



Children's Mental Health Network Meeting Minutes May 1, 2026 • 10 am – 12 pm Virtual Meeting

Meeting Focus: Neurodiversity

Meeting Recording [here](#).

OCMH Updates

- **Children's Mental Health Week** is May 3-9, 2026. OCMH's theme is Wired for Belonging. See OCMH's special Children's Mental Health [web page](#). New resources include:
 - 3 Things Everyone Can Do to Promote Youth Belonging for [Adults](#), [Parents](#), [Youth](#), [Schools](#), and [Neighborhoods](#).
 - Social media posts support the "3 Things" messages for [Adults](#), [Parents](#), [Youth](#), [Schools](#), and [Neighborhoods](#).
 - New youth voice pieces – youth offer their ideas on
 - [Connection Conversation Starters](#)
 - [Connection through School Activities and Events](#)
 - [Connection at School During Lunch](#)
- **Building Mental Wellness Copy & Drop** – new OCMH resource for newsletters/communications. OCMH will email a monthly short article on children's mental health that schools and organizations can copy and drop into their newsletters or other communications. Sign up [here](#) to receive it (select "OCMH – Building Mental Wellness Copy & Drop"). The first one will email May 19, 2026.

Neurodiversity

- **Video message from Nekita Krisko** – young adult shares their journey with neurodiversity. See the video [here](#).
 - **Data** – OCMH Senior Research Analyst Amy Marsman shared data related to neurodiversity and autism. See her meeting slides #9-14.
 - **Panel discussion** – expert panelists participated in a discussion on neurodiversity and autism. Panelists included:
 - **Madeline Barger**, Director of Adult Autism Program – Waisman Center, University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities/Family Therapist/Behavior Analyst/Sex Therapist
 - **Nicky Koon**, Supervisor – Treffort Studios
 - **Becky Krisko**, Director of Services – Acceptional Minds LLC
 - **Tim Markle**, Outreach Program Manager – Training and Transition Coordinator – Wisconsin Autism Transition Demonstration Project
 - **Pornisha Orr**, Parent of a neurodivergent child
 - **Jen White**, Parent of neurodivergent children
- See meeting slides:
- Neurodivergence definition, what neurodiversity looks like, and neurodiversity vs. mental health – slides #16-18.
 - Characteristics of autism, executive functioning, and Acceptional Minds' hierarchy of Behavior – slides #19-21.

- See the entire panel discussion in the meeting recording [here](#).
- Small group discussion – participants selected the small group discussion they wanted to participate in:
 - **Neurodiversity** – Madeline Barger and Nicky Koon
 - **Autism** – Becky Krisko and Tim Markle
 - **Parents** – Pornisha Orr and Jen White

Next meeting

Friday, August 7, 2026, 10 am-12 pm, virtual. Topic: Technology and Children's Mental Health.