Who we are

We administer policy and practice to ensure effective, accessible mental health services and supports for children and families in Minnesota. We work with many public and private partners across the state so that children and youth with mental health needs can develop and function as fully as possible in all areas of their lives.

Who we serve

- An estimated 91,000 children in Minnesota need treatment for emotional disturbances.
- In Minnesota, 9% of school-age children and 5% of preschool children have a serious emotional disturbance, which is a mental health problem that has become longer lasting and interferes significantly with the child’s functioning at home and in school.
- More than 43,000 Minnesota children annually receive publicly funded mental health services. Most of these are community- and home-based, including case management, day treatment and outpatient therapy.

How we serve

Our division guides numerous strategic initiatives to more successfully meet and treat the needs of children struggling with or at risk for mental health issues. Annually, some $179.1 million from all public sources is invested in children’s mental health in Minnesota to:

- Increase earlier identification and intervention
- Improve access to the right services at the right time
- Establish best practices and improve standards of care
- Coordinate mental health care with school, medical and community environments

We believe...

Mental health matters at every stage of life and requires an integrated continuum of services ranging from prevention to recovery. We are committed to creating consistent quality, access and accountability for these services through comprehensive diagnostic assessments and evidence-based treatments that consider children’s characteristics, circumstances and culture. These efforts will result in better outcomes and reduce health care disparities among children.