

Statewide Safety Council Meeting Notes

February 27, 2026

Meeting Outcomes

Rational objective

- Council logistics (information access, recommendation development process and work trajectory) are confirmed.
- Council's approach to working together (operating agreements) is defined.
- Initial outline for interim report (approved) and tentative early recommendations defined.

Experiential objective

Members feel more grounded in their approach to Council work, support how that work will unfold, and have made their first contributions to interim report early recommendations.

Attendance

Present

- Bob Jacobson, DPS
- Tikki Brown, DCYF
- Willie Jett, MDE
- Dr. Brooke Cunningham, MDH
- Shireen Gandhi, DHS
- Jenn Super, MN Supreme Court
- Drew Evans, BCA
- Christina Bogojevic, DPS
- Liz Johnston, AGO
- Chief Jay Henthorne, MCPA
- Kim Babine, MN OJP
- Dr. Deb Henton, MNASA
- Kristen Neville, AHA
- Brittany Haeg, AHA
- Marcus Schmit, NAMI

Topic

Welcome

Commissioner Bob Jacobson opened the meeting by welcoming Council members and observers, emphasizing appreciation for observer's interest in the work. The Council follows open meeting laws and meeting materials (agendas, slides, and meeting notes) may be found on the Dept. of Public Safety's website:

<https://dps.mn.gov/about-dps/associated-boards-cmtes-and-task-forces/governors-statewide-safety-council>

Given the tremendous amount of work the Council has before them, there are no plans to collect public input during Council meetings.

Agenda highlights

Commissioner Bob Jacobson provided an overview of the agenda emphasizing the meeting objectives of reviewing meeting logistics, Council operating agreements, and weighing in on initial 90-day report recommendations.

Operating Agreements

Council members discussed the operating agreements—statements that define members’ commitments to one another throughout this work. Members suggested additions to the agreements and agreed to follow them once revised.

Council logistics

The Council was briefed on how to access meeting materials and asked that Management Analysis and Development (MAD) provide an email notification whenever new information is added to the SharePoint site.

The Council reviewed upcoming meeting topics and the process for meeting its objectives, including members’ involvement in leading topic discussions.

Early recommendations

One of the Council’s objectives is to produce a 90-day report that includes the first set of recommendations, which are intended to be timely for the 2026 legislative session. The Council discussed the likelihood of these recommendations being adopted this session and acknowledged the realities of the legislative process, noting that policy recommendations may be more likely to succeed than funding recommendations. Members also discussed the importance of supporting the recommendations with their constituents and at the Minnesota Legislature.

Presentation

Dr. Jillian Peterson and Dr. James Densley presented twelve draft recommendations for the Council’s consideration.

Recommendation activity

The remainder of the meeting consisted of Council members reviewing the recommendations and weighing in with their level of agreement for each recommendation. The levels of agreement will be a tool for the Council to rank recommendations throughout the Council’s work. The levels are: “Love it”, “Like it”, “Live with it”, “Leery of it”, and “Loathe it”.

Closing

At the close of the meeting, Stacy from MAD reminded the Council that they would receive a recommendations survey to provide input on revised and newly developed recommendations from the meeting process.

The Council was thanked for their time and participation and was reminded that the March meeting topic will be mental health, mental illness, and suicide, with Marcus Schmidt, Executive Director of NAMI, serving as the topic lead.