

Sex Offender Civil Commitment Advisory Task Force
12th meeting – Monday, July 8, 2013
6:00 – 9:00 PM
Room 5 State Office Building

Agenda:

1. Welcome/housekeeping items
2. Updates from Task Force Chair and Vice Chair
3. Panel on SPP/SDP release standards and procedures
Task Force member Eric Janus
Task Force member Ryan Magnus
Assistant Hennepin County Attorney Theresa Couri
Questions from Task Force members/Discussion
4. Public Comments

Task Force Attendance:

Hon. Eric J. Magnuson (Chair)	Ryan Magnus
Hon. James M. Rosenbaum (Vice Chair)	Hon. Kathleen Gearin
Kelly Mitchell (ex officio)	Sen. Tony Lourey
Comm. Tom Roy (ex officio)	County Atty. Mark Ostrem
Dean Eric Janus	Hon. Joanne Smith (ex-officio)
Donna Dunn	Rep. Tina Liebling
Dr. Michael Thompson (ex officio)	Comm. Nancy Schouweiler
Gerald T. Kaplan	Roberta Opheim
	Chief John Harrington (ex-officio)

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

Welcome/Housekeeping Items/Updates from Task Force Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Eric Magnuson welcomed the members and addressed housekeeping items. He noted that a memo from DHS Commissioner Jesson was passed out. He discussed the agenda for the next meeting.

Panel on SPP/SDP release standards and procedures

Task Force member Dean Eric Janus, Task Force member Ryan Magnus, and Assistant Hennepin County Attorney Theresa Couri made presentations. Ryan Magnus went through a memo he prepared for the Task Force with input from Dean Janus; Dean Janus and Theresa Couri commented. Theresa Couri went through a memo she prepared.

Questions from Task Force members/Discussion

Task Force members asked questions of the panelists and the panelists commented; the discussion included broader issues as well. Participants in the questions and discussion included Dr. Thompson, Chair Magnuson, Judge Smith, Rep. Liebling, Roberta Opheim, Ryan Magnus, Theresa Couri, Dean Janus, Judge Gearin, Judge Rosenbaum.

After a mid-meeting break, Chair Magnuson reconvened the Task Force and reviewed a summary of pending legislation from the past session. Robin Benson of DHS answered questions. Discussion included Rep. Liebling, Judge Smith, and Roberta Opheim.

Chair Magnuson asked Task Force members to send in their suggestions to be compiled.

Public Comment:

- Dennis Pearson said that those who are committed are presumed guilty. He said that sex offenders should be able to go on with their lives.
- Thomas Koepke said the MSOP client he is sponsoring is making progress and that MSOP is a good program. He said he likes the memo from DHS Commissioner Jesson, and asked if those who are re-housed would be spread around geographically.
- Tammy Annen spoke about process – someone who was out on intensive supervised release got caught on a parole violation that was not necessarily a re-offense – and should that put a level 2 offender into a level 3 category? { *Comm. Roy will look into that }
- Tom Evenstad said that in the initial hearing, the standard of proof should be raised to clear and convincing evidence; the idea should not be accepted that there would be another 50 to 60 commitments each year; he wants to be a resource to the Sex Offender Civil Commitment Defense Association; SOTP at DOC is a good panel, so if you're going to a bifurcated system, that DOC program is the alternative; retired judges should serve on the Judicial Appeal Panel.

The next meeting is scheduled for:

August 20 or 21 or 22 (later narrowed to August 21)

Meeting Concluded: 8:45 PM