

# Waiver Reimagine Advisory Task Force workgroups

## Task Force statutory duties

Subd. 3. Duties. (a) The Task Force must make findings and recommendations related to Waiver Reimagine in Minnesota, including but not limited to the following:

- (1) Consolidation of the existing four disability home and community-based waiver service programs into two waiver programs.
- (2) Budgets based on the needs of the individual that are not tied to location of services, including resources beyond those required to meet assessed needs that may be necessary for the individual to live in the least restrictive environment.
- (3) Criteria and processes for provider rate exceptions and individualized budget exceptions.
- (4) Appropriate assessments, including the MnCHOICES 2.0 assessment tool, in determining service needs and individualized budgets.
- (5) Covered services under each disability waiver program, including any proposed adjustments to the menu of services.
- (6) Service planning and authorization processes for disability waiver services.
- (7) A plan of support, financial and otherwise, to live in the person's own home and in the most integrated setting as defined under title 2 of the Americans with Disabilities Act integration mandate and in Minnesota's Olmstead plan.
- (8) Intended and unintended outcomes of waiver reimagine.
- (9) Other items related to Waiver Reimagine as necessary. (B) the Task Force must seek input from the public, counties, persons receiving disability waiver services, families of persons receiving disability waiver services, providers, state agencies.

## Workgroup overview

The purpose of the workgroups is to inform submission to CMS, identify communication and system issues, inform a preliminary report of findings and recommendations, and to create a base of the Task Force work.

Task Force members are split into four workgroups: scenarios, early indicator, waiver guardrails and policy and practice. Each workgroup will cover some of the statutory duties. Some duties are covered by all workgroups.

## First workgroup meeting goals/agenda

- Meet each other
- Clarify task and identify list of driving questions
- Identify initial information or perspectives needed
- Frame out work plan
- Rename group

## Scenarios workgroup

### Members and meeting time

Members: Julie Johnson, Senator Jordan Rasmusson, Jennifer Ballinger, Calla Oftedahl, DHS representative from the program integrity team; Kris Erickson.

Suggested meeting time: Mondays, late afternoons.

### Intention

To ground-truth the new system by using “sample” waiver participant profiles to walk through the new and existing system. Work will inform:

- Budget and process exceptions
- Case management practices/changes
- Support change implementation efforts (DHS “Change Management” efforts)
- Recommend safeguards

### Statute alignment

- Budget & service impacts on individuals
- Transition experience testing
- Validation of informed choice & planning processes

### Sample questions

- How will budget exceptions work for people with higher or complex support needs?
- How should transitions between waivers be structured to prevent service disruption when a person’s needs or living situation changes?
- What criteria will determine which waiver a person qualifies for, and how flexible can this determination be over time?

## Early indicator workgroup

### Members and meeting time

Members: Heidi Hamilton; Mike Tessneer, participants from the DHS data & QA workgroup, Meredith McKinnon.

Suggested meeting time: Mondays, early afternoons.

### Intention

This group will identify early indicators to help detect and address when the system isn't working as intended. Work will inform:

- Concerns surrounding compliance
- Intended & unintended outcomes or experiences
- Early warning signs & system stability
- Implementation of monitoring points and methods
- Recommended safeguards

### Statute alignment

- Intended & unintended outcomes
- Early warning signs & system stability
- Monitoring implementation impacts

### Sample questions

- What safeguards are needed avoid unintended consequences? (Define unintended consequences)
- What mechanisms will ensure service continuity and prevent service disruption during implementation?

## Waiver guardrails (residential waiver) workgroup

### Members and meeting time

Members: Linda Fairchild, Jenna Johnson, Mor Vue.

Suggested meeting time: Fridays, early afternoon.

### Intention

This group will recommend guardrails to mitigate the risk of incentivizing congregate care, advancing inequities, protect civil-rights and streamline waiver transitions associated with the two-waiver system. Goals:

1. (from December) Thoroughly understand the rational behind using residence as a construct for the waiver consolidations

2. Identify high risk design points
3. Recommend guard-rails for mitigating inequities, protect civil-rights and streamlining transitions

Work will inform:

- Residence-based waiver incentive potential
- Safeguards related to civil rights, ADA & Olmstead alignment

### **Statute alignment**

- Residence-based waiver risks
- Civil rights, ADA & Olmstead alignment
- Least-restrictive setting safeguards

### **Sample questions**

- How does dividing waivers by living settings support a needs-based system?
- How will DHS ensure the two-waiver structure (Individual Support and Residential Support) maintains access to the full range of needed services for all populations?

## **Policy and practice workgroup**

### **Members and meeting time**

Gretchen Spier, Tricia Brisbane, Meredith McKinnon, Lisa Harrison-Hadler, DHS representative.

Suggested meeting time: Mondays, late mornings? Meredith is available at 11.

### **Intention**

This group will work on behalf of the Task Force to recommend policies (legislation?) that integrate the Task Force recommendations with those of other experts, committees and DHS staff. Work will inform:

- Possible language to clarify or close gaps on Task Force statute vs initial intent
- Recommendations to the Task Force that integrate solutions (rooted in findings & recommendations) other workgroups, reports and adjacent efforts (e.g.: expert panel, LTSS, others?)

### **Statute alignment**

- Consolidation into two waivers
- Individualized budget design & exceptions
- Service menu & authorization policy
- Formal findings & recommendations to Legislature

## Sample questions and Fran's phase notes

### Phase 1:

- What is needed to bridge the perceived differences between legislative intent and Task Force defining legislation?
- Work to unpack and address questions associated with the Task Force defining legislation with the original legislative intent.
- Propose legislation refinements and/or DHS policies.

### Phase 2:

Draft recommendations to the Task Force that integrates solutions (rooted in findings & recommendations) that knit together recommendations and findings from other workgroups, consultant reports and adjacent efforts (e.g.: expert panel, LTSS, others?)