DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
ADULT PROTECTION

DHS Response to "Improving Minnesota's Vulnerable Adult Review Panel"

The "Improving Minnesota's Vulnerable Adult Maltreatment Review Panel" study was completed in 2025 by Rise Research at the request of the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) Aging and Adult Services Division. The study examined whether the Panel is functioning as intended and how it might be improved to provide a meaningful, person-centered review of maltreatment determinations. It focused on clarifying the Panel's role within the broader APS system, assessing its effectiveness for individuals seeking a secondary review, and identifying opportunities for improvement. The research was necessary due to a limited use of the Panel, lack of comparable models in other states, and inconsistent understanding of its purpose across the system.

The vendor identified six key recommendations to strengthen the Panel's role and effectiveness. The table below presents the recommendations, DHS response, and strategies and timeframes for implementation.

1. Provide accessible information on the Review Panel's structure, process, and outcomes on state and county APS websites

Response: Accepted
Implementation strategy/timeframe: Publish information on the Minnesota Department of Human Services website outlining the Vulnerable Adult Maltreatment Review Panel (VAMRP) structure, process, and outcomes in plain language.
Projected implementation: December 31, 2026

2. Collect data on the experiences of vulnerable adults who request and receive reconsideration by the Review Panel

Response: Not Accepted
Implementation strategy/timeframe: DHS will not be moving forward with this recommendation.

3. Increase the opportunities and methods available for the vulnerable adult to share their perspective prior to Review Panel reconsideration

Response: Accepted
Implementation strategy/timeframe: Develop a fact sheet for vulnerable adults or interested persons outlining the purpose of the Panel and the type of information that may support panel review. Establish a standardized method (e.g., an email) for submitting information to the Panel. Provide an email to share information with the Panel.
Projected implementation: December 31, 2026

4. Increase the opportunities and methods available to communicate information to the vulnerable adult regarding the Review Panel's conclusion

Response: Accepted
Implementation strategy/timeframe: Review and revise Panel communication materials to ensure clarity and use of plain language for vulnerable adults or interested persons.
Projected implementation: December 31, 2026

5. Give the Review Panel the authority to overturn an LIA determination

Response: Not Accepted
Implementation strategy/timeframe: DHS will not be moving forward with this recommendation.

6a. Eliminate the Review Panel, grant vulnerable adults access to the DHS fair hearings process, and provide a vulnerable adult with support to navigate the fair hearings process

Response: Not Accepted
Implementation strategy/timeframe: DHS will not be moving forward with this recommendation.

6b. Eliminate the Review Panel

Response: Not Accepted
Implementation strategy/timeframe: DHS will not be moving forward with this recommendation.

	Recommendation	Response	Implementation Strategy/ Timeframe
1	Provide accessible information on the Review Panel's structure, process, and outcomes on state and county APS websites	Accepted	Publish information on the Minnesota Department of Human Services website outlining the Vulnerable Adult Maltreatment Review Panel (VAMRP) structure, process, and outcomes in plain language. *Projected implementation*: December 31, 2026
2	Collect data on the experiences of vulnerable adults who request and receive reconsideration by the Review Panel	Not Accepted	DHS will not be moving forward with this recommendation.
3	Increase the opportunities and methods available for the vulnerable adult to share their perspective prior to Review Panel reconsideration	Accepted	Develop a fact sheet for vulnerable adults or interested persons outlining the purpose of the Panel and the type of information that may support panel review. Establish a standardized method (e.g. an email) for submitting information to Panel. Provide an email to share information with the panel. *Projected implementation*: December 31, 2026
4	Increase the opportunities and methods available to communicate information to the vulnerable adult regarding the Review Panel's conclusion	Accepted	Review and revise Panel communication materials to ensure clarity and use of plain language for vulnerable adult or interested persons. *Projected implementation*: December 31, 2026
5	Give the Review Panel the authority to overturn an LIA determination	Not Accepted	DHS will not be moving forward with this recommendation.
6a	Eliminate the Review Panel, grant vulnerable adults access to the DHS fair hearings process, and provide a vulnerable adult with support to navigate the fair hearings process	Not Accepted	DHS will not be moving forward with this recommendation.
6b	Eliminate the Review Panel	Not Accepted	DHS will not be moving forward with this recommendation.