



2020 Report to the Governor and Legislature

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2020 Report to the Governor and Legislature provides recommendations from the members of the State Advisory Council on Mental Health and the Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health. The Council and Subcommittee, defined by [Minnesota Statute 245.697](#), are dedicated to improving mental health services for **ALL** Minnesotans. Members considered current social, cultural, whole family, and person-centered needs when developing these important recommendations.

The State Advisory Council on Mental Health and Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health highly encourage that the Governor and the Legislature focus on the areas discussed in the 2020 report in order to improve the mental health system and continuum of care in Minnesota. Recommendations are as follows:

- **Top Priority: Make no budgetary cuts to the mental health system in Minnesota**
- Allocate permanent per pupil funding for specialized instructional support personnel and de-escalation/crisis response training
- Define Comprehensive School Mental Health Systems (CSMHS)
- Create Social Emotional Learning standards for Minnesota schools
- Create a loan forgiveness pilot program to Enhance the Representation of Black, Indigenous, Person of Color (BIPOC) Mental Health Professionals
- Develop a Minnesota strategy for the creation of an interoperable public/private telepresence platform
- Ensure parity between mental health / substance use disorder and medical care
- Allocate resources to support Local Mental Health Advisory Councils
- Ensure Local Mental Health Advisory Council involvement in the Adult Mental Health Grant application process
- Develop a taskforce to develop an enhanced rate for treatment of highly acute youth in corrections or mental health treatment settings
- Create a grant program to reduce residential care recidivism rates for Minnesota youth
- Increase access to affordable housing across Minnesota
- Increase employment support for individuals with mental health barriers to employment

In addition to the recommendations in the 2020 report, you will find successes since the 2018 report along with published communications to Governor Walz, the Minnesota State Legislature, and Commissioners of various MN State Agencies recommending actions that required immediate attention. These publications include the importance of developing an interoperable telemedicine platform and expanding school mental health services beyond the school year.