Advisory Task Force on Gambling Disorder

Project Charter

Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS): Behavioral Health Administration
Executive Sponsor: Nick Carideo, Director, Director, Integrated Services, Behavioral Health Administration
Project Manager: Janet Asamoah, Problem Gambling Team Supervisor, Behavioral Health Administration
DHS Project Support: Farhana Tasmin and Grace Oloruntola, Treatment and Prevention Grant Managers, Behavioral Health Administration

Project Description/Statement of Work

The Commissioner of Human Services will appoint members to the Advisory Task Force on Gambling Disorder (ATFGD) MS 15.059 to make recommendations to the Department regarding policy and programs that will enhance the Department's ability to meet its statutory obligation as defined in Minnesota Statute section 245.98 and to provide advice to the Department to ensure a culturally responsive and recovery-oriented comprehensive continuum of services is available to all Minnesota residents.

Program Overview

The goal is to ensure the availability and the accessibility of quality, culturally responsive and recovery-oriented gambling disorder education, awareness, prevention, early intervention, treatment, recovery supports, and research for individuals and families/significant others affected by gambling disorder.

Task Force Authorization and Role

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 15.059, Advisory Councils and Committees, Subdivision 6 (Advisory Task Forces), the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services hereby authorizes the Department of Human Services, Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) Problem Gambling Program Advisory Task Force on Gambling Disorder for a term beginning July 1st 2026, through December 31, 2028.

The role of the Department of Human Services Advisory Task Force on Gambling Disorder is to provide guidance to the Department in ensuring the development and implementation of a comprehensive continuum of care for all Minnesota residents. This continuum includes:

1. Providing assistance to individuals affected by problem gambling through intervention, treatment, and recovery services; and
2. Developing and implementing prevention strategies through education and awareness to reduce the occurrence of problem gambling and promote healthy lifestyles.

The Advisory Task Force will meet bi-monthly and is charged with advising the Department of Human Services on policy, program development, and funding related to the establishment and maintenance of the continuum of care system as mandated under Minnesota Statute 245.98.

Task Force Objectives

- To make recommendations to the Department regarding policy and programs that will enhance the Department's ability to meet its statutory obligation as defined in Minnesota Statute section 245.98.
- To provide advice to the Department to ensure a culturally responsive and recovery-oriented comprehensive continuum of services is available to all Minnesota residents.

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Task Force Functions

- Provide input to the Problem Gambling Program staff and the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services in the development of plans, goals, and objectives.
- Utilize member networks for the facilitation of communication among citizens, gambling disorders and addiction service consumers, service providers and state government and especially to help DHS connect with underrepresented communities for increased engagement in Problem Gambling's policies and programs.
- Review legislation regarding gambling disorders and addiction and provide feedback and ideas.

Task Force Members

Member Seats	Name
Federally Recognized Tribal Representatives – Ojibwe (1) and Dakota (1)	1. Dakota: Taya Kaufenberg, Chair 2. Ojibwe: Open
Urban Tribal Representative (1)	3. Open
Gambling Treatment or Prevention Provider Rural (2)	4. Julie Cunningham- Treatment- Project Turnabout, Co-Chair 5. Open
Gambling Treatment or Prevention Provider Metro (2)	6. Emily McGrath (statewide grantee rep) 7. Kong Vang- Prevention Grantee-Hmong
Persons with Problem Gambling Lived Experience (3)	8. Open 9. Open 10. Open
Concerned Family/Community Member (2)	11. Reginald Wiley 12. Caleb (Kevin) Davis
Underserved Community Representative (2)	13. Dr Richard Oni 14. Maya Santa Maria
Young Adult in recovery from or at risk of gambling disorder (1)	15. Wendy Garcia Rojas
Direct Appointments	
Department of Corrections Representative	Amanda Roubinek
Gambling Control Board Representative	Laura Wade
Department of Public Safety - Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement (AGE) Representative	Brad Rezney
MN Racing Commission Representative	Kyle Gustafson

MN Lottery Representative	Jenna Maus
Minnesota Alliance on Problem Gambling - ED	Nikki Beasley

Project Facilitator and Program Management Support: Alliant Consulting, Inc.

Project Team Roles & Responsibilities

For the most up-to-date list please see the Stakeholder List

Role	Name	Responsibilities
Sponsor	Nick Carideo	• Support the group in achieving their objectives • Support the Problem Gambling staff supporting the task force • Raising members' concerns/questions to DHS leadership
Core DHS Project Team Members with Support from Alliant Consulting	• Janet Asamoah • Grace Oloruntola • Ashleigh Vogel	• Determine agenda topics • Oversee and manage regular task force meetings • Ensure work progresses to achieve the task force objectives • Provide timely information to members regarding participation in meetings • Support the Chair/Vice Chair in planning and debriefing meetings • Support the tracking of work outcomes and work to be accomplished by the task force • Support the group in documenting ideas, input and recommendations regarding problem gambling • Document task force meetings • Ensure meeting information/resources and summaries are available to members • Ensure charter compliance
Chair/Co-Chair	• Taya Kaufenberg, Chair • Julie Cunningham, Co-Chair	• Support DHS in planning and debriefing meetings to refine meeting process and content • Attend meetings • Communicate with members regarding attendance, membership, work in progress and questions • Coordinate with DHS to ensure a complete and diverse task force • Support the task force in submitting ideas, input and recommendations to DHS regarding gambling disorder services and recovery • Research potential, relevant topics for discussion during task force meetings

Task Force Members		• Attend and actively participate in meetings • Liaise with communities and networks related to gambling disorder and represent these perspectives in meetings and decisions • Raise and discuss critical issues in gambling disorder for input and recommendation to the Problem Gambling team • Ensure necessary work is completed to achieve objectives which may require meetings and work outside of task force meetings

Membership

The Task Force will be broad-based and comprised of fifteen members. Internal department policy dictates that no more than one third of the total membership can be providers of gambling-related services under contract with the department. The following will be considered in the appointment of potential members: geographic balance, broad knowledge of the economic and social impacts of gambling, knowledge of the program components specified in statute, representatives from communities experiencing health disparity in MN including Native Americans, African Americans and new immigrant communities, and individuals with particular areas of interest.

Seats will comprise of: 3 Native American representatives (1 Ojibwe, 1 Dakota and 1 urban), gambling treatment prevention providers (2 urban and 2 rural), 3 people with problem gambling lived experience, 2 people who are family and/or concerned community members, 2 people from underserved communities, 1 young adult in recovery or at risk of problem gambling, agency representatives from Department of Corrections, Gambling Control Board, Minnesota DPS Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement, Minnesota Racing Commission and the Minnesota Lottery.

The task force will recruit, promote and support a culturally-diverse membership.

The commissioner appoints members of the task force to a two-year term from appointment date.

Application Process

Those interested in becoming a member of the task force can complete an application on the Minnesota Secretary of State website. The Commissioner of DHS will appoint successful applicants to member seats for a two-year term.

Member Expectations

- Attend and actively participate in all task force meetings and to represent the sentiments of the communities and perspectives they represent.
- Notify the Problem Gambling team if you are unable to attend a meeting.
- Make recommendations to DHS regarding policy and programs that will enhance the Department's ability to meet its statutory obligation as defined in Minnesota Statute section 245.98.
- Provide advice to DHS to ensure a culturally responsive and recovery-oriented comprehensive continuum of services is available to all Minnesota residents.

Officer Roles

The commissioner will appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair position to the task force from existing members expressing an interest in these positions.

- **Chair:** The responsibilities of the Chair include attending task force meetings, participating in planning and debrief meetings, tracking member attendance, forming work groups (if needed), identifying task force vacancies, advocating for a complete and diverse task force, and coordinating activities with DHS Problem Gambling support staff.

- **Co-Chair:** The Co-Chair's responsibilities include attending task force meetings, participating in planning and debrief meetings, assisting the Chair as requested by the Chair, tracking member attendance, supporting workgroup activities (if applicable), and performing Chair responsibilities in the Chair's absence.

- **Officer applications:** Upon the resignation, removal, or expiration of a term of any officer serving on the task force, selection of new officer(s) will take place. DHS Problem Gambling support staff will inform the task force no fewer than 45 days prior to selection and acceptance of applications. Application submission instructions and timelines will be provided to the task force in writing at that time. Interested task force members are required to express their interest in writing, including applicable previous experience and support of their suitability for the position. Problem Gambling support staff can be contacted for information on the requirements of these roles.

- **Applicants:** All officer applicants must be current task force members. Any task force member is eligible to apply.

- **Selection:** DHS Problem Gambling support staff will announce selections for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair within the task force meetings. Officers serve a term of two years.

- **Removal:** Officers of the task force may be removed by DHS if it is deemed the best interests of the task force are not being met. Removal will be without prejudice to the officer's position as a member. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to DHS Problem Gambling support staff at GamblingAdvisoryTaskForce.DHS@state.mn.us .

Task Force Resources

DHS is supplying Problem Gambling support staff and consultants to support the task force in their work. Task force participation is voluntary and not compensated for.

Time Commitment

The task force meets every other month for ninety minutes. It is requested that members maintain connections with relevant networks related to gambling disorder and recovery and represent these interests in meetings. It is assumed additional work outside of bi-monthly meetings will be required such as reviewing documentation in preparation for meeting discussion. Members may choose to join a work group for more focused work outside task force meetings. Work undertaken by work groups will be on a voluntary basis.

Work Groups

Work groups may be formed at the request of the members, officers or DHS. Work groups would focus on a specific issue for a specific outcome within a specified time, such as researching and reviewing a topic to bring information back to the task force or preparing a recommendation on a specific topic. Work group participation will be on a volunteer basis.

Success criteria

The following success criteria help clarify the work of the task force

- There is a full compliment of task force members, representing the diversity of seats specified
- Meetings are well-attended and accomplish agenda items
- Task force members accomplish work outside of regular meetings, if needed.
- Task force members are in regular contact with networks related to gambling disorder and recovery and represent these perspectives in meetings

- Task force members are respectful of and support the work of the DHS Problem Gambling support staff and consultants
- Task force members provide recommendations to DHS regarding problem gambling programs and policy
- Task force members promote the Problem Gambling program with networks
- Task force members promote the Advisory Task Force on Gambling Disorder with networks

Adoption Date: