



**State of Minnesota**  
**The Office of Ombudsman for**  
**Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities**  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place E. Suite 420 Metro Square Building, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2117

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November 14, 2013

TO: Legislative Commission on Planning and Fiscal Policy

FROM: The Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (OMHDD)

RE: Advisory Committee and Medical Review Subcommittee Information

- 1) The Advisory Committee advises and assists the OMHDD in selecting matters for attention and shares relevant information and experiences from varying viewpoints both inside and outside of the mental health, developmental disability, chemical dependency, and (children with) emotional disturbance systems to inform the OMHDD on current issues and trends in the applicable care delivery systems. The Advisory Committee works with the OMHDD in identifying changes designed to improve standards of competence, efficiency, justice, and protection of clients' rights. The committee functions as an advisory body.

At least five members of the committee, including at least three physicians, one of whom is a psychiatrist, must be designated by the governor to serve as a Medical Review Subcommittee. The Medical Review Subcommittee may have access to private and confidential data collected or created by the ombudsman that are necessary to fulfill the duties of the Medical Review Subcommittee under this section and may:

- (1) make a preliminary determination of whether the death of a client that has been brought to its attention is unusual or reasonably appears to have resulted from causes other than natural causes and warrants investigation;
- (2) review the causes of and circumstances surrounding the death;
- (3) request the county coroner or medical examiner to conduct an autopsy;
- (4) assist an agency in its investigations of unusual deaths and deaths from causes other than natural causes; and
- (5) submit a report regarding the death of a client to the committee, the ombudsman, the client's next-of-kin, and the facility where the death occurred and, where appropriate, make recommendations to prevent recurrence of similar deaths to the head of each affected agency or facility.

- 2) There is no compensation provided to the members of either the Advisory Committee or the Medical Review Subcommittee. The members are allowed to submit for parking and travel expenses but have consistently chosen to not do so. Following is a list of current members and some expected to be approved in the near future:

**Advisory Committee Members:**

Rachel Wobschall, PhD, Chair  
William Conley, Legislative and Policy Analyst  
Patricia Jensen, Attorney  
Brigid Chase, R.N., MI and CD Service Provider  
Karen Freed, PsyD, Psychologist  
Ken Barlow, Consumer Member  
Marjorie Sillery, Family Member

**Medical Review Subcommittee Members:**

Andrew Baker, M.D., Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office  
Jennifer Olson, M.D., Internal Medicine and Elder Care Specialist  
Ronald Groat, M.D., PhD, Psychiatrist  
Robert Haight, Pharm D, University of Minnesota  
Immaculata Anyanwu, R.N., R.M., BSN, MS, PHN, LSN

- 3) There is a budget total for both groups of \$1,500.00 per year (in case reimbursements are sought). Actual expenses are in the \$300.00- \$400.00 range per year, for coffee, food, and snacks provided during the meetings.
- 4) The Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet quarterly, on the third Thursday of January, April, July, and October. In some situations the meeting has been rescheduled to accommodate member schedules. The previous three Advisory Committee meetings were held on October 24, 2013; July 10, 2013, and April 19, 2013. The next three meetings are scheduled for January 16, 2014; April 17, 2014, and July 17, 2014. The Medical Review Subcommittee meets six to eight times each year, depending on the number of cases to be reviewed, generally on the second Friday of the month. The previous three Medical Review Subcommittee meetings were held on June 14, 2013; August 9, 2013, and September 4, 2013. The next scheduled meetings are December 13, 2013; February 14, 2014, and April 11, 2014.
- 5) There have been no reports issued to the OMHDD, Legislature, or Governor from the Advisory Committee or Medical Review Subcommittee. Recommendations from the Medical Review Subcommittee are targeted primarily to providers, provider groups, and oversight boards based on the results of the individual case reviews.
- 6) Advisory Committee website information: <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=245.97>  
Medical Review Subcommittee website information: <http://www.mn.gov/omhdd/report-death-or-serious-injury/medical-review-subcommittee/>