Policy Group Reviews Strategic Plan Draft and Statutory Change Recommendations

Members of the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Information Policy Group at its March 25 meeting reviewed a draft Strategic Plan developed by the Task Force as well as proposed changes to its establishing statutory language. These drafts were part of the ongoing effort by the Policy Group and Task Force to define their future roles in the development of criminal justice information policy, direction and laws.

Proposed statute language changes

Deb Kerschner walked Policy Group members through Task Force recommendations for possible amendments to statute language, including language formally combining the Task Force and Policy Group into a single Advisory Group. Among other updates, the Task Force recommended that the Advisory Group’s membership include four public members from greater Minnesota and the metro area as approved by the Advisory Group, with the term of the appointment defined in Minnesota Statute §15.059.

The Policy Group passed a motion to amend the draft language so that the four individuals named as public members would be appointed by the governor for a four year term. The other members, identified as members by role rather than name, would not have term limits.

Draft strategic plan

The draft strategic plan presented to the Policy Group included five strategies which would each be the focus of a future Task Force Sub-Committee:

1. Simplified and updated data practices that balance public safety and privacy rights, while allowing information sharing at the local, state and federal levels.
2. Collaborative relationships with legislature, professional associations and other key stakeholders.
3. Funding structure to support ongoing criminal justice information integration.
4. Formalized technology education and innovation.
5. Uniform criminal justice data and identification standards.

Next steps

Policy Group members voted to ask the Task Force, through its sub-committees, to identify more detailed information about the strategies, including work items that would be associated with each strategy. The Task Force is then asked to report back to the Policy Group at a joint meeting to be held in September 2015.

Any proposed changes to the statute language would be made for the 2016 legislative session.