

Children's Summit working sessions

The Minnesota Children's Summit is a four-day event that will take place virtually Jan. 11 through Jan. 14, 2022. The summit will bring together people from across Minnesota to create solutions for issues facing the state's behavioral health system for young people.

The Children's Summit will include presentations on important issues and working sessions where participants create immediate, actionable solutions for the urgent problems facing the behavioral health system of care for Minnesota's young people. Plans developed during the summit will have a clear purpose, clear steps, clear timelines, and a blueprint for funding. Partners will have shared leadership, mutual commitment and accountability, and clear roles and responsibilities.

Below are descriptions of the working sessions.

- **Prevention and Promotion: Public Health Approach to Behavioral Health** – This session will explore Minnesota's current services and programs in related to behavioral health promotion and prevention. Participants will analyze behavioral health needs for children and families from a public health perspective. Participants will identify strengths and gaps in services using an equity lens, and develop an action plan for true integration of promotion and prevention in Minnesota.
- **Addressing behavioral health needs in Tribal communities** – In recognizing that the current continuum of care does not meet the needs of children and families of Tribal communities, this session will analyze Minnesota's behavioral health programs and services. The session will cover policies and practices that contribute to the current inequities and will conclude with an action plan developed by participants to reduce barriers and increase access to equitable services.
- **Care for Children with a High Level of Need: Psychiatric Care System** – The pandemic has taken a toll on the behavioral health of children in Minnesota. Children with acute and complex needs may be admitted to emergency departments and in-patient hospitals with few transition options available. Participants of this sessions will explore, through an equity lens, the current services and programs available to our children with acute psychiatric needs that require intensive in-patient and community-based options. Participants will develop an action plan to address the gaps in Minnesota's current psychiatric response system.
- **Children are Children: Juvenile Justice Perspective** – This session will explore the needs of children involved in the justice system and acknowledge the trauma experienced by them and their families. Participants of this session will analyze current services available in Minnesota, including screening, treatment, family engagement and transitional support for youth and families involved in the justice system, using an equity lens. Summit participants will develop an action plan to address the

identified gaps and strengthen the responsiveness of our system to facilitate health and well-being of the children and families.

- **Consumer Voice in Legislative Process: What Does Active Collaboration Look Like?** – This session will acknowledge that government works for the people, and explore Minnesota’s current system of seeking consumer participation in decision-making processes at the legislative level. The session will define the meaning of “stakeholder engagement.” Participants will identify gaps in our current approaches to the legislative process through an equity lens, and then develop an action plan to create and strengthen our strategies to ensure we have consumers’ participation and feedback in legislative decisions.
- **Behavioral Health Provider Perspective: Workforce’s Struggles and Aspirations** – This session will explore the unprecedented crisis Minnesota’s behavioral health and physical health care providers are experiencing as they strive to deliver quality care to their clients while grappling with insufficient staffing at all levels. The pandemic has exposed the vulnerabilities of Minnesota’s behavioral health service delivery system. Participants will analyze the current system we have in Minnesota to support the work our providers do, and identify gaps that need to be addressed to strengthen a culturally-responsive work force. Participants will develop an action plan to equip providers to deliver quality care to their clients.
- **Social Marketing for Systems Change: Consolidating a Commitment to Children, Youth, and Families** – Social marketing is often described as the use of commercial marketing techniques to achieve social good rather than profit. But the methods and tools of marketing have long been used by nonprofits to build awareness of and support for social issues, change perceptions, influence behaviors, raise needed funds, bring people together, address social problems, and bring about positive change. This session will delve deeply into the process of planning and implementing social marketing to impact change in our child-serving systems. There will be a special focus on identifying ways to use a social marketing approach to advance National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Approval Service (CLAS) in Health and Health Care in Minnesota.
- **School-Based Behavioral Health: Serve Children Where They Are** – This session will explore the current gaps in our school-based behavioral health system through an equity lens. Participants will identify the existing service models and conduct an analysis in terms of effectiveness for children in school settings. Participants will develop an action plan to address current gaps and consolidate Minnesota’s school-based behavioral health system.

The Children’s Summit is being hosted by the Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Governor’s Children’s Cabinet. For information on how to participate, visit mn.gov/dhs/general-public/about-dhs/public-participation.