ADVISORY TASK FORCE ON GOVERNANCE AND FINANCING OF HENNEPIN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, INC.

Draft Charge Statement

The proposed charge of the Task Force

Laurel Health Advisors, LLC

Status	Draft 0.4, Tuesday, October 6, 2026, for review by the Chair and the Health Subcabinet. Proposed for adoption by the Task Force at Meeting 3 on Wednesday, October 14, 2026.

The legislative charge

In May 2026, the Minnesota Legislature created the Advisory Task Force on Governance and Financing of Hennepin Healthcare System, Inc. (Task Force) in Minnesota Laws 2026, Chapter 127, Article 3, Section 18. The law directs the Task Force to:

- Evaluate the governance and financing of Hennepin Healthcare System, Inc.
- Evaluate the governance and financing of comparable public hospital systems nationwide.
- Assess reimbursement.
- Identify workforce needs, including education and training.
- Recommend future structures of ownership, governance and funding, with draft legislative language.

In doing so, the Task Force must consult people with expertise in ten areas named in the law, and report to the Legislature by January 15, 2027 and again by January 15, 2028.

Why this work matters

Hennepin Healthcare serves patients regardless of their ability to pay, trains a large share of Minnesota's health workforce, and provides trauma, burn, behavioral health and specialty care that patients from across the state rely on. State funding approved in 2026 serves as a bridge. The Task Force's work is to recommend how Hennepin Healthcare can be sustained over the long term.

The central question

> **The question the Task Force will answer**
>
> What level of state support is appropriate to sustain Hennepin Healthcare over the long term, and under what ownership, governance and financing arrangements should it be provided?

To answer it, the Task Force will need to understand:

- What Hennepin Healthcare needs to meet its obligations to patients, to its workforce and to the state's health system.
- What is currently driving the financial position for Hennepin Healthcare?
- What Hennepin County and the community can sustain, and how much of the remaining need is appropriately a state responsibility.

- Which ownership, governance and financing arrangements, here and in other states, would best secure that support and make its use accountable to the public.

How the Task Force will carry out its charge

The Task Force will examine Hennepin Healthcare as it is today, learn from comparable public hospital systems, and hear from the experts the law names, and it will weigh options in open meetings. It is an advisory body: it makes recommendations, with draft legislative language where a change in law is needed, and the Legislature and the Administration decide. Recommendations do not require unanimity, and the Task Force will show where members agree and where they differ. Its reports will be as substantive as the evidence allows; where the evidence does not yet support a conclusion, the Task Force will say so and carry the question forward rather than force an answer.

Scope

The charge is specific to Hennepin Healthcare. Because the safety net works as a system, the Task Force will note where its recommendations depend on, or would affect, safety net care elsewhere in Minnesota, and it may discuss general principles for broader financing reform. It will not make specific recommendations on the mechanisms or funding sources for those broader reforms.