

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Standards and Oversight Study Committee

PURPOSE: To: (1) conduct a comprehensive survey and research study to assess the availability, capacity and geographic distribution of licensed and unlicensed programs that offer substance use disorder specialty care in this state and evaluate the economic impact, effectiveness and value of implementing statewide minimum standards for evidence-based care; (2) identify gaps in access to and implementation of evidence-based biopsychosocial treatments, workforce capacity needs and resources necessary to support high-quality care delivery across urban and rural settings, including medically supported withdrawal services, medications for opioid use disorder, licensed clinical providers, care coordination and recovery supports; (3) review state laws, rules and oversight structures governing substance use disorder treatment programs, identify regulatory loopholes that allow unlicensed or nonstandard programs to operate without sufficient clinical oversight and processes that enable fraud, waste and abuse, and recommend statutory and administrative changes to close these gaps and align oversight systems; (4) establish minimum clinical quality standards, staff scope of practice expectations, safety and outcome reporting requirements and public transparency mechanisms to ensure accountability, protect patients and provide families and referring providers with clear information to support treatment decision-making; (5) investigate funding needs, reimbursement structures and licensed workforce models required to implement the reforms, including strategies to build and sustain a professional clinical workforce capable of meeting statewide treatment demand and ensuring timely access to evidence-based care. On or before December 31, 2027, the Committee shall submit a report regarding the committee's activities, findings and recommendations, including proposed statutory and regulatory changes, funding considerations and implementation timelines, to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives and shall provide a copy of this report to the Secretary of State.

MEMBERSHIP:

House One minority member of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:
Vacant

The Chairman of the House of Representatives Health and Human Services Committee:
Selina Bliss (Co-Chair)

Senate One minority member of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate:
Vacant

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Standards and Oversight Study Committee

The Chairperson of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:
Carine Werner (Co-Chair)

Other

One member who represents a behavioral health accrediting organization, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:
Vacant

One member who represents a county law enforcement agency, appointed by the President of the Senate:
Vacant

One member who represents a membership-based advocacy organization that represents healthcare providers who specialize in substance use disorder treatment, appointed by the President of the Senate:
Vacant

One member who represents leadership from a medical society or a physician organization that specializes in treating substance use disorder, appointed by the President of the Senate:
Vacant

One member with substance use disorder who has direct experience with navigating treatment for substance use disorder in this state, who lives in a county with a population of less than five hundred thousand persons, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:
Vacant

One peer recovery support specialist, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:
Vacant

The Attorney General or the Attorney General's designee:
Ms. Kris Mayes, Attorney General, Attorney General's Office

The Director of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System or the Director's designee:
Ms. Roberta Harrison, Director, Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System

The Director of the Department of Health Services or the Director's designee
Ms. Debbie Johnston, Director, Arizona Department of Health Services

The Governor or the Governor's designee:

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Standards and Oversight Study Committee

Ms. Kathleen Hobbs, Governor of Arizona

Two members who are licensed clinical behavioral health specialists, one of whom practices in a county of less than five hundred thousand persons, appointed by the President of the Senate:

Vacant

Two physicians who are board-certified in either addiction medicine or addiction psychiatry, one of whom practices in a county with a population of less than five hundred thousand persons, and who provide medical care to individuals with substance use disorder, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

Vacant

Notes:

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

REPORT DATE: 12/31/2027

EXPIRATION DATE: 06/30/2028

STATUTORY CITE: Laws 2026; Chapter 189