

Committee Summary

Origin

The board was formed in response to the 1980 Vickerman Consent Decree that mandated the establishment of a pre-petition screening program, the establishment of the Defense Attorney Panel (which Hennepin County contracts with the Hennepin County Bar Association to administer), and the development of alternatives to commitment.

Composition

Five members:

- One attorney recommended by the Hennepin County Bar Association
- Two members from among those recommended by mental health advisory groups
- Two citizens, one of whom should be an attorney

Duties/Responsibilities

- Oversee the establishment and operation of a panel of attorneys that provides legal representation for individuals petitioned for mental commitment.
- Review the criteria for the appointment of panel members.
- Recommend revisions or modifications to this appointment process.
- Consult with the Probate Court on criteria for appointment of panel members and on the list of attorneys appointed for the panel.
- Monitor the overall effectiveness of the attorney panel and review the procedures and policies, as appropriate, to increase the effectiveness process and/or reduce its administrative costs.
- Conduct a review prior to reappointment of all current panel members.
- Appoint panel members annually.
- Submit an annual budget recommendation and statistical reports for the previous year and recommend annually to the Hennepin County Board an attorney compensation policy for the panel attorneys.

Term

2 years from appointment date

Meetings

The board meets at least annually to review activities of the attorneys panel and to appoint panel members. The board convenes additional meetings as needed. Meetings are held at the Hennepin County Bar Association, 600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 390, Minneapolis.

Eligibility Requirements

See "Composition."

Compensation

None

Reimbursement

None

Other Information

Contact Information

Department Liaison

County Attorney

C-2000 Government Center
300 S 6th St
Minneapolis, MN, 55487
(612) 348-5518

Committee Contact

Doug McGuire

Hennepin County Bar Association
600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 390
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 752-6600
doug@hcba.org
