



JOINT TASK FORCE ON REGIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ACCOUNTABILITY

House Bill 4002 (2024)

Task Force Operating Procedures

82nd Legislative Assembly

2023 - 2024 Interim

Purpose and Roles

I. Task Force Background

The Oregon Legislative Assembly passed House Bill 4002 during the 2024 Legislative Session. The legislation established a 26-member Joint Task Force on Regional Behavioral Health Accountability (Task Force).

II. Task Force Membership

Task Force members are appointed by the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and Governor. The President of the Senate and Speaker of the House each appoint two members, one from the majority party and one from the minority party in each respective chamber. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court appoints one member from the Judicial Department. The Governor appoints 21 members as follows:

- One member representing the Oregon Health Authority;
- One member representing the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission;
- One member representing the Department of Human Services;
- One member representing coordinated care organizations;
- One member representing providers of psychiatric care in clinical settings;
- One member representing Oregon counties;
- One member representing Oregon cities;
- One member who provides county mental health services or who represents county mental health providers;
- One member from a large labor organization representing behavioral health workers;
- One member who is a behavioral health provider or who represents private and nonprofit behavioral health providers;
- One member who provides nonprofit substance use disorder treatment or who represents nonprofit substance use disorder treatment providers;
- One member from a large labor organization representing nurses;

- One member who is a licensed doctor or who represents licensed doctors with experience in behavioral health or substance use disorder treatment programs, care delivery or funding;
- One member from a business coalition representing the hospital industry;
- One member from a business coalition representing the insurance industry;
- One member from a business coalition representing pharmacists;
- One member representing a consumer of behavioral health services;
- One member with extensive experience in Oregon Indian tribes and a deep understanding of Oregon’s rural and urban tribal populations, appointed after consultation with the Commission on Indian Services;
- One member who is an emergency response transportation provider;
- One member representing long term care facilities; and
- One member with experience in regional behavioral health system governance.

III. Task Force Responsibilities

The bill requires the Task Force to develop recommendations to:

- (a) Improve collaboration and accountability across, federal, state and local behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment programs and funding;
- (b) Ensure equitable outcomes in public supported treatment settings arose Oregon communities;
- (c) Provide great cost efficiencies in the continuum of care of Oregon’s behavioral health system; and
- (d) Establish broad access to methadone and other opioid use disorder medications through mobile devices, telehealth and pharmacy-based services to measurably increase the engagement statewide of individuals with opioid use disorder in opioid use disorder treatment.

The measure requires Task Force recommendations to include:

- (a) Any statutory changes needed to ensure that federal, state and local funds are being spent to maximize outcome and resource efficiency;
- (b) Policy changes recommended based on a comparative analysis of policies in other states that spend less on treatment but demonstrate better behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment outcomes, including better outcomes for groups that are disproportionately impacted by health inequities; and
- (c) Any governance changes that would facilitate greater alignment of spending decisions between federal, state and local behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment programs.

The Task Force is required to submit draft recommendations to interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to health no later than September 15, 2025 and final recommendations no later than December 15, 2025.

IV. Task Force Member Responsibilities

Members of the Task Force agree to fulfill their responsibilities by attending and participating in Task Force meetings, studying the available information, and participating in the development of a report. Members agree to participate in good faith and to act in the best interests of the Task Force and its charge. Members accept the responsibility to collaborate in developing potential recommendations that are fair and constructive for the State.

Members will consider a range of issues and options to address them, discuss the pros and cons of the issues and options presented, and deliver a report with key conclusions reflecting the sense of the group. For all recommendations adopted, the Task Force should include the rationale behind them.

Specific Task Force member responsibilities include:

- Reviewing background materials and analysis to understand the issues to be addressed in the review process.
- Working collaboratively with one another to explore issues and develop recommendations.
- Attending Task Force meetings, including presentation of the Task Force report to Legislative Committees if possible.
- Reviewing public comments
- Checking in with their constituency between meetings to ensure their voice is representing that constituency.

Task Force members acknowledge that their role is to provide advice. Any Task Force recommendations will be presented to the legislature for consideration.

The Chair's Role

House Bill 4002 provides for the selection of a Chairperson (Chair) by the Task Force. The Chair will encourage full and safe participation by members in all aspects of the process, assist in the process of building consensus, and ensure all participants abide by the expectations for the decision-making process and behavior defined herein. The Chair will work with Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) staff to develop meeting agendas and ensure an efficient decision-making process. The Chair will also serve as liaison between the Task Force and the legislature.

V. Role of Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO)

House Bill 4002 requires LPRO to provide staff support to the Task Force. This support can include posting meetings agendas and materials to the Oregon Legislative Information System (OLIS), technical and logistical assistance, and substantive expertise. House Bill 4002 also requires LPRO to support the Task Force by:

- (a) Researching and providing analysis on current behavioral health funding streams that support the continuum of care across Oregon communities;

- (b) Reviewing strategies that have been successful in other states, including through the use of federal Medicaid waivers or Medicaid demonstration projects;
- (c) Reviewing data related to the challenges faced by individuals receiving substance use disorder treatment in publicly supported treatment settings; and
- (d) Reviewing the responsibilities of county and state agencies and the accountability of county and state agencies for providing behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment.

At the end of the process, LPRO staff will draft a report that outlines the issues discussed, details the recommendations for which there is consensus, and any remaining issues on which consensus was not reached.

VI. Role of Executive Agencies

House Bill 4002 requires all agencies of state government to assist the Task Force in the performance of its duties and, to the extent permitted by laws relating to confidentiality, to furnish information and advice the members of the Task Force consider necessary to perform their duties.

Operating Procedures

I. Protocols

All participants agree to act in good faith in all aspects of Task Force deliberations. This includes being honest and refraining from undertaking any actions that will undermine or threaten the deliberative process. It also includes behavior outside of meetings.

Expectations for Task Force members include:

- Participation and attendance at all meetings. If members cannot attend a meeting, they should provide advance notice to LPRO staff to the extent possible. After missing a meeting, the member should review the recording and any supplemental meeting materials posted to OLIS.
- Speaking respectfully, briefly, and non-repetitively during Task Force discussions and engaging in honest and fair dialogue with other Task Force members. They should listen to each other to seek to understand the other's perspective, even if they disagree.
- Generate and explore all options on the merits with an open mind, listening to different points of view with a goal of understanding the interests of other Task Force members. This includes bringing all aspects of their concerns about these issues into this process to be addressed.
- Work toward achieving consensus on fair, practical, and durable recommendations.
- Refrain from side conversations, personal attacks, intentionally undermining the process, or misstating the positions taken by any other participants during the process.
- Any communications should be mindful of these procedural ground rules and maintain a respectful tone, presenting a fair and balanced view of the issues and

arguments out of respect for the process and other members even if highlighting differing perspectives.

- Requests for information made outside of meetings will be directed to LPRO staff. Responses to such requests will be limited to items that can be provided within a reasonable amount of time.
- Task Force members should not communicate with a quorum of other Task Force members outside of the publicly noticed Task Force meetings, either in-person, via electronic communications, or via serial communications. State meetings law applies to this Task Force.

II. Meeting Procedures

Task Force Meetings

A majority of voting members constitutes a quorum for the transaction of Task Force business. Meetings will be conducted in a manner deemed appropriate by the Chair to foster collaborative decision-making and consensus building LPRO staff will work with the Chair to ensure that meetings:

- Clearly define opportunities where the public can provide timely input.
- Are accessible, inclusive, meaningful, regular, and timely in addition to open, fair, and honest.
- Ensure a collaborative involvement process among Task Force members and stakeholders.
- Wherever possible, are interactive to ensure a balanced and fair discussion of issues in which all perspectives are heard.
- Provide the Task Force with the relevant, objective, timely information in a readily understandable format.
- Provide context and background before asking the Task Force to make a recommendation.
- Are responsive to Task Force requests for information and process support.

Meetings may include a public comment opportunity including oral testimony. Comments from the public may be limited in time to allow sufficient opportunity to conduct the other portions of the Task Force agenda. Individuals are encouraged to submit written comment to LPRO staff for circulation to the full Task Force.

In the absence of a quorum, the Task Force may still receive public testimony.

Consensus and Voting

A consensus decision-making approach will be used to facilitate the Task Force's deliberations and to ensure that the Task Force receives the collective benefit of the individual views, experiences, backgrounds, training, and expertise of its members. Consensus is a participatory process whereby, on matters of substance, members strive for agreements that they can accept, support, live with, or agree not to oppose. Consensus means that no members voiced objection to the position, and they agree not to oppose the position. A member who opposes a position may request a roll call vote.

A roll call vote will take place when the Task Force acts on reports and recommendations to the Legislative Assembly. A member's "aye" vote signifies that the proposed report reflects the findings and recommendations agreed upon by the majority of Task Force members. An "aye" vote does not mean that the member agrees with each individual finding or recommendation. A member's "no" vote signifies that the member does not agree that the report reflects the findings and recommendations agreed upon by the majority of Task Force members. A "no" vote will be noted within the report with a link to the member's statement of explanation, to be provided within 24 hours of the vote and posted to OLIS. A Task Force member must be present to vote, and every member present shall vote except for non-voting members of the Legislative Assembly.

III. Communications and Records

Task Force meetings are open to the public and will be conducted under the provisions of Oregon Public Meetings Law ([ORS 192.610-690](#)). Task Force records, including formal documents, discussion drafts, meeting summaries, and exhibits, are public records. Communications of Task Force members are not confidential because the meetings and records of the Task Force are open to the public. "Communications" refers to all statements and votes made during Task Force meetings, memoranda, work projects, records, documents, or materials developed to fulfill the charge, including electronic mail correspondence. Task Force members are requested to include both the Chair(s) and Task Force staff in written communications commenting on the Task Force's deliberations from/to interest groups (other than a group specifically represented by a member). Task Force members should also take care not to "reply all" to emails sent to them by the Chair(s) or staff so as to avoid communicating with a quorum of members outside of publicly noticed Task Force meetings.

All meetings of the Task Force will be recorded and written summaries prepared. The video recordings shall be indexed and shall be posted on the [Oregon Legislative Information System \(OLIS\)](#) and placed with the Oregon Archivist in accordance with Oregon law. Meeting agendas, summaries, and supporting materials will also be posted to the Task Force [web page](#).

Materials and written comments to the Task Force, both from individual Task Force members and from agency representatives and the public, should be directed to LPRO staff. Materials and written comments submitted will be distributed by LPRO staff to the full Task Force through an established, transparent process. Materials and written comments will be posted to the Task Force web page.

Task force materials can be translated into other languages at the request of the Chair(s).