

Domestic Violence and Firearms Surrender Task Force

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday September 11, 2024, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Virtual meeting via Teams

Task force members present: Colleen Myhre, Judge Jean E. Burdorf, Doug Carlson, Jenna Peterson, Brady Juell, Kyle Burton, Guadalupe Lopez, Kate Hannaher, David Lamb. Absent: Julie Rudie.

DPS staff: Commissioner Bob Jacobson, Drew Evans, Kate Weeks, Biiftuu Ibrahim Adam (facilitator), and Suzanne Elwell

Wilder Foundation staff: Julie Atella, Melissa Sarafin, Nora Johnson

Guests: Representative Kelly Moller, Zach Meinerts, Jeffrey Diebel

Welcome and introductions

Commissioner Bob Jacobson welcomed the task force members and DPS and Wilder Foundation staff introduced themselves.

The task force members introduced themselves and explained their respective experiences and expertise in the area of domestic violence, firearms prohibitions, firearm surrender, firearm transfer orders, and ERPOs.

Upon request, Representative Moller provided an explanation about the origins of the legislation, stating it came from a report from the University of Minnesota Gun Violence Prevention Law Clinic in 2023 and that she and Representative Pinto thought that a task force to look at the issue would be an appropriate step rather than trying to going right ahead with legislation in this past session.

Legislative Authority and Duties for Task Force

Biiftuu reviewed legislative authority for the task force and the seven duties for the task force listed in the statute.

Wilder overview of research questions, process, and timeline

Wilder Foundation staff reviewed the identified duties under the statutory authority and identified the steps they will be taking, the research questions, and their proposed timeline.

Staff have prepared a preliminary list of data sources and asked members to forward along any other ideas, sources, and resources that they know of.

Task force discussion

The task force members had a robust discussion of the challenges and needs that members see in their respective areas, including:

- The need for best practices for removal of firearms, surrender of firearms to law enforcement agencies, and judicial procedures.
- The inability to verify the affidavit signed by defendants indicating they have no firearms.
- Uncertainty on the part of law enforcement agencies on how to deal with surrender orders.
- The difficulty of knowing if a person has a firearm in their residence and the challenges to getting a search warrant when often there is no probable cause.
- Violating some of the gun surrender provisions is a low-level offense.
- The need for the gun surrender process to be safe for peace officers.
- The need for uniform training for:
 - Judges on ERPOs, firearms prohibition and surrender laws.
 - Prosecutors on the ability to request an order that the defendant surrender firearms.
 - Court admin staff on what to do with submitted firearms surrender forms and next steps.
 - Advocacy community about how to identify when there is a firearm danger, including how to ask the questions to get to the risk.

Other issues and questions raised:

- Whether the problems should be addressed through better practices, statutory changes, or both.
- The need to be clear about the purpose of the statute and be laser focused in the task force's approach.
- Accountability in the measures we have in place (regarding offenders).
- Accountability/support to each other in ensuring that the measures are carried out.
- How do we measure compliance.
- Strategies from other states, for example, King County, Washington, and their attempts at getting more compliance with their existing statute, not executing a warrant when the person is home.

These resources were shared by David: [King County \(Washington\) Regional Domestic Violence Firearms Enforcement Unit](#), [Articles by Dr. April Zeoli on domestic violence firearms](#).

Given the issues that were raised, Biiftuu called upon Chair Moller to discuss the background of the legislation for TF. She and Rep Pinto have long been aware of gaps and the questions: Is it a training, practice, or legislative issue? How do we make sure that abusers who are not supposed to have guns are turning them over.

Electing a Chair and Vice Chair

Biiftuu explained the role of chair and vice chair. The chair and vice chair will work with DPS staff and Wilder staff on setting agenda for the next meeting. The chair and vice chair will convene and facilitate future meetings. It was clarified that the statute allows for additional officers beyond the chair and vice chair.

Following self-nominations and discussion, the task force members voted and elected the following:

Chair: Kate Hannaher

Vice Chairs: Chief Brady Juell and Sheriff Kyle Burton

What's Next

Biiftuu will connect with the chair, vice chairs, and Wilder Foundation staff to set up a meeting for the purpose of scheduling future meetings and setting the agendas.

Closing

The meeting ended at 12:58.

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Colleen Myhre
Assistant Special Agent in Charge
Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

Julie Rudie
Director
Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office

The Honorable Jean E. Burdorf
Fourth Judicial District

Doug Carlson
Chief Public Defender (7th and 8th Judicial Districts)

Jenna Peterson
Redwood County Attorney
Brady Juell
Chief, Savage Police Department

Kyle Burton
Mille Lacs County Sheriff

Guadalupe Lopez
Violence Free Minnesota

Kate Hannaher
Staff Attorney
Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault

David Lamb
Gun Violence Prevention Law Clinic
University of Minnesota Law School

Minnesota Indian Affairs Council
Vacant (cannot appoint until November)