

Waiver Reimagine Task Force Meeting

January 27, 2026

WHY WE ARE HERE:

(FROM THE PROFILE COMMON GROUND QUESTION)

- Want to have the funds for all of those we love and care for to have the best setting and best life.
- We want waiver recipients to remain safe and supported fully
- All group members want a system that supports people
- Care for the recipients of the Medicaid Waivers
- ...we all agree on the importance of improving outcomes for people and ensuring that services are accessible, person-centered, and sustainable. There is shared commitment, even though we may differ on the best path forward.

THIS IS A PUBLIC MEETING

- *This is a public meeting livestreaming on YouTube. Everything you say will be recorded and available to the public.*
- *If you don't want your information made public, you may choose not to speak and provide written comments afterward.*
- *By taking part in the meeting, you understand and accept that what you say will be public.*

Let's Arrive.

Do whatever you may need to be fully present here:

- Mute phone
- Personal parking lot
- Put other mental chatter in quiet mode

Focus for Today

By the end of this meeting, we will have:

- Introduction of task force members, their preferences and areas of interest
- Updates on key dates and Waiver Reimagine workplan changes, if any
- Plan for “Letters to the Task Force” workflow
- Next steps for the work groups
- Clarity on areas of agreement (if time allows)

Shooting for B+
The goal is understanding;
we may not agree.

Meeting Plan

1. Meeting start at 1PM
2. Welcome, start up, meeting logistics, etc.
3. Task force member introductions
4. Check in with DHS on dates and Waiver Reimagine workplan changes, if any
5. Break at ~2:30 PM
6. Overview of “Letters to the Task Force” workflow
7. Next steps for work groups
8. Next meeting dates
9. Wrap up, including action items, parking lot topics and plans for February
10. Adjourn at 4 PM

TEMPERATURE CHECK SHORT-HAND

1. Green: Yes; I can support
2. Yellow: I can support this with caution; I have some concerns
3. Red: This doesn't work for me

Grounding Requests

- Climate: Inquiry, listening and reflection (Let's generate more light than heat.)
- Focus on understanding (ask deeper questions; reflect back)
- Share the air; Please try to bottom-line your points (if you've spoken recently, please let others step forward)
- Minimize use of acronyms and jargon
- Practice good virtual meeting behaviors:
 - Turn on camera if that works for you
 - Use raise hand function, if possible
 - Minimize distractions; including use of chat
 - Use the chat to answer specific questions

STAKEHOLDER LIST

1. People with disabilities and their families
2. Department of Human Services (DHS)
3. Minnesota State Legislature and committees
4. Governor's office
5. Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
6. Small service providers
7. Large service providers
8. Tribal Nations
9. Counties
10. Taxpayers
11. Guardians
12. Medical providers
13. Care givers
14. Guardians
15. Advocates & organizations
16. Consultants
17. Advocacy groups (non-providers)
18. General public

(from December 2025 meeting)

UPDATES FROM DHS

- CMS submission
- 30-day public comment
- Governor's decision not to run for re-election
- Volatility in federal funding
- MnCHOICES vendor data breach

FROM OUR LAST MEETING

- MnCHOICES
 - Needs to be tested for validity & reliability
 - Barriers:
 - Lack of time to accomplish before Go Live date
 - Funding uncertainty
- Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)
- Status of HSRI deliverables
- Olmstead alignment

OTHER UPDATES (ADD TO THE SLIDE DECK)

- LTSS
- EXPERT PANEL
- (SEND OUT VIA EMAIL)

SINCE THE LAST MEETING: TF MEMBER QUESTIONS & REQUESTS

1. Deeper dive into the budget development and methodology
2. Connect the work groups to the duties of the Task Force
3. Deeper dive into legislative intent and current Task Force direction
4. Other questions/requests that we are still sorting through

INTRODUCTIONS OF TASK FORCE MEMBERS

- Name | Preferred form of address
- Preferred pronouns are welcome
- What perspective(s) are you bringing to our work together?
- If you were to miss a meeting, what do you want us (all) to pay attention to on your behalf?

“ DEAR TASK FORCE...” WORK FLOW

When a task force member receives an email from a stakeholder:

- Please forward emails to: Waiver.Reimagine@state.mn.us
- Stakeholders, you are encouraged to email or cc that email address. This will add your comments to the DHS Customer Relationship Management (CRM) database
- You should receive an auto-reply (which we are working to get set up)
- Having comments in this database means that the Task Force can have access them via keyword searches and reports

INTENTIONS OF THE WORK GROUPS (SPRINT PHASE)

- To inform submission to CMS
- To daylight the things that don't make sense: Is this a communication issue, a system issue or both?
- To inform a preliminary report of findings and recommendations
- To build a foundation of the ongoing work of the Task Force

WORK GROUP NEXT STEPS

- Connect to duties of the task force (from statute)
- Identify members of the group
- Plan for first set of meetings

WORK GROUPS AND STATUTORY DUTIES (HELPED BY AI)

SCENARIO GROUP

- BUDGET & SERVICE IMPACTS ON INDIVIDUALS
- TRANSITION EXPERIENCE TESTING
- VALIDATION OF INFORMED CHOICE & PLANNING PROCESSES

EARLY INDICATOR

- INTENDED & UNINTENDED OUTCOMES
- EARLY WARNING SIGNS & SYSTEM STABILITY
- MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION IMPACTS

WAIVER GUARD RAILS (RESIDENTIAL WAIVER)

- RESIDENCE-BASED WAIVER RISKS
- CIVIL RIGHTS, ADA & OLMSTEAD ALIGNMENT
- LEAST-RESTRICTIVE SETTING SAFEGUARDS

POLICY & PRACTICE

- CONSOLIDATION INTO TWO WAIVERS
- INDIVIDUALIZED BUDGET DESIGN & EXCEPTIONS
- SERVICE MENU & AUTHORIZATION POLICY
- FORMAL FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS TO LEGISLATURE

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;
- (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; and
- (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
- (4) appropriate assessments, including the MnCHOICES 2.0 assessment tool, in determining service needs and individualized budgets;

TASK FORCE MEMBERS & WORK GROUPS

Katrin Bachmeier-- TBD
Jennifer Ballinger--Scenarios
Tricia Brisbine— Policy & Practice
Brion Curran (Representative)
Kristine Erickson
Linda Fairchild— Waiver Guardrails
Heidi Hamilton— Early Indicators
Lisa Harrison-Hadler— Policy & Practice
Dr. Kate Jirik— Co-chair role
Jenna Johnson— Waiver Guardrails

Julie Johnson-- Scenarios
Meredith McKinnon— Policy & Practice
Zaynab Mohamed (Senator)-- TBD
Jordan Rasmusson (Senator)-- Scenarios
Saudade Sammuels— TBD
Gretchen Spier— Policy & Practice
Mike Tessneer— Early Indicators
Mor Vue— Waiver Guardrails
Chad Wilson-- TBD
Linda Wolford— Co-chair role
(one open seat: State Rep)

INITIAL WORK GROUP MEETING

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

TASK FORCE MEETING DATES

Wednesday, February 18th from 1 pm to 4 pm

Monday, March 23rd from 1 pm to 5 pm

Monday, April 20th from 1 pm to 5 pm

May dates: <https://doodle.com/group-poll/participate/erqRKDBd>

Reflection on Today

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Shooting for B+

Did we achieve this?

How did we do? Grounding Requests

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ADJOURN