



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: February 5, 2023, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Welcome

Facilitator, Stacy Sjogren, with Management Analysis and Development (MAD), welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. She reviewed rules of engagement for the meeting, welcomed outside observers, and gave reference to the task force webpage to find more information.

Stacy noted that open meeting laws require that the public be able to attend meetings but do not require meeting recordings to be made or preserved.

Stacy gave a reminder of the task force's charge as shown in slide 5 of the meeting presentation.

Agenda overview, roll call and approval of minutes

Dr. Jessica Nielson, task force chair, provided an overview of the meeting agenda and presented the task force's work cadence as shown on slide 8 of the meeting presentation.

Dr. Nielson noted that the task force has not yet filled the designated Ojibwe seat. She relayed instructions from the Governor's office that while the seat is not filled, the task force should continue its work because quorum has been secured. Dr. Nielson expressed disappointment with the vacant seat but agreed that the task force cannot wait to continue its work. She expressed other ways to ensure more tribal voices be heard in this process.

Dr. Nielson shared that she has been having public feedback sessions. Themes from her sessions have included issues related to safety, equity and access to psychedelic medicines, affordability, spiritual and Indigenous practices, hopes, and more education on this topic. She also expressed that "biopiracy," defined in Wikipedia as the unauthorized appropriation of knowledge and genetic resources of farming and Indigenous communities by individuals or institutions seeking exclusive monopoly control through patents or intellectual property, and further defined by Merriam-Webster as the unethical or unlawful appropriation or commercial exploitation of

biological materials (such as medicinal plant extracts) that are native to a particular country or territory without providing fair financial compensation to the people or government of that country or territory, as an important issue that the task force should be aware of. She encouraged task force members to go back to the communities they have been appointed to represent to solicit their input.

Roll call was taken and quorum was secured. New member, Nicholas Lehnertz, designee for the Minnesota Department of Health, was introduced. See voting log for attendance.

During the discussion to approve the January meeting minutes, a member requested to modify the minutes to include a statement noting that at the time of the January meeting, the Ojibwe seat was not filled and the task force was seeking support to fill the seat.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the January 8, 2024; meeting minutes as amended. Motion carried.

Update on surveying of scientific literature

Dr. Caroline Johnson, Psychedelic Medicine Scientific Researcher at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), provided an update on the surveying of scientific literature. As directed in subdivision 5, duty 1 of the legislation, and following the search guidelines approved by the task force, the scientific literature was surveyed to identify health conditions for which psychedelic medicine (MDMA, psilocybin, LSD) may provide a treatment option. The conditions were presented on slides 13-15 of the meeting presentation. The search and lack of returned results from the Journal of Indigenous Research was discussed, with the suggestion to implement cultural considerations in the individual work groups, rather than with the scientific literature. A timeline for further research was presented.

Legal overview presentation

Special guest, Dr. Mason Marks, MD, JD, provided a legal overview of psychedelic drugs in the United States. Dr. Marks discussed the regulatory framework used in Oregon and Colorado, various legal pathways for states to pursue, the different challenges faced between the legalization of cannabis versus psychedelics, and other legal issues. He cited that the most amount of federal conflict comes when blending psychedelic medicine programs with licensed healthcare facilities that rely on federal licensing or conflict with what the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved for therapeutic use. Examples were provided around psilocybin service centers making claims of therapeutic benefit in their advertising that may trigger warnings from the FDA, as well as what happened recently in Georgia when they attempted to sell medical cannabis in their states pharmacy, which prompted the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to intervene. He also cited increased costs of implementation in the Oregon Psilocybin Service centers that was having trouble being sustainable due to regulation of both facilitators and facilities that will provide psilocybin services. He mentioned the bill under consideration in Massachusetts, where they proposed to regulate facilitators only, thus reducing the regulatory burdens and implementation costs.

Work group status reports

Chrissie Deutsch, Psychedelic Medicine Program Administrator at MDH, provided an update on the work groups. She noted that the legal work group has met and provided an overview of the work group schedules as shown in slide 19 of the meeting presentation. Chrissie noted that work group meetings are not open to the public because there is no quorum and decisions are not made during these meetings.

Ari McHenry, task force member and member of legal work group, provided an overview of what the legal work group has discussed, referenced on pages 20-21 of the meeting presentation slides. She stated a need for better understanding of all the legal pathways and requested all task force members also have more understanding.

Members agreed that they wanted more information before making decisions on which legal pathway to take. Members requested that the next task force meeting discuss each legal pathway in more depth.

A reminder was made that the task force can present options to the legislature, if necessary.

Charter approval

Stacy Sjogren provided an overview of updated changes to the task force charter in the 1) conflict of interest section, 2) scope of work section, and 3) expectations for participation in remote meetings section.

A member asked for clarification between speaking as “a member of the task force” versus “on behalf of the task force.” Stacy clarified that members could speak as individuals and as members of the task force, but they should not speak for the whole task force unless permission has been granted.

Members requested to add language into the charter noting that the task force has chosen to move forward to approve the charter without all seats having been filled, that the Ojibwe seat has been vacant, and that the Governor’s office continues working to fill the seat.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the task force charter as amended with additional changes to the membership section. Motion carried. Paula DeSanto, Bennett Hartz, and Nick Lehnertz abstained due to previous meeting absence. All other members approved.

Final report preliminary discussion

Jess Burke, with MAD, informed members that the first report of the task force was submitted to the legislature, and member Representative Andy Smith confirmed that the report was received by the legislature. Jess also provided a tentative outline of the final report as found on presentation slide 22 and provided examples of other legislative reports in the Mural for members to review.

Announcements and Adjournment

Stacy Sjogren provided closing announcements, reminded members that the YouTube link is for the public, while the Zoom and Mural links are for task force members only.

Stacy invited members to provide additional feedback on what is working in the Mural and requested those who are interested in joining a work group to email Chrissie.

Next meeting of Task Force: Monday, March 4, 2024.

Participants

Task force members

- Cortney Amundson
- Helen Bassett
- Guthrie Capossela
- Sen. Julia Coleman
- Paula DeSanto
- Jeremy Drucker
- Stefan Egan
- Dr. Margaret Gavian
- Bennett Hartz
- David Hoang
- Nicholas Lehnertz
- Arielle McHenry
- Sen. Kelly Morrison
- Dr. Jessica Nielson
- Kit O'Neill
- Jill Phillips
- Rep. Andy Smith
- Michael Tabor
- Adam Tomczik
- Dr. Ranji Varghese

Absent: Kenneth Sass and Rep. Nolan West

Others

- Jessica Burke, MAD
- Stacy Sjogren, MAD
- Nick Kor, MAD
- Dana Farley, MDH
- Chrissie Deutsch, MDH
- Dr. Caroline Johnson, MDH
- Dr. Mason Marks

Next task force meeting

Monday, March 4, 2024, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

