



Aiding and Abetting Felony Murder Task Force

Friday, July 30, 2021

10:00 am – 11:30 am

Department of Corrections (DOC), 1450 Energy Park Drive, West Entrance, Afton Room, 1st Floor, St. Paul, MN 55108**

Via Webex

Public access to PowerPoint presentation shown during the meeting available [here](#)

*** Due to the ongoing health pandemic and the need to ensure that individuals who have contact with incarcerated and detained individuals are limited from public exposure, meetings will be held virtually under Minn. Stat. § 13D.021. It is not feasible to have members of the public or taskforce/staff in the regular meeting room and remote monitoring access will continue to be noticed and made available to the public via the website above and on the meeting room door.*

Agenda

I. Welcome (10:00-10:10)

- Greetings from Commissioner Paul Schnell
- Logistics and roadmap of today's meeting

II. Introductions (10:10-10:30)

Members Present (9 of 12): Nicholas Kimball, Brian Mueller, Kathy Keenan, Ken Sass, Pat McDermott, Perry Moriearty, Toni Carter, Bill Ward, Greg Egan (via phone only), Nate Reitz (absent but representative from MN Sentencing Guidelines Commission staff present to observe only),

DOC Staff Present: Commissioner Schnell, Safia Khan, Amy Lauricella, Cathy Nielsen, Tavia Osgood

Public Present: five callers

Guest Presenters: Representative Dave Pinto, Senator Zach Duckworth

III. Overview of the Enabling Legislation (10:30-10:45)

- Purpose for Task Force and statutory requirements

- Duties include:
 - Collect data on:
 - charges, convictions, and sentences for aiding and abetting felony murder;
 - sentences for aiding and abetting felony murder
 - charges, convictions, and sentences for codefendants of people sentenced for aiding and abetting felony murder;
 - Outreach:
 - receive input from individuals who were convicted of aiding and abetting felony murder;
 - receive input from family members of individuals who were victims of felony murder;
 - Policy behind Statutory framework:
 - review relevant state statutes and state and federal court decisions
 - analyze the benefits and unintended consequences of Minnesota Statutes and practices related to the charging, convicting, and sentencing of people for aiding and abetting felony murder including but not limited to an analysis of whether current statutes and practice:
promote public safety; and properly punish people for their role in an offense
- Report due to legislature on or before Saturday, January 15, 2022
- Task Force expires the day after report is submitted to the legislature

IV. Discussion: Logistics and Deliverables (10:45-11:00)

- Once full membership is attained, task force will elect a chair and vice-chair
- DOC to provide support for task force
- Task force to set regular meeting schedule (at least once per month) and may determine if meetings will continue to be remote in light of health pandemic and as conditions change
- Task force to determine if smaller working groups will be helpful
- Task force to identify how and when to obtain input from impacted individuals (e.g., public listening sessions)
- Data requests will need to be thought through – charging data is hard to come by and there are complications with attaching the aiding and abetting designation

- V. Remarks by Representative Pinto (House chief author) and Senator Duckworth (Senate co-author) *(11:00 am to 11:15 am)*
- Legislators are very interested to hear from the task force as they have many concerns about the intersection of MN felony murder laws with aiding and abetting application and the impact on victims and individuals who did not commit acts of murder
 - Noted there are no legislators on the task force so it may be beneficial to keep legislators informed as the work develops to the extent legislative action on recommendations is desired