



# Governor's Advisory Council on Opioids, Substance Use, and Addiction

Office of Addiction and Recovery

# Agenda

- Welcome and roll call
- Council time with the Office of Addiction and Recovery
- Institute for Justice: 2026 Legislative Efforts to Reform Minnesota's Background Study Process for Permanent Disqualifications
- MN Story Collective
- Discussion of Interagency State Substance Use Plan Report
- Public comment
- Debrief and adjourn

# Council Charge

## Purpose

- Advise the Governor's Subcabinet on Opioids, Substance Use, and Addiction on the purposes and duties described in Minnesota Statutes 4.046.
- Represent community leaders, individuals with direct experience with addiction (and recovery), individuals providing treatment services, and other relevant stakeholders.

# Council duties

1

Advise the Subcabinet regarding implementation of its purpose, policy and strategy development, and public engagement.

2

Identify opportunities and barriers for the development and implementation of policies and strategies to expand access to effective services for people in Minnesota suffering from (experiencing) addiction (and recovery).

3

Examine what services and supports are needed in communities that are disproportionately impacted by the opioid epidemic.

4

Provide opportunities for Minnesotans who have directly experienced addiction (and recovery,) to address needs, challenges, and solutions.

# Advisory council guiding principles

- **Center equity:** Acknowledge the disparities in Minnesota and the communities that are disproportionality impacted, including those based on race, geography, and economic status. The council agrees to support the Governor and Lieutenant Governor's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity as essential core values and top priorities to achieve better outcomes for all Minnesotans.
- **Acknowledge intersectionality:** Recognize the role of intersectionality and the need to address stigma and disparities to achieve outcomes for individuals and families impacted by substance use and addiction. This includes being geographically responsive and acknowledging the unique needs in urban and rural communities.
- **Take a systems level approach:** Acknowledge that solutions do not exist in isolation and that underlying structures and systems often prevent successful treatment and recovery outcomes, including workforce, housing, criminal justice, and financing challenges.
- **Create an inclusive process:** Engage and listen to the voices of people with lived experience to provide community and individual input into decisions that affect them.
- **Focus on results:** Identify opportunities for the development and implementation of policies and strategies that are transformative and lead to better outcomes for individuals and families.



Open meeting law requires public bodies to **record and maintain votes** of its members.



Formal votes will be held for meeting minutes and formal decisions made by the Advisory Council.



Virtual meetings require a vote by roll call and a quorum (simple majority) is required to vote.

# Roll call and introductions

- Share your name and affiliation

# Approval of meeting minutes

- Approval of February 2026 meeting minutes.

- Communities and Cultures Workgroup update
- Updating the Advisory Council charter
- The goals and scope of the Communities and Cultures workgroup

# Council time with the Office of Addiction and Recovery

- Federal updates
- Naloxone Saturation Reconvening
- Interagency State Substance Use Plan Report
- [DOC 2911 Rules Posted for Public Comment](#)
- Legislative updates

Interagency State Substance Use  
Plan Report



# Legislative Updates

- Omnibus Human Services Policy Bill (HF729/SF476)
  - BHA policy bill in both
  - Housing stabilization repeal and redesign in both
  - MARRCH policy bill has some provisions in each
  - Several Medical Assistance provisions that will need to be negotiated into both
- Pharmacist prescribing MOUD (HF4493/SF4486)
- Removal of random drug testing for MFIP or SNAP (HF1900/SF2868)
- Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) for peer recovery (HF3634/SF3861)

# Legislative Updates 2

- Omnibus Public Safety Policy Bill (HF3990/SF4760)
  - Age for possession of kratom increased to 21
  - Licensing and inspecting juvenile and adult community-based residential correctional facilities
  - Allowing for alternative standards to 245G in adult and juvenile correctional facilities
- Many anti-fraud and program integrity bills still being negotiated
- New Laws
  - Chapter 40 - Cannabis laboratory testing requirements extension provision
  - Chapter 43 – HUD CoC funding bridge

- DHS Budget Package
  - Transforming the Human Services System
  - H.R. 1 Compliance
  - Enhancing Program Integrity
  - Housing Stabilization and Redesign
  - Juvenile and Adult Carceral Case Management
  - Behavioral Health Fund County Share Increase to 50%
  - Recovery Residence Certification Date Change: was July 1, 2027, now July 1, 2026

Break



4/7/2026

# SF 3238 & HF 3174

## Background Study Reform: Supporting Government Transparency and Workforce Access

Presented by:

- Meagan Forbes, Institute for Justice, [mforbes@ij.org](mailto:mforbes@ij.org)
- Thomas Powell



# The Problem

Minnesota's background study process is designed to protect the vulnerable. This is important, but the current system can permanently disqualify people from healthcare and social work jobs even when they are fully rehabilitated. There is no pathway to get these disqualifications set aside.

## No Second Chance

Permanent disqualifications offer zero recourse, unlike time-limited disqualifications.

## Stricter Than Other States

Minnesota's process is more restrictive than other states' systems.

## Risk Already Gone

People can remain disqualified even when they no longer pose any risk pose any risk to others.



## What the Bill Does:

The bill allows people with certain permanent disqualifications to seek reconsideration and a set-aside from the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services.



Reconsideration is **not available** if federal law requires the disqualification, or if the offense involved murder, involved murder, manslaughter, criminal sexual conduct, or crimes against children.

## 2022 TASK FORCE FINDINGS

In 2022, the Minnesota Legislature convened the Human Services Background Study Eligibility Task Force.

One task force recommendation was to create an appeals and set-aside process for permanent disqualifications.



### Stricter Than Peers

Minnesota's process is more restrictive than other states' processes.

### Outdated Disqualifications

People get disqualified even when they no longer pose a risk.

### Recommendation

Allow permanent disqualifications the same reconsideration pathway as time-limited ones.

# Thomas Powell's Story

# How the Bill Helps Returning Citizens:

## A Path to Reconsideration

Returning citizens can formally request that the Commissioner review their disqualifications—something current law does not allow.

## Return to Meaningful Work

With a set-aside, returning citizens can pursue jobs in healthcare and social work and use their lived experience to help others.

## Family Stability

Access to higher-wage careers in care work means greater financial security for returning citizens and their families and supports rehabilitation.

# Benefits for Minnesota



## Supports Rehabilitative Services

Employers want to hire people with with records. Research shows these these hires perform as well or better on key job metrics.



## Strengthens Families

Healthcare and social work jobs jobs offer higher wages and let people use lived experience to support their communities.



## Reduces Recidivism

Employment is one of the strongest factors against reoffending. After 3 years After 3 years post-release, re-offending is rare.

Break



4/7/2026

# MN Story Collective

**m** MINNESOTA

Share your story

About



## EVERYONE HAS A VOICE AND A STORY.

MN StoryCollective is a way for you to share your experiences, generate ideas for change, and help support the state's many communities. We care about the wellbeing of all who live here. MN StoryCollective connects the voices of residents with those making decisions. Together, we'll strengthen Minnesota's communities as we strive to create a brighter future for all.

**Do you have an experience to tell us about?**



YOUR STORY. MINNESOTA'S COMMITMENT.

# Interagency State Substance Use Plan – Subcabinet’s strategic priorities for the state plan

Aspect	Phase 1: Current State	Phase 2: Strategic Alignment	Phase 3: Statewide Planning
Timeline	2024-2025	2026	2027+
Status	✓ Complete	→ In Progress	→ Future
Scope of planning	Interagency	Interagency	Statewide

**Definition:** A structured approach to solving complex social concerns that require coordinated action across multiple organizations (agencies) where no single entity has the authority, resources, or capacity to solve the problem alone.

1. Strategic priorities and goals
2. Shared measurement system
3. Strategic coordination
4. Accountability mechanisms
5. Coordination infrastructure

# Three-phase approach to planning: Phase 2

## **Developing Strategic Alignment:**

- Identifying shared strategic priorities
- Identifying measurable goals
- Establishing accountability mechanisms for alignment

**Purpose:** Transform descriptive understanding into strategic action with clear priorities, goals, and accountability

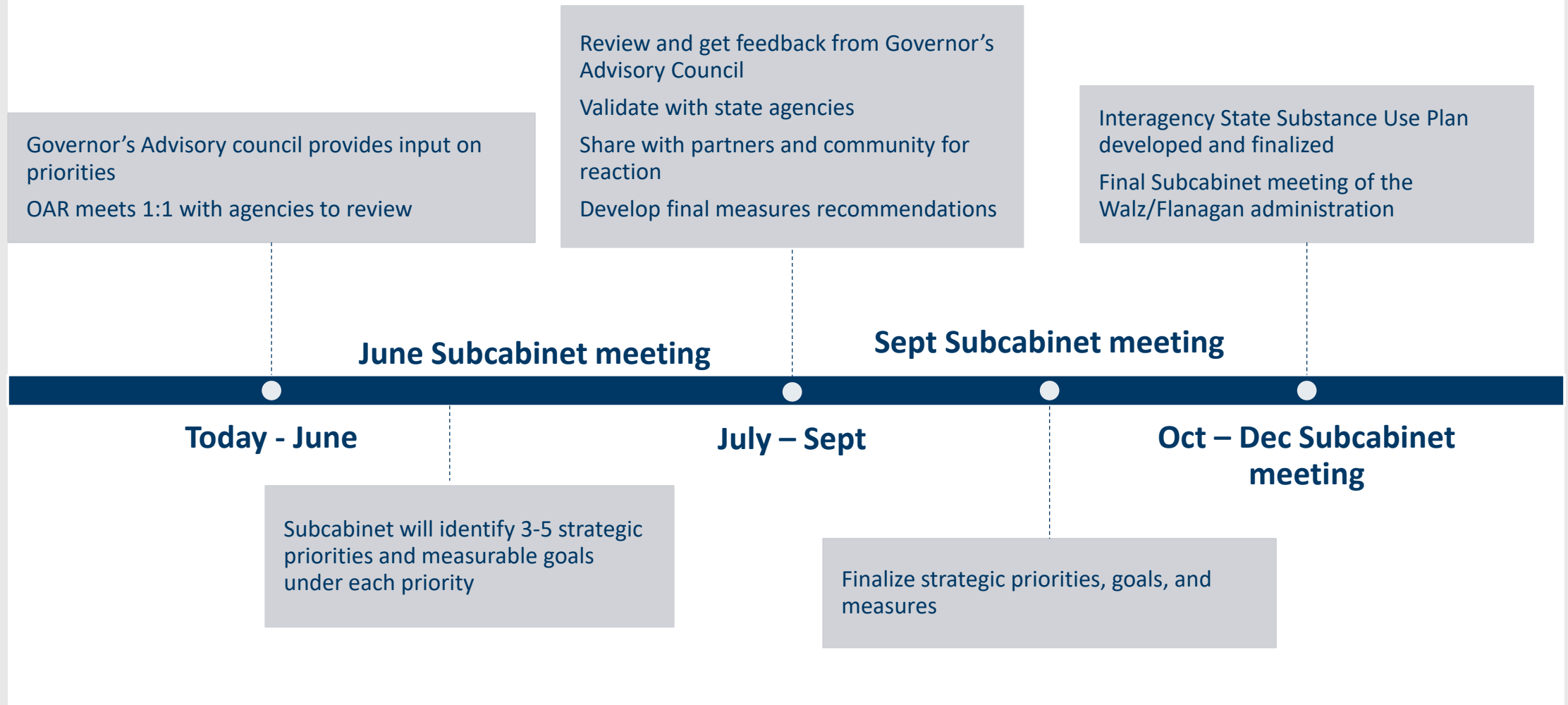
**Approach:** Interagency planning—collaborative and action-oriented

**Deliverable:** Published Interagency State SUD Plan (Late 2026)

# Advise the Subcabinet

- Identifying 3-5 areas of priority to bring forward to inform the Subcabinet's strategic priorities for the interagency state plan.

# What happens next



# Public comment opportunity

- Try to limit comments to two minutes so others may speak.
- The facilitator will help you mind the time.
- Please submit public comments to [officeofaddictionandrecovery.mmb@state.mn.us](mailto:officeofaddictionandrecovery.mmb@state.mn.us)
- You are also welcome to contact Jeremy Drucker, Addiction and Recovery Director [jeremy.drucker@state.mn.us](mailto:jeremy.drucker@state.mn.us)

# Debrief and adjourn

- Closing comments from the chair and vice-chair
- Reimbursement requests for traveling to today's meeting are due by April 21 and must be submitting using the updated 2026 [Advisory council vendor's invoice](#).
  - Available online and on SharePoint.
- The next meeting is Tuesday, July 14, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
  - Virtual

# Thank You!

<https://mn.gov/mmb/oar/gacosua/>

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