



Psychedelic Medicine Task Force Meeting Summary

- Participants listed below.
- Meeting documents with presentation slides provide more detail and are available on the [task force webpage](#).

Meeting Summary: April 1, 2023, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Welcome

Facilitator, Stacy Sjogren, with Management Analysis and Development (MAD), called the meeting to order. She reviewed rules of engagement for the meeting, welcomed outside observers, introduced task force staff, and gave reference to the task force webpage to find more information. Stacy also reviewed the legislative charge and task force duties as found on slides 5-7 on the meeting presentation.

MAD consultant Jess Burke announced the new Microsoft Teams site for storing internal task force documents.

Task Force logistical business

Task force chair Dr. Jessica Nielson provided an overview of the meeting agenda. Roll call was taken and quorum was secured. An attendance record can be found in the voting log at the end of this meeting summary. Dr. Nielson also reviewed desired meeting outcomes, found on slide 10 of meeting presentation.

Dr. Nielson expressed a need for more formal support from members to complete task force work. She recommended allocating more authority to a vice chair and work group chairs. Dr. Nielson shared she would like to see members nominate and vote for these roles in the May task force meeting.

Approve March meeting summary

A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 2024 meeting summary. Roll call was taken and motion carried. The voting log found at the end of this meeting summary.

Member-collected feedback

Dr. Nielson asked for a share out from task force members regarding feedback collected from their respective constituencies.

Task force members provided updates from their feedback sessions. Jeremy Drucker shared there are a wide range of opinions from provider networks regarding this topic. Cortney Amundson shared she is meeting with colleagues and other providers; they have been discussing inclusivity in regulation and among providers. Michael Tabor shared he has been in conversations with a professor at Hamline Law School. Donovan Sather shared that he spoke with local tribal leadership, wanting to keep in mind accessibility, how tribes will have access to and use psychedelic medicine on tribal land, and continuing to research Indigenous methodologies.

Task force members Dr. Ranji Vargas, Helen Bassett, Cortney Amundson, and Donovan agreed to provide written documentation of feedback collected to submit to the task force.

Decision flowchart and timeline review

MAD consultant Nick Kor gave an overview of the decision flow chart found on the task force Mural. The flow chart will help guide the task force in understanding where they are in the process and when decision need to be made.

Donovan asked about whether answering the tribal questions are specifically the role of the task force tribal representatives. Dr. Nielson responded that as the task force tribal representatives, they should be helping the task force with answering those questions, but it is up to the whole task force to ensure we have those questions answered.

Dr. Nielson reminded the task force of their previous guest speakers and what has been learned since work has started. She reminded task force members that they are not writing a bill but are providing a comprehensive research report and recommendations to the legislature.

Dr. Nielson provided an overview of the “options to implement” chart on the task force Mural. Members were given time to review and add comments to the chart.

Task force members engaged in a discussion around the “options to implement” chart and timeline. Dr. Margaret Gavian asked how the working groups would fit and map onto the document. Ari McHenry asked to add the task force principals to the document. Nick Lehnertz commented on ensuring the task force recognizes the difference and trade offs of adult regulated use vs medicinal use. Task force guest Shane Pennington shared that not all regulatory paths are created equally, and that administrative feasibility might be something to keep in mind.

Break

Work group updates

Dr. Margaret Gavian provided the regulatory work group update. She shared they are trying to figure out regulation within two tracks: medical vs adult regulated use. She also shared two other tracks: health care professionals and other certified professionals. The work group will be exploring the cannabis pathway. There were discussions about exploring different approaches with actual plants vs substances. There will be layers depending on the many different approaches, it won't be a one size fits all.

Task force member Adam Tomczik shared that the general counsel at the Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management was receptive of also housing regulated psilocybin mushrooms within their office. They might be the best office to regulate mushrooms for adult regulated use.

Cortney Amundson provided the policy work group update. She shared they are discussing licensing boards and the differences in Minnesota vs other states.

Dr. Nielson provided the legal work group update. She shared the group is trying to have a more formal definition of psychedelic medicine. They have been grappling with a need to approach the three drug recommendations differently, since there are so many differences between the three drugs. The group is considering what will get Minnesota in least conflict with the federal government and thought that decriminalization might be that pathway. She shared that other legal pathways could have implications for changing federal law, but that is not the directive of the group.

Dr. Nielson referred task force members to participate in the activity in the Mural to provide perspectives on which context and legal pathways Minnesota should consider.

Break

Research update: LSD

Dr. Caroline Johnson, Psychedelic Medicine Scientific Researcher at MDH, provided an update on LSD found on slides 12-20 of the meeting presentation. Dr. Johnson reminded the task force she is only sharing data on specific health conditions (anxiety and alcohol use disorder) because the other studies did not meet the task force's criteria to only include conditions in randomized controlled trials published following peer-review. The studies found a significant beneficial impact of LSD with psychotherapy, for reducing anxiety and depression. Studies on LSD in alcohol use disorder were from the 1960s and 1970s, and each concluded LSD was no more effective than any other treatment.

Dr. Johnson also noted the currently unpublished MindMed trial does not employ a therapeutic component and still found significant reductions in anxiety and depression in certain groups. She shared they are moving faster than predicted and the task force should continue paying attention to their results.

Task force members engaged in a discussion regarding Dr. Johnson's presentation. Bennett Hartz and Dr. Varghese noted the cost of studying LSD is more expensive because of how long the drug stays in the body, thus

the cost of employing one or more trained facilitator to remain present with the patient for the duration of the session is what makes this particularly expensive and should be something the task force considers if they make a recommendation for further study. Dr. Gavian raised a concern about not having LSD research in a non-medically controlled environment. Helen Bassett shared that if the state is going to approve a specific drug for use, there should be safeguards that consider disparities that could further impact marginalized populations. Jeremy Drucker noted that understanding how the substance will be administered needs to be part of what the task force is considering. Adam Tomczik expressed keeping all options as open as possible and that the task force does not need to recommend a course of action for a specific patient but to give the legislature the information they need.

Right to try and federal exemptions to controlled substances act and Minnesota's decision about cannabis use

Guest presenter Shane Pennington, partner at Porter Wright Morris & Arthur LLP, gave a presentation on right to try and other federal exemptions to the Controlled Substances Act. Shane praised Minnesota's approach for examining the legalization of psychedelic medicine. Shane discussed the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) drug approval process, the difficulties and risks associated with collecting acceptable data on psychedelic medicine, and how safely documenting the medical/therapeutic data from state programs could be the gold standard to driving federal rescheduling. This has occurred with state cannabis programs that have changed the way the FDA and HHS is evaluating what is considered "clear accepted medical use" in rescheduling recommendations to the DEA. If MN did something similar with a medical psychedelic program, it could impact national policy at some point. Shane also discussed the "research program" lane through which the U.S. Attorney General could approve the research and has been used with methadone clinics.

Several task force members expressed skepticism with solely pursuing the medical-only model, noting other legal experts have advised the task force to avoid the medical model and questioning whether the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is actively cracking down on these drugs or are looking to the states to do more.

Adjourn

Members of the public were reminded that if they have comments to provide to the task force, they can email health.psychedelicmedicine@state.mn.us.

Participants

Task force members

Cortney Amundson
Helen Bassett
Paula DeSanto
Jeremy Drucker
Stephen Egan
Dr. Margaret Gavian
Bennett Hartz

Nicholas Lehnertz
Arielle McHenry
Dr. Jessica Nielson
Kit O'Neill
Jill Phillips
Donovan Sather
Michael Tabor
Adam Tomczik
Dr. Ranji Varghese

Others

Jessica Burke, MAD
Stacy Sjogren, MAD
Nick Kor, MAD
Dana Farley, MDH
Dr. Caroline Johnson, MDH
Shane Pennington, guest presenter

Next task force meeting

Monday, May 6, 2024, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Voting log

Date: April 1, 2024

Member name	Roll Call	Vote on minutes from March `24 Motion: Adam Tomczik Second: Helen Bassett
Courtney Amundson	Present	Yes
Helen Bassett	Present	Yes
Guthrie Capossela	Absent	Absent
Sen. Julia Coleman	Absent	Absent
Paula DeSanto	Present	Yes
Jeremy Drucker	Present	Yes
Stefan Egan	Absent	Absent
Dr. Margaret Gavian	Present	Yes
Bennett Hartz	Present	Yes
David Hoang (off camera)	Absent	Absent

Nick Lehnertz	Absent	Absent
Arielle "Ari" McHenry	Present	Yes
Sen. Kelly Morrison	Absent	Absent
Dr. Jessica Nielson	Present	Yes
Kit O'Neill	Present	Yes
Jill Phillips	Present	Yes
Kenneth Sass	Absent	Absent
Rep. Andy Smith	Absent	Absent
Michael Tabor	Present	Yes
Adam Tomczik	Present	Yes
Dr. Ranji Varghese	Present	N/A
Rep. Nolan West	Absent	Absent
Donovan Sather	Present	Yes