

2023 Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 62
Sec. 119.

WORKING GROUP ON YOUTH INTERVENTIONS.

Subdivision 1.

Establishment.

The working group on youth interventions is established to develop recommendations on the design of a regional system of care for youth interventions, sustainable financing models, and alternatives to criminal penalties. The working group must evaluate coordinated approaches to youth with high behavioral health needs with the goal of reducing and eliminating touchpoints with the justice system as well as identifying community-based services to address youth needs and identifying gaps in services.

Subd. 2.

Membership.

(a) The working group consists of the following members:

(1) a county attorney appointed by the Minnesota County Attorneys Association;

(2) a public defender with responsibility for systems in one or more of the counties included in clause (4), appointed by the State Public Defender's Office;

(3) a peace officer, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 626.84, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), federally recognized Indian Tribes within the boundaries of Minnesota, from one of the counties included in clause (4), appointed by the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association;

(4) a county administrator or their designee from each of the following counties:

(i) Anoka County;

(ii) Carver County;

(iii) Dakota County;

(iv) Hennepin County;

(v) Olmsted County;

(vi) Ramsey County;

(vii) Scott County;

(viii) St. Louis County;

(ix) Stearns County; and

(x) Washington County;

(5) two representatives of county social services agencies appointed by the Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators;

(6) two representatives of community supervision appointed by the Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties;

(7) two representatives of community supervision appointed by the Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers;

(8) two representatives appointed by the commissioner of human services, one with experience in child welfare and one with experience in children's mental health;

(9) the commissioner of corrections, or a designee;

(10) two members representing culturally competent advocacy organizations, one of which must be the National Alliance on Mental Illness-Minnesota; and

(11) two members, to be designated by Hennepin County and Ramsey County, from the community with lived experience of a juvenile family member who was or is currently involved in the justice system, one of whom must be a resident of Hennepin County.

(b) Appointments to the working group must be made by September 1, 2023.

(c) Member compensation and reimbursement for expenses are governed by Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059, subdivision 3.

(d) None of the members can be a current legislator.

Subd. 3.

Chairs; meetings.

(a) The working group shall be cochaired by the representative member under subdivision 2, clause (4), from Hennepin County and the commissioner of corrections or a designee.

(b) The cochairs shall convene the first meeting of the working group no later than September 15, 2023.

(c) Task force meetings are subject to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13D.

Subd. 4.

Administrative support.

The Legislative Coordinating Commission must provide administrative support and meeting space for the working group. The commission may also choose to delegate this authority to Hennepin County.

Subd. 5.

Duties.

(a) The working group shall assess the current approach to addressing the therapeutic and rehabilitative needs of youth adjudicated to be either children in need of protection services or delinquent. The working group shall evaluate racial disparities as part of the working group duties under this subdivision.

(b) The working group shall also:

- (1) provide the number of youth currently in these systems;
- (2) provide the demographics of all youth including age, gender, sexual orientation, and race or ethnicity;
- (3) provide the number of youth currently in out-of-home placement due to their behavioral health needs broken down by:
 - (i) therapeutic and rehabilitative needs of youth; and
 - (ii) proximity of a facility to their home or community;
- (4) provide the number of youth currently in an out-of-state residential facility broken down by:
 - (i) therapeutic and rehabilitative needs;
 - (ii) type of facility or setting;
 - (iii) location of facility; and
 - (iv) county of residence;
- (5) provide the number of youth awaiting or in need of placement due to no available resource broken down by:
 - (i) therapeutic and rehabilitative needs;
 - (ii) type of facility or setting needed; and
 - (iii) wait time and wait setting;
- (6) provide the total bed capacity by treatment facility broken down by:
 - (i) residential treatment centers;
 - (ii) which facilities are state operated;
 - (iii) which facilities are county operated; and
 - (iv) which facilities are owned or operated by a community provider;
- (7) for children who can access residential treatment, provide the:
 - (i) average length of stay;
 - (ii) average daily cost per type of placement, and delineate by payor source;
 - (iii) return or recidivism rate;
 - (iv) therapeutic and rehabilitative needs;
 - (v) discharge setting, including whether that is a home, step down program, or runaway; and
 - (vi) barriers, if any, to discharge;
- (8) describe community-based programming, various treatment models, how programs operate, and the types of these services currently being provided in the state,

including licensure model, and provide data specific to current total capacity and availability, level of care, outcomes, and costs;

(9) provide research models and best practices across North America, including continuum of care, program specifics, best metrics, continuous improvement, entities involved in funding and oversight, outcomes, and costs; and

(10) describe the role the state of Minnesota should play in ensuring best practice resources are available to all children across the state.

Subd. 6.

Report.

No later than February 15, 2024, the working group must submit a written report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over human services, public safety, and judiciary on the working group's activities and recommendations based on the evaluation and information collected under subdivision 5.

Subd. 7.

Expiration.

The working group shall expire upon submission of the report required under subdivision 6, or February 29, 2024, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE.

This section is effective July 1, 2023.