



# **Governor's Commission on Sex Offender Policy**

## **Commission Work Plan**

**Esther M. Tomljanovich  
Chairwoman**

### **Members**

**Brian Schlueter  
Jerry Soma  
John Stuart  
Steven Strachan  
Susan Voigt**

**James Backstrom  
Laura Budd  
Terry Dempsey  
Carla Ferrucci  
Kristin Flaten  
Gerald Kaplan**

**Governor's Commission on Sex Offender Policy**  
**September 8, 2004**

**Objective:** To develop and submit for the Governor's review by December 15:

- (a) a set of policy recommendations in five broad and complex areas relating to sex offenders; and,
- (b) a survey of best practices in those same five broad areas relating to sex offenders.

**Strategy:**

1. Through a series of twelve (12) meetings, each of which would be approximately 3 hours in length, the Commission would:

- (a) Review, revise and approve:
  - (i) a work plan,
  - (ii) set of Commission procedures,
  - (iii) forms for use by Commission Members in submitting comments and recommendations; and,
  - (iv) forms for use by Members of the Public in submitting comments and recommendations.
- (b) Review current and best practice in the five (5) broad topic areas referenced in the Governor's announcement of his appointment of Justice Tomljanovich and the formation of the Commission. Those five topic areas are:
  - (1) Placement of Elderly and Disabled Sex Offenders
  - (2) Sex Offender Sentencing Practices
  - (3) Sex Offender Supervision Practices
  - (4) Civil Commitment Procedures
  - (5) Conditional Medical Release Practices

- (c) Consider other matters relating to sex offenders as designated by the Commission.
- (d) Review and edit a Draft Set of Recommendations and Best Practices; and,
- (e) Approve a Final Set of Recommendations and Best Practices.

2. At each of the meetings on the five broad topic areas, the Commission will focus testimony and begin discussion on the “Introductory Questions.” The Introductory Questions are a starting point for each meeting, and are not intended to limit the lines of inquiry for Commission Members in any way.

**Meeting 1:** Wednesday, September 8 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

**Topic Area:** Commission Introduction, Statutory Overview and Approval of Work Plan

**Introductory Questions:** How does Minnesota sentence, hold, treat, supervise and refer sex offenders?

**Meeting 2:** Wednesday, September 15 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

**Topic Area:** Sentencing of Sex Offenders

**Introductory Questions:** Are there sentencing practices that contribute to lower rates of recidivism and improved public safety? What benefits would follow from a return to a parole board for certain sex offenses?

**Meeting 3:** Wednesday, September 22 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

**Topic Area:** Supervision of Sex Offenders

**Introductory Questions:** Are there supervision practices that contribute to lower rates of recidivism and improved public safety? Are there improvements that could be made in registration practice for juvenile offenders? Are there improvements that could be made to the Hearings and Release Unit’s processes?

**Meeting 4:** Wednesday, September 29 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

**Topic Area:** Best Practice Discussion – Group A

Survey of Best Practices and Policy Recommendations for  
Supervision and Sentencing

**Meeting 5:** Wednesday, October 6 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

**Topic Area:** Assessment, Screening and Referral of Sex Offenders for Civil  
Commitment

**Introductory Questions:** Are there changes to be made in Minnesota's  
processes for assessing, screening and referring sex offenders for Civil  
Commitment? Who should undertake this work?

**Meeting 6:** Wednesday, October 13 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

**Topic Area:** Best Practice Discussion – Group B

Survey of Best Practices and Policy Recommendations  
for Civil Commitment

**Meeting 7:** Wednesday, October 20 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

**Topic Area:** “Mid-Point” Review Meeting  
Review Summary of Public Comments  
Preliminary Discussion of Recommendations

**Meeting 8:** Wednesday, October 27 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

**Topic Area:** State Health Care Options When Treating Sex Offenders

**Introductory Questions:** How should elderly or disabled persons, with a  
criminal history that includes a sex offense, access health care services?  
Does federal law limit the opportunities for reform in this area?

**Meeting 9:** Wednesday, November 3 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

**Topic Area:** Conditional Medical Release Practice

**Introductory Questions:** How should inmates, with a criminal history that includes a sex offense, access long-term nursing care? Does federal law limit the opportunities for reform in this area?

**Meeting 10:** Wednesday, November 10 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

**Topic Area:** Best Practice Discussion – Group C

Survey of Best Practices and Policy Recommendations for  
Offender Health Care and Conditional Medical Release

**Meeting 11:** Wednesday, November 17 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

**Topic Area:** Review of the Preliminary Draft of the Commission Report

**Meeting 12:** Wednesday, December 1 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

**Topic Area:** Review and Approval of Final Set of Recommendations

**Meeting Practice and Procedures:**

3. At each of the Meetings on the policy topics the three-hour meeting will be equally divided into two parts:

- (a) 1 ½ hours devoted to presentations from recognized experts and questions and answers from Commission Members;
- (b) 1 ½ hours devoted to discussion by Commission Members of possible alternatives.

4. Oral testimony to the Commission will be by invitation of the Chairwoman. All other interested persons will be encouraged to complete Public Comment Forms and to submit written material to the Commission.

5. At the close of each Meeting on a specific topic area, Commission Members will be encouraged to complete and return pre-printed comment forms. From the discussion during Commission meetings and preliminary recommendations on the meeting comment forms, Commission Staff will develop a Draft Set of Recommendations and Survey of Best Practices.

6. The Commission Work Plan, Comment Forms and Meeting Notices will be posted and available on the Internet.

7. The Draft Set of Best Practices and Policy Recommendations will be reviewed by the Commission at a meeting on **Wednesday, November 17**. During this meeting, and at close of this meeting, Commission Members will forward proposed revisions to the Draft Set of Recommendations and Survey of Best Practices.

8. A Final Set of Best Practices and Policy Recommendations will be reviewed by the Commission at a meeting on **Wednesday, December 1**.

Commission Staff Contact:

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# **PUBLIC COMMENT FORM**

## **Governor's Commission on Sex Offender Policy**

### **Meeting 2: Sentencing of Sex Offenders**

**September 15, 2004**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

Are there sentencing practices that contribute to lower rates of recidivism and improved public safety? What benefits, if any, would follow from a return to a parole board for certain sex offenses? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

What principles should guide policy-makers when reviewing Minnesota's sentencing laws? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

What research, articles, treatises or other published works would be useful in forming an answer to the first question? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

Submit to: Eric Lipman, Suite 200 - 1450 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul, 55108 Fax: (651) 632-5066

# **PUBLIC COMMENT FORM**

## **Governor's Commission on Sex Offender Policy**

### **Meeting 3: Supervision of Sex Offenders**

**September 22, 2004**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

Are there supervision practices that contribute to lower rates of recidivism and improved public safety? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

What principles should guide policy-makers when working to improve the supervision of sex offenders? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

What research, articles, treatises or other published works would be useful in forming an answer to the first question? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

Submit to: Eric Lipman, Suite 200 - 1450 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul, 55108 Fax: (651) 632-5066

# **PUBLIC COMMENT FORM**

## **Governor's Commission on Sex Offender Policy** **Meeting 4: Best Practices and Policy Recommendations** **in Sentencing and Supervision – September 29, 2004**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

What practices in sentencing and supervision should Minnesota consider adopting?  
(Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

What features make these practices desirable? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

What research, articles, treatises or other published works would be useful in forming an answer to the first question? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

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# **PUBLIC COMMENT FORM**

## **Governor's Commission on Sex Offender Policy Meeting 5: Assessment, Screening and Referral of Sex Offenders for Civil Commitment – October 6, 2004**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

Are there changes to be made in Minnesota's processes for assessing, screening and referring sex offenders for Civil Commitment? Who should undertake this work?

What principles should guide policy-makers when working to improve the assessment, screening and referral of sex offenders? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

What research, articles, treatises or other published works would be useful in forming an answer to the first question? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

Submit to: Eric Lipman, Suite 200 - 1450 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul, 55108 Fax: (651) 632-5066

# **PUBLIC COMMENT FORM**

## **Governor's Commission on Sex Offender Policy** **Meeting 6: Best Practices and Policy Recommendations** **in Civil Commitment – October 13, 2004**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

What are the best practices in civil commitment? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

What features make these practices desirable? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

What research, articles, treatises or other published works would be useful in forming an answer to the first question? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

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# **PUBLIC COMMENT FORM**

## **Governor's Commission on Sex Offender Policy**

### **Meeting 7: "Mid-Point" Review Meeting**

**October 20, 2004**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

What recommendations do you have for the Commission, at the "mid-point" in its work?  
(Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

What features make these recommendations desirable? (Please attach additional sheets,  
if necessary.)

Submit to: Eric Lipman, Suite 200 - 1450 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul, 55108 Fax: (651) 632-5066

# **PUBLIC COMMENT FORM**

## **Governor's Commission on Sex Offender Policy**

### **Meeting 8: State Health Care Options When Treating Sex Offenders October 27, 2004**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

How should elderly or disabled persons, with a criminal history that includes a sex offense, access health care services? Does federal law limit the opportunities for reform in this area? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

What principles should guide policy-makers when regulating access to health care services by those who have committed a sex offense? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

What research, articles, treatises or other published works would be useful in forming an answer to the first question? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

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# **PUBLIC COMMENT FORM**

## **Governor's Commission on Sex Offender Policy** **Meeting 9: Conditional Medical Release Practice** **November 3, 2004**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** (       ) \_\_\_\_\_

How should inmates, with a criminal history that includes a sex offense, access long-term nursing care? Does federal law limit the opportunities for reform in this area? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

What principles should guide policy-makers when working to improve the conditional medical release practices? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

What research, articles, treatises or other published works would be useful in forming an answer to the first question? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

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# **PUBLIC COMMENT FORM**

## **Governor's Commission on Sex Offender Policy**

### **Meeting 10: Best Practices and Policy Recommendations in Offender Health Care and Conditional Medical Release – November 10, 2004**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

What are the best practices in the delivery of health care to inmates and ex-offenders?  
(Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

What features make these practices desirable? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

What research, articles, treatises or other published works would be useful in forming an answer to the first question? (Please attach additional sheets, if necessary.)

Submit to: Eric Lipman, Suite 200 - 1450 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul, 55108 Fax: (651) 632-5066