



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: March 4, 2023, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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, and gave reference to the task force webpage to find more information.

Stacy reviewed the legislative charge and task force duties as found on slides 5-7 of the meeting presentation.

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. Task force members Stefan Egan, Jill Phillips, Dr. Ranji Varghese, and Senators Julia Coleman and Kelly Morrison were confirmed absent.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the February 2024 meeting summary. Roll call was taken and the motion carried. Task force member Rep. Nolan West abstained.

Dr. Nielson shared feedback from public engagement sessions with the psychedelic community and members of the public. Themes from her engagement sessions included questions about how psychedelic healing and/or service centers will be monitored for safety and how that information will be communicated to the public; why the legislature mandated examining certain drugs and not others, opportunities to educate professionals and the public on psychedelic medicines, and ensuring the task force understands the state of research, science, and national perspectives about psychedelic legislation and practices.

Task force member Rep. Andy Smith shared that the reason the legislature limited scope to the three specific drugs described in the task force's authorizing legislation was due to a lack of funding to study more than three psychedelics. However, this does not mean that any bill or legislation that comes out of the task force's work has to be limited to these three psychedelics.

Task force member Guthrie Capossela provided feedback, stating he was grateful to have Ojibwe representation on the task force, and had an update from conversations he had with tribal leadership, including the Executive Director of the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council (MIAC) as well as the Director of Tribal-State Relations. He expressed that it was encouraging that the Ojibwe seat was filled by someone from Red Lake Nation, which is the same tribe that the recommendation for the Ojibwe seat from MIAC was from, but that MIAC was disappointed their recommendation for the Ojibwe seat was not honored by the Governor's Office, and future efforts should have MIAC as the appointing authority rather than only being allowed to provide a recommendation. He shared that MIAC expressed that the time it took to fill the final tribal seat was drawn out for too long, and that it may have caused or furthered tensions between MIAC and the Governors Office. He shared MIACs concerns for the need for tribal consultation, and to ensure that consultation does not happen after the fact, and that the task force needs to reach out to them and meet with them before the laws are proposed next year. He encouraged members from state agencies to participate in the Minnesota's Tribal-State Relations Training.

Dr. Nielson reiterated the importance of members going out to engage the communities they were appointed to represent.

Dr. Nielson welcomed new member Donovan Sather, representing Ojibwe tribes, to the task force. Donovan introduced himself first in his native language, and in English, shared his background as a culture bearer and Ojibwe language enthusiast, and shared his work with and for tribal communities on how to tackle the opioid crisis, addiction, and mental health, and his hopes for the task force and interests in researching alternative ways of healing with natural plant medicines.

Dana Farley, Alcohol & Drug Prevention Policy Director, Drug Overdose Prevention Unit Supervisor at the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), shared a staffing update that Chrissie Deutsch has departed her role at MDH. Dana and task force members thanked Chrissie for the service she provided to the task force.

Dr. Nielson reviewed the desired meeting outcomes from slide 10 of the meeting presentation. She provided an overview of work cadence on slide 8 of the meeting presentation and the decision flow chart on the task force Mural.

Stacy Sjogren reminded members that open meeting laws require that the public be able to attend meetings but do not require meeting recordings to be made or preserved. As with other task forces and advisory councils assisted by MAD, and on the advice of MDH's legal counsel, there are no plans to change that approach at this time.

Task force member Ari McHenry asked why the task force cannot record meetings. Dana Farley expressed that he would provide a response to task force members in a later date. Ari stated she believed it was important for the task force to record meetings for posterity and learning for other states.

The caveats and realities of existing clinical trials and scientific literature

Dr. Caroline Johnson, Psychedelic Medicine Scientific Researcher at MDH, provided an update on the surveying of scientific literature on slides 10-20 of the meeting presentation. Dr. Johnson stressed the importance of understanding the context of clinical trials and how the results of the data are interpreted. She noted the lack of generalizability of the results because of stringent exclusion criteria and no large-scale phase IV trials.

Task force members engaged in a discussion around the limitations of the scientific literature and the importance of ensuring the task force is considering the generalized use of the psychedelic medicine.

Dr. Johnson described the role of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and provided updates about accepted medical use on slides 16 and 17 of the meeting presentation. She noted that MDMA is currently being proposed through a new drug application at the FDA. Dr. Nielson noted that the task force should consider how its work in MN will feed the conversation about national drug policy.

Task force members engaged in a conversation regarding the FDA. Donovan Sather, noting the lack of available indigenous research, recommended the task force investigate research in Canada with indigenous communities as it relates to psychedelics. Task force member Cortney Amundson, noting the limited scope of research, asked the task force to create space for intuitive knowledge, narrative, and personalized experience, to inform their decisions.

Dr. Johnson added that the items on slide 19 of the presentation are also important for the task force to consider.

Break

Regulatory, legal, and business discussion

Guest presenter, Ariel Clark, cofounder of the Psychedelics Bar Association, gave a presentation on regulatory, legal, and business considerations for the task force found in slides 22-32 of the meeting presentation.

During the question-and-answer period, Ariel stressed the importance of centering equity and ensuring tribal consultation on the outset. In terms of affordability, she recommended ensuring regulatory fees were affordable, and to consider other ways to keep costs down such as expanding usage beyond special service centers and allowing for group sessions. Ariel also shared ways to improve public education, such as dedicated funding from the legislature and requiring public education in product packaging.

Psychedelic medicine within an indigenous context presentation

Guest presenter, Christine Diindiisi McCleave, indigenous researcher, gave a presentation on psychedelic medicine within an indigenous context. Christine discussed the historical context of the current “psychedelic boom” and its roots in the colonization of indigenous resources, culture, and knowledge. She noted that the current work to legalize psychedelic medicine is not considering these historic factors. She highlighted the “6 Rs” of indigenous research as an approach. She noted that some tribes may not engage when using the term “psychedelics” and that some tribes may be coming late to the table because of the very focused clinical model approach. She shared that indigenous research happens in the intersection of medicine, ceremony, land, water, and connection. Christine also highlighted an opportunity for the task force to engage with Red Lake nation. Red Lake is currently looking into psychedelic medicines and this engagement will allow tribes to help create a framework with the state that is meaningful and respectful to all.

Break

Work group updates

Work group updates were given, and upcoming meetings were presented as shown on slides 34-35 of the meeting presentation.

Adjourn

Task force members were reminded to respond to the survey in their email inboxes and to provide feedback in the Mural. 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
Guthrie Capossela
Paula DeSanto
Jeremy Drucker
Dr. Margaret Gavian
Bennett Hartz
David Hoang
Nicholas Lehnertz
Arielle McHenry
Dr. Jessica Nielson
Kit O'Neill
Ken Sass
Donovan Sather
Rep. Andy Smith
Michael Tabor
Adam Tomczik
Rep. Nolan West

Others

Jessica Burke, MAD
Stacy Sjogren, MAD
Nick Kor, MAD
Dana Farley, MDH
Dr. Caroline Johnson, MDH
Ariel Clark, guest speaker
Christine McCleave, guest speaker

Next task force meeting

Monday, April 1, 2024, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Voting log

Member name	Roll Call	Vote: Approve meeting summary of February 5, 2024, meeting Motion: Helen Bassett Second: Bennett Hartz
Courtney Amundson	Present	Approve
Helen Bassett	Present	Approve
Guthrie Capossela	Present	Approve
Sen. Julia Coleman	Absent	N/A
Paula DeSanto	Present	Approve
Jeremy Drucker	Present	Approve
Stefan Egan	Absent	N/A
Dr. Margaret Gavian	Present	Approve
Bennett Hartz	Present	Approve
David Hoang	Present	Approve
Nick Lehnertz	Present	Approve
Arielle “Ari” McHenry	Present	Approve
Sen. Kelly Morrison	Absent	N/A
Dr. Jessica Nielson	Present	Approve
Kit O’Neill	Present	Approve
Jill Phillips	Absent	N/A
Kenneth Sass	Present	Approve
Donovan Sather	Present	N/A
Rep. Andy Smith	Present	Approve
Michael Tabor	Present	Approve
Adam Tomczik	Present	Approve
Dr. Ranji Varghese	Absent	N/A
Rep. Nolan West	Present	Abstain