



Children Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC) May 12, 2026

Suzanne Tuttle, Deputy Director, Children & Family Services
Chris Thole, Children's LAC Chair
Bella Carls-Rehovsky, LAC Youth Member

Agenda



**STATUTORY
REQUIREMENTS**



MEMBERSHIP



**SYSTEM
STRENGTHS**



**UNMET NEEDS &
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Statutory Requirements



Minn. Stat. 245.4875, Subd. 5. (a) and (c)

- *“...the county board...shall establish a local children’s mental health advisory council...”*
- *“The county board shall consider the advice of its local children's mental health advisory council...in carrying out its authorities and responsibilities.”*

Current membership:

- Parents
- Dakota County Children's Mental Health Supervisors
- Prior Consumers of Children's Mental Health Services
- School Professionals
- Mental Health Professionals
- Youth Members
- Dakota County Public Health & Juvenile Corrections
- Representatives from Family Community Support Services

System Strengths



Addition of three in-home therapists to Children and Family Services staff



County website updates improved accessibility



Children's Mental Health brochures now available in Somali and Spanish



Unmet Need

Youth voice in determining service needs and delivery



Recommendation

Prioritize youth perspective in developing systems and services (e.g., Youth Advisory Committee)



Unmet Need

Increased system capacity for trauma care in response to public events



Recommendation

Provide immediate mental health support for children, youth and caregivers that acknowledges the impact of current events



Unmet Need

Culturally-based services that utilize cultural providers and approaches



Recommendation

Identify and enlist cultural providers to provide support to Dakota County's diverse communities

Thank you!



Thank you!