

Task Force Basics

Murdered & Missing Indigenous Women & Girls Task Force | October 21, 2020

Murdered & Missing Indigenous Women & Girls (MMIWG) Task Force

Creation & Membership

- The MMIWG Task Force was enacted by [2020 H.B. 116, Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force](#), and codified under *Utah Code* Section [36-29-107](#).
- 36-29-107(2) *There is created a Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force consisting of the following nine members:*

(a) one member of the Senate appointed by the president of the Senate;	Senator David Hinkins (cochair)
(b) one member of the House of Representatives appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;	Representative Angela Romero (cochair)
(c) the following three members, appointed jointly by the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives: (i) a member of a nonprofit organization primarily serving Utah's Native American community; (ii) a representative of a Utah Native American tribe; and (iii) a representative of a victim advocate organization serving Utah's Native American population;	Restoring Ancestral Winds (RAW) - Moroni Benally, Coordinator of Advocacy and Public Policy Chair Tamra (Tami) Borchardt-Slayton of the Paiute Indian Tribe The Urban Indian Center - Kristina Groves, LCSW
(d) the director of the Division of Indian Affairs, or the director's designee;	UDIA Director Dustin Jansen
(e) the executive director of the Department of Human Services, or the executive director's designee;	DHS Executive Director Ann Silverberg Williamson
(f) the attorney general, or the attorney general's designee; and	Assistant Attorney General Daniel Strong
(g) the commissioner of public safety for the Department of Public Safety, or the commissioner's designee.	Chief Special Agent Brian Redd

Statutory Tasks

36-29-107(8):

- conduct appropriate consultations with tribal governments on the scope and nature of the issues regarding missing and murdered indigenous women and girls;
- develop model protocols and procedures to apply to new and unsolved cases of missing or murdered indigenous women and girls, including the best practices for:

- improving the way law enforcement investigators and prosecutors respond to the high volume of the cases, and to the investigative challenges that might be presented in cases involving female victims;
- collecting and sharing data among various jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies; and
- better use of existing criminal databases;
- seek input from multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional persons, including representatives from tribal law enforcement and federal agencies, about how to review cold cases involving missing and murdered indigenous women and girls; and
- address the need for greater clarity concerning roles, authorities, and jurisdiction throughout the lifecycle of cases involving missing and murdered indigenous women and girls by discussing:
 - best practices in cases involving missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, including best practices related to communication with affected families from initiation of an investigation through case resolution or closure; and
 - education and outreach campaigns for communities that are most affected by crime resulting in missing and murdered indigenous women and girls to identify and reduce the crime.

Reporting

36-29-107(9):

- On or before November 30, 2020, the task force shall provide a report to the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Interim Committee.
- The report shall include a summary of the task force's findings under Subsection (8) and recommendations for improvements in the criminal justice and social service systems for preventing and addressing crimes involving missing and murdered indigenous women and girls in Utah.

General Legislative Task Force Processes & Procedures

Quorum

- Quorum = *more than* 50% of members present
 - Whenever the MMIWG Task Force wishes to take action on an item (e.g., vote on a motion to favorably recommend a bill file), there must be at least 5 members present.
- All members are included when counting quorum; there are no exceptions to counting quorum differently due to those legislator members who are also part of leadership.

Joint Rules & Parliamentary Procedures

- In general, task forces follow interim rules like a regular committee does. The major difference is that task forces do not exclusively have legislators as members.
- See [JR7 Interim](#) to learn more about joint rules, and [JR7-1-5](#) to learn more about parliamentary procedures, such as common motions.

Task Force Bill Files

- Task force bills must be opened by a majority vote of the task force, or a legislative sponsor may open a bill and bring it before the task force to be voted upon as a task force bill (see [JR7-1-6](#)).
- All task force members may vote on that bill to favorably recommend that bill (see and [JR7-1-610](#)).