



Minnesota State Advisory Council on Mental Health Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health

Background

- The State Advisory Council and Children's Subcommittee were established by the Minnesota Legislature in the Comprehensive Adult and Children's Mental Health Acts of 1987 and 1989. The Council provides advice and recommendations to the Governor, Legislature and state agencies on policies affecting people with mental illnesses and children with emotional disturbances. The Children's Subcommittee makes recommendations to the Council relating to children's mental health. Each group has 30 members from throughout the state.
- Federal law also governs the State Advisory Council. Every state is required to have a Council.
- The Governor appoints State Advisory Council members. Membership includes consumers and family members, parents of children with emotional disturbances, representatives of state departments, advocates, mental health professionals, legislators, county commissioners, social service agency directors, and others.
- The Chair of the State Advisory Council appoints Children's Subcommittee members. Membership includes parents of children with emotional disturbances, consumers of adolescent mental health services, representatives of state departments, advocates, mental health professionals, educators, community corrections, county commissioners, social service agency representatives, and others.

Membership lists are found on the Council website (below).

Chairs

State Advisory Council:

Chair: Alison Wolbeck (218-477-0059; a.wolbeck@yahoo.com)

Vice Chair: Amy Behning (218-428-8305; amy.behning@gmail.com)

Children's Subcommittee Co-Chairs:

Tovarich Bourne (651-285-8342; tovarichdestinycenter@yahoo.com)

Lisa Hoogheem (651-748-7453; lhoogheem@isd622.org)

Staff

Bruce Weinstock, Director (651-431-2249; Bruce.Weinstock@state.mn.us)

Meetings

The State Advisory Council and Children's Subcommittee meet on the first Thursday of each month at the Minnesota Department of Human Services, 540 Cedar St., St. Paul, 55155.

Work Groups

All members are asked to serve on a work group. The State Advisory Council and Children's Subcommittee currently have the following work groups:

- Local Advisory Councils (3:00 to 5:00 on the Wednesday preceding Council meetings)

The Work Groups below meet the morning of Council and Subcommittee meetings:

- Housing and Homelessness (9:15 – 10:30)
- Mental Health & Schools (9:15 – 10:30)
- Outreach to Diverse Communities (9:15 – 10:30)
- Juvenile Justice and Corrections (9:15 – 10:30)
- Primary Care and Mental Health Reforms (10:30 – 12:00)

The Children's Subcommittee meets from 10:40: – 12:00.

The State Advisory Council meets from 12:45 – 2:45.

Additional responsibilities of the Council and the Subcommittee include:

- ◆ Report to Governor and Legislature – Due every even numbered year in October.
- ◆ Federal Block Grant Committee – A joint committee of the Council and Subcommittee that makes recommendations on priorities for the use of the state's federal block grant funds and reviews the state's mental health plan that is submitted to the federal government.

The Council and Subcommittee's primary focus is to always conduct business in the best interests of those who have mental health issues...children/adolescents/adults and their families. Every effort is made to come to a consensus as we deliberate issues. Positions and decisions are usually determined by vote (in the form of motions using Roberts Rules of Order).

Compensation and Terms of Membership

- Members are compensated \$55 per meeting day for Council or Subcommittee meetings, and approved activities, unless otherwise compensated for their time.
- Members are reimbursed for expenses such as mileage (51 cents per mile), child care, meals (if travel is over 35 miles one way) and lodging (when necessary).
- The term of membership is four years.

Web Sites

State Advisory Council and Children's Subcommittee: <http://mentalhealth.dhs.state.mn.us>

Local Advisory Council website & communication tool: <http://mentalhealthcouncilsmn.com/>