

COMMISSION ON RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPARITY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

MINUTES

November 19, 2012 Meeting

2:00 – 3:30

Community Court Conference Room, 80 Washington St., Hartford, CT

Persons Present: Justice Lubbie Harper, Jr. (Chair), Deborah Fuller (Judicial), Tracey Gove (House of Reps), Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt (DCF), Hakima Bey-Coon (OVA), Kim Weir (DOC), Paul Fitzgerald (CPCA), Glenn Cassis (AAAC), Brian Austin (DCJ – OCSA), Andrew Clark (Consultant – IMRP), Aileen Keays (Consultant – IMRP).

- I. Welcome
 - a. Meeting commenced at 2:09 pm
- II. Review and Approve Minutes from September 10th meeting
 - a. Attendees reviewed and approved the minutes following a motion made by Brian Austin, seconded by Tracey Gove.
- III. Discussion of Working Group Structure
 - a. Members discussed whether the Commission should restructure its working groups
 - i. The Commission will focus on filling its vacancies, then identify a new overall goal for the Commission to pursue based off of its December 17th conference and member input (including newly appointed Commissioners). Once the agenda has been identified, new working groups will be established to address specific areas of focus to achieve the Commission's overall goal.
 - ii. Persons to consider for vacancies should include academics that may provide opportunities for students to support the Commission's work.
 1. UConn offers studies related to the Commission's work.
 2. K-12 educators, also
 - b. Ms. Keays provided an update on behalf of the Media Subcommittee.
 - i. Ms. Keays distributed and discussed findings from the group's survey of police chiefs on their practices releasing mug shots to the media.
 1. The survey's findings seem to indicate that police chiefs tend to not voluntarily release mug shots to the media, however, would do so in response to a request.

- IV. Updates on other Commissions, Committees and Task Forces
- a. [Access to Justice Commission](#) (A2J) – Aileen Keays
 - i. A2J just released its final report including recommendations. Report is posted on the A2J website, as well as the Judicial Branch's. Ms. Keays brought one copy for any attendees interested in reviewing it.
 - ii. During the next A2J meeting, members will discuss the group's next focus and membership; the Commission is interested in expanding its membership to allow for greater expertise in diverse areas.
 - b. [Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Committee](#) (CJPAC) – Brian Austin
 - i. At the last CJPAC meeting, updates were provided on the OCSA Cold Case Unit and Shooting Task Forces.
 - 1. Cold case deck of cards is in DOC facilities. Have had 10 convictions since the deck's introduction. About to release a second deck.
 - 2. Task forces' focus is on unsolved shooting cases and they have had some success. New task forces are starting in other cities.
 - ii. Looking into school-based arrests next.
 - c. [Racial Profiling Prohibition Project](#) (RP3) – Andrew Clark
 - i. Report required by OPM to the Judiciary Committee by January 1st.
 - ii. Updated racial profiling data collection law's implementation date is slated to be July of 2013 to allow General Assembly time to make any changes that it may see fit after the project's 1st year of in-depth research into the matter.
 - iii. The project's public awareness group is about to host a series of public discussions on the new law for the public and police. Information will be provided to prevent confusion amongst law enforcement on the details of the new law and to inform the public of the new initiative. Attendees will then be able to participate in discussion. The first one will be at CCSU on Nov. 26th, 5:30-7:30pm. Andrew will send the Save the Date to REDCJS members. The project staff would like to include in the discussions the police departments that want to be part of the mandate but currently are not, including University police. The group is open to hosting other discussions if requested. The second discussion will be in Danielson at Quinebaug Valley Community College Dec. 5th, and then the third will be at Bridgeport YMCA on State Street Dec. 12th.
 - iv. The website is www.ctrp3.org which is continually updated. OPM also hosts a profiling website for the project.
 - d. [CT Sentencing Commission](#) (CSC) – Andrew Clark and Deb Fuller
 - i. Annual report required by Jan. 1 to General Assembly, the Governor & Chairs of the Judiciary Committee.
 - ii. The CSC is hosting its 1st hearing Nov. 29th at the LOB, at 12pm, to review several CSC policy initiatives including juvenile sentence reconsideration for those sentenced to lengthy prison terms for offenses committed while a juvenile. The U.S. Supreme Court reported 3 times on juvenile culpability. CT's hearing is to reflect on those findings, sort out the details and how they affect CT so CT courts do not need to. Another

topic of the hearing will be helping former inmates acquire housing, employment, etc. A third may be how to promote and support pro-social ties to the community while an individual serves a term of imprisonment to help reduce recidivism.

- iii. Another working group of the CSC is looking at drug-free school zones. The group hopes to have a recommendation for the CSC Legislative Subcommittee in December.

V. Discussion of Upcoming Legislative Session

- a. Ms. Fuller does not believe Judicial Branch has any proposals that may be of interest to the REDCJS.
- b. The State is facing budget cuts; Judicial Branch will have rescission plan released before Christmas.

VI. December 17th Event with Marc Mauer

- a. IMRP had conference call with Mr. Mauer. He is open to participate however REDCJS sees fit: keynote and/or moderate a panel.
- b. It was requested that Commissioners send Ms. Keys the names and e-mail addresses of their colleagues that should be invited.
- c. Ms. Keys will send Chief Fitzgerald a flyer so he may have the CPCA send all police chiefs an invitation.

VII. Other Business

- a. None to report

VIII. Adjourn

- a. Meeting concluded at 3:05 pm