

## Meeting Minutes: MI&D Task Force Meeting

Date: 3/24/2025  
Minutes prepared by: Kari Gallagher  
Location: Scott County Government Center-Virtual via Microsoft Teams

### Attendance

- Marshall Smith
- Dr. Hirachan
- Robin Bode
- Megan Larison
- Sue Abderholden
- Dr. Kristen Otte
- Dr. Amber Lindeman
- Anne Zimmerman
- Cassie Sassenberg
- Sheila Novack
- Lisa Harrison-Hadler
- Dalaine Remes
- Dr. Ian Heath

### Guests

- Matt Freeman
- Tim Carey
- Dr. Colt Blunt
- Dr. Joshua Griffiths
- Dr. Michael Thompson
- Andrea Martin

### Next Meeting

Date: April 21, 2025  
Time: 9:00am-12:00pm  
Location: To Be Determined

## Agenda

### 1. Recommendations from Workgroup 1 and Workgroup 2, 9:00am-10:00am

- Workgroup 1 (Objectives 1 and 2)
- Workgroup 2 (Objective 5 and 6)

### 2. Working Meeting for Workgroups, 10:00am-12:00pm

## Meeting Notes

### Reflections on Individual and Families Stories Shared

- I. Task force members affirmed the value of stories in guiding recommendations and ensuring families feel heard.
- II. Consensus to include a section in the final report that reflects on family contributions and outlines how their input shaped recommendations.

### Recommendations from Workgroup 1 and 2

- I. Workgroup 1 (Objectives 1 and 2)
  - a. The workgroup reviewed national trends in indefinite commitment and state civil commitment statutes
    - i. Nationally, there has been a 76% increase in forensic inpatient populations.
    - ii. Referrals for MI&D (Mentally Ill and Dangerous) admissions across the DCT (Direct Care and Treatment) system increased by 110% between fiscal years 2015 and 2024.
    - iii. Prior to 2019, a dedicated competency restoration program existed within the Forensic Mental Health Program (FMHP) for Rule 20 patients.
    - iv. After 2019, those beds were absorbed into the broader FMHP (Forensics Mental Health Program) to accommodate the growing MI&D population.

II. Workgroup 2 (Objectives 5 and 6)

- a. Focused on improving the assessment and evaluation process to prevent inappropriate MI&D commitments.
- b. Proposed the creation of:
  - i. A dedicated assessment and stabilization facility (state-operated, secure, and regional).
  - ii. Regional state-run residential settings that meet varying levels of support needs.
- c. Recommended expanded access to transitional care settings, consistent funding for county case management, and better discharge planning to avoid unnecessary revocations.
- d. Supported the need for flexible and person-centered residential options, potentially modeled after successful programs like Rising Cedars and Life Bridge.

Working Meeting for Workgroups

- I. Task force members divided into workgroups for working sessions.
  - a. Workgroups convened included:
    - i. (Objectives 3 & 4)
    - ii. (Objective 7)