



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 \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/psychmed/index.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/psychmed/index.html).

Meeting Summary: August 5, 2023, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Welcome

Dr. Jessica Nielson, task force chair, called the meeting to order. She reviewed the 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. Dr. Nielson also reviewed the legislative charge and task force duties as found on slides 5-7 in the [August meeting presentation \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/psychmed/docs/aug24slides.pdf\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/psychmed/docs/aug24slides.pdf).

Kari Gloppen, Epidemiologist Supervisor at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), introduced newly appointed task force member, State Senator Scott Dibble.

Roll call was taken, and quorum was secured. See voting log at the bottom of this meeting summary for attendance.

Approve July meeting summary

A motion was made and seconded to approve the July 2024 meeting summary as written. Motion carried. See voting log for details.

Task force logistical business

Dr. Nielson asked task force members to share public feedback collected from their respective constituencies.

Paula DeSanto shared she had been interacting with people who are practicing at churches and individual practices with therapeutic and healing intentions. She shared their concerns around how to help people prepare and be screened. Paula asked whether there would be enough support in integration, preparation, and facilitation.

Guthrie Capossela thanked task force members for participating in his Indigenous Health Topics webinar last month. Guthrie shared that more than 120 people attended the webinar, with at least a one-quarter being Native American. Based on a survey sent to meeting attendees, there was overwhelming positivity on the use of psychedelic medicines in Minnesota. There was only one response of skepticism. There were some comments about wanting to ensure inclusionary efforts for Native people to be involved in distribution. There was also a general feeling of newness, so some didn't know what they needed to know.

Courtney Amundson shared that she met with group of trauma informed therapists. They had a discussion around expanding the conversation specifically around the lack of research on how psychedelics could be useful to firefighters, police, and other first responders.

Donovan Sather met with 36 chemical health and mental health professionals from 3 reservations. He said that there was some general skepticism and people wanted to know more because they felt they didn't know enough. There was a lot of interest in healing mental health as it relates to addiction.

Dr. Margaret Gavian responded that first responders, some of whom have high post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), are often regulated federally on what substances they can use. This makes it difficult, from a clinician point of view, as their jobs are at risk.

Decision flow chart and decisions to date review

Dr. Nielson provided a summary of the task force flow chart, learnings to date, noteworthy updates, legal research, and state and local regulation found on slides 11-24 of the meeting presentation.

Task force members engaged in a discussion regarding the information presented. Adam Tomczik shared his opinion that the quickest way to get the most people the help they need was through decriminalization and to move towards adult regulated use, starting with decriminalization of naturally grown mushrooms.

Paula asked why Minnesota wouldn't want to move towards decriminalization and adult regulated use like in Colorado. Dr. Nielson responded there may not be enough information coming from Colorado yet. In Oregon, the tightly regulated market drives up costs and makes it inaccessible to everyday people. Costs are also building in Colorado as they are making rules. Dr. Nielson expressed an aspiration to create the best and broadest access in the most equitable way possible in Minnesota.

Bennett Hartz shared his desire to ensure the task force's report acknowledges that its recommendations are based on the current information and laws at the time of writing and that there may be more information which could influence decision-making in the future.

Break

Initial recommendations

Dr. Nielson provided a summary of initial task force recommendations from past Mural activities found on slides 25-28 of the meeting presentation.

Members participated in a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis on Mural regarding the recommendation of creating an adult regulated use program for psilocybin mushrooms in Minnesota.

Task force members engaged in a discussion on the recommendation of an adult regulated use program for psilocybin mushrooms in Minnesota.

State Representative Andy Smith reacted to concerns on the Mural regarding the lack of clear parameters and regulations. He shared that the type of regulated system and how “good” it will be is based on the desire of the state and the people of Minnesota.

Ari McHenry shared that it is the government’s role to regulate potentially dangerous activity. She expressed a desire to find a sweet spot that protects against the overly harmful but does not restrict and monopolize the market.

Adam added alcohol as an example of a regulated substance. He said he understood the concern on the lack of clear parameters and regulation and described a process that could look like the Office of Cannabis Management or other drugs and substances that are already regulated. He responded to the concern about conflicting with federal prohibition and a potential federal crackdown as a valid concern but shared that it was true of nearly everything the task force would recommend.

Paula echoed Rep. Smith and expressed that it could be a good program that isn’t overly complicated or expensive.

Rep. Smith added an interest to include a discussion and or vote on the actual state and federal synergy with the federal Attorney General’s office, as recommended by Shane Pennington. He shared that while that task force is unified to see more research, the state doesn’t have the pockets to impact the field in research. However, the state could use its power as a state government to petition the federal government to do more, for example an official letter from Minnesota’s congressional members advocating at the federal level.

Final voting discussion

Jess Burke with Management Analysis and Development (MAD) provided an overview of the final voting process, found on slides 30-32 of the meeting presentation. Jess encouraged task force members to attend the September task force meeting to cast their vote. If a member is unable to attend the September meeting, they should inform the task force chair and staff to ensure they can cast their votes ahead of time. Jess also encouraged members representing specific organizations and constituencies to have gathered any input required before the September task force meeting to cast their vote.

Final report discussion

Dr. Caroline Johnson, Psychedelics Medicine Scientific Researcher at MDH provided an overview of the report writing process found on slides 33-37 of the meeting presentation. Task force members participated in a Mural activity providing input on the report writing process.

Plans for public education

Dr. Nielson reviewed plans for public education on sides 38-39 of the meeting presentation. Task force members participated in a Mural activity providing input on the public education process.

Adjourn

Dr. Nielson reminded task force members that they will receive a one-pager on each recommendation and to be prepared to vote by the September task force meeting.

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

Courtney Amundson
Guthrie Capossela
Paula DeSanto
Sen. Scott Dibble
Dr. Margaret Gavian
Bennett Hartz
Nick Lehnertz
Ari McHenry
Dr. Jessica Nielson
Kit O'Neill
Jill Phillips
Ken Sass
Donovan Sather
Rep. Andy Smith
Adam Tomczik

Others

Jessica Burke, MAD
Stacy Sjogren, MAD
Nick Kor, MAD
Kari Gloppen, MDH
Dr. Caroline Johnson, MDH

Next task force meeting

Monday, September 9, 2024, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Voting log

Member name	Roll Call present	Vote on minutes from July Motion: Bennett Second: Cortney
Courtney Amundson	Present	Approve
Helen Bassett	Absent	n/a
Guthrie Capossela	Present	Approve
Paula DeSanto	Present	Approve
Senator Scott Dibble	Absent	n/a
Jeremy Drucker	Absent	n/a
Stefan Egan	Absent	n/a
Dr. Margaret Gavian	Present	Approve
Bennett Hartz	Present	Approve
David Hoang	Absent	n/a
Nick Lehnertz	Absent	n/a
Arielle "Ari" McHenry	Present	Abstain
Dr. Jessica Nielson	Present	Approve
Kit O'Neill	Present	Approve
Jill Phillips	Present	Approve
Kenneth Sass	Present	Approve
Donovan Sather	Present	Approve
Rep. Andy Smith	Present	Approve
Michael Tabor	Absent	n/a
Adam Tomczik	Present	Abstain
Dr. Ranji Varghese	Absent	n/a
Rep. Nolan West	Absent	n/a