



Minnesota Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Juliet Rudie: *Director*

Ana Negrete: *Community Planner*

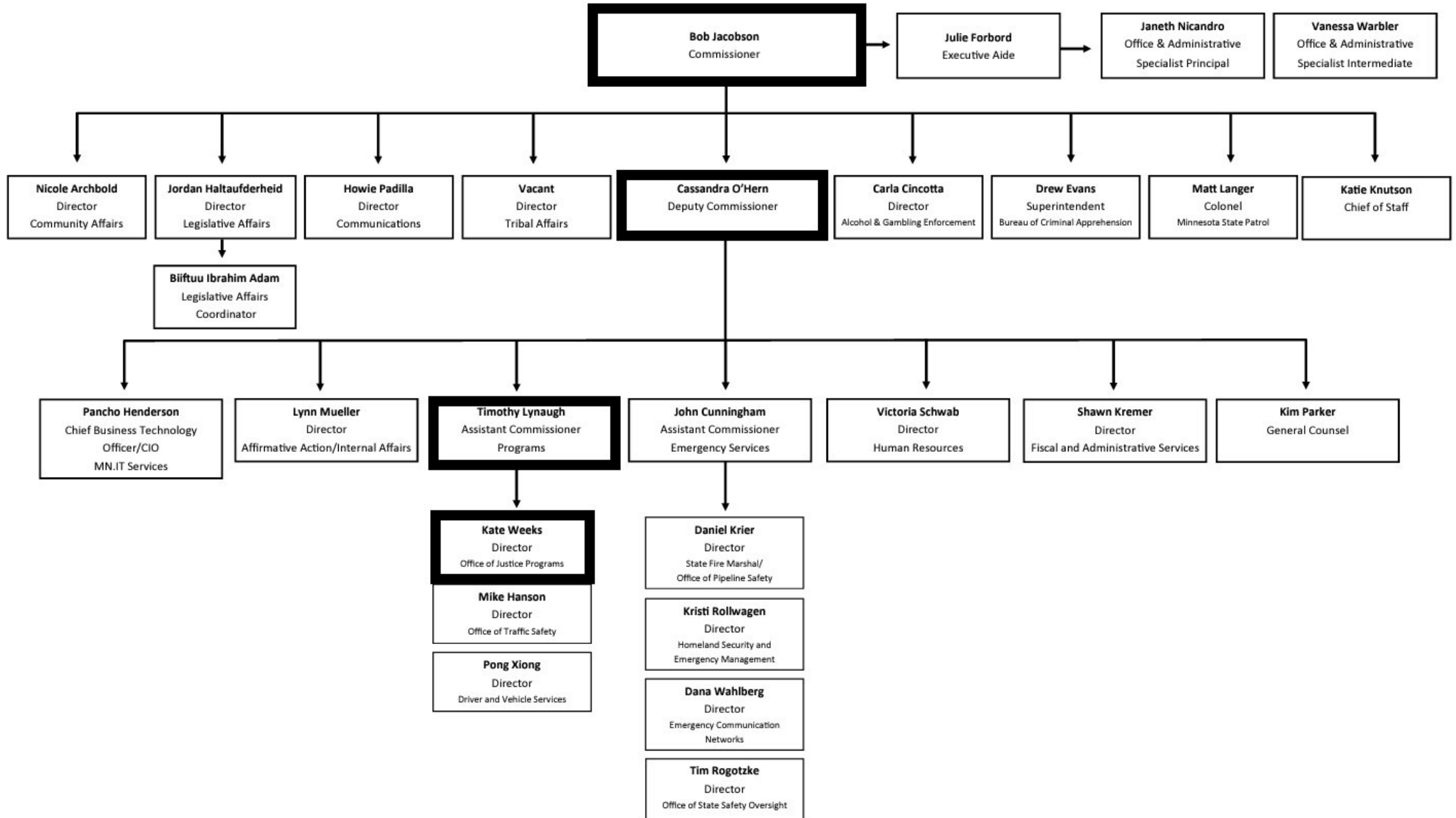
Tawny Smith Savage: *Violence Prevention Coordinator*

Kayley Sansom: *Intelligence Specialist*

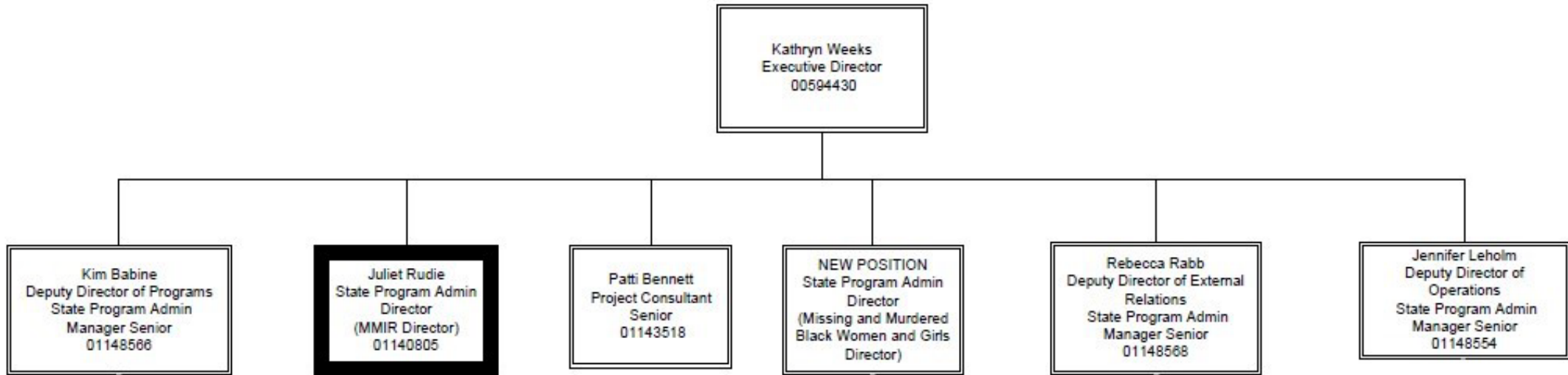
299A.85 Overview: Establishing the MMIR Office

- The office is within the Department of Public Safety, under the division of Office of Justice Programs:
 - "The commissioner shall establish and maintain an office **dedicated to preventing and ending the targeting of Indigenous women, children, and two-spirited people** with the Minnesota Office of Justice Programs."
- The office is not a law enforcement agency, no authority to investigate cases
- No outlined authority to access certain types of data (law enforcement, social work, child welfare, etc.)
- No scope provided for office operations, with three general areas of mandated duties:
 - Collect of MMIR data
 - Provide technical assistance to law enforcement on active MMIR cases
 - Case reviews of MMIR investigations and prosecutions

Minnesota Department of Public Safety Organizational Chart



Department of Public Safety OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS



Statutory Mandates and Authority

➤ Subd. 4: Required duties

- (1) Advocate for legislation to facilitate Task Force mandates*
- (2) Advocate for state agencies to facilitate Task Force mandates*
- (3) Recommend legislation to address injustice in the criminal justice system*
- (4) Facilitate further research to refine mandates*
- (5) Develop tools and processes to evaluate implementation and impact of the office's work*
- (6) Track and collect MMIR data*
- (7) Provide technical assistance to law enforcement during active MMIR cases*
- (8) Case reviews on missing person cold cases and deaths ruled a suicide or overdose*
- (9) Case review of violent or exploitative crimes against an Indigenous victim*
- (10) Draft legislation to allow the office access to data to complete duties*
- (11) Review sentencing guidelines for MMIR-related crimes*
- (12) Communicate with DPS divisions regarding MMIR cases and investigation procedures*
- (13) Coordinate with the BIA, neighboring states, and Canada*

Statutory Mandates and Authority

- Subd. 5: The office may coordinate with stakeholders and agencies responsible for **investigating, prosecuting, and adjudicating** cases involving violence committed against Indigenous women; **supporting** or **advocating** for missing or murdered Indigenous women and the people who seek justice for them; and those who **represent the interests** of Indigenous people.
- Subd. 6: Annual report to the Minnesota Legislature include measurable outcomes achieved, objectives, as well as data and statistics.
- Subd. 8: The Director has access to corrections and detention data, as well as medical data.

Creation of Policies and Procedure

1. DEVELOPMENT
BEGAN MARCH 14,
2023

2. FINALIZED DRAFT
COMPLETED ON
AUGUST 11, 2023

3. DIRECTOR
APPROVED ON
AUGUST 27, 2023

4. CURRENTLY BEING
REVIEWED BY OJP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KATE WEEKS

5. TO BE REVIEWED
BY DPS GENERAL
COUNSEL KIM
PARKER



Standard Operating Procedures

Definitions Highlights:

- Setting expectations of the community as to what our office is capable and authorized to provide.
- Missing status is after a report has been made to law enforcement.
- The difference between how our office defines an active or cold case.

Position Descriptions:

- Victim Service Specialist and Case Review Coordinator positions will be posted by the end of the year.

Contact Procedures:

- Tracking how often and who is reaching out to our office for the annual report to the Legislature.
 - Providing guidelines to staff for liability and data privacy.
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Standard Operating Procedures

Data Practices:

- Using this policy as structure for how our office will navigate Data Practices law, as statute 299A.85 does not outline any inherent authority, access, or guidelines.
- Law enforcement data, social services data, crime victim data, medical data, etc., all have different accessibility and classifications.
- Any information collected from another government entity **will not** be released by our office.
- We will not be providing details on active cases we are involved in, **unless** we have authorization from the client and from the investigating law enforcement agency. We do not want to compromise an investigation or make public sensitive information.

Conflicts of Interest:

- We want to provide standardize, equitable services to all our clients.
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Service Policy: Case Support

An assessment and referral-based liaising for victims/survivors and their families. Our office connects them with resources and guide them through any processes to acquire desired services, with special consideration for Indigenous cultural norms and practices.

Staff Roles:

- Clearly outline each staff member's area when providing case support to families.

Intake:

- Our website has a link to start the process – make sure we are getting all the information we need at the beginning.

Initial Response:

- Guidance on reporting of child abuse or maltreatment as the FSL is a social worker (mandatory reporter).

Case Support Procedures:

- Due to our staffing levels, we are not able to provide direct services right now.
- Currently helping relatives navigate the complex web of providers and organizations, as well as provide emotional support.

Service Policy: Technical Assistance

The provision of a variety of analytical services to law enforcement, upon request, to support and aid in their MMIR investigations. This a crime analysis function utilizing quantitative and qualitative techniques statutorily mandated in 299A.85 subd. 4(7).

Data Practices:

- This is to be absolutely clear that our office will handle all law enforcement data appropriately when providing this service.

Procedures and Duties:

- To make sure we are providing the structure and establishing accurate expectations for what law enforcement can expect, we want to make sure that we have agreements in writing to outline roles and responsibility for this service.
- However, we also want to remain flexible in emergent situations where we can provide this service when needed.

Coordination with Other Criminal Justice Agencies:

- Our office recognizes that jurisdictional issues are one of the many barriers to MMIR cases being investigated effectively and with appropriate urgency.

Areas for Improvement and Expansion

- We are in need of a service policy for case reviews, per 229A.85, subd. 4(8) and (9).
- Access to technology has been a barrier for relatives requesting or receiving services.
- Difficulty responding to emergent cases with a cumbersome intake process.
- Potential clients are hesitant to complete our intake process to receive supportive services, due to trepidation with completing official state government paperwork.
- Current statute language does not authorize access to investigative data, which impedes both the Case Support and Technical Assistance services (and case reviews once service is offered).
- Community reaching out for support for relatives experiencing risks that can lead to MMIR (SUD, IPV, sexual exploitation, homelessness)

Questions and Feedback



Minnesota
**Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Relatives**
Office

Kayley Sansom

MMIR Intelligence Specialist



kayley.sansom@state.mn.us



651-417-7746