



2025 Priority Admissions Review Panel Update

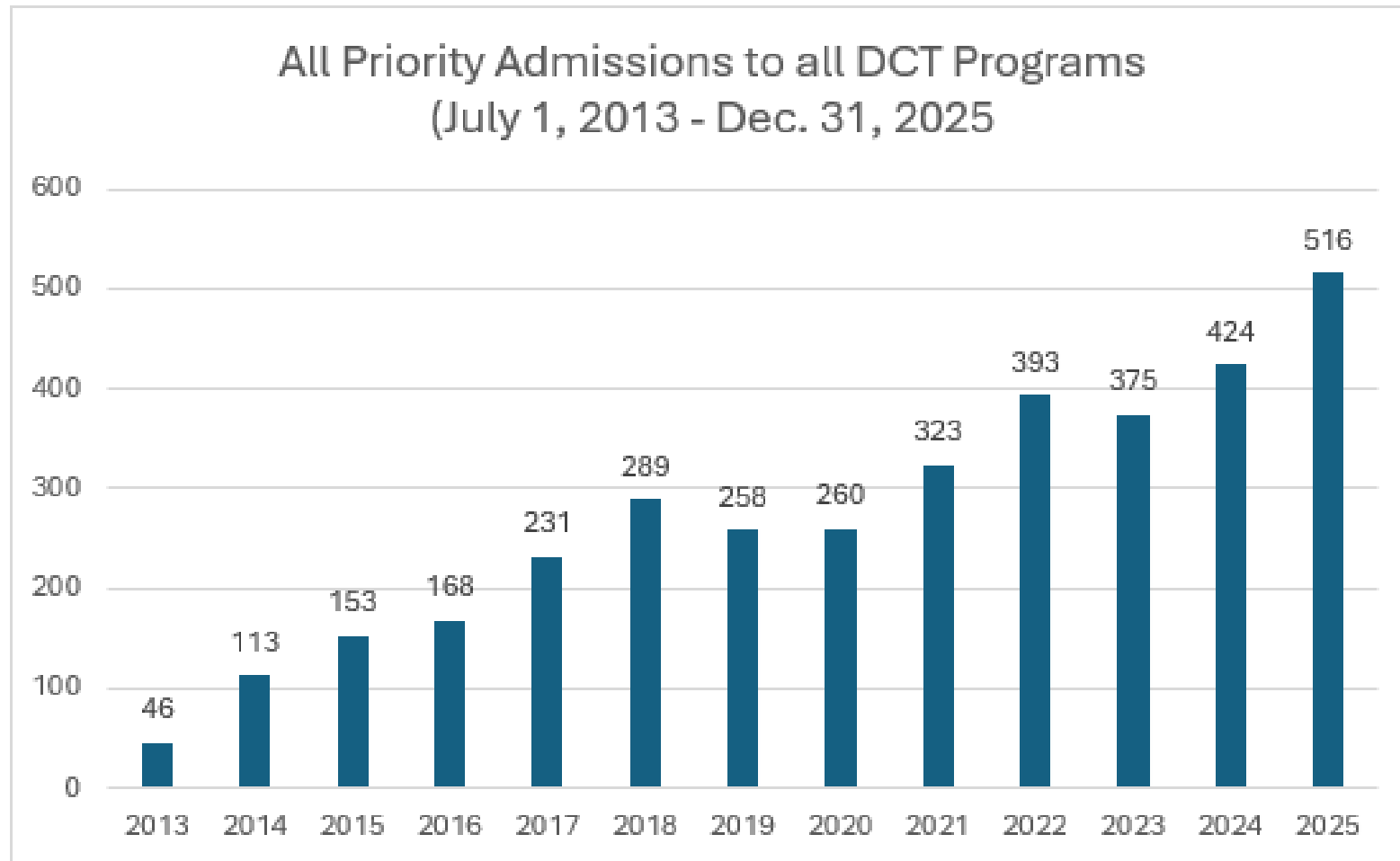
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1/15/26

PA RP (Brief) Background

- The “Priority Admissions” statute in Minn. Stat. sec. 253B.10, sub. 1(b) directs the Minnesota Direct Care and Treatment (DCT) agency to prioritize civilly committed patients being admitted from jail or a correctional institution or who are referred to a state-operated treatment facility.
- In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature amended the Priority Admissions statute to provide clarity that when patients are subject to the priority admission law they shall be admitted to a state-operated treatment program within 48 hours when it is determined by DCT physicians that a medically appropriate bed is available.
- The Legislature also directed a Priority Admissions Task Force to analyze and provide recommendations regarding several related topics.

Admissions under Priority Admissions Statute



2023 Priority Admissions Task Force Recommendations

1. Immediately begin to increase capacity of Direct Care and Treatment;
2. Form Joint Incident collaboration to actively facilitate discharges for DCT patients;
3. Approve an exception to the Priority Admissions law;
4. Create and implement new Priority Admissions criteria to the Direct Care and Treatment facilities;
5. Increase access to services provided in the community;
6. Provide funding to administer mental health medications to individuals in custody;
7. Relieve counties of some cost for individuals awaiting transfer to other DCT facilities;
8. Expedite Minnesota's Section 1115 Waiver Application for Individuals in custody; and
9. Increase Forensic Examiner accessibility.

2024 Priority Admissions Review Panel

- In 2024, the legislature directed the task force members to convene (as a review panel) to consider the following:
 - Evaluate the 48-hour timeline for priority admissions.
 - Develop policy and legislative proposals related to the priority admissions timeline
 - Advise the commissioner on the effectiveness of the priority admissions framework
 - Review admissions data on a quarterly basis
 - Submit a report by Feb. 1, 2025, with legislative proposals

2024 Priority Admissions Review Panel Recommendations

1. Expand access to care.
2. Extend the sunset provision for two years during which time the Legislature must develop DCT and community capacity.
3. Increase data sharing and transparency.
4. Provide basic mental health care in jails.
5. Continue “Does Not Meet Criteria (DNMC)” payment relief to counties for clients in certain situations.
6. Renew the exception for up to 10 patients from community-based hospitals to be prioritized for admission to a DCT bed.

2025 Priority Admissions Review Panel

- In 2025, the legislature directed the review panel members to convene to consider the following:
 - Evaluate the 48-hour timeline for priority admissions and measure progress toward recommendations in previous reports.
 - Develop policy and legislative proposals related to the priority admissions timeline.
 - Evaluate existing mobile crisis programs and funding
 - Evaluate the county correctional facility medication pilot and the DCT jail consultation pilot
 - Evaluate existing intensive residential treatment services (IRTS)
 - Study local fiscal impacts and provide evaluation support of the limited capacity and access to mental health services in Minnesota.
 - Review de-identified data on a quarterly basis on admissions and notification processes.
 - Submit a report by Feb. 1, 2026.

- Chairs and Membership
 - Teresa Steinmetz, Assistant Commissioner of Behavioral Health, DHS
 - Laura Sayles, Director of Government Relations, Attorney General's Office
 - Membership adjustment
- 5 meetings since September. Report due Feb 1, 2026
- Themes (so far)
 - Continued recommendations from prior years (Jail Consult Service, 10 hospital exceptions)
 - Capacity (Community + DCT)

- Focus on continuum of services
- DCT jail consultation service
- DCT capacity changes
- Medically appropriate bed language
- DNMC changes

Thank You!

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