

Laws of Minnesota 2024, Chapter 125, Article 4, Section 9

MENTALLY ILL AND DANGEROUS CIVIL COMMITMENT REFORM TASK FORCE

Establishment and Purpose.

The Mentally Ill and Dangerous Civil Commitment Reform Task Force is established to evaluate current statutes related to mentally ill and dangerous civil commitments and develop recommendations to optimize the use of state-operated mental health resources and increase equitable access and outcomes for patients.

Membership.

The Mentally Ill and Dangerous Civil Commitment Reform Task Force consists of the members appointed as follows:

Statutory Language- Membership Requirement	Member Appointed
(1) the commissioner of human services or a designee;	Marshall Smith, DHS Direct Care & Treatment Health System CEO
(2) two members representing the Department of Direct Care and Treatment who have experience with mentally ill and dangerous civil commitments, appointed by the commissioner of human services:	Dr. Soniya Hirachan-Executive Director and Medical Director for Forensics Services for DHS/DCT Robin Bode-MSW, LICSW is the Director of Patient and Family Engagement for Forensic Services for DHS/DCT
(3) the ombudsman for mental health and developmental disabilities;	Deputy Ombudsman Lisa Harrison-Hadler The office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities
(4) a judge with experience presiding over mentally ill and dangerous civil commitments, appointed by the state court administrator;	Judge Jay Quam Hennepin County Fourth District
(5) a court examiner with experience participating in mentally ill and dangerous civil commitments, appointed by the state court administrator;	Court Examiner Dr. Amber Lindeman
(6) a member of the Special Review Board, appointed by the state court administrator;	Dr. Kristen Otte Member of the Special Review Board
(7) a county representative, appointed by the Association of Minnesota Counties;	Barb Weckman Scott County Commissioner
(8) a representative appointed by the Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators;	Cassandra Sassenberg Director of Human Services of Nicollet County
(9) a county attorney with experience participating in mentally ill and dangerous civil commitments, appointed by the Minnesota County Attorneys Association;	Anne Zimmerman Attorney with Ramsey County

(10) an attorney with experience representing respondents in mentally ill and dangerous civil commitments, appointed by the governor;	Michael Bigelow Attorney
(11) a member appointed by the Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs;	Jin Palen Executive Director of Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Program
(12) a member appointed by the National Alliance on Mental Illness Minnesota;	Sue Abderholden Executive Director of National Alliance on Mental Health
(13) a licensed independent practitioner with experience treating individuals subject to a mentally ill and dangerous civil commitment;	Dr. Ian Heath Hennepin Healthcare Department of Psychiatry
(14) an individual with lived experience under civil commitment as mentally ill and dangerous and who is on a provisional discharge or has been discharged from commitment;	Not filled at this time
(15) a family member of an individual with lived experience under civil commitment as mentally ill and dangerous and who is on a provisional discharge or has been discharged from commitment;	Sheila Novak
(16) at least one Tribal government representative;	Donna Ennis
(17) a member appointed by the Minnesota Disability Law Center.	Dalaine Remes Legal Advocate with Minnesota Disability Law Center

***A member of the legislature may not serve as a member of the task force.

Appointment Due Date.

Appointments to the task force must be made no later than July 30, 2024.