



Children's Mental Health Network Meeting Minutes August 1, 2025 • 10 am – 12 pm Virtual Meeting



Meeting Focus: The Family's Role in Children's Mental Health

Meeting recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KiZbYz8taaE>

2025-27 State Budget Highlights

Children's Mental Health items included in the budget:

- Comprehensive school-based mental health services grants – \$40 million in the first year, \$10 million in year 2.
- Nearly \$1.4 billion in spendable revenue for K-12 schools, with the largest increase to the special education reimbursement rate in state history.
- Largest increase to the UW System in nearly two decades.
- A tax cut for working and middle-class families.
- \$110 million Child Care Bridge Program for direct payments to bridge some center losses, serve more families, reduce some copays for low-income families.
- Permanent positions in the Office of School Safety to continue Speak Up Speak Out (SUSO).

New OCMH Resources

- [Teen Top Stressors](#) – academic pressure tops the list.
- [Mental Wellness](#) – teens share their thoughts on what is needed for a strong foundation in mental wellness.
- [Increasing Youth Belonging](#) – teens share what makes them feel connected to their school.
- [Starting Early](#) – teens want mental health/awareness education to start earlier and share how to do that in Middle School.
- [What Youth Want Physicians to Know when Treating Them.](#)

Wisconsin Youth Wellness Champions

OCMH is launching a new opportunity for youth leaders – the Wisconsin Youth Wellness Champions. This annual cohort of 15 high school juniors and seniors will bring youth from across the state together for monthly learning sessions September through May. See the [flyer](#) for more information. [Applications](#) are due September 8th.

Research / Data

OCMH Senior Research Analyst Amy Marsman presented research supporting the family's role in their children's mental health. See slides #10-24 in the meeting presentation.

Parent Panel

Andrea Turtenwald, OCMH Family Relations Coordinator, facilitated a panel discussion of three parents of children with mental health challenges. Panelists were Elyse Harvey, Angela Clements, and Janelle Moneypenny. The parents discussed their role in their child's mental health journey. Listen to the panel discussion in the [meeting recording](#).

Children's Mental Health Provider Panel

Karen Katz, OCMH Operations Lead, facilitated a discussion of three Children's Mental Health providers:

- Mental Health Systems – Nelsie Stern, Associate Director of School Based Services, Journey Mental Health
- Family Advocacy Group – Phyllis Greenberger, Disability Rights Wisconsin
- Parent Peer Specialists – Rob Kaminski, Parent Peer Specialist, OCMH Lived Experience Partner

Listen to the panel discussion in the [meeting recording](#).

Small group discussions were held. Meeting attendees selected the room they wanted to participate in – Mental Health Systems, Family Advocacy, or Parent Peer Specialist.

Resources

- OCMH compiled a high level list of resources for families. Access the flyer [here](#).
- OCMH has a page of resources to support families [here](#).

Next meeting:

Friday, November 7, 2025, 10 am-12 pm, virtual.