



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

August 5, 2021 – 10am-1pm

Attendees:

State Advisory Council on Mental Health members: Al Levin, Alison Wolbeck, Ashwak Hassan, Claudette Larson, Claudia Daml, Cynthia Christensen, Dave Lee, David Nathan, Eren Sutherland, Gertrude Matemba-Mutasa, Mary Kjolsing, Michael Trangle, Rodney Peterson, Rozenia Fuller, Sam Smith, Abigail Franklin

Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health members: Addyson Moore, BraVada Garrett-Akinsanya, Cecilia Hughes, Donna Lekander, Jennifer Bertram, Kim Stokes, Linda Hansen, Lisa Hoogheem, Maleenia Mohabir, Meredith Jones, Michael Gallagher, Nicole Frethem, Sarah Fuerst, Tom Delaney

Guests: Amy Conant, Ari Dionisopolous, Boyd Brown, Cara Keinanen, Cass Kappelhoff, Erica Pruneda, Jode Freyholtz-London, Kari Irber, K. Melina, Melissa Dau, Nancy Rehm, Tabatha Amundson

Joint Meeting Minutes

Welcome, Approved Minutes, Approved Agenda, Other Topics

- Dave and Abbie met with Erin Bailey of the Governor's Children's Cabinet. We are working on better coordination with the Children's Cabinet in order to share recommendations from the Council/Subcommittee.
- Conversion Therapy – Governor Tim Walz's [Executive Order 21-25](#) "Protecting Minnesotans from Conversion Therapy" encourages the Council and Subcommittee along with other state boards and commissions "to evaluate conversion therapy practices in light of the overwhelming scientific consensus rejecting these practices and, to the extent necessary and permissible under existing law, develop rules prohibiting conversion therapy use by licensees."
 - BraVada Garrett-Akinsanya will find a speaker to present about conversion therapy at a future meeting
 - Eren Sutherland will research the legal aspects of conversion therapy
 - Michael Trangle will review the psychiatry research on the topic and look at what other states are doing

Virtual Peer Support Network (VPSN) – Jode Freyholtz-London & Amy Conant, Wellness In The Woods (WITW)

- WITW is the largest peer run organization in Minnesota with 40 staff. They operate the state funded peer warmline.
- Contracts with several Adult Mental Health Initiatives to provide peer support services through the Imagine Network – in person prior to pandemic – Virtual Peer Support Network during pandemic. Services reach 61 of 87 counties and 4 Tribal agencies. Crow Wing county has the highest utilization of the VPSN. \$250K/year for VPSN.



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- VPSN can be accessed via Zoom or telephone. For adults 18 and older. Does not turn anyone away and will work with individuals who have participation challenges to better engage in the sessions.
- Sessions run from 10am-1pm and 1pm-4pm daily. People can come and go as they please throughout the sessions. Typically 2-15 people per session.
- VPSN is not therapy though they do help individuals to connect to resources.
- In May 2021, there were 468 interactions. These are not unique individuals as they see if people participate once, they tend to return.
- In need of a Spanish speaking Peer Support Specialist. Currently doing outreach to diverse/underserved communities and communities in frontier MN.
- Friday Freedom Night from 7-8pm has a focus on substance use disorder recovery and meets the criteria set by Minnesota Drug Courts.

Workgroup Reports

- State Fair Planning, Dave Lee: 56 organizations are confirmed to have booths. There will be an Agriculture and Mental Health panel to include the Commissioner of Ag, Rural Mental Health specialists, Farm Bureau, etc. Stairstep foundation will be at State Fair and hosting men's sheds. Still in need of a few emcee's and other volunteers. Ideas: Javonte Patton, Jeremiah Fuller.
- RFP Process Involvement: Council and Subcommittee are partnering with the Behavioral Health Division to be more involved in the development of Requests for Proposals. DHS is getting a lot of funding (stimulus, COVID) and is excited to have the Council/Subcommittee involved in providing feedback about how to spend these dollars. BHD will look at Council/Subcommittee mental health priority lists. They also seek community input for what services are needed.
 - If there is a question on an RFP that inadvertently excludes someone from accessing those grant funds, how is that addressed?
 - An equity analysis is done across the board for every RFP issued by DHS
 - Council/Subcommittee reviewers will have opportunity to provide feedback on the draft RFP before it is posted for applicants.
 - There is a Q&A process once an RFP is posted which allows DHS to make modifications as necessary.
 - Concerns that there are dwindling numbers of non-white psychologists as people are leaving Minnesota. Suggestion to set aside funds specific for BIPOC communities.
- Related discussion:
 - Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health Services (CABHS) in Willmar now in new facility but census has not increased due to no increase in funding. Intermediate care is not available in MN. Working on creating a system to quantify the need for this service – looking at system set up in New Jersey. Suggestion to reach out to Peter Brickwedde at Commerce to access more quantifiable data.
 - Summit for Children's Mental Health & Substance Use will focus on strengthening the continuum of care. Council/Subcommittee will be getting invite to participate in the Summit



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- Other Workgroups:
 - LAC: Remi Doua will be co-chair of the workgroup. A conversation with men about mental health, physical health, and other things will be held in “Urban Sheds” at the state fair. Dr. Doua has a podcast with young people talking about mental health.
 - Mental Health & Juvenile Justice: new crisis center in southeast MN. Need to connect with Dept of Corrections licensing. Youth in criminal system get stuck in corrections; there is no rule to get kids out of the criminal system and into an appropriate treatment setting.
 - Mental Health & Schools: bringing school district staff to meetings
 - Outreach to Cultural Diversity: Bringing MDE to talk about policy issues, will later look at juvenile justice policies. Creating strategic diversity plans
 - Recovery Supports: Notes are not being sent so it is unclear if this group is meeting. Mary, Rod, Angie, Claire, Gary, and Sarah are the current active members of this group and will continue to meet/provide updates.

Mental Health Legislative Network Legislative Updates: What’s next after session? – Sam Smith, NAMI-MN

- Supplemental budget for next legislative session which is a “bonding and budget” year
- The full NAMI legislative summary is posted [online](#)
- DHS is moving forward with Phase 2 of [Waiver Reimagine](#) project. Currently creating stakeholder group; individuals with mental illness need to be included in this stakeholder group

Nominations for Subcommittee on Children’s Mental Health Co-chairs

- Co-chair elections will be held in September
- Nominations: Lisa Hoogheem, Cecilia Hughes, Danny Porter (declined)

MN State Agencies Updates and Announcements

- MDE & DHS are working with CTSS providers to improve access to School Linked Mental Health services. There is a call to form a workgroup to look at CTSS in MN. New school based community services options are available with Medicaid (MA) reimbursement for students who do not have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). 16 new schools joining the Comprehensive School Mental Health System collaborative. Working to invest in partnerships and break down silos.

Next steps and closing

- Submit meeting invoices to mhadvisory.council.dhs@state.mn.us as soon as possible; remember you can submit invoices for workgroup meetings. All invoices must be submitted electronically – cannot process invoices mailed/faxed to the office. Please reach out to Abbie if you have questions about invoices
 - If unable to sign invoice, include the following in body of email: “I hereby certify that the services and/or expenses listed on my invoice have been rendered or incurred, are correct and just and that payment has not already been received.”



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Next Council/Subcommittee Meeting:

Date: September 2, 2021
Time: 10:00am-1:00pm
Location: WebEx Only

Request:

Submit written updates from your Agency/Organization/Community about current mental health activities by 9am on the day of Council and Subcommittee meetings. These written updates will be included in meeting minutes.

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/>



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Updates from state agencies:

DEED / Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS):

- Governor Walz proclaimed July 2021 as [Hire a Veteran Month](#). DEED supported this focus with multiple events.
- July 15 was [World Youth Skills Day!](#) At DEED we support these youth by offering [helpful services](#), and aiding [at-risk youth](#) and [youth with disabilities](#).
- The legislature directed DEED to apply to the U.S. Department of the Treasury for \$70 million of Minnesota's capital projects fund allocation under Public Law 117-2 (the American Recovery Plan Act) to fund the Border to Border Broadband Grant Program. More information will be provided soon. More information can be found at [Broadband Grant Program / Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development \(mn.gov\)](#)
- DEED awarded grants to 26 different non-profit lending partners across Minnesota totaling \$3.1 million. These lending partners support the growth of businesses owned by populations who historically have faced barriers to accessing capital to start and grow their own business. You can see the [list of lenders here](#).
- DEED proposed reforms to our Workforce Development Fund this year to modernize it in areas of equity, performance, innovation, efficiency, and transparency. Although the full proposal did not pass the session, a few changes did occur. More details [here](#).
- DEED held a [webinar on the Main Street Economic Revitalization Program](#) and invited Minnesota foundations, community lenders, and non-profits to learn more about this new program at DEED. The webinar can be accessed the recording on [DEED's YT Channel](#).
- [DEED is recruiting community members](#) to serve as grant reviewers for adult and youth workforce development training grants. An information session is available for those interested in applying on August 12 at 3:00pm. Reviewers will be asked to spend 20-40 hours reading grant proposals and completing the required process.
- DEED held a webinar on economic development programs for our partners and the public. [New business assistance programs](#) will be implemented this summer and fall.

Minnesota Mental Health Advisory Council

Date: July 2021

To: MHAC Members

From: Paul Fleissner, Behavioral Health Division (BHD) Director

RE: Mental Health System Updates – by topic

- **Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF)** – The system is under a lot of strain with the closing of Cambia Hills. DHS is working with three providers to open 122 new beds by the end of 2021.
- **Crisis Services** – There are new investments from the federal government and in Minnesota. Our approach is to follow the SAMHSA best practices to build a sustainable system that allows for people in crisis to have “Someone to call”, “Someone to respond”, and a “Place to go”. A new crisis center opened in Rochester, and several other communities have been funded to build locally defined crisis services centers.
- **Adult Mental Health Initiative** – New funds are coming into the system from the legislature. DHS has worked with a consultant and partners to build a new funding formula. The formula is built, and now the work begins to define how we (DHS and partners) use the various elements of the formula.
- **Certified Behavioral Health Clinic CCBHC** – This integrated clinic services model was approved in July as part of the Minnesota State Medicaid Plan. It creates a sustainable funding source as we build this evidence-based model out across the state.
- **988** – Our division continues to work with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to define and create the 988 system. MDH is the lead entity for this suicide prevention and intervention hotline.
- **Youth Assertive Community Treatment (Youth ACT aka IRMHS)** – DHS has moved to individual provider rates and has submitted an amendment to the Medicaid State Plan to allow us to do that to create rates that are sustainable and built on provider historical costs.
- **Children’s Therapeutic Services and Supports (CTSS)** – Minnesota providers served almost 30,000 kids in 2020 with this model. DHS and MDE completed a needs assessment and are now supporting a work group to make improvements to the CTSS system.
- **First Episode Psychosis** – DHS supports a stakeholder work group that continues to define how to develop this service system.
- **3rd Pathway** – Our division is working with the Children Services Division to interpret the new language and plan for implementation.
- **School Linked Mental Health** – BHD will be partnering with stakeholders, including MDE and providers, to expand these service opportunities across the state thanks to the new investments.

Key Opportunities and Challenges

Equity – We must listen differently, partner differently, and invest differently if we are going to create different outcomes in our system for people experiencing racism and disparities. To that end, we have held community listening sessions with BIPOC providers in the Minneapolis area and issued mini-grants to establish relationships that did not exist. We held tribal listening sessions and community listening sessions to inform our block grant submissions. Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Service standards have been adopted by our administration. We are building these into our contracts and other work.

Workforce – Workforce shortages are a significant threat to us maximizing the new investments made in our system at the state and federal levels. BHD is investing new funds in workforce development. In particular, new funds are targeted at expanding our cultural competency in the behavioral health system. The shortages are in the rural areas as well as in underserved urban communities.

Investments – Minnesota has many new investments in behavioral health, including multiple federal block grants and legislative funds. We have been directed to spend some of these funds on specific populations and some on specific services (i.e. tribes, pregnant women, crisis services, school-linked behavioral health services, etc.). Where we still have some discretion we have focused on building our workforce and addressing inequities. We are waiting on federal approval of our various relief funds.