



# Overview & FY2026-2027 Budget Request

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# Content Outline

- 1) A Quick Review – 2022-2023 Legislation
- 2) “The Soft Launch”
- 3) Growth Plan
- 4) FY26-27 Budget Request
- 5) Appendix – Defendant Stories

# A Quick Review

Incompetent and not civilly committed  
majority of Minnesota defendants



# A Quick Review



## 2022 Legislative Session, initial creation

- A bipartisan bill
- Compromise between Sheriff's Association, County Attorneys, Public Defenders, DHS, NAMI, County Governments, and more
- New Competency Procedures, Minn. Stat. §611.40 – §611.59

## 2023 Legislative Session, clarified language and new effective date, April 1, 2024

## Criminal Rules of Procedure Rule 20 Amended, effective date November 1, 2024

# A Quick Review

## Minnesota Competency Attainment Board – An Independent Board within the Judicial Branch

### Mission

To guide the development of a competency attainment system by identifying best practices, establishing program standards, and implementing forensic navigator services.

### Vision

To promote wellness, safety, and justice in Minnesota by building pathways for competency attainment through collaboration, accountability, and innovation.

## Other Judicial Branch Organizations

**Supreme Court & State Court Administration**

**Board of Public Defense**

**Minnesota Guardian ad Litem Board**

**State Board of Civil Legal Aid**

# The Board

Minn. Stat. § 611.56

- Seven members from a variety of relevant backgrounds
- The board shall create and administer:
  - A statewide, independent system
  - Certification of competency attainment programs
  - Forensic navigator program to promote prevention and diversion, support the competency process, and assist the courts in coordinating competency services

# Forensic Navigator Services

Minn. Stat. § 611.55

## Include:

- Writing and filing a bridge plan
- Helping defendants participate in court-ordered examinations
- Coordinating timely placement in court-ordered programs
- Providing education
- Reporting to the court on defendant's progress toward competency

## Do Not Include:

- Advocating only for the defendant's preferences
- Initiating communication with the court outside official court filings
- Conducting searches, seizing property or person, issuing penalties
- Transporting defendants
- Determining custody status
- Providing legal advice or referrals

# The Soft Launch

## Goals

1. Start building the program
2. Hire approximately 10 Forensic Navigators (one per judicial district)
3. Provide services in both metro and greater Minnesota



# The Soft Launch

## 1. Start building the program – Agency Structure

- Email domain established
- Microsoft 365 licenses acquired
- Mission and Vision statements established
- Baseline HR, IT, and finance policies established
- Website launched
- Internet access obtained and security controls established
- Case management system implemented

# The Soft Launch

## 1. Start building the program – Hiring

### January – March

1 Program  
Administrator

1 Human  
Resources  
Manager

### April – May

14 Forensic  
Navigators

1 Forensic  
Navigator  
Supervisor

1 IT Manager

### June – July

1 Forensic  
Navigator

3 Forensic  
Navigator  
Supervisors

### October – November

5 Forensic  
Navigators

1 HR Coordinator

2 Learning &  
Development  
Specialists

1 Office Supervisor

### December – January

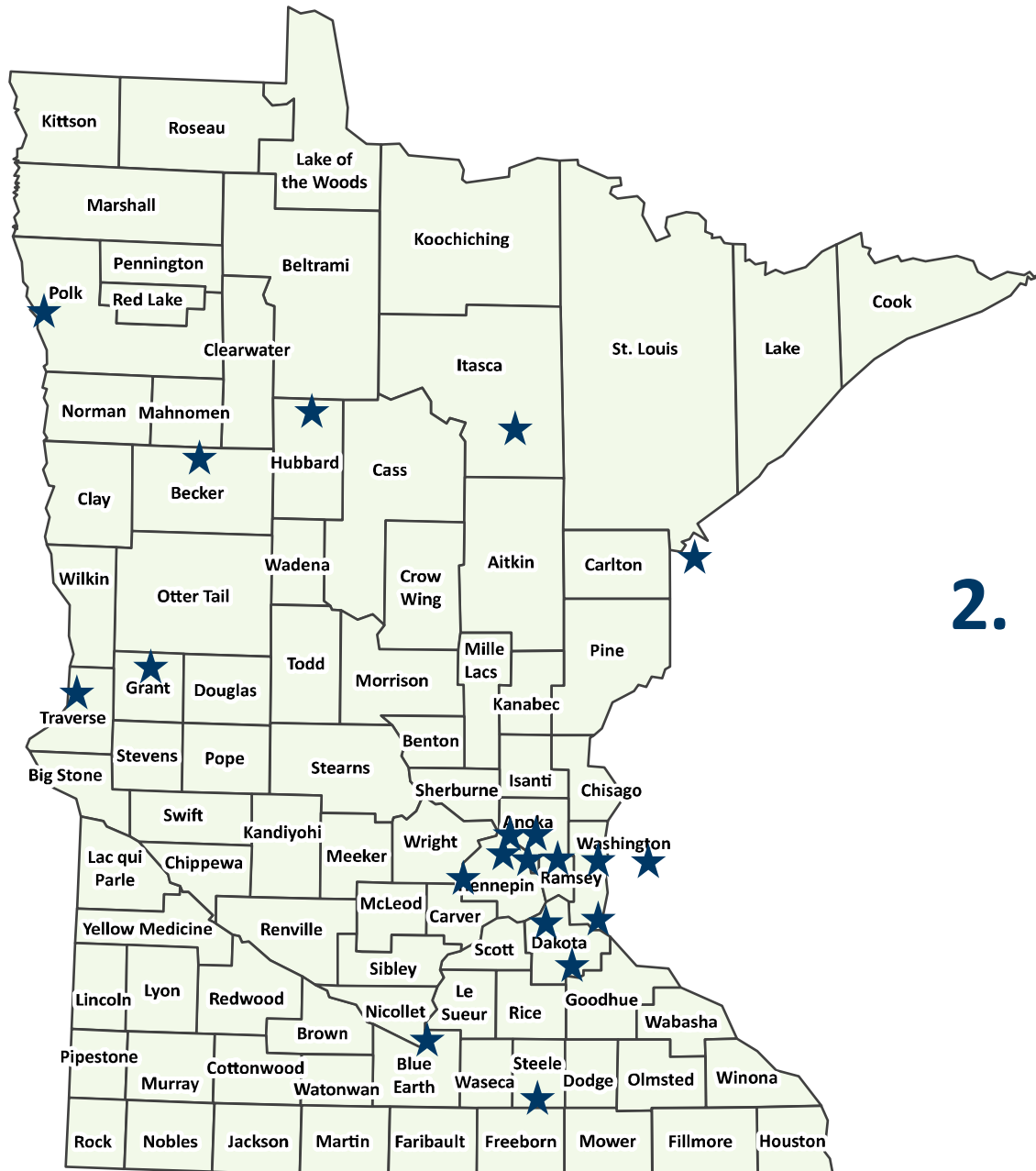
1 Staff Attorney

1 Finance Specialist

# The Soft Launch

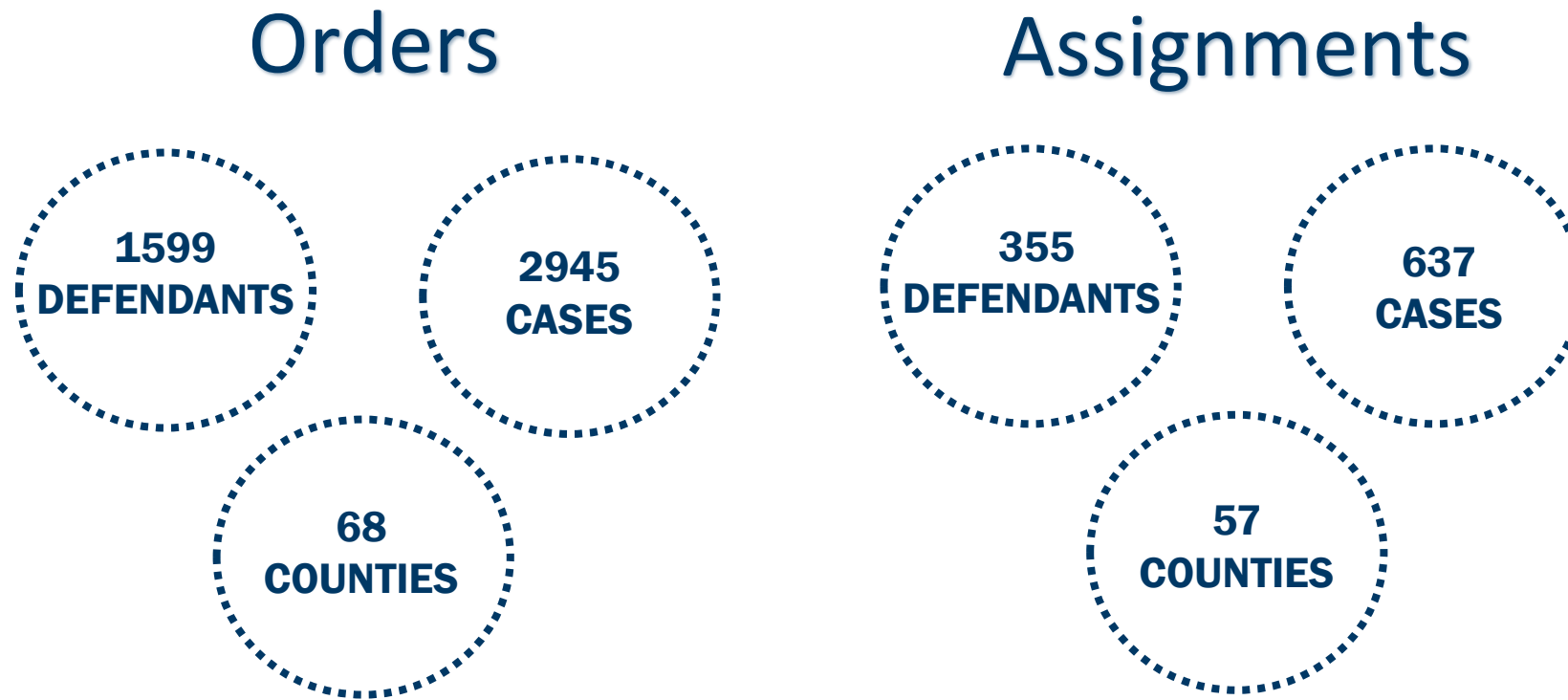
## 2. Hire approximately 10 Forensic Navigators (one per judicial district)

Forensic Navigators (★) (20)



# The Soft Launch

## 3. Provide services in both metro and greater Minnesota



*Data as of 12/31/24*

# The Soft Launch

## 3. Provide services in both metro and greater Minnesota

### Notes

- Data is calendar year 2024
- By Court: there may be multiple orders in a single case
- By MNCAB: started receiving orders on April 4, 2024, reflects 9 months of data

Judicial District	Orders by Court	Orders Received by MNCAB
First	1,296	441
Second	1,711	564
Third	779	176
Fourth	2,746	814
Fifth	339	108
Sixth	533	122
Seventh	759	269
Eighth	200	50
Ninth	758	210
Tenth	1,175	191

# The Soft Launch

## 3. Provide services in both metro and greater Minnesota

Notes:

- Screening Criteria: resource available, incompetent, not civilly committed, active case, adult criminal
- Coverage: percentage of cases in which a forensic navigator was or is currently assigned

Judicial District	Coverage
First	24%
Second	17%
Third	19%
Fourth	26%
Fifth	86%
Sixth	55%
Seventh	49%
Eighth	67%
Ninth	86%
Tenth	58%

# Competency Attainment Programs

Minn. Stat. § 611.59

## Nine Approved Programs\*

- North Homes Children and Family Services
- Hennepin County Behavioral Health Center (BHC)
- Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center (AMRTC)
- SpringPath Mental Health Services – 3 IRTS locations
- Quinlan Home
- Stillwater Residence
- RADIAS Health

\*Started accepting applications in April 2024

# Growth Plan

## Goals – Expansion and Improvement

1. Hire approximately 50 additional forensic navigators
2. Stabilize processing timelines
3. Additional clarification of duties & responsibilities



# Budget Request

To meet the demand for forensic navigator services and competency attainment programming statewide, MNCAB requests:

\$5,346,000 – Maintain Core Operations\*

- \$2,156,000 in Fiscal Year 2026
- \$3,190,000 in Fiscal Year 2027

\* Unavoidable health insurance premium increases, wage increases, and inclusion of an operating budget



# Appendix : Defendant Stories

# Defendant 1: Sherburne County

- Defendant was remanded to custody on July 12, 2024, on 13 court files.
- Defendant was found incompetent on September 3, 2024, and a petition for civil commitment was dismissed on September 23, 2024.
- Forensic navigator services opened on October 30, 2024. The forensic navigator assigned completed a referral to Direct Care and Treatment's competency attainment program (AMRTC) with the defendant admitting to the program on December 3, 2024.
- The Defendant is receiving the services recommended in their competency evaluation including neuroleptic medication which they had been declining while in custody.
- The Defendant completed an updated competency evaluation with a finding of competency entered on January 27, 2025.

# Defendant 2: Kittson County

- A forensic navigator was assigned on May 15, 2024, on three court files.
- Defendant was unable to participate in first competency evaluation interview. The forensic navigator assisted by identifying barriers and locating resources for access to technology. The forensic navigator also helped the defendant use the technology to complete a virtual interview.
- The forensic navigator has also connected the defendant to supports in the community that they were not able to access on their own due to cognitive impairments and mental health diagnoses that were not being treated.
- The forensic navigator reconnected the defendant with their psychiatrist and recommended a neuropsychological evaluation be completed to determine eligibility for services. Other referrals connected the defendant with social services.
- The defendant now receives Adult Rehabilitative Mental Health Services (ARMHS) and has an adult mental health case manager, which will continue beyond their criminal court involvement; ensuring the defendant continues taking their medications and maintains stability in the community.

# Defendant 3: Hennepin County

- An initial competency evaluation was ordered on 05/03/2024. Forensic navigator services opened on 08/02/2024.
- The forensic examiner attempted to complete evaluations with the defendant on 08/05/2024 and 09/17/2024; the defendant attended but did not actively participate. No collateral records were available for review, so no opinion on competency could be offered.
- The assigned forensic navigator coordinated services with a psychiatric provider who prescribed a neuroleptic medication.
- Due to medication services, the defendant was able to successfully participate in the forensic examination and the evaluator now had records to review.
- The competency evaluation was completed and submitted to the court on 01/13/2025.