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Psychedelic Medicine Task Force Charter

Background

The 2023 Minnesota Legislature directed the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to establish a task force to advise the legislature on the legal, medical, and policy issues associated with the legalization of psychedelic medicine in the state (Laws of Minnesota 2023, Regular Session, chapter 70, section 99). **For purposes of this section, "psychedelic medicine" means 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), psilocybin, and LSD.**

Legislative Charge

The legislation directs the task force to:

- survey existing studies in the scientific literature on the therapeutic efficacy of psychedelic medication in the treatment of mental health conditions including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, bipolar disorder, and any other mental health conditions and medical conditions for which a psychedelic medicine may provide an effective treatment option,
- compare the efficacy of psychedelic medicine in treating the conditions noted previously with current available treatments, and
- develop a comprehensive plan that covers:
 - statutory changes necessary for the legalization of psychedelic medicine
 - state and local regulation of psychedelic medicine
 - federal law, policy, and regulation of psychedelic medicine, with a focus on retaining state autonomy to act without conflicting with federal law, including methods to resolve conflicts such as seeking an administrative exemption to the federal Controlled Substances Act under United States Code, title 21, section 822(d), and Code of Federal Regulations, title 21, part 1307.03; seeking a judicially created exemption to the federal Controlled Substances Act; petitioning the United States Attorney General to establish a research program under United States Code, title 21, section 872(e); using the Food and Drug Administration's expanded access program; and using authority under the federal Right to Try Act
- education of the public on recommendations made to the legislature and others about necessary and appropriate actions related to the legalization of psychedelic medicine in the state.

Output

The task force shall submit two reports to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over health and human services that detail the task force's findings regarding the legalization of psychedelic medicine in the state, including the comprehensive plan developed under subdivision 5. The first report must be submitted by February 1, 2024, and the second report must be submitted by January 1, 2025.

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Scope of Authority (in bounds/out of bounds)

Out of bounds

- Commissioning new studies
- TBD

In bounds

- Legislative reports (note from legislation) - submitting comprehensive plan for recommendations
- Work related to the Duties specified in the legislation above

Guiding Principles

The task force will use the following principles to guide its decision making:

- Scientific Rigor– Use the best scientific data and evidence-based methods available to guide policy recommendations.
- Collaboration and inclusivity – Diversity in perspectives and experiences foster innovative solutions and strengthens our capacity to deliver results.
- Accountability and Integrity – Act as effective and efficient managers of the public trust, operating with open communication, transparency, honesty, and timeliness to ensure appropriate high standards.

Working Agreements

General individual expectations

- Come to meetings prepared. Review the agenda and read required materials ahead of the meeting.
- Seek to understand the opinions, viewpoints and lived experiences of others.
- Be present. Minimize the use of cell phones, email, and side conversations.
- Step up/step back.
 - If you're more likely to remain quiet during meetings, step up a bit more and share your ideas and suggestions.
 - If you're more likely to do most of the talking in meetings, step back a bit and let others contribute as well.
- Refrain from writing letters or engaging in other kinds of communication **in the name of the task force** unless the chairperson specifically authorized such communication.

Expectations for participating in meetings remotely

- Participate with video on at all times so everyone feels your presence.
- Mute yourself when not speaking.
- Use the “raise hand feature” when you want to speak.
- Refrain from using chat as a means of making comment or participating in a conversation.
- Help facilitator encourage remote participation.

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- Do your part to assure functioning technology by joining early to check connection and joining meeting from stable environment.

Expectations during challenging moments

- Sometimes words land on other ears or come out wrong. Offer or ask for “do-overs”.
- Lean into discomfort with respect and to seek understanding.
- Assume good intent but acknowledge harm.
- As for a break if discussion becomes re-traumatizing or stress inducing.
- Focus on the issue, not the people.
- Be objective, respectful, and solution-driven when sharing amongst a group of passionate professionals.
- Be open minded and curious about others’ experiences.
- Seek to address issues *during* a meeting.

Public Communications and Comments

(TBD)

Decision Making Tools

(TBD)

Member Appointments and Selection

The following defines the 23 seats available on this task force:

- governor or a designee
- two members of the house of representatives, one appointed by the speaker of the house and one appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives, and two members of the senate, one appointed by the senate majority leader and one appointed by the senate minority leader
- commissioner of health or a designee
- commissioner of public safety or a designee
- commissioner of human services or a designee
- attorney general or a designee
- executive director of the Board of Pharmacy or a designee
- commissioner of commerce or a designee
- members of the public, appointed by the governor, who have relevant knowledge and expertise, including:
 - two members representing Indian Tribes within the boundaries of Minnesota, one representing the Ojibwe Tribes and one representing the Dakota Tribes;
 - one member with expertise in the treatment of substance use disorders;
 - one member with experience working in public health policy;
 - two veterans with treatment-resistant mental health conditions;
 - two patients with treatment-resistant mental health conditions;

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- one psychiatrist with experience treating treatment-resistant mental health conditions, including post-traumatic stress disorder;
- one health care practitioner with experience in integrative medicine;
- one psychologist with experience treating treatment-resistant mental health conditions, including post-traumatic stress disorder; and
- one member with demonstrable experience in the medical use of psychedelic medicine.

Terms

Member terms will last for the duration of the task force's existence; on or around January 1, 2025. If a member resigns or is removed, staff will immediately reach out to the position's appointing authority seeking a replacement.

Removal

Members can be removed by the appointing authority (governor) at any time and may be removed for missing up to three consecutive meetings. See Minnesota [Statute 10.059 Subd. 4](#) for details.

Leadership

The task force will operate under the leadership of a chairperson responsible for working with staff to create a space in which the whole task force can be effective together and accomplish its delegated tasks.

Selection

The chairperson is selected by simple majority of the members at the first meeting.

Terms

The chairperson's term will last for the duration of the task force's existence; on or around January 1, 2025. If the chairperson resigns, a new chair will be selected by a majority of the members at the next scheduled meeting opportunity.

Charter Ratification and Maintenance

The task force will ratify this charter when a two-thirds majority of the total membership of the task force approves of the content. The task force can reassess the charter if the need emerges.

Charter History

Established: (date)

Revised: (date)