



Minnesota Psychiatric Society

Improving Minnesota's mental health care through education, advocacy, sound psychiatric practice and achieving health equity.

President Chinmoy Gulrajani, DFAPA (612-886-2516), Legislative Chair Michael Trangle, MD, DLFAPA (612-859-4471), Executive Director Linda Vukelich (651-278-4241), Lobbyist Bill Amberg (612-260-9973)

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE OVERVIEW –

The legislative committee of MPS will organize their efforts to advance Psychiatry by adhering to the following three guidelines. These guidelines will help organize the efforts of the committee and represent the values of the Minnesota Psychiatric Society. While the guidelines are broad, the lobbying and personal relationship building to achieve our goals shall be very specific and focused and fall under the larger guidelines. Not all legislative bills that appear in the legislature will be considered even if they fall within the guidelines. Decisions to narrow our scope and marshal our energies to achieve our goals are necessary. Remaining nimble during a legislative session to be most efficient while prioritizing the most important areas of interest requires the concerted efforts of leadership and cooperative work of the committee.

- To initiate and support legislation that would improve access to and quality of psychiatric services including bolstering prevention services and services to special populations such as the disabled, youth and seniors.
 - Examples: School linked mental health services grants; telepsychiatry, ED boarding.
- To resist and oppose legislation or administrative health practices that would increase inequities or undermine efforts to achieve health equity in mental health care or would harm the mental health and wellbeing of our citizens.
 - Examples: Scope of practice incursions by less trained or expert practitioners; loosening gun safety laws.
- To promote optimal conditions for practice and career satisfaction and advance and represent the profession of psychiatry.
 - Examples: opposing increases in medical license fees; advocating for expanding psychiatric residencies to alleviate the psychiatric workforce crisis.

INITIAL PRIORITIES FOR 2021-2 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

1. Support Funding for 988, mental health crisis and suicide prevention line
2. Oppose medical cannabis as treatment for Anxiety
3. Support increasing access to psychiatric and other related services
4. Help shape social justice and equity efforts
5. Monitor and ensure the continuation of audio-only telehealth for patients with mental illnesses and substance use disorders.
6. Advise the Department of Commerce in their parity studies