

The Stop Cyberstalking and Harassment Task Force met virtually on December 12, 2024. The following task force members were in attendance:

Tracy McCreery, State Senator
Sandy Karsten, Department of Public Safety Director
Shawn Ivy, Office of Administration
Sergeant Patrick Sublette, Missouri State Highway Patrol
LaChrisha Gray, Henry County Prosecuting Attorney
Honorable Michael Randazzo, Circuit Judge 42nd Judicial Circuit
Jonathan Kreuger, BJC
Lt. Adam Caupp, St. Charles County Police Department
Heidi Coleman, MO Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence
Dr. Monica Radu, Southeast Missouri State University

The following guests were in attendance:

Emily O’Laughlin, Chief of Staff for Senator McCreery
Catherine Vannier, MO Office of Prosecution Services
Kayla Kemp, Department of Public Safety, Director’s Office
Halle Herbert, Department of Public Safety, Director’s Office
Judy Murray, Department of Public Safety, Director’s Office

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. with Director Karsten presiding. The first item on the agenda was a welcome to attendees. Senator Tracy McCreery thanked Director Karsten for her service to the state of Missouri.

Minutes from the September 27, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Senator McCreery made a motion to accept the minutes and LaChrisha Gray seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with all present members voting to pass the motion.

Emily O’Laughlin mentioned she has talked with Governor-elect Kehoe’s office and they indicated appointments will be made to the task force. Submitting a report before the end of the year will let the legislative branch know the task force has started, but the real work of the task force will begin in 2025.

The next item on the agenda was the task force report due December 31, 2024 to the Governor and General Assembly. A motion was made by Sergeant Patrick Sublette to submit the minutes from the September 27, 2024 meeting as the report. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Krueger. A voice vote was taken with all present members voting to pass the motion.

Senator Tracy McCreery shared information on cyberstalking and cyber harassment laws and legislation. She highlighted legislation from other states, noting that Florida has cyberstalking in their criminal code.

The last item on the agenda was open discussion. LaChrisha Gray asked if anyone from a juvenile office was on the task force. She feels someone with adjudication experience would be beneficial.

Emily O’Laughlin noted that someone with that expertise is not named in the statute but could be asked to participate.

Senator McCreery will reach out to Commissioner Karla Eslinger to ask her appoint a representative from elementary and secondary education services with experience educating people about cyberstalking and harassment.

Lt. Adam Caupp asked if financial exploitation from cyberstalking is an area that would be addressed by the task force. Senator Tracy McCreery commented that the definition was kept broad in the statute but financial exploitation could be added as a piece of the task force.

LaChrisa Gray asked if the January 23, 2025 meeting date should be delayed since a new administration is coming. Director Karsten felt the meeting date should be kept to ensure forward movement of the task force.

With no further discussion, Senator Tracy McCreery made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Sergeant Patrick Sublette. A voice vote was taken and passed unanimously.