



Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

MLC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Sunday, Sunday, July 27, 2025, and Monday, July 28, 2025

TCU Place Convention Centre | Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Agenda

Rep. Anna Moeller, Illinois, Co- Chair | Rep. Taylor Rehfeldt, South Dakota, Co-Chair
Rep. Brett Barker, Iowa, Vice Chair

SUNDAY, JULY 27 | JOINT SESSION & COMMITTEE MEETING | *Gallery Room D, 1st Floor*

9 – 10:15 a.m.

Telehealth, Virtual Health Hubs and the Future of Health Care Delivery

On both sides of the Canada-U.S. border, states, provinces and their local communities face the challenge of bridging gaps in health care access for people living in rural and other underserved areas. Recent innovations hold the promise of dramatically closing these gaps and improving health outcomes. This session will highlight plans in Saskatchewan for the opening of a cutting-edge, first-of-its kind Virtual Health Hub that will employ the latest technologies, AI, and robotic systems to transform health care delivery. Participants also will hear about advances in telehealth delivery and access in the U.S. states, including important policy considerations for the region's lawmakers.

Speakers:

Dr. Ivar Mendez, Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Saskatchewan School of Medicine; and Director, Saskatchewan Virtual Health Hub

Dr. Jonathan Neufeld, Program Director, Great Plains Telehealth Resource and Research Center

SUNDAY, JULY 27 | JOINT SESSION & COMMITTEE MEETING | *Gallery Room C, 1st Floor*

10:20 – 11 a.m.

Legislator-Led Roundtable Discussion

Members of the committee and interested others will have the chance to share their perspectives and information with one another. What important bills on public health, health care and human services passed in your state or province this year? What are your legislative priorities? What ideas do you have regarding the work of the MLC Health & Human Services Committee — topics to focus on, policy resources to provide to legislators, learning opportunities to provide, etc.?

Note: Lunch will be available beginning at noon for all attendees. Please see the meeting app for details on where the lunch will take place.

MONDAY, JULY 28 | BREAKFAST TABLE TOPIC DISCUSSION | *Gallery Room C, 1st Floor*

7:30 – 8:45 a.m.

Proven and Powerful: A Structured Model in Peer Support for Mental Health and Addiction Recovery

All members of the MLC Health & Human Services Committee are encouraged to take part in this discussion, which is being facilitated by Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly Speaker

Todd Goudy and will explore a promising approach to mental health and substance abuse services.

MONDAY, JULY 28 | COMMITTEE-LED POLICY SESSION | *Gallery Room C, 1st Floor*

2 – 3 p.m.

‘Gold Standard’ for Child Welfare Systems? A Look at Family-Centered, Community-Based Approaches

Participants will explore the hows and whys behind a shift in child welfare policy that is emphasizing greater supports for families and the value of community-based initiatives for children, parents, and other caregivers. The session will include a look at transformative changes occurring for the families of Indigenous and Native American children, why this model is considered a “gold standard,” and what potential lessons they provide for states and provinces regarding their broader child welfare systems.

Speakers:

Mr. Cadmus Delorme, Founder, OneHoop; and Former Chief, Cowessess First Nation in Southern Saskatchewan

Ms. Tleena Ives, Managing Director of Indian Child and Family Well-Being, Casey Family Programs