In this issue
- Biennial Report Submitted to Legislature
- Task Force Delivery Teams Wrap-Up
- Advisory Group Subcommittees Update

Biennial Report Submitted to Legislature for Policy Group, Advisory Group

The Advisory Group is required to submit a report to the Minnesota Legislature on odd-numbered years providing an overview of its activities and resulting recommendations. The same requirement existed when the Policy Group was still active. Policy Group leadership in January drafted, approved and submitted the biennial report for 2017. The report covered Policy Group, Task Force and Advisory Group activities for 2014-2016.

The Advisory Group voted to approve the same report to serve as the Advisory Group’s 2017 report so that it may meet its reporting requirement. The report is posted on the Advisory Group Web page.

Two Task Force Delivery Teams Wrap Up Activities

When the Task Force and Policy Group were replaced by the Advisory Group, two Task Force delivery teams were in the midst of work on integration projects.

Electronic Exchange Delivery Team

The new electronic system that will allow prosecutors and probation to submit documents electronically to the public defenders’ content management system is nearly complete. Statewide rollout will begin within the next few months, starting with the Public Defenders’ Office in the First Judicial District.

The initial version of the electronic exchange will include document and photo transfer capabilities. Audio and video transfer capabilities will be added in a future version. The Minnesota Board of Public Defense funded the project.

The Delivery Team’s work is complete and the team will disband.

Civil Commitment Data Delivery Team

Another delivery team is looking for ways for law enforcement to more easily access public information on individuals who have current or prior civil commitments.

The BCA and the Minnesota Judicial Branch received a state technology grant to study the feasibility of a project to make MNCIS (court) civil commitment information available to law enforcement through LEMS (the BCA’s Law Enforcement Message Switch). The analysis will begin this summer and will wrap up before the end of 2018. BCA Deputy Superintendent of MNJIS Dana Gotz will keep the Advisory Group informed on the progress of the work done under the grant.

Advisory Group Meetings

Barring holidays or other conflicts, Advisory Group meetings will be held on the second Friday of the second month of each quarter. The meetings will be held at the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA). If meeting space is not available at the BCA, the meetings will be held at the Department of Corrections. Meetings will be held from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. The Group will meet three more times in 2017.
- May 12 – 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. at the BCA
- August 11 – 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. at the BCA
- November 3 – 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. at the BCA

Advisory Group members will receive email invitations and updates on each meeting.

Have a question or suggestion?
Contact Jill Oliveira (651-793-2726 or jill.oliveira@state.mn.us) for more information

Note: The information in this publication is an unofficial summary of activity. It should not be considered official meeting minutes or an official program status report. Information subject to change.

Advisory Group Subcommittee Updates

Collaborative Relationships & Funding
Funding for a new Predatory Offender System was included in the Department of Public Safety’s budget recommendation to the governor, who included it in his budget this session. Advisory Group member Representative Brian Johnson is drafting a bill to establish funding for the other two proposals.

- **Redesign, replace Predatory Offender Database** - The BCA requested $4.1 million for a two-year project to redesign and develop a new predatory offender registration system that includes the Predatory Offender Database, the law enforcement website and the public non-compliant website.

- **System integration for receipt of court documents** - The Minnesota County Attorneys Association and the Board of Public Defense requested $1.25 million to build an electronic path for documents to pass from the courts to county attorneys and public defenders, and the development of a notification process via case and content management systems when new documents are filed.

- **Software development project** - The Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative Corrections User Group and the Department of Corrections requested $200,000 to develop software to improve the process of managing an offender’s release from prison into community supervision.

Data & Identification Standards
Subcommittee members developed several ideas about collecting information from individuals to improve identification standards in Minnesota, including gathering photos, fingerprints and DNA earlier in the criminal justice process.

The Advisory Group discussed some of the challenges of improving identification standards, including the costs of conducting DNA testing; collecting, keeping and sharing the additional data; and a public skepticism about data collection.

The Advisory Group encouraged the subcommittee to work with the BCA to identify available funding to assist the subcommittee with developing an overview of other states’ identification standards and vetting the draft recommendations and issues identified. Advisory Group members who are interested in joining this subcommittee or know of someone who would be interested are encouraged to contact Dana Gotz, dana.gotz@state.mn.us.

Data Practices
A survey to gauge the public’s impression of Minnesota data practices laws is underway with about 500 of 800 individual surveys completed. The subcommittee expects the work to wrap up by the end of March. As a result, the subcommittee will not likely be in a position to compile and share survey results with the Advisory Group and the legislature before the end of the current legislative session. Feedback from criminal justice stakeholders was already gathered. The new goal is to be able to share the results of both surveys with the legislature in the fall.

Advisory Group Bylaws
Advisory Group members reviewed draft bylaws during their February meeting. The draft bylaws are a simplified version of the Task Force bylaws. Advisory Group members requested several updates to the draft.

- Add clarification regarding designations of designee vs. proxy
- Proxy definition should include language about the member being unable to attend remotely
- Advisory Group is subject to Minnesota open meeting laws
- Members, designees, and proxies missing for more than two consecutive meetings are to be contacted by the Advisory Group about their interest in continued participation

Draft updates to the bylaws will be sent to Advisory Group members for review before the May meeting.