

The Mental Health
Care and Treatment
Review Board

ACTIVITY PLAN

April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2029

Chairperson's Message

As Chairperson of the Mental Health Care and Treatment Review Board (the "Review Board"), I present the Review Board's 2026-29 Activity Plan in accordance with the **Transparency and Accountability Act** for a Category 3 Provincial Government entity covering the period from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2029.

The Review Board is an independent, quasi-judicial administrative tribunal responsible for conducting hearings under the **Mental Health Care and Treatment Act** (the "Act").

The Review Board was established in 2007, and its mandate is grounded in ensuring that individuals subject to involuntary psychiatric hospital admissions and treatments receive periodic, fair, and timely review of their involuntary status under the Act.

In developing this Activity Plan, the Board has considered the strategic directions of Government.

This plan reflects evolving system pressures, increased emphasis on patient rights, and the growing use of community-based treatment mechanisms. It builds upon prior plans while modernizing the Review Board's objectives to address access, timeliness, and procedural fairness in a changing mental health landscape.

As Chairperson, my signature is indicative of the entire Review Board's accountability for preparation of this plan and for the achievement of the objective contained herein.

The Review Board looks forward to reporting to you annually on its activities.



Shaylyn Oxner
Chairperson

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Overview

The **Mental Health Care and Treatment Review Board** (the “Review Board”) is an independent, quasi-judicial administrative tribunal established pursuant to section 56 of the **Mental Health Care and Treatment Act** (the “Act”).

Since its establishment in 2007, the Review Board has provided an impartial process through which decisions affecting patients receiving psychiatric care may be reviewed. The Review Board supports a mental healthcare system that promotes effective care while safeguarding rights of individuals subject to involuntary treatment.

The Review Board is composed of legal, physician, and public representatives appointed from across Newfoundland and Labrador. Hearings are conducted by three-member panels consisting of one legal representative, one physician representative, and one public representative. The Review Board meets as required and may conduct hearings by videoconference or teleconference, allowing members from across the Province to participate, which in turn supports timely and accessible hearings.

The Review Board operates independently of the Department of Health and Community Services (“HCS”) and of the Provincial Health Authority. Administrative support and operational resources are provided by HCS through the Mental Health and Addictions Division. The Review Board conducts its activities in accordance with the Strategic Directions of HCS.

Mandate

The Review Board’s mandate is to conduct fair, timely, and independent reviews as required under the Act. In carrying out this mandate, the Review Board considers:

- Applications by involuntary patients seeking a review of a certificate of involuntary admission or renewal;
- Applications by persons seeking a review of the issuance or renewal of a community treatment order (“CTO”);
- Applications by persons detained in a psychiatric facility who allege that a right protected under the Act has been denied; and
- Automatic reviews of renewed certificates of involuntary admission and CTOs, as required by the Act.

Through these reviews, the Review Board considers whether the applicable statutory requirements have been met and helps ensure that involuntary detention, treatment, and supervision are lawful, necessary, and carried out in the least restrictive manner consistent with the Act's purpose.

The Review Board is also responsible for reporting annually to the Minister on its operations, reporting on any other matters required by the Minister, and performing any additional functions that may be prescribed by the regulations.

Vision Statement

The Review Board is a trusted and respected body that provides timely, accessible, and procedurally fair hearings, upholds participant dignity, and supports the least restrictive form of involuntary care.

Membership

The Review Board is appointed pursuant to subsection 57(1) of the Act. The Review Board is comprised of a minimum of 13 members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and includes:

- (a) a chairperson, who is a member in good standing of the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador (Chairperson/Legal Representative);
- (b) 4 persons, each of whom is a member in good standing of the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador and who expresses an interest in mental health issues (Legal Representatives);
- (c) 4 persons, each of whom is a physician (Physician Representatives); and
- (d) 4 persons, each of whom is neither a member of the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador nor a physician and each of whom expresses an interest in mental health issues, with preference being given to a person who is or has been a consumer of mental health services (Public Representatives).

A person appointed to the Review Board shall have knowledge or experience that will assist the Review Board to achieve its mandate and the composition of the Review Board shall reflect the cultural, ethnic, and regional diversity of the Province.

The terms of appointment are stated in subsections 58(1) and (2) of the Act. Current Review Board members and their terms are referenced in Appendix A.

Financial Overview

The Review Board is not required to have audited financial statements. In the 2025-26 fiscal year, total expenses were \$67,100.00, itemized as follows:

Board Members	\$50,375.00
Psychiatrists	<u>\$16,725.00</u>
Total	\$67,100.00

Cost of operations in 2023-24 was \$57,033.20; in 2024-25 it was \$105,872.19; and in 2025-26 it was \$67,100.00.

The higher operating cost in 2024-25 was primarily due to the deferred payment of obligations to Board members from the previous fiscal year. As a result, the expenses reported for that year were higher than usual and are not representative of an ongoing increase in operating costs.

The average annual cost of operations over the past three fiscal years was \$76,668.46, which is comparable to the average annual cost of \$75,095.41 between 2020 and 2023, and is consistent with the Review Board's historical operating costs.

Administrative support and expenses are provided by the Department of Health and Community Services (HCS), Mental Health and Addictions Division.

Primary Clients

The primary clients of the Review Board are those who make applications to the Review Board pursuant to section 64 of the Act. Applications may be made by:

- An involuntary patient who wishes to have a certificate of involuntary admission or renewal reviewed;
- A person who wishes to have the issuance or renewal of a CTO reviewed; or
- A person detained in a facility, such as a psychiatric ward or hospital, who believes that a right provided set out in the Act has been denied.

The Review Board also conducts periodic automatic reviews required by the Act when certificates of involuntary admission or CTOs are renewed.

In carrying out its mandate, the Review Board interacts with the following participants and organizations:

Patient Representatives

The patient representative role is defined by the Act. The patient representative is a person, other than a rights advisor, who is at least 19 years old, who is mentally competent and available, and who has been designated to act on behalf of a person with a mental disorder. Where no representative has been designated, the person's next of kin will be considered to be the representative unless the person objects.

Rights Advisors

Rights Advisors are appointed by the Minister pursuant to the Act to give advice and assistance to people who are subject to certificates of involuntary admission or CTOs. They explain the certification and review processes, assist with making applications to the Review Board, and may accompany the applicant to their hearing.

Legal Aid NL

People who are subject to certificates of involuntary admission or CTOs may obtain legal advice and assistance through Legal Aid NL. Legal counsel can help an applicant present relevant evidence, question witnesses, and participate effectively in the hearing process.

Provincial Health Authority

The Review Board works with senior administrators and psychiatric care teams within the Provincial Health Authority to obtain the information required for hearings and to coordinate hearing arrangements.

Annual Objectives 2026-29

Over the course of 2026-29, the Review Board will meet as needed. Each hearing panel will consist of three members, being: one Legal Representative (Lawyer), who acts as Chair of the panel; one Physician Representative (Doctor); and one Public Representative (Layperson with experience in mental health).

The Panel will review applications on behalf of involuntary patients who request a review of their certification or community treatment order, and also from involuntary patients who are alleging a denial of rights resulting from involuntary psychiatric assessment.

Decisions of the Review Board will be communicated directly to applicants and their representatives, and to the admitting psychiatric facility or the Assertive Community Treatment Team ("ACT Team") in the case of an application in respect of a CTO.

The Review Board will provide involuntary patients and persons subject to CTOs with an accessible mechanism to seek review of certificates of involuntary admission and community treatment orders.

Due to the limited mandate of the Review Board, the annual objective will remain the same for each year of this Activity Plan. At the end of each year, the indicators and progress will be reviewed to determine if the indicators will remain the same for the period covered by this activity plan.

By March 31, 2027, 2028, and 2029, the Review Board will have reviewed all submitted applications to ensure the criteria for involuntary admission and renewal are met; that community treatment orders are appropriate; and that patients' rights are upheld.

Indicators:

- Number of applications received
- Number of hearings scheduled
- Number of hearings conducted
- Number of certificates and CTOs upheld/cancelled
- Number of decisions rendered and communicated
- Compliance with statutory hearing timelines
- Annual reports provided

Appendix A: Board Members as of April 2026

MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND TREATMENT REVIEW BOARD

* Indicates inactive Board Member

Position	Name	Term Expiry
Chairperson – Lawyer	Shaylyn Oxner	August 16, 2026
Member – Lawyer	Christopher Forbes	August 16, 2026
Member – Lawyer	Ian Wallace	September 13, 2026
Member – Physician	Dr. Joy Tilley	August 16, 2026
Member – Physician	Dr. Leslie Wheeler	September 13, 2026
Member – Public Interest	Jackie Compton-Hobbs	August 16, 2026
Member – Public Interest	Amelia Curran	August 16, 2026
Member – Public Interest	Colleen Galgay	August 16, 2026
Member – Public Interest	Charlotte Gardiner	August 16, 2026
Member – Public Interest	Ashley Gosse	August 16, 2026
Member – Public Interest	Chad Perrin	August 16, 2026
Member – Public Interest	Glenn Roil	August 16, 2026
Member – Public Interest	Abigail Sheppard	August 16, 2026
Member – Public Interest	Jerry Vink	August 16, 2026
* Member – Lawyer	Kathleen Healey	September 13, 2026
* Member – Lawyer	LeeAnn Montgomery	September 13, 2026
* Member – Physician	Dr. Michelle Young-Hadden	September 18, 2027
* Member – Physician	Dr. Jason Chaulk	August 18, 2028

Mental Health Care and Treatment Review Board

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