Home Care and Assisted Living Advisory Council

Quarterly Meeting

September 22, 2025

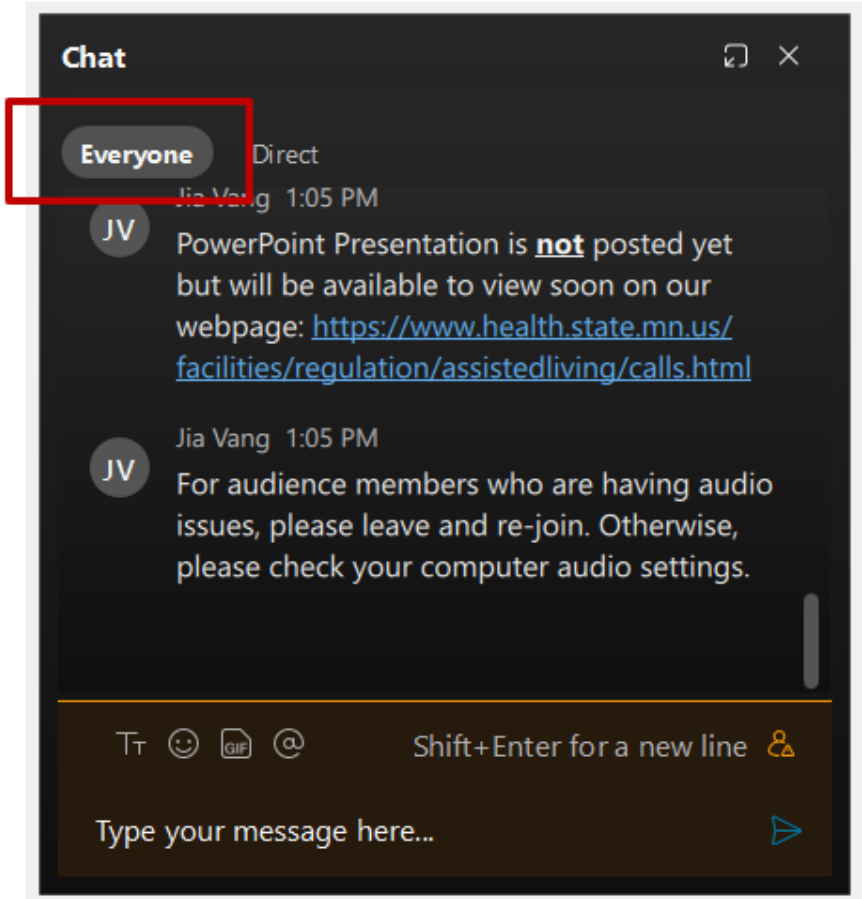
Welcome to the Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting

Webex Participants

Advisory Council meetings are held at least quarterly to conduct the business of the Council. Meetings are open to the public and public comments in the Webex Chat are reviewed.

Participants are muted.

To make a comment, click on the chat bubble to open the chat, select "Everyone", and provide a comment. Messages sent privately may not be addressed due to logistics.



Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

- ❑ Welcome & Housekeeping
- ❑ New Council Appointments & Open Vacancies
- ❑ 2025 Legislative Changes Related to the Advisory Council
- ❑ Request for Proposal Updates & Council Discussion

New Council Appointments & Open Vacancies

Daphne Ponds | Advisory Council Chair

New Appointments

Brianna Wallen Lindell

- Home Care Licensee #1

Chelsea Lentz

- Member representing County Health and Human Services or Adult County Protection

Dan Stewart

- Member representing Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Development Disabilities (OOMHDD)

Open Council Vacancies

Public Member (Assisted Living)

- Recent resignation of Karen Webb

Public Member (Home Care)

- Applications under review

One representative of a consumer advocacy organization representing individuals receiving long-term care from licensed home care providers or assisted living facilities

- New position
- Position anticipated to be added to the Secretary of State website by early October.

2025 Legislative Changes Related to the Advisory Council

Jill Freudenwald | HRD Legislative Agency Policy Specialist

2025 Legislative Changes

The 2025 Minnesota Legislature passed changes to Minnesota Statute 144A.4799 that impacts the Advisory Council's name, membership, duties, and responsibilities.

Effective July 1, 2025

Changes to Minn. Stat. 144A.4799

Minnesota Statutes 144A.4799 was amended by:

Laws 2025, 1st Special Session, chapter 9, article 8, section 3

144A.4799 ~~DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH LICENSED~~ HOME CARE ~~PROVIDER~~ AND ASSISTED LIVING ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Changes to Minn. Stat. 144A.4799, subd. 1 (1/2)

Subdivision 1. **Membership.**

The commissioner of health shall appoint ~~13~~ 14 persons to a home care and assisted living ~~program~~ advisory council consisting of the following:

(1) ~~two~~ four public members as defined in section 214.02 ~~who shall be persons who are currently receiving home care services, persons who have received home care services within five years of the application date, persons who have family members receiving home care services, or persons who have family members who have received home care services within five years of the application date~~, one of whom must be a person who either is receiving or has received home care services preferably within the five years prior to initial appointment, one of whom must be a person who has or had a family member receiving home care services preferably within the five years prior to initial appointment, one of whom must be a person who either is or has been a resident in an assisted living facility preferably within the five years prior to initial appointment, and one of whom must be a person who has or had a family member residing in an assisted living facility preferably within the five years prior to initial appointment;

Changes to Minn. Stat. 144A.4799, subd. 1 (2/2)

(9) ~~two public members as defined in section 214.02. One public member shall be a person who either is or has been a resident in an assisted living facility and one public member shall be a person who has or had a family member living in an assisted living facility setting~~ one representative of a consumer advocacy organization representing individuals receiving long-term care from licensed home care providers or assisted living facilities.

Changes to Minn. Stat. 144A.4799, subd. 3(a) (1/2)

Subd. 3. **Duties.**

(a) At the commissioner's request, the advisory council shall provide advice regarding regulations of Department of Health licensed assisted living facilities and home care providers in this chapter and chapter 144G, including advice on the following:

(1) community standards for home care practices;

(2) enforcement of licensing standards and whether certain disciplinary actions are appropriate;

(3) ways of distributing information to licensees and consumers of home care and assisted living services defined under chapter 144G;

(4) training standards;

Changes to MN Stat. 144A.4799, subd. 3(a) (2/2)

(5) identifying emerging issues and opportunities in home care and assisted living services defined under chapter 144G;

(6) identifying the use of technology in home and telehealth capabilities;

(7) allowable home care licensing modifications and exemptions, including a method for an integrated license with an existing license for rural licensed nursing homes to provide limited home care services in an adjacent independent living apartment building owned by the licensed nursing home; and

(8) recommendations for studies using the data in section 62U.04, subdivision 4, including but not limited to studies concerning costs related to dementia and chronic disease among an elderly population over 60 and additional long-term care costs~~, as described in section 62U.10, subdivision 6~~.

Changes to Minn. Stat. 144A.4799, subd. 3(c) (1/2)

Subd. 3. **Duties.**

(c) The advisory council shall ~~annually~~ make recommendations annually to the commissioner for the purposes of allocating the appropriation in ~~section~~ sections 144A.474, subdivision 11, paragraph ~~(i)~~ (j), and 144G.31, subdivision 8. The commissioner shall act upon the recommendations of the advisory council within one year of the advisory council submitting its recommendations to the commissioner. The recommendations shall address ways the commissioner may improve protection of the public under existing statutes and laws and improve quality of care. The council's recommendations may include but are not limited to special projects or initiatives that:

Changes to Minn. Stat. 144A.4799, subd. 3(c) (2/2)

(1) create and administer training of licensees and ongoing training for their employees to improve clients' and residents' lives, ~~supporting ways that~~ support licensees, ~~can~~ improve and enhance quality care, and ~~ways to~~ provide technical assistance to licensees to improve compliance;

(2) develop and implement information technology and data projects that analyze and communicate information about trends ~~of~~ in violations or lead to ways of improving resident and client care;

(3) improve communications strategies to licensees and the public;

(4) recruit and retain direct care staff;

(5) recommend education related to the care of vulnerable adults in professional nursing programs, nurse aide programs, and home health aide programs; and

(6) ~~other projects or pilots that~~ benefit residents, clients, families, and the public in other ways.

2025 Legislative Change Impacting MDH

The 2025 Minnesota Legislature made changes to Minnesota Statute 144G.31 tasking the Commissioner of Health with administering a competitive grant program for assisted living licensees utilizing fine monies from the dedicated special revenue account.

Changes to Minn. Stat. 144G.31

Laws 2025, 1st Special Session, chapter 9, article 8, section 5

144G.31 VIOLATIONS AND FINES.

Subd. 8. **Deposit of fines.**

Fines collected under this section shall be deposited in a dedicated special revenue account. ~~On an annual basis,~~ The balance in the special revenue account ~~shall be~~ is appropriated to the commissioner for ~~special projects to improve~~ a competitive grant program for special projects or initiatives for assisted living facilities licensed under this chapter or other organizations or entities with experience in or knowledge of assisted living operations, compliance, resident needs, or best practices for the purpose of improving resident quality of care and outcomes in assisted living facilities licensed under this chapter in Minnesota ~~as recommended by the advisory council established in section 144A.4799.~~, including those projects consistent with criteria in section 144A.4799, subdivision 3, paragraph (c). A facility with a provisional license under this chapter is not eligible to apply. The balance in the special revenue account as of January 1, 2026, must be appropriated for grants within two years, provided there are enough grant requests totaling the sum in the account. Thereafter, money in the special revenue account must be appropriated annually. The minimum amount of a grant award is $10,000. The commissioner may retain up to ten percent of the amount available to cover costs to administer the grants under this section.

Key Takeaways from 2025 Legislative Changes (1/2)

- ✓ Council name changed to Home Care and Assisted Living Advisory Council.
- ✓ Language changes to clarify public member Councils positions – two public member positions for home care and two public member positions for assisted living.
- ✓ New Council member position created increasing Council membership from 13 to 14; new position is a member of a consumer advocacy organization.
- ✓ Clarifies duties of the Council, including the Council's annual recommendations to the Commissioner and Commissioner's response to those recommendations within one-year.

Key Takeaways from 2025 Legislative Changes (2/2)

- ✓ MDH will administer a competitive grant program for assisted living licensees utilizing the assisted living fine monies in the designated special revenue account.
- ✓ The balance of the assisted living fine monies in the special revenue account should be spent in two years through competitive grants (dependent on grant submissions) and annually thereafter.
- ✓ Grant legislation is effective January 1, 2026.

Request for Proposal Updates & Council Discussion

Request for Proposal Recap

The Advisory Council submitted its annual recommendations to the Commissioner of Health which included recommendations to create home care and assisted living educational resources for licenses.

MDH posted a Request for Proposal (RFP) on behalf of the Advisory Council to provide the expertise, experience, and knowledge to meet three goals:

1) Create statutorily correct forms and training materials.

2) Create a Provider Digital Toolkit for Minnesota Home Care and Minnesota Assisted Living providers; and

3) Provide joint trainings in coordination with home care and assisted living surveyors and providers to share the information and processes of goal 1 and 2, including any current statutory updates at the time of the trainings.

Request for Proposal Contract Awarded

The RFP bids closed on June 10, 2025. The evaluation team comprised of the Advisory Council Chair and some Council members scored the proposals and made its recommendation.

The RFP was awarded to Stratis Health. Contract negotiations are complete, and the contract with Stratis Health was executed as of September 10, 2025.

MDH held a brief introductory meeting with Stratis Health on September 17, 2026, to hold initial discussion regarding next steps to plan on-going meetings and begin implementation of the workplan.

Advisory Council Discussion

What regulatory topics do you believe should be prioritized with the creation of the educational materials?

- *What resources do home care applicants and licensees need most?*
- *What resources do assisted living applicants and licensees need most?*

How might the Council be involved with this process? Would one or two Council members be willing to assisted MDH by coming to workplan meetings for input?

What’s Next?

December 15 Quarterly Meeting

Next Advisory Council quarterly meeting is Monday, December 15 at 1:00 PM

Tentative Agenda

- ❑ Advisory Council Vacancy Update
- ❑ FY 2025 Home Care and Assisted Living Licensing, Survey, Complaint, and Reconsideration Data
- ❑ Home Care and Assisted Living Resources Project Update
- ❑ Annual Recommendations to the Commissioner Discussion

Questions?

Advisory Council questions:

- Email Daphne Ponds at daphne.ponds@state.mn.us

Home Care questions:

- Email health.homecare@state.mn.us

Assisted Living questions:

- Email health.assistedliving@state.mn.us