

**St. Louis Park  
Mental Health  
Collaborative  
Impact Report 2021**

**February 2022**

*Together we are strengthening  
the fabric of our local society by  
aligning action that supports a  
mentally healthy community.*

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# Mental Health Collaborative

## Sustaining a mentally healthy community during a pandemic

The St. Louis Park Mental Health Collaborative is an initiative to **build awareness and align action** for mental health and well-being in our community. By fostering an interconnected and supportive system, Mental Health Collaborative members believe we will build personal resiliency, strengthen leadership and spark positive mental health system change.

Formed out of a multi-decade history of collaboration that began with the Meadowbrook Collaborative – when three key community partners came together to revitalize a large apartment community – the partners, including the City of St. Louis Park, Park Nicollet Foundation and St. Louis Park Independent School District, recognized the same powerful working relationship could be used to **solve intractable city-wide challenges** which could not be abated by one organization alone. Acknowledging that fulfilling unmet mental health needs would require a similarly broad partnership, the Mental Health Collaborative was born.

Today, with the COVID pandemic continuing to impact every aspect of the community, the Mental Health Collaborative has grown to include non-profit leaders, first responders and student services. Together we are **strengthening the fabric of our local society** by aligning action that supports a mentally healthy community. We are hosting educational programming and developing tools for resiliency in young people in St. Louis Park. Additionally, Collaborative members have expanded wellness conversations within their organizations to include mental health. The powerful ripple effects resulted in considering mental health impacts in city spaces, creating self-care activities and an emphasis on building our structures to increase resiliency.

Park Nicollet's December [2021 Methodist Hospital Community Needs Assessment](#) found Mental Health & Wellbeing the number one priority. The CDC says pandemic challenges are stressful, overwhelming and are causing strong emotions in adults and kids. Individuals learning to cope with stress well makes a community more resilient.

To this end, the Mental Health Collaborative leadership inspired and contributed to providing over 742 hours focused on mental health within the Police Department, oversaw the funding of significant programming to SLP families and youth and provided training to city staff on helping residents access mental health programs.

# 2021 Highlights

3 trainings provided for City Staff



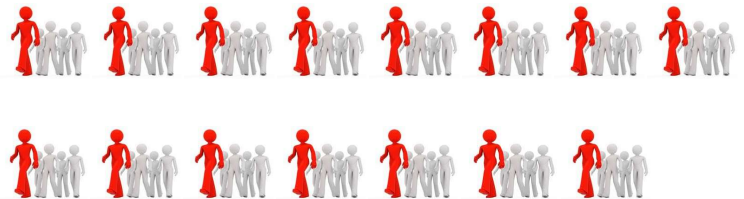
6,919 people impacted



128 hours of virtual therapy at the middle school



15 community leaders engaged



20 Mental Health related social media posts from SLP Police



234 leadership hours collaborating during Pandemic



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## SLP Mental Health Collaborative Members

Paul Danicic, Park Nicollet Foundation Donor & Community Relations Officer

Margaret Ganyo, Children First Executive Director

Mikael Garland, City of St. Louis Park Police Lieutenant

Patrice Howard, St. Louis Park Public Schools Community Education Director

Mike Harcey, City of St. Louis Park Police Chief

Rachel Harris, Former SLP City Council Member/Executive Director NWHFRC

Kim Keller, City of St. Louis Park City Manager

Steve Koering, City of St. Louis Park Fire Chief

Astein Osei, St. Louis Park Public Schools Superintendent

Derek Reise, STEP - St. Louis Park Emergency Program Executive Director

Tami Reynolds, St. Louis Park Public Schools Student Services Director

Laura Smith, City of St. Louis Park – Wellness & Volunteer Coordinator

Beth Warner, Park Nicollet Foundation Executive Director

Debbie Wells, St. Louis Park Family Services Collaborative Coordinator

Martha Thompson, Children First, Early Years Coordinator

## Leadership Team

Paul Danicic | Mikael Garland | Debbie Wells

## Executive Team

Paul Danicic | Astein Osei | Derek Reise | Tami Reynolds | Laura Smith

## Contact

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<https://www.stlouispark.org/our-city/things-to-do/health-in-the-park/mental-health-collaborative>