

# Commission on Racial & Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System

Connecticut Judicial Branch

## Meeting Minutes January 14, 2019

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

*Commission members present: Justice Lubbie Harper, Jr. (Chair); Sharon M. Cheeks (Appointee of Governor Dannel P. Malloy); Carleton Giles (Board of Pardons and Paroles); Scott Jones (Appointee of Senate President Pro Tempore Martin M. Looney); Cheryl Sharp (Designee of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities); Preston Tisdale (Appointee of Governor Dannel P. Malloy); Hakima Bey-Coon (Designee of the State Victim Advocate); Chief Patrick Ridenhour (Designee of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association), Claud Chong (Designee of the Chief Public Defender), Steven Hernandez (Commission on Equity and Opportunity) .*

*Staff and guests present: Deb Fuller, Shawna Woodard and Troy Brown (Judicial); Aileen Keays, Kitty Tyrol, Munique Reid, Andrew Clark and Ben Daigle (Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy); Werner Oyanadel (Commission on Equity and Opportunity); Marc Pelka and Eleanor Michael (Office of Policy and Management).*

- I. Welcome**
  - a. Justice Harper convened the meeting at 2:12 PM.
- II. Review and approve minutes from November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting**
  - a. Justice Harper noted that the 11/19/18 minutes would be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.
- III. Updates on other commissions, committees, and task forces**
  - a. [Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee \(JJPOC\)](#) – Deb Fuller, Judicial
    - i. Deb Fuller noted that the JJPOC had adopted a new strategic plan and started formulating its 2019 recommendations.
  - b. [Racial Profiling Prohibition Project \(CTRP3\)](#) – Andrew Clark, IMRP
    - ii. On behalf of CTRP3, Andrew Clark provided materials and an update. Advisory Board voted on its Preamble during its Dec meeting. Preamble was distributed during this commission meeting and reviewed.
    - iii. Analysis of calendar 2017 data is complete and the final report is expected in April. RP3 is following up with two departments this reporting year.
  - c. [Connecticut Sentencing Commission \(CSC\)](#) – Andrew Clark, IMRP
    - iv. On behalf of the CSC, Andrew Clark distributed materials about the CSC’s 2019 legislative priorities, which fall into the three general categories of: sex offender registry reform, reform of the child pornography laws, and general (including such proposals as ensuring that a parent’s incarceration alone is not sufficient grounds for terminating parental rights, and shortening the definition of misdemeanor sentences by one day to avoid unintended collateral consequences—especially immigration consequences—of conviction).

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- IV. Special guests: Eleanor Michael** (Policy Development Coordinator, Criminal Justice Policy & Planning Division, Office of Policy and Management) and **Marc Pelka** (Under Secretary for Criminal Justice Policy & Planning, Office of Policy and Management)
- a. Justice Harper welcomed Marc and Eleanor to introduce themselves and share initial insights on Governor Lamont’s criminal justice policy priorities. Marc most recently came from the Council of State Governments. His background has been in justice reinvestment, which he states CT was a leader in. Policy, data collection & analysis, and training are key components for addressing disparity in CJ. He looks forward to furthering the good work CT is engaged with in those areas.
  - b. Eleanor shared perspectives and insights gained over her years of innovative criminal justice policy work in the Malloy Administration, and her enthusiasm for continuing Connecticut’s leadership in the field. Following their remarks, Marc and Eleanor addressed questions from members and committed to collaborating with the Commission as possible going forward. Justice Harper and members, noting their commitment to being part of the solution, thanked Marc and Eleanor for participating in today’s meeting.
- V. Update on the MacArthur 2016 Safety and Justice Challenge award** – Kitty Tyrol, IMRP
- a. Kitty is the Project Coordinator for the MacArthur project. Connecticut has received a no-cost extension through June. She has been looking at how implicit bias is addressed at different systems throughout CT. Looking to host an event in spring featuring “credible messengers”. Will focus training on judges, prosecutors, public defenders and police. Recommending incorporation of intergroup dialogue. Seeking to partner with Everyday Democracy from Hartford on the facilitated dialogue component – a train-the-facilitator program. The dialogue component will not occur just during training but also post-training to encourage on-going implementation of lessons-learned.
- VI. New members**
- a. The Commission has several appointments it will seek to be renewed/made by our new legislative and gubernatorial leaders.
- VII. Biennial report**
- a. Aileen provided an overview of the draft report previously circulated to members. Justice Harper opened the floor to feedback and suggestions from members. No suggestions were made, and Justice Harper called for a motion to adopt the report. Moved by Giles and seconded by Ridenhour, the motion passed via unanimous voice vote
- VIII. Other business**
- a. Racial Impact Statements passed last year and the Capitol is considering how to implement them. Could be something that permanent commissions, like the CSC, could adopt. Could also involve training LCOs and then depending on the focus

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of the proposed legislation, LCO could approach relevant groups – like housing – to ask how the proposed legislation could result in disparate impact based on race/ethnicity.

### **IX. Adjournment**

- a. Without objection, Justice Harper adjourned the meeting at 3:22 PM.

