

**MINNESOTA GANG AND DRUG
OVERSIGHT COUNCIL**
2010 Annual Report to the Legislature
(MN Statutes §299A.641, subd. 12)

March 2010

BACKGROUND

The 2005 Minnesota Legislature passed legislation to improve coordination of gang and drug enforcement efforts throughout the state. To ensure an effective outcome, the legislature established a Gang and Drug Oversight Council (“Council”) to provide guidance related to the investigation and prosecution of gang and drug crime. One of the Council’s primary responsibilities is to establish multijurisdictional task forces to combat gang and drug crime throughout the state. To support their efforts, the legislature currently appropriates \$8.6 million in funding for the SFY 10-11 biennium.

The Council is comprised of 32 voting members that represent federal, state and local law enforcement and prosecution agencies. Effective in 2007, two non-voting legislative members now serve on the Council: Senator Linda Higgins and Representative Debra Hilstrom. The Council’s primary duty is to “develop an overall strategy to ameliorate the harm caused to the public by gang and drug crime within the state of Minnesota. In addition, the Council is charged with additional responsibilities that include (1) establishing a Metro Gang Strike Force, a St. Cloud Metro Gang Strike Force and other multijurisdictional task forces to combat gang and drug crime, (2) selecting a Statewide Coordinator to coordinate, facilitate and monitor all the task forces, (3) working with the Department of Public Safety to develop a grant process and funding recommendations, (4) adopting criteria and identifying characteristics for use in determining whether individuals are or may be members of gangs involved in criminal activity, and (5) assisting in developing an information sharing system and operating budget.

COUNCIL ACTIVITY and ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The 2005 legislation was effective July 1, 2005, and the Council was in place and holding their first meeting shortly thereafter. The Council operates according to By-Laws established in early 2006. A chair and vice chair are selected in even numbered years and they guide the Council at bi-monthly meetings. By the end of 2006, the Council had met their statutory obligations:

- Created a Metro Gang Strike Force, St. Cloud Metro Gang Strike Force and twenty multijurisdictional gang and drug task forces.
- Selected a Statewide Drug and Gang Coordinator.
- Developed a statewide strategy.
- Adopted criteria and identifying characteristics for use in determining suspected or confirmed gang members.
- Determined the critical design elements that must be in place for a task force to be eligible for grant funding.
- Developed a sound request for proposal (RFP) and objective and conflict-free grant review process in order to establish grant awards for multijurisdictional task forces.
- Developed an annual operating budget.

- Published an Operating Procedures and Guidelines Manual to which all funded task forces must adhere in order to ensure proper investigative protocols and record keeping.

The Council's role has now evolved after meeting their initial responsibilities. Its primary functions at this point are to:

- Monitor gang and drug trends throughout the state. In doing so, the Council can inform stakeholders of emerging threats and ensure that there are adequate financial and other resources to address emerging gang and drug crimes.
- Monitor the work of the multijurisdictional task forces. The Council believes in accountability and in rewarding the most effective efforts and in providing needed technical assistance to those task forces that have not yet achieved their full potential.
- Identify promising strategies at the regional and federal level that could be replicated throughout the state in order to improve operating effectiveness and outcomes.
- Develop an overall annual budget and determine grant eligibility parameters and awards. This includes monitoring federal legislation related to the Byrne/JAG formula grant program and how proposed and approved funding levels will affect Minnesota efforts.
- Review proposed state and federal legislation that could impact the effectiveness and outcomes of task force operations. This includes legislation related to criminal procedure, sentencing and data practices. As appropriate, the Council establishes its position on issues and communicates it to appropriate policymakers.
- Meet periodically with the Councils of Color to discuss the Council's plan, activities, and decisions.

Specifically, the Council did the following in 2009:

- Addressed issues related to the Metro Gang Strike Force that were identified by OJP staff, the Office of the Legislative Auditor and the Luger-Egelhof Report (see additional discussion that follows in the Metro Gang Strike Force section).
- Reviewed and discussed the current status of MNJIS with director, Dave Johnson.
- Reviewed bi-monthly briefings from the Statewide Gang and Drug Coordinator and the Law Enforcement Training Coordinator.
- Discussed efforts underway in prescription abuse enforcement, prevention, turn-in programs, and disposal issues.

- Received presentations from the commanders of each task force addressing local trends and responses, noteworthy cases, new procedures and techniques, and actions taken to address any operating deficiencies identified by the Statewide Coordinator or other OJP personnel.
- Updated the Operating Procedures and Guidelines Manual to better address expectations of task forces in seizure practices, forfeiture protocols and evidence handling.
- Conducted a Request for Proposal process and made funding recommendations to the Commissioner of Public Safety for 2010 grant awards. As a part of that process, reviewed drug and violent crime threats identified by each task force.

2010 GOALS

In addition to its ongoing duties and functions, the Gang and Drug Oversight Council intends to address the specific issues noted below. Some of these large-scale goals are on-going from the previous year and some goals have recently been added.

On-Going Development of a Metro Area Enforcement Strategy - How can we make sure that all task forces and specialized local units have strategies and tools to work together in the most effective manner given that they may be targeting the same crimes and same criminals?

Performance Measures - Are there data elements or other information that task forces should be collecting to better demonstrate their impact on local communities?

Coordination with Tribal Law Enforcement - In task force regions that include reservations and where multijurisdictional task forces have tribal law enforcement participating or coordinating with task force operations, results have been enhanced. What action can be taken to reduce barriers and encourage tribal participation on task forces?

Use of Technology/Data Practices - Case management systems and technology have the capacity to improve operating efficiency and case outcomes. What data sharing barriers exist in legislation that inhibits the appropriate sharing of data? What models exist on the effective use of technology? What training and/or equipment are needed by task forces to improve effectiveness? How do we provide task forces with these resources?

Prevention – How can the Council best support the prevention and public education efforts of task forces and other providers of these services?

Coordination of Efforts with Federal Agencies – Over the past two years, task forces throughout the state have benefited from close working relationships with federal law enforcement agencies such as the DEA, ATF and FBI. How can the council resolve jurisdictional issues and further encourage and enhance federal-local partnerships?

Emerging Trends – Results and reports from 2009 indicate emerging trends that must be addressed: the illegal sale and theft of prescription medications; increases in the use of heroin by young adults; and an increasing number of large scale marijuana grow operations.

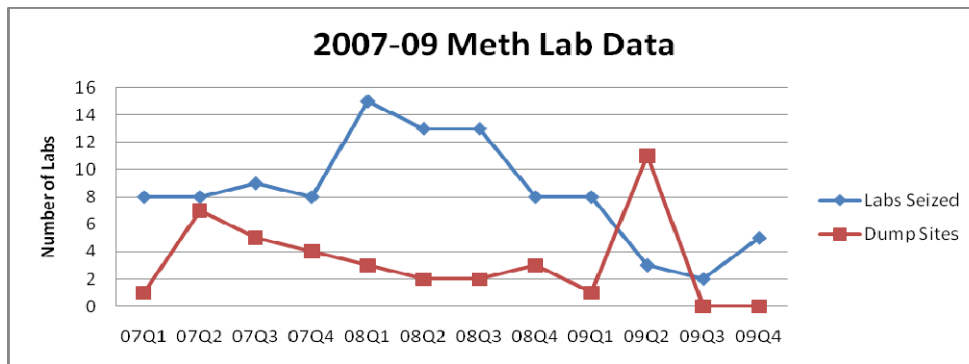
Disposal of Prescription Drug and Illegal Substances – Law enforcement throughout the state have seized/collected vast quantities of illegal drugs and prescription medications. At times, task forces have encountered difficulty in disposing of these substances. The Council will work with the Pollution Control Agency and Pharmacy Board to determine safe and effective means of disposal of these substances.

Council Effectiveness – In light of the insufficient task force oversight that was identified in the Special Review of the Metro Gang Strike Force; the Council plans to identify and implement changes that will provide for improved oversight of task forces to ensure that problems are identified and addressed in a timely matter.

STATEWIDE THREAT ASSESSMENT

As a part of their application for funding that was completed in the Fall of 2009, each task force was asked to comment on the current threats and emerging trends they are facing within their service area. A summary follows.

The wide spread production of methamphetamine has continued to taper off, with all regions reporting significant drops in lab seizures in the last two years. This is largely attributed to legislation restricting access to precursor ingredients needed in the production of methamphetamine. However, many regions are now reporting smaller scale production of methamphetamine through the “shake and bake” method and small labs in remote areas or mobile labs that have been used to manufacture quantities for personal use.



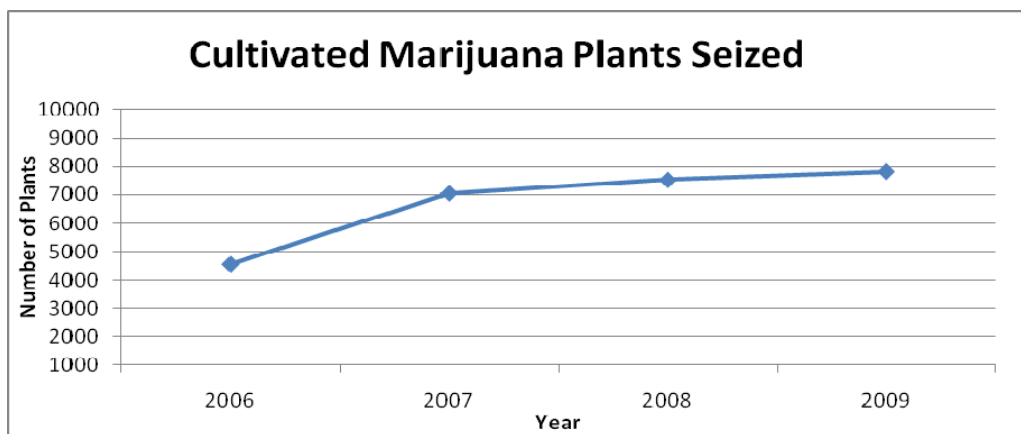
Despite the reduction in the manufacture of methamphetamine; it continues to be the greatest concern for many of the task force regions in the state. Increasingly, large quantities of high grade methamphetamine being trafficked into the area from the southwest U.S. and Mexico. Evidence of intravenous use of methamphetamine has increased in some task force areas. This all comes along with high rates of property crimes, child abuse and neglect, and the drain on social services agencies that are seen families affected by addiction to methamphetamine.

The abuse and illegal sale of pharmaceutical drugs, such as OxyContin, has also significantly increased. Task forces have reported some significant sale cases where large quantities of OxyContin have been sold. At an average cost of \$1.00/milligram, there is a high profit margin on the sale of the drug. Illicit sellers are getting their product from forged prescriptions, “doctor shopping”, paid procurers of the drug and pharmacy burglaries. There have been an alarming number of minors and young adults abusing prescription medications. Individuals often take it from household medicine cabinets or receive/buy it from friends. Over the past year the state has experienced overdose deaths related to prescription drug abuse, some of which were prominent, young members of the community.

Many regions in the state also reported an increase in the abuse of “club drugs” such as ecstasy among high school and college aged offenders. It is believed that many of these drugs are thought to be a safer alternative to methamphetamine, partly due to the success of anti-methamphetamine advertising campaigns.

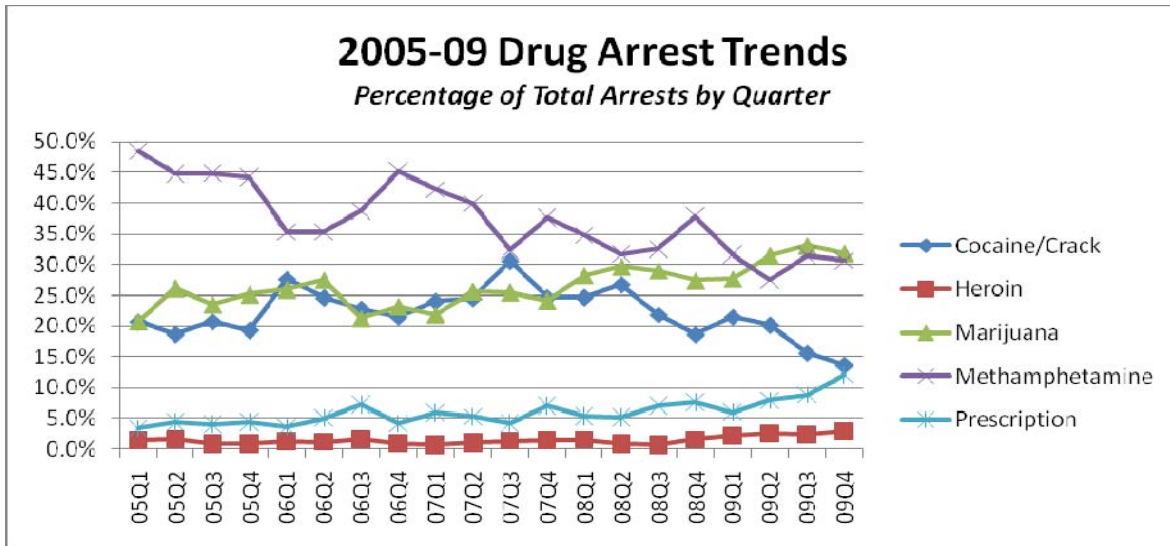
It appears the emergence of the use of prescription drugs including OxyContin, morphine, codeine, and other pain killers have, in some cases, replaced the need for heroin. Despite this, investigators have seen an increase in the trafficking and use of heroin. Minnesota has been identified as the state that has the lowest price and highest purity of heroin available. Heroin overdose deaths were at a very high level in 2009.

Marijuana is undoubtedly the most commonly abused and readily available drug throughout the state. It is cultivated locally and imported from Canada and source states along the border with Mexico. The sale of marijuana is very profitable and is often associated with violence but faces a lack of serious prosecution. As such, the importation and local cultivation of marijuana continues to be a significant target for task forces primarily with high volume trafficking and the dismantling of grow operations.



Indoor marijuana grow operations are becoming more prevalent, and operations are often more sophisticated than seen in the past. Nationwide, the environmental and health hazards of such operations are becoming apparent. The potency of marijuana has risen with higher concentrations of THC found in seized samples. Task forces have also reported an increase in the street price of marijuana.

Cocaine and crack cocaine continue their popularity for distribution and use throughout the state. It remains the drug of choice on the Indian reservations in northern Minnesota and is distributed mainly by Native American gangs or by groups the gangs allow to operate. In Greater Minnesota, the principal wholesale distribution centers for cocaine (crack) entering the area is Minneapolis, Chicago and Detroit.



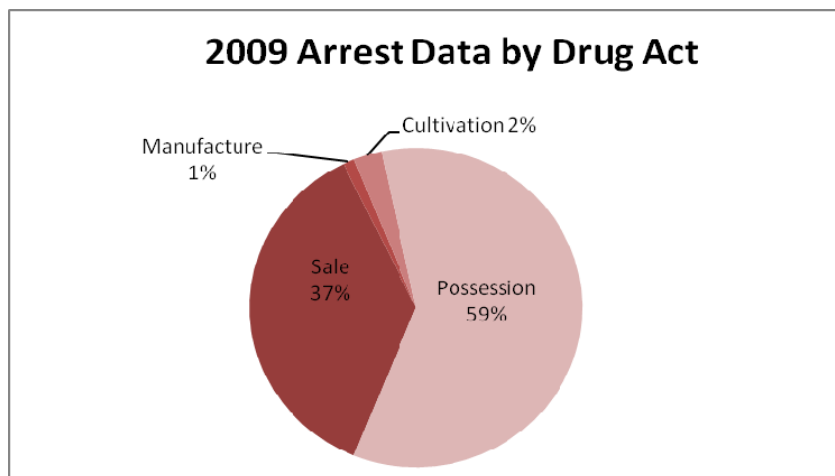
Gang activity and violence related to the sale and distribution of narcotics is growing, especially in rural areas, according to many task force reports. The primary distributors of the three most common drugs (cocaine, meth and marijuana) are Mexican drug trafficking organizations. Aside from narcotics violations, weapons violations appear to be the criminal activity of choice.

Many regions are reporting intensified recruiting efforts by gangs, and many gang members from major metropolitan areas such as Chicago, Minneapolis and Detroit are moving into rural regions for criminal purposes. The Surenos 13 is the fastest growing gang in Minnesota. This is a gang that has a history of violence and connections to drug cartels in South America. Another growing gang threat in Minnesota, particularly within the Twin Cities, is from the evolution of Somali gangs. Somali gangs have been involved in inter-gang homicides and assaults. It has been difficult for law enforcement to penetrate these gangs due to the much closed network that they establish. Both metro and rural task forces are experiencing an increase in the size and violence of hybrid gangs as they attempt to gain power. Individuals may join one or more of these loosely affiliated “gangs” that have no hierarchy or code of conduct. In the case of hybrid gangs, rival gang members are more apt to work together in criminal endeavors.

RESULTS OF 2009 TASK FORCE OPERATIONS

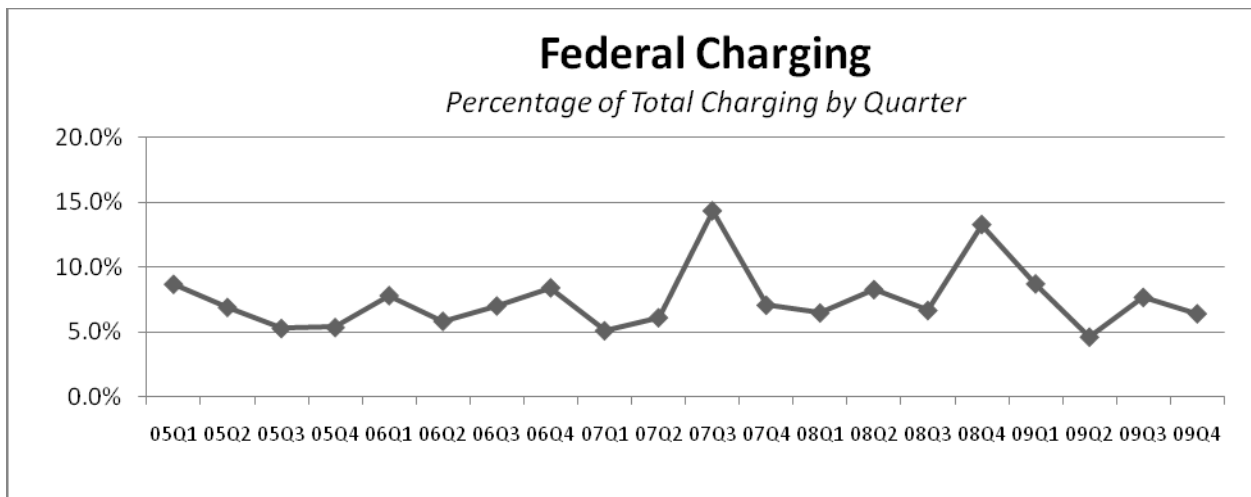
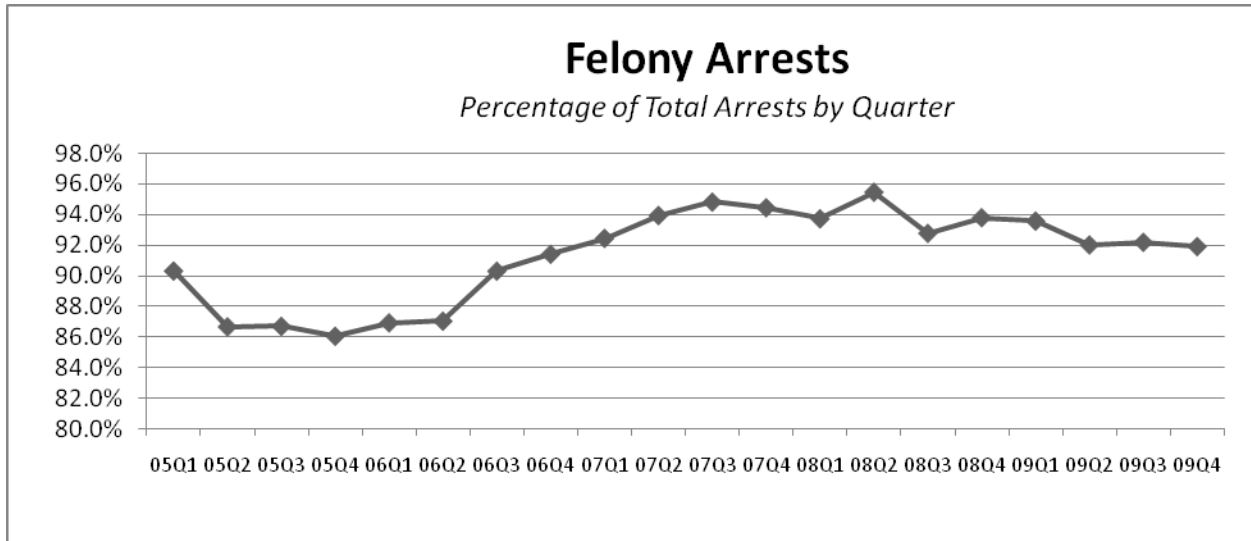
The true measure of the Council's effectiveness is the outcomes of the multijurisdictional task forces that it creates and supports. The following is a summary of task force efforts throughout the state.

Drug Enforcement - In calendar year 2009, 143 officers participated in 20 task forces statewide covering 58 counties that contain 86% of the state's population. These task forces made 3,540 arrests for narcotics violations with 92.6% of the arrests at a felony-level. Individuals prosecuted at the federal level numbered 247. Of the arrests, 31% were for methamphetamine, 32% for marijuana, 9% were for prescription drugs and 18% for cocaine/crack cocaine. In the course of their investigations, task forces seized 18 methamphetamine labs, 46 pounds of cocaine/crack cocaine, 72 pounds of methamphetamine, 1.5 pounds of heroin, 6,584 dosage units of ecstasy, over 92,000 dosage units of prescription drugs, over 1,874 pounds of marijuana and 7,834 cultivated marijuana plants. The street value of the methamphetamine and cocaine/crack cocaine seized was over \$5 million. Firearm seizures totaled 654. In addition to drug arrests, task force officers made 307 arrests for other criminal activity. It is important to note that beyond their objective of combating drug trafficking through law enforcement, task force officers spent a significant amount of time educating the public about drugs and gangs. In 2009, task force officers made 379 presentations with a total attendance of 13,223 people. Finally, task force officers sought to develop their professional skills, completing over 10,000 hours of POST certified training.



Results since 2007 indicate that task forces are improving and addressing what the Council intends: major cases that have the potential to significantly affect drug trafficking and related crimes within their regions. The year 2007 saw the highest results ever in terms of: percentage of felony arrests and the percentage of cases prosecuted federally. In 2009, the highest percentage of drug arrests for "sales" was attained. Working these complex cases requires collaboration with other task forces, as well as other local, state and federal agencies. Other results in 2009 were down somewhat and this appears to be related to the impact vacancies and turnover in task force personnel as a result of local budget issues.

Data from 2009 also indicates that approximately 45% of all the cases worked by task forces were done in cooperation with another local, state or federal law enforcement entity.



Gang Enforcement

❖ St. Cloud Metro Gang Strike Force

This multijurisdictional effort between the City of St. Cloud and Sherburne County began in 2007 with a change to the statutes requiring the Council to create this strike force. In its third year of operation, this unit made 70 felony-level drug arrests. Thirty-six of the individuals arrested were confirmed gang members. Ten additional arrests were made for felony-level violent offenses and six of those arrested were confirmed gang members. Nineteen additional arrests were made for non-felony drug arrests, non-violent Part I offenses and other Part II offenses. Probation violation or outstanding warrants accounted for 21 arrests. In the course of their work they executed 16 search warrants, seized 13 firearms, and took quantities of crack, marijuana and meth off the streets. They responded to 66 requests for assistance from other agencies and expended over 1,000

person hours in doing so. In addition to their enforcement duties they gave 20 presentations to a total of 720 people.

The SCMGSF has noted that the number of documented gang members has had a constant growth over the past six years and that many gang members are fleeing larger cities often coming to St. Cloud to hide and continue their criminal activity. The task force has presently identified 78 criminal gangs operating in the St. Cloud metro area. The vast majority of gangs in the area are Chicago based but, there is also a criminally active local youth gang; the "Untouchables". The two principle narcotics in the St. Cloud area that most contribute to violent crimes and gang involvement are cocaine/crack cocaine and methamphetamine.

❖ Gang Officers in Greater Minnesota

In 2009, there were 9 task forces outside the metro area that had a total of 17 assigned gang officers. These officers worked hand in hand with the drug agents and their specialized knowledge of gangs, gang crimes and gang members enhanced the work of the task forces. These officers also consistently coordinated information and investigations with the metro gang strike forces. Specifically, of the arrests noted above under "drug enforcement," 122 of the arrests were of suspected or confirmed gang members. Of the non-drug arrests noted, there were 3 violent Part I crimes, 3 non-violent Part I crimes and 23 Part II crimes committed by suspected or confirmed gang members. In addition, 20 individuals were arrested for outstanding warrants or probation violation. Twenty of those arrested were charged federally. Nineteen handguns were seized from the individuals noted above.

❖ Violent Offender Task Forces

Newly funded in 2008 were two task forces in Hennepin County that target violent offenders. The Violent Offender Task Forces (VOTFs) were started as a new strategy in combating violent crimes which were increasing in Minneapolis and the surrounding suburbs.

Analyses of the problem showed clearly that the vast majority of the violence was due to guns and drugs but, more importantly, that the same individuals were at the core of the problem time and time again. An overloaded system was ineffectively dealing with the same repeat violent offenders continually engaged in narcotics trafficking, gang activity and related violence.

To deal with these challenges, task forces were formed made up of local and federal investigators and prosecutors. The rationale behind the VOTFs is: rather than target a specific crime (i.e. narcotics, robbery, etc.), target the individuals who are repeatedly causing the violent crimes. The methods of investigation in these cases are lengthy, complex and resource intensive.

In 2009, the two Violent Offender Task Forces demonstrated very meaningful results. The VOTFs executed 217 search warrants and seized 111 firearms, including 79

handguns and 18 semi-automatic weapons. Substantial amounts of narcotics were also seized including: 12.6 pounds of cocaine and crack cocaine, 287 pounds of marijuana, 5.1 pounds of methamphetamine, 1.16 pounds of heroin and over 26,000 doses of ecstasy. They arrested 262 individuals for narcotics violations, of which 134 were confirmed gang members. Twenty-three individuals were arrested for violent crimes and 6 were confirmed gang members. Seventy-five of the individuals arrested were accepted for federal prosecution. Of those that are federally indicted, almost all dependents plead guilty to crimes that will result in sentences averaging ten years. In addition to their own arrests, the two VOTFs participated in the arrests of other individuals while responding to requests for assistance from other law enforcement entities.

There are several excellent examples of the impact that the VOTFs are having on the quality of life and crime within neighborhoods in the metro area. The Minneapolis VOTF initiated a RICO case involving a multi-generational crime family in Minneapolis. The case was done as a result of historical investigation, real time investigation, advanced technology investigation and utilized the assistance of many other law enforcement agencies, primarily The Hennepin County VOTF and the MN Department of Commerce and IRS. Indictments in this case will become public shortly. The US Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case. The actual investigations took over one year. More about this case will be available in the next reporting period.

The Hennepin County VOTF has continued a successful collaboration with Brooklyn Center Police in targeting repeat offenders and problem properties. Numerous search warrants have been executed and violent offenders operating in Brooklyn Center and the surrounding communities have been arrested. VOTF personnel also continue to work with Hennepin County Intensive Supervised Release (ISR) personnel to pursue violent felons who are not compliant with the terms of their release. In many cases, felons have been found with weapons and drugs in their possession and the actions of the VOTF unit have taken these serious repeat offenders off of the street.

❖ Metro Gang Strike Force

In 2009 (through mid-June) there are 32 investigators and two commanders assigned to the metro region from thirteen local agencies. Three analysts and several federal enforcement officers were also assigned to the strike force. Long-time commander, Ron Ryan retired in October 2008 and a new commander was in place. A review by the Office of Justice Programs was completed in late 2008 and based upon concerns that were raised; the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) completed a Special Review of the Metro Gang Strike Force in May 2009. This Special Review led to a shut-down of the Metro Gang Strike Force in June 2009. The Commissioner of Public Safety took action to further arrange for an independent investigation of the allegations of misconduct that were revealed in the OLA report. The purpose of the investigation was to determine if any criminal activity had taken place and to make recommendations to the Commissioner to ensure that the problems identified would not reoccur in any grant funded task force that was currently operated or proposed in the future. Information gathered was shared with the

Federal Bureau of Investigation and local law enforcement leaders who had assigned personnel to the Metro Gang Strike Force.

When the OLA special review was completed, the Gang and Drug Oversight Council was briefed on the findings and took immediate action to develop a response plan. Steps were undertaken to provide training to task force command personnel and new and improved review processes were established. Eligibility criteria for 2010 funding were further strengthened to ensure oversight and accountability.

LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council has no specific legislative recommendations at this time but is closely following legislation related to the following topic areas: Chapter 13 as it relates to the sharing of investigative information, medical marijuana, pharmacy requirements to provide certain drug purchase information to law enforcement, changes in forfeiture law, and drug sentencing. As appropriate, the council may formally adopt positions on currently introduced or anticipated legislation addressing these areas.

ATTACHMENTS

- Gang and Drug Case Summaries
- Methamphetamine Enforcement Statistics
- Map of 2010 Drug and Violent Crime Enforcement Teams
 - List of 2010 Task Force Grants
- List of Gang and Drug Oversight Council Members

Minutes from recent meetings, upcoming agenda and meeting schedule for the Gang & Drug Oversight Council are posted at <http://www.ojp.state.mn.us/cj/qdoc/>.

GANG and DRUG CASE SUMMARIES

The following are selected summaries of completed or active investigations. These are examples as to the types of investigations and types of illegal activities being committed by the different criminal elements throughout the state.

- **Anoka-Hennepin Task Force** executed a search warrant on a suspect meth lab in Fridley. Detectives were aware that the target had dug a 15 foot deep hole next to a detached garage, but the length of the tunnel was unknown. Once the search warrant was executed it was determined that tunnel was 15 feet deep and 20 feet in length. In the garage was an active meth cook operation. A search of the home resulted in the seizure of meth, powder cocaine, marijuana, Methadone, Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, Valium, Tylenol w/codeine and \$3722. Because of the high level of contaminants in the house, an elderly couple was required to vacate the premises until the house could be professionally decontaminated
- Officers of the **Boundary Waters Drug Task Force** were involved in three different marijuana grows in the fall of 2009 this fall. One grow was very large, approx. 1,325 plants. The individual that was arrested was prosecuted federally. The task force used chain saws to process most of the marijuana grow. Over 2,000 pounds of "green marijuana" was harvested with an estimated street value of over 1 million dollars.
- After a several month long investigation, the **Buffalo Ridge Task Force** executed search warrants at the residences of the top three priority targets in Worthington. The investigation and search warrant executions resulted in 11 arrests and the seizures of over 180 grams of methamphetamine, numerous firearms, and several truck loads of stolen property. The majority of the defendants have been federally indicted on conspiracy charges.
- In December, the **Central Minnesota Task Force** received information of marijuana located in a rental storage unit. A search warrant was conducted, locating 146 lbs of high grade marijuana that was packaged in 1 lb packages. A second search was conducted at the residence of the renter of the storage unit, where over \$21,000 in U.S. Currency, an SKS Assault rifle, and a loaded Beretta handgun was located. The suspect was arrested and admitted to renting the storage unit for another subject, assisted with unloading the marijuana, and being compensated for renting the storage unit. Information had previously been received from the Montana State Patrol where a subject listing the same address of residency had been stopped and over 160 lbs of high grade marijuana was seized on a traffic stop.
- In October 2009, the **Dakota County Drug Task Force** assisted federal agencies with the nationwide "Operation Coronado" by executing three search warrants in Inver Grove Heights. A large amount of US currency and handguns were seized in those three warrants. One suspect who lived in an apartment in Inver Grove Heights was the main distributor of methamphetamine and cocaine for the Mexican drug cartel in the Twin Cities. He was arrested and charged federally.
- The **East Metro Drug Task Force** worked with the DEA on "Operation Xcellerator". The result of the case was that 17 arrests were made, 4 kilos of cocaine was seized, 5 pounds of meth was seized/purchased and 5 guns were recovered with twenty-four federal indictments.

- **Lakes Area Drug Investigation Division (LADID)** agents worked with BCA and DEA agents completing an 8 month investigation into the sale and distribution of meth in Crow Wing County. It was discovered that the Mexican LaFamilia drug cartel was associated with the female target that LADID was buying meth from. As a result, a federal search warrant was executed at the residence in Garrison in Crow Wing County. The search resulted in several ounces of meth and \$2,300 in cash being seized. This case resulted in deterring the sale and distribution of meth in Crow Wing County.
- During the first quarter of 2009, **Lake Superior Task Force** investigators received information from a defendant about an attorney, who was offering his services, in exchange for two ounces of methamphetamine, \$800 in cash, and the title to a motor vehicle. Acting upon this information, investigators and ATF agents conducted a reversal operation which led to the arrest of a prominent Twin Cities defense attorney, who has ties to the Hells Angels Outlaw Motorcycle gang.
- **Minnesota River Valley** agents ended the quarter by assisting the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office with a burglary investigation that involved 21 high powered firearms. The task force was called in to assist after the main suspect agreed to give a full confession and began telling detectives the street names of the individuals the guns were distributed to. The detectives had no idea who any of these individuals were and requested that the task force speak with the suspect. Within a half hour of speaking with the suspect, agents were able to successfully identify the majority of the individuals, many of whom were known gang members and gang member associates. Several search warrants were executed, three of the guns were recovered and based upon the subsequent interviews, agents were able to determine that the weapons were distributed and gone from our area within approximately 24 hours after the theft.
- The **Northwest Metro Drug Task Force** made several arrests for marijuana sales. During this investigation we recovered 6 pounds of high end marijuana and arrested 4 people. We also recovered \$16,000 cash in one of the arrests. After looking into this case further we were able to determine it tied in directly to a large federal case that the DEA and West Metro Drug Task Force were working on. After comparing notes we were able to offer some valuable information regarding this marijuana distribution ring and assisted in June when several warrants were executed. This is a prime example how sharing information and networking pays off.

The **Paul Bunyan Task Force** obtained a search warrant for the residence of a pill dealer in Cass Lake, anticipating finding the usual small stash of OxyContin or other synthetic opiates. While searching, officers discovered maps, notes, packaging and other evidence of pharmacy burglaries in northern Minnesota. They applied for a second warrant and eventually located over 1600 pills of various kinds, mostly opiates, and evidence that pointed to a very well-organized group targeting pharmacies over a 7 county area. The businesses that were broken into were all in small towns that have little law enforcement presence or where response time to alarms would be a factor. Our officers have been working with investigators from these jurisdictions and have cleared up many burglaries and attempted break-ins.

- **West Central Task Force** agents were involved with the 10,000 Lakes Festival, which is an annual occurrence in the middle of July near Detroit Lakes in Becker County. Task Force agents again found a variety of narcotics not commonly found within the Task Force area. Task Force agents seized 1570 dosage units of LSD, 1177 grams of Hashish, 594 dosage units of Ecstasy, 462 grams of Mushrooms and other narcotics not commonly found in the

task force area. Task force personnel have found that individuals often follow these festivals around the United States and Canada.

- **Pine to Prairie Task Force** agents received information that a familiar suspect from Marshall County, Minnesota returned from Texas with numerous kilograms of cocaine. Our suspect was reported to also have “muscle” with him. The following day, agents worked in conjunction with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Grand Forks Narcotic Task Force, North Star Drug Task Force and federal agencies in conducting surveillance in Polk County, Minnesota. Subsequently, a search warrant was conducted in Alvarado, Minnesota (Marshall County) at the residence of our suspect. A total of four (4) kilograms of what was described as 100% pure cocaine was seized at the location. Our original suspect, along with the “muscle”, a Los Zetas member, was arrested at the scene. (Los Zetas is a criminal gang of thugs and murderers that operates as a hired mercenary army for Mexico's Gulf Cartel). A few days later, a third suspect was apprehended in Grand Forks, North Dakota. The three suspects are confined and awaiting prosecution by the U.S. Attorney's Office Fargo, ND. *The 4 kilograms of cocaine were not reported on P2PDTF Form 2b seizure report as it was seized in another jurisdiction.
- **Red River Valley Task Force** personnel have indicted five persons related to “Operation Abrasion”, and three of the five have already pled guilty and agreed to cooperate. The leader of the Drug Trafficking Organization, (DTO) has plead guilty and provided the name of his two main sources of supply. One being in Van Nuys, CA. Agents have contacted a HIDTA task force in that area and an operational plan is being formulated to travel to CA and attempt a buy/bust operation for multiple pounds of methamphetamine. The US attorney's office in ND will seek to indict this individual in the District of North Dakota as a source of supply. This individual has provided at minimum 20 pounds of methamphetamine for sale purposes in North Dakota and Minnesota. The second source of supply is in Bemidji, MN. The task force has made contact with the Paul Bunyan Task Force and operational plans are being made to shut down this source of supply, as well.
- **Southeast Minnesota Task Force** (SEMNGTF) agents conducted a search warrant in the city of Winona. During the search warrant, 12.28 grams of cocaine was discovered and \$9,253.35 was seized. The suspect in this case cooperated with the investigator and a second suspect was arrested and 18 ounces of cocaine was found and \$4,500.00 was seized. This second suspect also decided to cooperate and provided information that he had been buying a ½ kilo of cocaine for \$14,000.00 every seven to ten days from a male in Olmsted County. A buy/bust was conducted in the City of Rochester which led to subsequent search warrant of an Olmsted County residence. During the buy/bust, a ½ kilo of cocaine was recovered and a pickup truck was seized. During the search of the suspect's residence an additional \$26,020.00 was seized. All indications are that this third suspect sold at least 1 ½ to 2 kilos of cocaine every seven to ten days. During these investigations agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms assisted.
- The **Southwest Metro Task Force** had interesting case and significant seizure in 2009. They obtained a GPS warrant and tracked a suspect out to California and Oregon. We had information he was going to bring a quantity of marijuana back. We tracked the car as it headed back to Minnesota and interdicted it on Interstate 35. We ran a dog around the car and the dog hit on the car. We searched the car and did locate about an ounce of marijuana in the passenger compartment. However, the interesting find was in the trunk. We found two black garbage bags in the trunk. Inside we found seventeen gallon baggies

of psilocybin mushrooms weighing 8.2 pounds. That's about \$50,000 worth of mushrooms. The two persons arrested are only mules and the investigation continues.

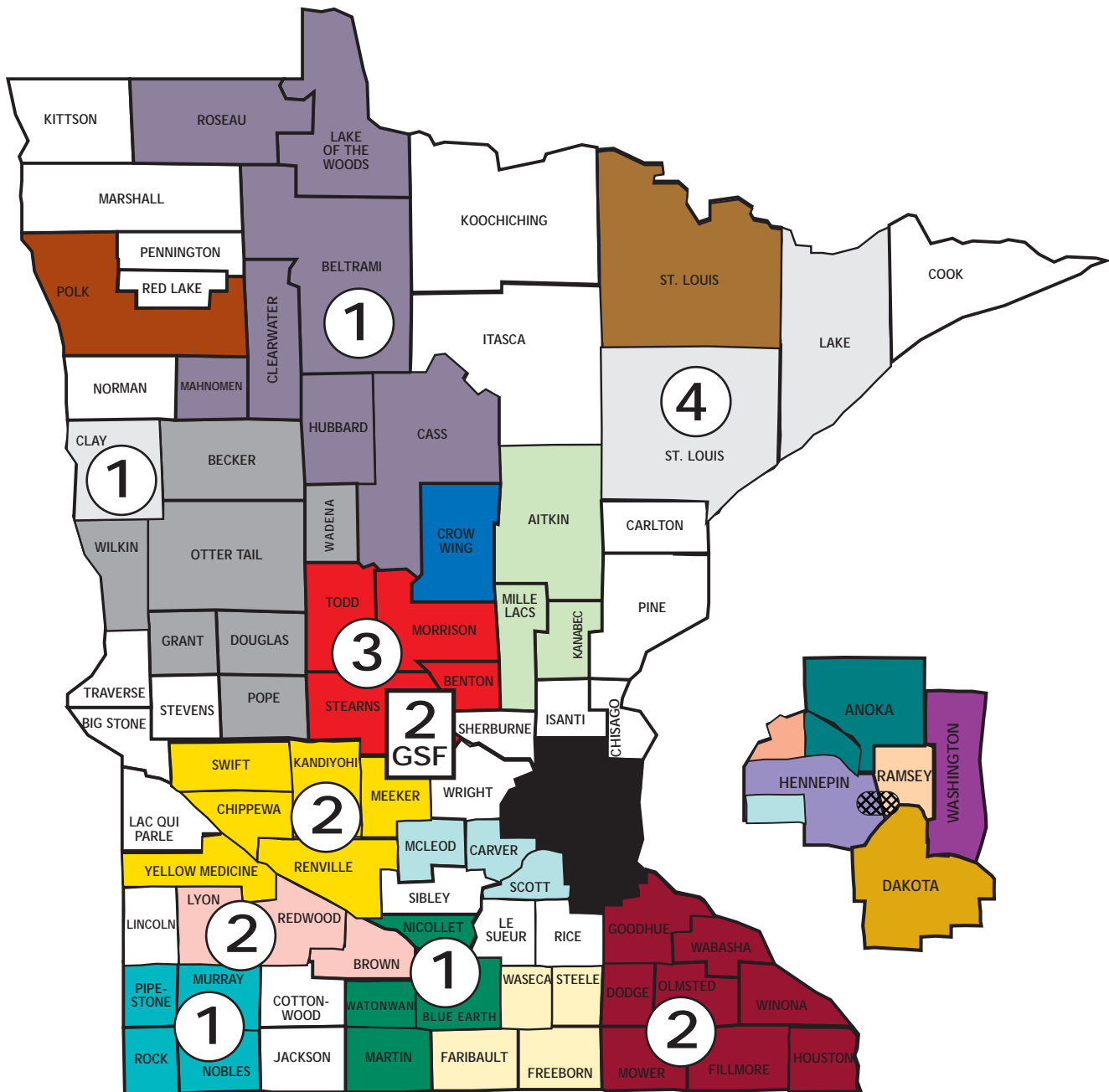
- The **Minneapolis Violent Offender Task Force** developed information on a high-ranking Gangster Disciple in north Minneapolis. This individual was responsible for both weapons and drug trafficking in the city. The officer assigned conducted a mid-term investigation which resulted in the seizure of a kilo of cocaine, seven guns and two ballistic vests.
- The **St. Cloud Metro Gang Strike Force** invested a significant amount of time into a homicide case that involved two gang members. The victim was an old confidential informant that had worked for the unit. The victim was killed by a handgun. The two suspects in the homicide were arrested and are waiting prosecution. One suspect was apprehended fleeing from the area of the homicide. The second suspect was apprehended within five hours of the homicide, he was preparing to flee the state when he was caught. Suspect number one is a confirmed Blood gang member who had recently been released from prison for a homicide he had committed several years earlier in St Cloud. The second suspect is a member of a local youth gang, the Taliban.

2009 Methamphetamine Enforcement Statistics (MN. Drug Task Forces)

Narcotics Task Force	Labs	Dump sites	Labs w/children	# of children involved	Meth Seized (pounds)	Meth Arrests as % of total arrests
Anoka-Hennepin	5	0	2	3	2.42	42.12%
Boundary Waters	1	9	0	0	0.11	43.48%
Brown-Lyon-Redwood	0	0	0	0	0.10	16.09%
Buffalo Ridge	0	2	0	0	8.24	67.01%
CEE-VI	0	0	0	0	1.07	60.82%
Central Minnesota	1	0	1	2	3.34	53.33%
Dakota County	0	0	0	0	2.18	27.89%
East Metro (Ramsey)	1	1	0	0	14.18	45.29%
Lake Superior	0	0	0	0	0.42	15.43%
Lakes Area	0	0	0	0	0.78	41.30%
Minnesota River Valley	1	0	0	0	4.99	10.84%
Northwest Metro	1	0	0	0	16.63	19.42%
Paul Bunyan	0	0	0	0	0.09	25.00%
Pine to Prairie	1	0	0	0	0.10	4.55%
Red River Valley	0	0	0	0	2.62	35.97%
South Central	1	0	0	0	3.28	44.64%
Southeast Minnesota	5	0	1	1	3.51	31.79%
Southwest Metro	0	0	0	0	0.58	34.00%
Washington County	0	0	0	0	6.09	22.09%
West Central	1	0	0	0	1.27	37.70%
TOTAL	18	12	4	6	72	33.9%

2010 GANG AND DRUG TASK FORCES

Department of Public Safety
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS



NARCOTICS TASK FORCES (listed north to south and west to east):

- Paul Bunyan Narcotics Task Force
- Boundary Waters Drug Task Force
- Lake Superior Drug Task Force
- Prairie Drug Task Force
- County Shared by:
Red River Valley, ND and
West Central MN Drug Task Forces
- West Central MN Drug Task Force
- Lakes Area Drug Task Force
- Central Minnesota MCIU
- North Central Task Force

- C.E.E. VI Narcotics Task Force
- Southwest Metro Drug Task Force
- Anoka-Hennepin Narcotics Task Force
- Washington County Drug Task Force
- Northwest Metro Drug Task Force
- Hennepin County VCET
- Ramsey County VCET
- Dakota County Drug Task Force
- Brown/Lyon/Redwood Task Force

- Buffalo Ridge Drug Task Force
- MN River Valley Drug Task Force
- South Central MN Drug Task Force
- South East MN Drug Task Force
- Areas not in a Task Force
- Minneapolis/St. Paul Safe Streets Task Force

GANG TASK FORCE AND OUTSTATE DEPLOYMENT:

- St. Cloud Metro Gang Strike Force
- # Number of gang officers assigned in drug task force area

2010 TASK FORCE GRANTS

Task Force	Fiscal Agent	# Gang Agents	# Agents	Amount	Commander
DRUG AND VIOLENT OFFENDER TASK FORCES					
Anoka-Hennepin TF	Anoka County Sheriff's Office		11	\$290,000	Lt. Kevin Halweg
B-L-R Task Force	New Ulm Police Department	2	1	\$175,000	Sr. Inv. Jeff Hohensee
Boundary Waters TF	St. Louis County Sheriff's Office		4.75	\$100,000	Sgt. Jason Akerson
Buffalo Ridge TF	Worthington Police Department	1	4.75	\$200,000	Comm. Troy Appel
CEE-VI TF	Kandiyohi County Sheriff's Office	2	6	\$210,000	Sgt. Tony Cruze
Central MN MCIU	Central Minnesota Major Crimes Investigation Unit	3	10	\$295,000	Sgt. Kellan Hemmesch
Dakota County TF	City of Eagan	1	14.5	\$310,000	Sgt. Joe Lekko
East Metro VCET	Ramsey County Sheriff's Office		25	\$530,000	Comm. Rich Clark
Hennepin County VOTF	Hennepin County Sheriff's Office		18	\$470,000	Capt. Chris Omodt
Lake Superior TF	Duluth Police Department	4	8	\$335,000	Lt. Steve Stacek
Lakes Area TF	Crow Wing Co Sheriff's Office		4	\$35,000	Sgt Joe Meyer
MN River Valley TF	No. Mankato Police Department	1	5	\$150,000	Lt. Dan Davidson
North Central TF	Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office			\$62,500	Capt. Jason LaSart
Northwest Metro VCET	St. Louis Park Police Dept.		8	\$90,000	Sgt. Jon Hunt
Paul Bunyan TF	Beltrami County Sheriff's Office	1	6	\$297,768	Lt. Gary Pederson
Pine To Prairie TF	Crookston Police Department		3	\$125,000	Comm. Scott Jordhiem
Red River Valley TF	Moorhead Police Department	1	4	\$125,000	Lt. Brad Penas
St. Cloud Metro GSF	St. Cloud Police Department	2		\$100,000	Sgt. Joe Kraayenbrink
South Central TF	Owatonna Police Department		5	\$160,000	Sgt. Joel Welinski
Southeast MN TF	Olmsted County Sheriff's Office	2	11	\$200,000	Capt. Mark Erickson
Southwest Metro TF	Shakopee Police Department		5	\$85,000	Sgt. Mark Williams
Washington County TF	Washington Co Sheriff's Office		7	\$135,000	Sgt. Brian Mueller
West Central TF	Douglas County Sheriff's Office		8	\$160,000	Deputy Scot Umlauf
Safe Streets Task Force	MPD and SPPD		10	\$500,000	
Statewide Prosecution	Attorney General's Office			\$50,000	
TOTAL		20	179.0	\$5,190,268	

\$2,815,268	Greater Minnesota
\$2,325,000	Metro Area
\$50,000	Statewide
\$175,000	Federal \$
\$5,015,268	State \$

MINNESOTA GANG AND DRUG OVERSIGHT COUNCIL - 2010

TITLE	NAME	AGENCY	ADDRESS	Address 2	City	State	Zip
CHAIR							
Sheriff	Rodney Bartsh	Wabasha County Sheriff's Office	848-17th Street E	Suite 1	Wabasha	MN	55981
VICE CHAIR							
Chief	Bob Jacobsen	New Brighton Police Department	785 Old Hwy 8 NW		New Brighton	MN	55112
MEMBERS							
Superintendent	Tim O'Malley	Bureau of Criminal Apprehension	1430 Maryland Ave.		St. Paul	MN	55106
U.S. Attorney	B. Todd Jones	District of Minnesota	600 U.S. Courthouse	300 South 4th St.	Minneapolis	MN	55415
Deputy Attorney General	David Voight	Office of the Attorney General	445 Minnesota St.	Suite 1800	St. Paul	MN	55101
Chief	John Harrington	St. Paul Police Department	367 Grove St.		St. Paul	MN	55101
Asst. Chief	Rob Allen	Minneapolis Police Department	350 South 5 th Street	Room #130	Minneapolis	MN	55415
Chief	Kim D. Murphy	Thief River Falls Police Department	120 W. 1st St.	PO Box 413	Thief River Falls	MN	56701
Chief	Dana Waldron	Virginia Police Department	327 First St.		Virginia	MN	55792
Chief	James Kulset	Willmar Police Department	2201 NE 23rd St.	Box 995	Willmar	MN	56201
Chief	Mike Cumiskey	Worthington Police Department	1530 Airport Rd-Suite 300	PO Box 279	Worthington	MN	56187
Chief	Dennis Ballantine	St. Cloud Police Department	101 - 11th Ave. North		St. Cloud	MN	56303
Sheriff	Rich Stanek	Hennepin County Sheriff's Office	350 S. Sixth St. - Rm. 6		Minneapolis	MN	55415
Sheriff	Bob Fletcher	Ramsey County Sheriff's Office	425 Grove St.		St. Paul	MN	55101
Sheriff	Bill Bergquist	Clay County Sheriff's Office	915 9th Avenue North		Moorhead	MN	56560
Sheriff	Ross Litman	St. Louis County Sheriff's Office	100 N. 5th Ave. - RM 103		Duluth	MN	55802

MINNESOTA GANG AND DRUG OVERSIGHT COUNCIL - 2010

TITLE	NAME	AGENCY	ADDRESS	Address 2	City	State	Zip
Sheriff	Brian Schlueter	Ottertail County Sheriff's Office	417 S. Court St.		Fergus Falls	MN	56537
Sheriff	Kevin Studnicka	Scott County Sheriff's Office	301 Fuller St. South		Shakopee	MN	55379
Sheriff	Rich Hoffman	Brown County Sheriff's Office	15 S. Washington St.	Box 877	New Ulm	MN	56073
Chief	Rick Rabenort	Prairie Island Tribal PD	1900 Buffalo Slough Trail		Welch	MN	55089
Director	Cari Gerlicher	MN Department of Corrections - OSI	1450 Energy Park Dr	Suite 200	St. Paul	MN	55108
Assistant County Attorney	Hilary Caligiuri	Hennepin County Attorney's Office	2000 Courts Tower	Government Center	Minneapolis	MN	55487
County Attorney	Gordon Moore	Nobles County Attorney's Office	1530 Airport Road #400	Prairie Justice Center	Worthington	MN	56187
Special Agent in Charge	Dan Moren	Drug Enforcement Administration	330 2nd Ave. South #450		Minneapolis	MN	55401
Asst. Special Agent in Charge	Steven Bogdalek	U.S. Dept. of Justice - ATF	30 E. 7 th St. - Room 1870		St. Paul	MN	55102
Special Agent in Charge	Ralph Boelter	U.S. Dept. of Justice - FBI	111 Washington Ave. S.	Suite 1100	Minneapolis	MN	55401
Chief	Gordon Ramsay	Duluth Police Department	411 W. 1st St.		Duluth	MN	55802
Commander	Gary Pederson	Beltrami County Sheriff's Office	613 Minnesota Ave. NW		Bemidji	MN	56601
LEGAL COUNSEL							
Asst. Attorney General	John Gross	Office of the Attorney General	445 Minnesota St.	Suite 1800	St. Paul	MN	55101
STAFF							
Statewide Gang and Drug Coordinator	Bob Bushman	Office of Justice Programs	445 Minnesota St.	Suite 2300	St. Paul	MN	55101
Program Administrator	Sue Perkins	Office of Justice Programs	445 Minnesota St.	Suite 2300	St. Paul	MN	55101