection System for Juvenile Justice System
- Recommendation: Invest in expanding treatment in Minnesota and create policies to track the efficiency.
- Reflection: Surprised there isn't data collected on those incarcerated in facilities.
 - A: There isn't centralized data for all those incarcerated in facilities. ***Noted** add the words "streamlined centralized database".
- Q: Not specifically stated in the idea of treatment courts to state "youth treatment courts".
 - A: There is no juvenile treatment court. Adding juvenile will need to be delayed for now. ***Noted:** two counties doing juvenile courts. This needs to be explored in the future.
- Reflection: There is a need to have a separate court for juveniles versus for adults.
- **Amendments to this recommendation:** "sending children to different states for treatment that cannot be found at home." ***Noted:** this should be added to background information.



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2. Mental Health and Schools Workgroup Draft Recommendations

- a) Fully fund a permanent per pupil allocation for specialized instructional support personnel and address workforce challenges.
- b) Utilize Medicaid funds and pursue grant funding to support staff salaries and cover the costs providing and promoting school-based mental health initiatives that engage parents and guardians.
- c) Increase Funding to School-Linked Services through Designated Funds or Grants and Support the CSMHS model.
- d) Ensure integration of social emotional learning in the health instructional standards.
- **Q:** I would like to know how data would be tracked and how children will be referred?
 - **A:** Social emotional learning will be added to the health instructional standards so everyone will get the same social emotional learning standards.
- **Comment from the chat:** "National staffing standards" = the student-to-staff ratios recommended by national organizations for school social workers, school counselors, etc.
- **Q:** Why put comprehensive school mental health systems definition and statute?
 - **A:** Once you put it in statute, that gives you the ability to use that formal clear definition for subsequent policy making in statutes you know in future years, as well as funding appropriation.
- **Q:** Would these be across the board standards or only in public schools?
 - **A:** Only in public schools (not in non-public schools).

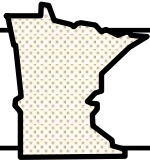
3. Local Advisory Council Workgroup Recommendations (did not cover).

4. Integrated Care and Access Workgroup Recommendations

- a) Epidemiological needs assessment data bank (numbers only) and a data bank.
- b) Behavioral Health service inventory databank/website of Minnesota Behavioral Health Services structural and programmatic capacity.
- c) Adjust timeframes in the Minnesota commitment statute (chapter 253 B) for hearings and involuntary medication (Neuroleptics) to reflect current nationwide standards.
- **Q:** Are we discussing how we will implement it or how we will identify the people that need to be served by this proposal?
 - **A:** This is just a counting tool (not an implementation).
- **Q:** Is there anything on how often this will be updated?
 - **A:** It will be continuously updated.
- **Comment:** There is some current population data at MDH and this would be more robust data (partnership between MDH & DHS).

5. Mental Health and Well-being Workgroup Recommendations

- a) Fully fund a permanent per pupil allocation for specialized instructional support personnel and address workforce challenges.
- b) Utilize Medicaid funds and pursue grant funding to support staff salaries and cover the costs providing and promoting school-based mental health initiatives that engage parents and guardians.



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- c) Increase Funding to School-Linked Services through Designated Funds or Grants and Support the CSMHS model.

6. Outreach to Cultural Diversity Workgroup Recommendations (did not cover)

- Request was made to resend all outreach to diversity recommendations and LEC recommendations prior to the next meeting.

6. Council Votes on Recommendations

The recommendation is to move forward with discussed recommendations. Roll call in documentation of notes. Sixteen votes needed for quorum, two votes short of a quorum.

7. Closing

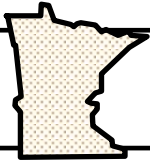
- Final reminders shared regarding next meeting and legislative follow-up items.
- Meeting adjourned.
 - Claudia thanks everyone for their time
 - Send questions to Claudia or Council email
 - Contact mhadvisorycouncil.dhs@state.mn.us with questions

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

Task	Who	By when
Notify Chairs/Co-chairs of any issues requiring help or explanation	Members	As needed
Review workgroup descriptions to join workgroup https://mn.gov/dhs/mh-advisory-council/workgroups/	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 thomas.delaney@state.mn.us to get you connected with what you need.	Members needing accommodation for workgroup participation	asap



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Email Dr. B if interested in joining Outreach to Diverse Communities workgroup bravada.akinsanya@aacwi.org	Members	asap
Please send all invoices and new member paperwork to mhadvisorycouncil.dhs@state.mn.us	Members/new members	Receipts due before 6/30/26