



Association of Minnesota Counties

PUBLIC SAFETY Policy Committee

Monday, November 16, 2020
1:00 – 4:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting

AGENDA

1:00 P.M. Joint HHS/Public Safety Presentation

Please use this link to log on to the first hour of the meeting:

<https://mncounties-org.zoom.us/j/81780673942?pwd=MjRHZUFRZ2VHZFdvN1BqL3dUQWhkZz09>

Meeting ID: 817 8067 3942

Passcode: 779251

Parent Representation for Child Protection Cases

Joanna Woolman, Mitchell Hamline Institute for Transforming Child Protection

The Mitchell Hamline Institute to Transform Child Protections believes that when a child is removed from their home by the state, no parent should have to navigate the legal system on their own. Minnesota is one of only eight states that does not mandate representation for parents who cannot afford an attorney, some parents do. In many cases, parents are not represented at their initial removal hearing where their due process rights and their constitutional right to parent are considered by a judge. Joanna Woolman will give a brief overview of the findings of national research which shows that high quality legal representation for parents from the initial hearing on leads to better outcomes for children and families. These outcomes include reunifications that occur more quickly and last longer (fewer system reentries); permanency being established for children sooner; and parents engaging in services more quickly and effectively.

Community Competency Restoration Taskforce Update

Stearns County Commissioner Tarryl Clark

Commissioner Clark will provide an overview of the work of the statewide taskforce convened to evaluate community competency restoration needs in Minnesota. Clark is one of 3 participants representing counties.



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Individuals who are charged with a crime must be competent to stand trial. Competency Restoration is the process of providing services for an individual that is found incompetent to stand trial to help them understand the court system and regain competency. Statute does not charge any state agency with competency restoration programming. The taskforce was established by the legislature in 2019 after the Department of Human Services ended services for individuals in state operated facilities who no longer met medical criteria.

Over the last year, the taskforce has examined trends of competency referrals by county, local efforts to address the growing number of individuals deemed incompetent to stand trial, and what other states have done to address these issues. The group is required to put forward a report to the legislature with recommendations by February 2021.

2:00 P.M. Break – Log on to Part II of the Meeting

Please use this link to log on to the second part of the meeting:

<https://mncounties-org.zoom.us/j/85692524219?pwd=T0hkZDYwZ0t2a0hTTzl4ZHMwZVphQT09>

Meeting ID: 856 9252 4219
Passcode: AMC

2:05 P.M. CALL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE TO ORDER – Commissioner Jack Swanson Pledge of Allegiance, Welcome and Introductions, Approval of September Minutes

2:15 P.M. Platform Amendment Review

Chair Swanson and Carli Stark

Carli Stark will review the process for changes to the public safety portions of the platform.

The committee received five platform amendments. Each author will be asked to present their amendment to the committee by providing a background on the amendment, how it impacts counties throughout the state, and what they expect AMC's role to be on the amendment. The committee will discuss and vote on the proposed amendments.

4:00 P.M. ADJOURN