

The Stop Cyberstalking and Harassment Task Force met in-person and virtually on February 20, 2025.

The following task force members were in attendance:

Tracy McCreery, State Senator

Bill Irwin, State Representative

Sgt. Patrick Sublette, Missouri State Highway Patrol

The following members participated virtually:

Lt. Adam Caupp, St. Charles County Police Department

Heidi Coleman, Missouri Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

Rhonda Stanley-Weber, Queen of Peace

Honorable Michael Randazzo, Circuit Judge 42nd Judicial Circuit

Shawn Ivy, Missouri Office of Administration

Dr. Monica Radu, Southeast Missouri State University

Jonathan Kreuger, BJC Behavioral Health

Brenda Sites, Safe at Home, Secretary of State's Office

LaChrisa Gray, Henry County Prosecuting Attorney

The following guests were in attendance in-person or virtually:

Emily O'Laughlin, Chief of Staff for Senator McCreery

Hannah Dolan, Missouri Senate

Mark Kurkowski, St. Louis City Family Violence Council

Angela

Kayla Kemp, Department of Public Safety, Director's Office

Austin Davis, Department of Public Safety, Director's Office

Connie Berhorst, Department of Public Safety, Director's Office

Jayln Talbot, Department of Public Safety, Director's Office

Judy Murray, Department of Public Safety, Director's Office

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. with Connie Berhorst presiding for Director James. The first item on the agenda was a welcome to attendees.

Minutes from the January 23, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Senator McCreery made a motion to accept the minutes and Sgt. Sublette seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The election of a new Chairperson was tabled at the January 23 meeting to allow time for Mark Kurkowski to be appointed to the task force. His appointment is in the process. The majority of appointments to the task force have been made. There are only a couple of vacant spots remaining.

The next item on the agenda was to define the overall scope of the task force. Senator McCreery broke down the scope into the following topics:

- 1) Increased coordination of efforts between agencies;
- 2) Resources and tools to provide to law enforcement;
- 3) Strengthen rights of victims;
- 4) Educational resources necessary; and
- 5) Increase services for victims

The task force report will be broken down in these categories with solutions listed.

A discussion of how information will be collected was next. Virtual public listening sessions around the state will be scheduled. Mark Kurkowski has experience in coordinating sessions to collect public input.

For future meetings, specific topics will be addressed and subject matter experts will be invited to participate in meetings and engage with the task force. Topics may include recommending changes at the judicial level; legislative changes strengthening victim services; and determining the unmet needs of law enforcement/public safety to assist them in solving e-crimes.

Heidi Coleman mentioned that North Carolina and Texas have good online resources.

How are task force recommendations going to fit with the current law? LaChrisa Gray noted that current laws don't have much teeth right now. Should strengthening the laws be the first effort? In Missouri, there is a "long arm of the law." It would be helpful if the county where the crime is being prosecuted could have jurisdiction in cases where the crime crosses county/state lines. Law enforcement needs to be educated on how to handle these situations. If there is a change in statute, make sure law enforcement officers are taught at the academy how to handle these situations.

Rep. Irwin inquired about a website with resources that would help with law enforcement training.

Dr. Radu said there is a stigma associated with being a victim of cybercrime. Existing online resources should be identified. When a task force representative from the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary education is appointed, that person could work with the School Board Association on what young people could do to protect themselves. Lt. Caupp noted that resources could be sent out on social media.

Sgt. Sublette stressed that education and resources for law enforcement are needed. It's hard for law enforcement to know where to go. Typically, officers who would respond to cybercrimes will not know what to do. Computer forensic resources are small. It's hard to "serve and protect" when data crimes are involved. Emily O'Laughlin asked if money needs to be added to the budget to hire more forensic investigators.

Lt. Caupp mentioned the inconvenience that victims will experience during a cyber investigation. They will have to give up their cell phone, computers, etc. during the investigation. Data dumps may expose more information on an individual's electronics than what they are comfortable with. Victims may feel safe sharing a data shared with a judge, but not with anyone else. Senator McCreery asked about law enforcement agencies providing "loaner phones" to victims during an investigation. Lt. Caupp said funds do not exist to provide "loaner phones."

Kayla Kemp suggested that a motion be made to create three subcommittees to:

- 1) Provide an analysis of resources that need to be developed for law enforcement, victims and advocates;
- 2) Look at the crime statistics and changes that need to be made legislatively for civil and criminal remedies; and
- 3) Explore the extent of cyberstalking and make recommendations on what vulnerable communities need.

Lt. Caupp thought instead of breaking into subcommittees the task force should have meetings focused on certain topics.

Heidi Coleman made a motion that subcommittee #1 (victim recommendations) be discussed at the next meeting. Senator McCreery seconded the motion. No vote was taken, but discussion continued with the following questions: Should the task force invite victims to attend meetings? Should the task force develop a survey to let victims give perspectives anonymously?

It was noted that it is not feasible for 100 victims to attend a meeting. The task force would need to consider how to invite people and in what method the meetings would be held and facilitated.

After further discussion, Dr. Radu said she could assign the survey creation and analysis as a student project.

Judge Randazzo expressed his ethical reservations on hearing victim stories and would excuse himself from being involved in any discussion specific to a victim's story.

At this point, Senator McCreery withdrew her subcommittee motion.

LaChrisha Gray made a motion to create a survey to gather a statistical analysis from victims to see how they were treated, what they wish they would have had, etc. A second to the motion was not made.

LaChrisha Gray made another motion to have the task force put together or enlist a school or group to do the statistical analysis to see with is needed in the system, laws, advocacy, etc. A second to the motion was not made, however the discussion continued.

Dr. Radu expressed concerns that the task force was creating too many steps; focus on the survey should be the first step. Heidi Coleman requested the task force ensure the survey is a survivor centered survey and where applicable the word "victim" should be replaced with "survivor."

Heidi Coleman seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Sen. McCreery to have Dr. Radu draft a survey. Lt. Caupp seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Lt. Caupp mentioned there are emerging technologies to nip cyber cases in the bud. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the capability to be part of the technology platforms but companies don't want to use them. It will likely take legislation requiring companies to use platforms to nip this. Shawn Ivy offered to research digital fingerprinting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 27 at 1:30 p.m.

With no further discussion, Sgt. Sublette made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Senator McCreery. The motion passed unanimously.