

Task Force on Mandatory Minimum Sentences

Date: 9/26/2025

Location: Afton Room, Department of Corrections and via Webex

Members attending in-person (6): Jeremiah Carlson, John Donovan, Morgan Kunz, Kelly Mitchell, Nate Reitz, Robert Stewart.

Members attending online (5): Shane Baker, Amber Johnson, Mark Osler, Kenneth Sass, Ashley Sturz-Griffith.

Members absent (0): NA

Also present: Jaquelyn Clinton (MN Senate), Don Klick (DOC), Ron Latz (MN Senate), Jennifer McCleary (Wilder Foundation).

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Kelly Mitchell called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

2. Introductions (Discussion)

The task force members introduced themselves and the agencies that they represented.

3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair (Action)

Morgan Kunz and Nate Reitz discussed their experience and qualifications. Members discussed candidates and Morgan Kunz indicated that he would accept the Vice-Chair nomination and Nate Reitz indicated that he would accept the Chair nomination. A single vote was held on those nominations.

Motion to approve: Robert Stewart

Motion 2nd: John Donovan

Motion Carried 11-0

4. Open Meeting Law Overview (Discussion)

Grace Baehren (DPO) presented information regarding MN Open Meeting Law ([MN Statute § 13D](#)) requirements and restrictions pertaining to a state task force ([see attached presentation](#)).

5. Task Force Charge (Discussion)

- Task Force Vacancies. There are currently three task force vacancies. DOC staff are reaching out to the appointing authorities at least every two weeks.
 - Peace Officer Familiar with Shooting Investigations, Appointed by the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association.
 - Retired District Court Judge, Appointed by the Chief Justice.
 - Member of a Statewide Civil Rights Organization, Appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- Kelly Mitchell (DOC) discussed the charge given to the task force by the legislature ([see attached presentation](#)) discussing responsibilities and reports. The responsibilities included:
 - Data Collection and Analysis
 - Legal Analysis
 - Stakeholder Input
 - Assessment
 - Provide Recommendation for Legislative Action (8/15/2026)
 - The Wilder Foundation will come on in October as a facilitator to write the report and assist with many of the activities of the task force.
- The task force broke into groups to brainstorm stakeholder input and how the input would affect decision-making.
 - Identifying people for stakeholder input might be an issue. Prosecutor's offices could be utilized to get a list of people. Community Victim Advocacy groups could be a source of information.
 - Could this retraumatize people who are victims of crimes?
 - Possible data practices concerns.
 - Important to compensate participants.
 - Information received from recently impacted people would be different from information from people with a significant time between. Need to ensure that there is a wide pool of stakeholders giving information.
 - Expanding scope to include practitioners (i.e., prosecutors, defense, and judges).
 - Ensure greater Minnesota is included in stakeholder input.
- Subcommittee & Subcommittee Chair Identification
 - Data – Robert Stewart
 - Statutory & Case Law Review – Mark Osler
 - Stakeholder Input – Kelly Mitchell
 - Create a poll to determine who would like to participate on which subcommittee.
- Nate Reitz (MSGC) discussed mandatory minimum laws ([see attached Mandatory Minimum Catalog](#)).
 - Identified laws that are considered to have mandatory minimums.
 - MN Statute § 609.11 covers almost three-quarters of the sentences to which a statutory mandatory-minimum provision applied in 2023.
 - Task Force needs to identify the scope of which sentences should be reviewed.

6. Senator Latz Welcome (Discussion)

Senator Latz welcomed the task force and reinforced the charge of the legislature.

7. Establish Meeting Dates (Action)

Members reviewed answers from a poll sent out with the meeting announcement for best dates available. The members decided that future meetings would be held in the morning of the second Friday of each month.

8. Public Comment (Discussion)

Jennifer McCleary (Wilder Foundation). Wilder has experience with data collection and can advise the task force in their capacity as facilitators.

9. Next Meeting (Discussion)

Date: 10/10/2025

Time: 9:00 AM -12:00 PM

Location: Afton Room, Department of Corrections and via Webex

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:04 PM.