

COMMISSION ON RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPARITY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

MINUTES

March 21, 2011 Meeting

Persons present:

Justice Harper (Chair; Supreme Court Justice), Deb Fuller (Judicial), Aileen Keays (Contractor – IMRP/CCSU), Preston Tisdale (Former OCPD appointee), Hakima Bey-Coon (OVA), Kay Berris (Judicial), Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt (DCF), Maureen Price-Boreland (CPA), Pat Hynes (DOC), Jeanne Milstein (OCA), Judith Rossi (DCJ), Andrew Moseley (BOPP), Glenn Cassis (ACCC), Werner Oyanadel (LPRAC), Gary Roberge (CSSD), Paul Fitzgerald (CT Chiefs of Police), Ernest Green (OCPD), Merva Jackson (AFCAMP), Andrew Clark (Contractor – IMRP/CCSU), Jesenia Delgado (DPS).

Meeting commenced at 12:53pm

- I. Welcome
- II. Annual Report
 - a. Sent March 7th to General Assembly
 - b. Will be on the REDCJ website shortly
- III. Working Group Updates
 - a. Education, Training and Cultural Competence Working Group – Glenn Cassis
 - i. Update on language for jury instruction on implicit bias
 1. Currently going to civil and criminal chairs of jury instruction committee
 2. Received slight revision this AM from OCPD's office
 - a. Will send OCPD's version directly to Judicial
 - b. Media Working Group – Maureen Price-Boreland
 - i. Maureen reviewed the initial Strategic Plan for the working group
 - ii. Update on creation of a research team to review media portrayals of minorities
 1. Two professors at SCSU are interested and have studied the topic of race in the news
 - iii. Reviewed Kay Berris' suggestions for working group initiatives (hand-out)
 1. Discussion ensued over the use of online media and the potential for projects for the working group
 - c. Pre-Arrest, Prevention, Diversionary and Community-based Programs Working Group – Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt

- i. Revised the survey to ascertain the services currently being offered by social service providers
- ii. Commission members reviewed the survey (hand-out)

IV. Joint Event with CT NAACP

- a. Aileen provided a brief background on the proposed event
- b. Date will be determined by the availability of the two proposed keynotes. Planning on hosting it on a Saturday.
 - i. Discussion over hosting it on a Saturday rather than weekday
- c. Looking to host it at a public high school in Hartford
 - i. Could look at area community centers for host locations, too
- d. Aileen will e-mail members the revised draft agenda
- e. Members were asked to send Aileen suggestions for speakers, panelists, etc
- f. Could look at area vendors to donate food/drink, etc

V. Sentencing Commission

- a. Andrew Clark provided background on the newly-established Sentencing Commission (hand-outs – Public Act and list of members)
- b. Next meeting April 28th 2-4pm at CCSU
- c. One subcommittee created on research

VI. Other Business

- a. Chief Justice created the “Access to Justice Commission” – effective May 1st – looking for representatives from this Commission to participate.
 - i. Chaired by Judge Norko
 - ii. 1st meeting May 6th at 2pm in Supreme Court building
 - iii. Will send information on new Commission to our members for review and consideration
- b. Werner provided update on current legislation. Two bills currently being considered:
 - i. Death penalty
 - ii. Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act
 - iii. Discussion ensued
 - 1. Suggestion that this Commission establish a permanent legislative subcommittee to review legislation that may have implications for its work
 - a. Brian Austin and Jeanne Milstein will co-chair the subcommittee
 - iv. There was also a bill on DMC that this Commission may be interested in

VII. Adjourned at 2pm