

MINUTES

CRIMINAL & JUVENILE JUSTICE INFORMATION AND BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSION ADVISORY GROUP MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 2025
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
BCA

Attendees

Advisory Group Members:	Organization
Abraha, Alex	Public Member
Beaumaster, Paul	Minnesota County Attorneys Association
Bigham, Karla	Minnesota Association of Counties
Bodie, Marv	Minnesota Association of Counties
Carlson, Barbara	Public Member
Charles, Kellie	2 nd Judicial District
Cornelius, Rachel	Minnesota County Attorneys Association
Densley, James	Public Member
Evjen, Jesse	Minnesota Sheriffs Association
Feist, Sandra	House of Representatives
Frank, Matthew	4 th Judicial District
Heck, Troy	Minnesota Sheriffs Association
Henderson, Pancho	MNIT
Hibbs, Brian	Minnesota Association of Community Corrections
Hoyle, Kathleen	Board of Public Defense
Kampa Jaszewski, Karen	Judicial Branch
Knaak, Fritz	League of MN Cities
Mastin, Mike	Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association
Katie Nolting	League of MN Cities
Reitz, Nate	MN Sentencing Guidelines Commission
Pavlov-Shapiro, Anya	Attorney General
Siolka, Lindsay	Board of Public Defense
Willert, Amy	Minnesota Association for Court Management
Ernster, Mike	BCA
Evans, Drew	BCA
Gotz, Dana	BCA
Knutson, Cathy	BCA
Miller, Tom	BCA
Oliveira, Jill	BCA
Sanchez, Angie	BCA

Welcome and Introductory Items

Advisory Group Chair Paul Beaumaster called the meeting to order. Roundtable introductions were made. Beaumaster made a motion to approve last meeting's minutes; the minutes were unanimously approved. Beaumaster made a motion to approve this meeting's agenda; the agenda was unanimously approved.

BCA Superintendent Updates

Superintendent Drew Evans provided organizational and legislative updates. He spoke of the integration of the Commerce Fraud Bureau with the BCA, now functioning as a single unit focused on insurance fraud, financial crimes, and wage theft. He continued with legislative updates highlighting that schools are now required to report active shooter and threats incidents to the BCA Fusion Center. Focus on next legislative session will include an attempt to prohibit child like sex dolls and expansion of unmanned aerial vehicles for suspects fleeing police offices, both of which did not pass this past session.

Facility updates included progress on the Mankato regional lab and training hub designed to expand forensic capabilities and future plans for expanding the Bemidji Regional Office were mentioned.

A recent ransomware attack on the City of St. Paul highlighted the growing cybersecurity threat to public safety agencies, prompting a call for all agencies to strengthen their cyber defenses.

Rapid DNA Presentation

BCA Deputy Superintendent of Forensic Science Services Cathy Knutson presented a detailed overview of rapid DNA technology. She pointed out the machines are small, provide fast analysis that is capable of producing DNA results in less than two hours. Rapid DNA is seen as a complement, not replacement, to traditional lab analysis. Works best for single-source, non-mixture samples with strong chain of custody. In Minnesota, legislative funds enabled purchase and pilot evaluation of these instruments. Their validation has been limited to lab settings and select field cases. Implementation plan will phase technology into controlled lab use first, with eventual consideration for secure field/kiosk applications, pending further validation.

Minnesota Rehabilitation Act – Kate Frykman and Karley Jorgensen

Kate Fryman and Karley Jorgensen presented the latest on the Minnesota Rehabilitation and Reinvestment Act, a 2023 law aiming to shift Minnesota corrections towards incentivizing rehabilitation, reducing recidivism, and reinvesting savings. The effort focuses on individualized rehabilitation plans for incarcerated people based on assessments and personal goal setting. The program gives participants the opportunity to earn a release from prison that is up to 17 percent earlier than the standard two thirds for sentence completion by demonstrating change. The benefits also carry into post incarceration with less intensive supervision based on program compliance. Input from victims, community and prosecutor play a role in the evaluation of the persons eligibility. This effort is being piloted and adjusted based on feedback. Collaboration and continued review will occur as the Department of Corrections modifies and designs future policies to ensure success.

Clean Slate Law Implementation Update – Tom Miller

Presentation on the rollout of Minnesota’s Clean Slate law and the automated expungement of qualifying criminal records. Automated sealing is progressing but complicated by data discrepancies, mismatches, missing information, and system integration challenges with the judiciary.

As of the meeting, approximately 760,000 of 2.1 million eligible counts have been sealed, with further bulk processing and manual review for more complicated data issues upcoming. Sealed records remain accessible to criminal justice agencies but are hidden from the public. Newer records easier to process due to improved data infrastructure.

Challenges have included merging duplicate records, coding bugs, and decades-old poor data quality. The process will continue to be improved and future automation is planned. It is expected that the bulk of the records will be processed in the coming months, with a small but persistent set of records requiring human review, and ongoing maintenance for new eligible records.

Violent Crime Subcommittee Update – James Densley

Discussion focused on turnover of membership with questions being raised regarding who wants to serve on this subcommittee and what the purpose of the subcommittee is going forward. Moving forward, does the BCA have specific issues that should be focused on by the subcommittee or does the advisory group have something they believe should be explored. Should that focus be on gun violence prevention specifically, especially in light of recent events, or is the subcommittee no longer needed now that violent crime is falling from the 2020-21 spike.

Member Updates

Advisory Group members provided updates regarding their respective organizations.

November Agenda Items:

- Updating the Advisory Group bylaws.

Next Meeting:

Nov. 25, 2025
BCA

The meeting adjourned.