

Joint Legislative Psychiatric Hospital Review Council

PURPOSE: To review, analyze and make recommendations regarding at least the following: 1) psychiatric hospital capacity in this state, including the bed capacity at the Arizona State Hospital and other public facilities; 2) the role of private facilities in addressing psychiatric treatment needs; 3) innovative programs to ensure public safety while providing clinically appropriate treatment in the most integrated setting; 4) legal barriers; 5) current waiting lists; 6) barriers to accessing appropriate inpatient care; 7) licensing barriers; 8) any other issues related to inpatient psychiatric treatment and 9) the feasibility of transferring the Arizona State Hospital to the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System or an alternative oversight entity. On or before December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2023, the Review Council shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate and the Governor and shall provide a copy of the reports to the Secretary of State.

MEMBERSHIP:

House Two members of the House of Representatives from different parties, one designated as Co-Chair, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

Consuelo Hernandez, Barbara Parker (Co-Chair)

Senate Two members of the Senate from different political parties, one designated as Co-Chair, appointed by the President of the Senate:

Catherine Miranda, Justine Wadsack (Co-Chair)

Other A family member of a person with serious mental illness, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

Ms. Deborah Geesling

One person who provides legal representation to and advocates on behalf of persons with serious mental illness, appointed by the President of the Senate:

Mr. Josh Mozell (8/31/2026)

A psychiatrist who specializes in treating persons with serious mental illness, appointed by the President of the Senate:

Dr. Carol Olson, Valleywise Health (8/31/2026)

One law enforcement officer, appointed by the President of the Senate:

Sheriff David Rhodes, Yavapai County

The Director of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System or their designee:

Dr. Sara Salek, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

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One person who has experience as a chief executive officer or chief operating officer of a hospital, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

Mr. Steven Scott, Phoenix Medical Psychiatric Hospital

The Director of the State Department of Corrections or the Director's designee:

Mr. Ryan Thornell, Director, Department of Corrections

A Judge of a Superior Court in which cases involving persons with serious mental illness are routinely adjudicated, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

Judge Lisa Vandenberg, State of Arizona Superior Court, Maricopa County

The Director of the Department of Health Services or their designee:

Vacant

Notes: Laws 2022, Chapter 359 added three members.

CONTACT: Michael Madden, Senate Research Staff, Ahjahna Graham, House Research Staff

REPORT DATE: 12/31/21, 12/21/22, 12/21/23

EXPIRATION DATE: 8/31/2026

STATUTORY CITE: Laws 2021, Chapter 402; Laws 2022, Chapter 359