

Agenda: Task Force on Mandatory Minimum Sentences

Date: March 13, 2026, 10-12 pm

Location: Afton Room, DOC, 1450 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul, MN 55108, and via Webex

Members attending in person (4): John Donovan, Mark Haase, Kelly Mitchell, Nathaniel Reitz,

Members attending online (8): Shane Baker, Jeremiah Carlson, Dale Harris, Amber Johnson, Mark Osler, Nick Sasser, Robert Stewart, Ashley Sturz-Griffith

Members absent (1): Kenneth Sass

Also present: Dr. Julia Laskorunsky (Robina Institute), Don Klick (DOC), Julie Atella, Jennifer McCleary, and Sophak Mom (Wilder Research)

1. Membership update (Morgan Kunz)

- Nate Reitz (Task Force Chair) called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.
- Morgan Kunz announced his departure from the task force due to his employer, the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, leaving the Minnesota County Attorneys Association (MCAA). Mark Haase, Ramsey County Attorney, was introduced as his replacement.

2. Roll call (Don Klick)

- A quorum was established with the following members present: Shane Baker, Jeremiah Carlson, John Donovan, Mark Haase, Dale Harris, Amber Johnson, Kelly Mitchell, Mark Osler, Nate Reitz, Nick Sasser, Rob Stewart, and Ashley Sturz-Griffith

3. Approval of February 2026 minutes and today's agenda (All members)

- The Meeting Minutes from 2/13/2026 were approved as drafted, and the agenda was accepted without objections.

4. Election of Vice-Chair

- Chair Reitz opened the floor for nominations to fill the Vice-Chair position vacated by Morgan Kunz. Citing the short timeframe remaining until the August deadline, Reitz emphasized the need to proceed with the election promptly.
- Kelly Mitchell, Assistant Commissioner of Corrections, noted that she and Chair Reitz are both affiliated with the Sentencing Guidelines Commission. Chair Reitz acknowledged this concern, confirming that Mitchell is the Chair of the Sentencing Guidelines Commission. Reitz opened the floor for discussion regarding whether this concentration of leadership from one organization was a concern for the Task Force.

Nomination and election:

- Member, Rob Stewart, moved to nominate Kelly Mitchell for Vice-Chair, and another member seconded the nomination.
- Following the nomination, Chair Reitz called for further discussion or additional nominations three times. No further nominations were made.
- With no objections raised, Chair Reitz declared Kelly Mitchell elected as Vice-Chair with acclamation.

5. Share information - Stakeholder engagement findings from the Sentencing Guideline Commission (Dr. Julia Laskorunsky, Robina) and Failure to Register information – (Asst Commissioner, Kelly Mitchell, DOC, MMTF Taskforce)

- A scheduled presentation by Dr. Julia Laskorunsky was postponed due to a communication misunderstanding.
- Vice-Chair Mitchell clarified that the plan was for Dr. Julia Laskorunsky to present information regarding both areas: statute 609.11 (crimes committed with a dangerous weapon) and Failure to Register. Mitchell explained that the goal was for Dr. Laskorunsky to bring relevant information from her previous research regarding high departure rates for these offenses to the task force.

6. Review/Discuss the Framework for Evaluating Policy Impacts and Recommendations for *predatory offender registration* and *controlled substance* (All members)

- Discussion regarding the framework table, with committee chairs describing a summary of their assigned cells.
- See table in separate attachment for more details.

7. Subcommittee report outs

- **Stakeholder engagement subcommittee (Vice-Chair Mitchell)**
 - Vice-Chair Mitchell reported that the Minnesota Justice Research Center (MNJRC) has been formally contracted to conduct the stakeholder engagement work. The subcommittee, along with Chair Reitz and member Jeremiah Carlson, held a workshop earlier in the week with MNJRC researchers to clarify expectations and discuss the types of feedback needed.
 - A major challenge identified is locating individuals who know they were involved in cases affected by mandatory minimums, as defendants and victims often are unaware of how statutes such as 609.11 applied in their cases.
 - Vice-Chair Mitchell reported plans for the following data collection methods by groups:
 - **Practitioners:** a broad survey with the option for interviews.
 - **Individuals convicted of relevant offenses:** focus groups to efficiently gather perspectives.
 - **Victims:** one-on-one interviews to ensure comfort and safety. Vice-Chair Mitchell will also share Sentencing Guidelines Commission data with MNJRC to prevent duplication of prior work. MNJRC plans to move quickly to provide feedback within the limited timeline.
- **Legal Analysis Subcommittee (Professor Osler)**
 - Professor Osler reported that everything discussed by the subcommittee has already been shared with the task force during agenda item 6.
- **Data Subcommittee (Dr. Rob Stewart)**
 - Dr. Stewart announced that a contract with the Robina Institute has been finalized for data work. He plans to meet with Dr. Julia Laskorunsky next week to discuss next steps and will coordinate with Chair Reitz to determine which analyses should be handled by the Robina Institute, separately from what has already been done for the Sentencing Guideline Commission. Chair Reitz also requested that his research supervisor be included in the planning conversation.

8. April and May agenda items/deliverable planning

- Chair Reitz stressed the need to begin developing concrete ideas in April due to the approaching August deadline. He plans to introduce initial policy proposals intended as starting points for discussion and hopes the task force can work toward a consensus recommendation rather than a divided report.

9. Revisit timeline and work plan (Wilder Research, all)

- Wilder Research reported that the project timeline has been slightly adjusted from the work plan shared in December, with some tasks moved back to allow MNJRC time to complete data collection and to incorporate ongoing subcommittee work. Wilder has been preparing background reporting materials and will support Chair Reitz, Vice-Chair Mitchell, and others in assembling

materials for the next meeting. Although progress is behind the original schedule, Wilder confirmed they can work with the Taskforce to keep things on track to deliver the final report in August.

10. Public comment

- No public comment.
- Chair Reitz adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm.

11. Next Meeting Date

Date: 04/10/2026

Time: 10 am – 12 pm

Location: Afton Room, DOC, 1450 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul, MN 55108, and via Webex