



Mental Health Justice Initiative

Purpose

The Mental Health Justice Initiative (MHJI) was established by Judicial Council to foster collaboration and open dialogue between the Minnesota Judicial Branch, justice partners, and community members. The Advisory committee will identify, develop, and implement shared solutions to improve outcomes for justice-involved individuals living with mental illness.

Objectives

- Monitor Judicial Branch case data to track how mental health issues are influencing the state's legal proceedings (e.g., trends in adult competency proceedings, civil commitment cases, treatment courts, and procedures).
- Identify state and national best practices in responding to mental health matters in legal proceedings.
- Collaborate with external partners and advise the Judicial Branch on matters that impact individuals with mental illness and the response of the justice system with a focus on expanding resources and meaningful interventions (e.g., placements, treatment, and support services).
- Recommend training and education efforts for judicial officers and justice partners related to working effectively with people who have mental illness.
- Improve statewide justice system processes and procedures by incorporating input from local action teams that identify system challenges and potential solutions. Recommendations will focus on improving outcomes for justice-involved individuals living with mental illness in a culturally competent manner.

Leadership

The committee is led by a judicial chair, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The chair will serve a two-year term, with the option to be appointed for one additional two-year term.

The Advisory Committee meets quarterly, develops an annual work plan and a biennial report that includes all work completed, recommendations for justice partners, and



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recommendations for Judicial Council. Committee membership is limited to 25 members appointed to a two-year term.

Stakeholder representation includes:

- Judicial Council Rep
- District Court Judge, metro
- District Court Judge, non-metro
- Mental Health Court Judge
- Court Administrator
- Tribal Court Representative
- Minnesota County Attorneys Association
- Public Defender
- MN Chiefs of Police Association
- MN Sheriff's Association
- MN Department of Corrections
- Community Corrections (MACCAC)
- Department of Human Services
- Direct Care and Treatment
- Competency Attainment Board
- MACSSA
- Community Mental Health Provider
- Healthcare Facility
- Mental Health Advocate
- Court Appointed Forensic Examiner
- Mental Health Court Coordinator
- Statewide Psych Examiner Services Program
- Person with Lived Experience
- Family Member with Lived Experience

State Court Administrator's Office MHJI Staff includes:

- State Behavioral Health Coordinator, Legal Counsel Division and Statewide Programs Unit.

Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule

- October 29, 2024
 - 12:00 pm-3:30 pm (onsite)



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- January 28, 2025
 - 1:00 pm-4:00 pm (virtual)
- April 22, 2025
 - 1:00 pm-4:00 pm (virtual)
- July 22, 2025
 - 1:00 pm-4:00 pm (virtual)
- October 28, 2025
 - 12:00 pm-3:30 pm (onsite)

Onsite meetings will be held at the Minnesota Judicial Center in Saint Paul, Minnesota. For questions, please contact: mhji@courts.state.mn.us