

Sex Offender Civil Commitment Advisory Task Force
Tuesday, January 22, 2013
6:00 – 9:00 PM
State Office Building, Room 5

Agenda:

1. Welcome (housekeeping items, minutes)
2. Update on new legislative session (from legislators on the Task Force)
3. Chair's update on speaking requests
4. Review / discuss Task Force comments on procedural and substantive issues
5. Public comments

Task Force Attendance:

Hon. Eric J. Magnuson (Chair)
Hon. James M. Rosenbaum (Vice Chair)
James D. Franklin (ex officio)
Gerald T. Kaplan
Ryan B. Magnus
Kelly Mitchell (ex officio)
County Atty. Mark A. Ostrem
Comm. Tom Roy (ex officio)
Comm. Nancy Schouweiler
Dr. Michael D. Thompson (ex officio)

Dean Eric Janus
Hon. Joanne Smith (ex-officio)
Hon. Paul Nelson
Chief John Harrington (ex-officio)
Sen. Tony Lourey
Roberta Opheim
Rep. Jim Abeler
Rep. Tina Liebling
Donna Dunn
Sen. Warren Limmer

Meeting Minutes:

(This document is a general summary of the Task Force meeting and is not intended to be a detailed transcription.)

Meeting Began: 6:05 PM

Introduction (Overview and Housekeeping Items)

Chair Magnuson made introductory remarks and addressed a number of housekeeping items. He noted that the Department of Human Services has posted an RFI ("Request for Information") regarding less restrictive alternatives.

Legislative Update

Rep. Liebling and Sen. Lourey gave an update on the new legislative session, including significant deadlines for legislative action

Media Requests and Responses

Chair Magnuson has received a number of media requests for media interviews, which he has declined in deference to the ongoing work of the Task Force. Nonetheless, he has accepted a number of opportunities to educate the public and legislators about the Task Force's work, because the forum of an educational presentation allows him to report on Task Force efforts to date, rather than predict future Task Force actions. Sen. Limmer reminded Task Force members that there are a lot of new legislators who are coming up to speed on these and other issues right now.

Review and Discussion of Task Force Submissions

Chair Magnuson discussed the responses from Task Force members. He also discussed the charge of the Task Force. He opened the floor for Task Force discussion regarding the submissions summary.

Task Force members speaking included Dean Eric Janus, Vice Chair James Rosenbaum, Gerald Kaplan, Ryan Magnus, Roberta Opheim, Judge Joanne Smith, County Attorney Mark Ostrem, Commissioner Nancy Shouweiler, Judge Paul Nelson, Rep. Tina Liebling, Dr. Michael Thompson, Kelly Mitchell, Commissioner Tom Roy, Rep. Jim Abeler, and Donna Dunn.

The members discussed at length issues relating to the referral process, the commitment prosecution and adjudication process, and issues relating to the established standards for referral and commitment.

There was a general consensus that a centralization of the prosecutorial function, supplemented by post-referral but pre-petition screening, would address issues regarding disparate rates of petition proceedings around the state. There was less agreement on the advisability of a centralized judicial panel to decide commitment petitions, although at the end of the discussion, there seemed to be a majority of support for such a change.

The discussion concerning elements of proof and standards for commitment will be the subject of the next meeting.

Public Comments:

- Thomas Koepke – He saw a legislative committee meeting on television today, and he hopes that when this makes it to the legislators get someone from MSOP to give a really compelling presentation about how good of a program MSOP is.
- Tom Evenstad – Wants Government Dayton to repeal the executive order that Gov. Pawlenty issued. He also read a comment from an MSOP client.
- James White – He was against the SDP law when it was being drafted. We need a system of Group Homes for sex offenders to reintegrate successfully into the community.

- John Johnson – He is associated with a current resident at MSOP. Wants the panel to give deep thought to the civil commitment process and what makes someone sexually dangerous to the public.
- Tammy Annen – How are any of these recommendations going to affect those who are already civilly committed? She thinks there needs to be some kind of reevaluation process in place now.

The next meetings are scheduled for:

Tuesday, January 29, 2013 @ 6:00 PM & Tuesday, February 12, 2013 @ 6:00 PM – both meetings are in Room 5 of the State Office Building.

Meeting Concluded: 9:10 PM