

**MINUTES OF THE  
CRIME REDUCTION TASK FORCE**

Wednesday, June 2, 1999 - 9:00 a.m. - Room 303 State Capitol

**Members Present:**

Sen. Robert F. Montgomery, Senate Chair  
Rep. John E. Swallow, House Chair  
Sen. Ron Bigelow  
Sen. Robert M. Muhlestein  
Rep. Duane Bourdeaux  
Rep. Perry L. Buckner  
Rep. Blake D. Chard  
Rep. Gary F. Cox  
Rep. Greg J. Curtis  
Rep. Matt Throckmorton

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Ron Allen

**Staff Present:**

Chyleen A. Arbon, Research Analyst  
Keith M. Woodwell, Associate General Counsel  
Barbara A. Teuscher, Legislative Secretary

**1. Committee Business** - Chair Montgomery called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Committee members briefly commented on issues they would like to see the task force study during the interim.

**2. General and Statistical Overview of Drug Crime Data** - Ms. Camille Anthony, Director, Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ), introduced Mary Lou Bozich, Coordinator, Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-violence Coordinating Council. Ms. Anthony said that in 1996, Governor Leavitt had the opportunity to talk with General Barry McCaffrey, the leader of the Office of the National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). General McCaffrey emphasized that the key to success in dealing with drug issues is a coordinated effort at the state level. Ms. Anthony referred to a handout entitled, "Drugs and Crime: A Clear and Costly Nexus," and highlighted the relationship between drugs and crime. Ms. Anthony referred to another handout entitled, "Profiles of Substances of Abuse," listing the different drugs and their effects.

Mr. Mike Haddon, Director, Research and Data, CCJJ, presented statistics about drug-related arrests, alcohol-related arrests, Utah's drug task forces, juvenile drug-related crime, and drug-related issues involving the Department of Corrections.

Ms. Angela Smart, Department of Human Services, distributed a handout entitled, "Statistical Report on Substance Abuse in Utah." She informed the committee that periodically the department contracts with a company to conduct household surveys to measure the incidence and prevalence of substance abuse in Utah and to make comparisons with the nation. Ms. Smart presented a slide show indicating trends in drug, alcohol, and tobacco use among adults in Utah.

Chair Montgomery discussed the school survey bill which was not passed by the House of Representatives in the last general session. He said the bill was designed to gather information from high school students in order to identify the key issues and strategically direct the millions of dollars of federal and state resources to assist youth in drug prevention. Chair Montgomery said that the bill will be modified to make it more acceptable next year.

**3. Drugs and the Hispanic Community** - Leticia Medina, Director, Governor's Office of Hispanic Affairs, discussed the concerns of the Hispanic community regarding drug-related crime. The latino community in Utah has experienced rapid growth and currently stands at 133,000. She stated that the latino community does not condone the criminal activity of illegal aliens, but is concerned with the way data has been presented regarding their involvement in the drug problem. Ms. Medina indicated that the Hispanic community is very interested in solving the problem and yet they feel like they are not being considered as part of the solution.

Rep. Bigelow asked Ms. Medina if there are studies indicating whether nationality or economic status is more closely related to drug-related crime. She said that it is more a factor of economic status.

Chair Montgomery indicated that he hopes Ms. Medina will stay involved with the committee and help the task force in its efforts to reduce drug-related crime.

**4. Drugs in Urban and Rural Utah** - Don Mendrala, DEA Metro Task Force, said that his office addresses the clandestine lab problems and other drug-related issues in the state. He indicated that the precursor chemical laws have recently started to have an impact on the drug problem and said that there have been 54 lab cases prosecuted this year.

Mr. Mendrala explained that his office is in the preliminary stages of identifying the connection between gangs and drugs. In the last six months, his task force has identified that drug-related crime seems to be increasing among latino gang members. In conclusion, Mr. Mendrala said that they have faced both jurisdictional and communication problems with the task force, as well as heavy case loads.

Captain Kevin Youngberg, Criminal Investigations Bureau, Department of Public Safety, reported that between 1990 and 1996 the methamphetamine use among teenagers has doubled from 2.7 percent to 4.4 percent and that the same trend in meth-related hospital emergency room visits have increased from 4,500 in 1991 to more than 17,000 in 1994. He also reported a dramatic increase in the number of labs seized in Utah from 1991 to the present. He mentioned that part of the failure in the department has been caused by a lack of manpower, funding, prisoner jail space, and treatment programs for those who are addicted.

**5. Drugs and Utah's Corrections System** - Pete Haun, Director, Department of

Corrections, said more than 75 percent of the inmate population has a substance abuse problem and that the department has been very aggressive over the past two years in addressing this issue. Mr. Haun noted that the department received more than \$1 million last year in grants for substance abuse treatment and hopes to increase the amount next year.

Rep. Cox asked Mr. Haun what the Department of Corrections can do in the area of prevention. Mr. Haun responded that the department is increasing its networking capabilities and that it is making a difference. Mr. Haun said there are ways for the department to be more effective with existing resources.

Gary Dalton, Director, Division of Youth Corrections, mentioned that there are two documents that might help the committee in its search for solutions. The first is entitled, "Drug and Violent Crime Enforcement Control Plan," which is published by CCJJ, and the other is entitled, "National Counsel on Crime and Delinquency: Reducing Crime in America." Mr. Dalton indicated that he would rather have additional money for treatment or community placement alternatives than for additional facilities. He said the system can currently absorb the number of offenders. Six years ago there were 485 individuals in custody in the state and today there are 1,475. Mr. Dalton said the budget has more than tripled in that amount of time. He noted that 12,000 youth in Utah are going through detention centers every year. This number is up from 5,900 six years ago, and 87 percent of all children in custody have a drug or alcohol problem identified by the department through self reporting or testing.

Mike Sibbett, Chair, Utah Board of Pardons and Parole, commented that the strength of our criminal justice system in Utah is indeterminate sentencing which allows for an individualized approach. Mr. Sibbett discussed the factors involved when considering the release of an inmate. He indicated that within twelve months of release, half of the parolees are back in prison and 88 percent of the offenses are drug related. He said that we need to do a better job of providing treatment so we can minimize the revolving door phenomena.

Mr. Sibbett explained the treatment program that Kansas has developed. He said that there are many states across the country that are questioning the merits of the federal model with its tough mandatory sentences.

**6. Adjourn** - Rep. Bourdeaux moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Montgomery adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.

