

Sex Offender Civil Commitment Advisory Task Force
9th meeting – Monday, February 25, 2013
6:00 – 9:00 PM
State Office Building, Room 10

Agenda:

1. Welcome/housekeeping items
2. Legislative Updates
3. Presentation from Task Force member Dr. Michael Thompson on sex offender risk (definition/measurement/management)
4. Continuation from last meeting - 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)
Ryan B. Magnus
Kelly Mitchell (ex officio)
County Atty. Mark A. Ostrem
Comm. Tom Roy (ex officio)
Dean Eric Janus
Hon. Paul Nelson
Gerald T. Kaplan
Dr. Michael Thompson (ex officio)

Rep. Jim Abeler
Donna Dunn
Chief John Harrington (ex officio)
Fred Friedman (ex officio)
Hon. Kathleen Gearin
Roberta Opheim
Rep. Tina Liebling
Sen. Tony Lourey
Comm. Nancy Schouweiler

Meeting Minutes:

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

Meeting Began: 6:09 PM

Welcome/Housekeeping Items

Chair Eric Magnuson made introductory remarks and addressed housekeeping items – announcements, schedule, agenda, etc.

Legislative Updates

Chair Magnuson and Vice Chair Rosenbaum updated the Task Force on meetings they had with key legislators earlier that day regarding Task Force work. Sen. Lourey said that the Chair and Vice Chair had accurately described what had transpired. Rep. Liebling said she appreciated the

way in which the Chair and Vice Chair had laid out the issues. Chair Magnuson referenced the upcoming deadlines for bills to pass through policy committees (March 15 and March 22).

Chair Magnuson asked Robin Vue-Benson of the Department of Human Services (DHS) to review the purpose of two “agency bills” that came from DHS and were approved by the Governor’s office and are moving through the legislative process (the two bills are SF 490/HF 947, and SF612/HF 948). The first recodifies the commitment statutes so that the provisions dealing with sex offender civil commitment are moved to their own chapter, and thus would no longer be mixed with the provisions dealing with commitment for those who are either chemically dependent, or mentally ill and dangerous. The second deals with procedures for sex offender civil commitment special review boards, judicial appeal panels, provisional discharge and victim notification.

Presentation from Task Force member Dr. Michael Thompson on sex offender risk assessment (definition/measurement/management)

note – the slides for the presentation are now up on the Task Force website. Here is a link:

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/agencywide/documents/pub/dhs16_174924.pdf

Dr. Thompson made the presentation and answered questions from the Task Force. Members commenting and/or asking questions included Roberta Opheim, Ryan Magnus, Judge Kathleen Gearin, Chair Eric Magnuson, Gerald Kaplan, Fred Friedman, Vice Chair James Rosenbaum, Dean Eric Janus, County Attorney Mark Ostrem, Commissioner Tom Roy, and Donna Dunn.

Mid-meeting Break

Continuation from last meeting - Review/Discuss Task Force Comments on Procedural and Substantive Issues

Chair Magnuson reviewed where the Task Force left off at the February 12 meeting and opened the floor for discussion among members regarding further recommendations on procedural and substantive issues.

Task Force members commenting on these issues included Dean Eric Janus, Roberta Opheim, Chair Eric Magnuson, Commissioner Tom Roy, County Attorney Mark Ostrem, Judge Kathleen Gearin, Dr. Michael Thompson, Rep. Tina Liebling, Judge Paul Nelson, Gerald Kaplan, Ryan Magnus, Rep. Jim Abeler, Vice Chair James Rosenbaum, and Fred Friedman.

Chair Magnuson discussed the timing for the next meeting with Task Force members. It was decided that it would be on Monday, March 11, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The Chair and Vice-Chair hope to have specific interim recommendations for the members to consider.

Public Comment:

- Thomas Koepke – said that he recently went to Moose Lake for an annual review – impressed with the program – the person he is mentoring has matured from age 19 to 27.
- Al Kretsinger – referenced nuclear power plants, and discussed a body-soul-spirit concept. Contended that a greater emphasis on religion would be beneficial.
- Tammy Annen – referenced interviews regarding the Task Force – said that now might be a good time to do them, given the recent story on KSTP, which she said did not paint MSOP in a good light. Appreciates Opheim comments about evaluation. Thank you all for your work.
- Russ Lovaasen – Thanked the task force for its work. Discussed process for having people exiting the system. Said that the original creators did not expect it to be a life sentence. Recommended funding be changed so it is easier for counties to do the job.

The next meeting is scheduled for:

Monday, March 11, 2013 @ 6:00 PM, Room 118 Capitol

Meeting Concluded: 9:11 PM