

MEETING MINUTES

July 13, 2015 Meeting

2:00 – 3:30

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

Commissioners present: Justice Lubbie Harper, Jr. (Chairperson), Regina Rush-Kittle (DESPP), Glenn Cassis (AAAC), Brian Austin (DCJ/OCSA), Hakima Bey-Coon (OVA), Kimberly Weir (DOC), Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt (DCF), Donald Green (OCPD).

Others present: Esther Harris (Judicial), Troy Brown (CSSD), Aileen Keays (Consultant – IMRP), Denise Marois (IMRP).

I. Welcome

- a. Meeting commenced at approximately 2:15pm

II. Review and approve minutes from May 11th meeting

- a. Approved by unanimous voice vote

III. Membership update

- a. Update on REDCJS bill, SB 4111, [Public Act 15-109](#)
 - a. Bill passed which, in part, added one new member – the Chairperson of Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission. Although it is not effective until October 2015, REDCJS will reach out to the Chairperson.

IV. Legislative update

- a. CT's "Juvenile Bill", s.[S.B. 796](#) – Connecticut Sentencing Commission (CSC) bill to comply with decisions of U.S. Supreme Court in Miller v. Alabama and Graham v. Florida. These decisions impact sentences of persons sentenced as youth to lengthy terms of imprisonment without the possibility of parole. When CSC first began looking at this, learned that over 200 currently incarcerated people in

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CT were sentenced to very lengthy terms as youth. This bill also raised the age for transfer to adult court from 14 to 15.

- b. S.B. 1087, now Special Act [15-2](#), An Act Concerning a Study of the Sexual Offender Registration System, was passed and signed by the Governor. This study stems from years of attempts to pass bills regarding sexual offenders that repeatedly failed to pass. This year, successfully passed this bill directing CSC to study Connecticut's sexual offender registration system, the sentencing of sexual offenders, and methods to reduce and eliminate recidivism by individuals convicted of a sexual offense.
- c. [“Use of Force”](#) legislation passed, making a number of changes regarding law enforcement training, procedures, use of force and hiring. [Here](#) is the Office of Legislative Research’s analysis of the bill. Discussion over whether the inclusion of “Peace Officers” includes probation officers.
- d. An Act Concerning a Second Chance Society, [s.S.B. 952](#) - reduces penalties for drug offenses, changes school zones for drug offenses, and changes design of BOPP. Question that is coming up is whether this is retroactive and currently incarcerated people for lengthy sentences due to possession can be released.

V. Updates on other commissions, committees and task forces

- a. [Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Committee](#) (CJPAC)
 - a. Not meeting during summer
- b. [Racial Profiling Prohibition Project](#) (RP3)
 - a. Reps. of the RP3 invited to testify on proposed legislation in CA before its Senate Appropriations Committee.
 - b. REDCJS will request Ken Barone present the work of RP3 to the Commission.
 - c. January 1st, new policy came out of POST regarding misconduct: if community member feels arrest not handled properly can follow a procedure to file a complaint. AAAC and RP3 will be training people on how to file a complaint.

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- c. [CT Sentencing Commission](#) (CSC)
 - a. CSC is working on four major studies following this legislative session:
 - i. Effectiveness of the certificates of employability
 - ii. Victim notification of offender release
 - iii. Connecticut’s sexual offender registration, management, laws and policies
 - iv. Automatic erasure of criminal records
 - d. JJPOCC’s Goals Subcommittee
 - a. Looking at entire JJ system – cradle to prison pipeline, etc. Recently reviewed “[Strategic Review of CJTS/Pueblo Girls Program Policies and Practices](#)” released this month by national expert Robert Kinscherff. The report summarizes Dr. Kinscherff’s assessment of the JJ confined population that DCF oversees, providing recommendations for improvement.
 - b. Atty. Martha Stone recently presented on use of education as JJ involvement prevention. One finding – a significant portion of DCF kids have special education needs and mental health diagnoses.
 - c. A bill that JJPOC was watching, and that has passed, prevents kids in grades below the 3rd from being expelled from school.

VI. Public awareness initiative with OVA

- a. During OVA presentation at REDCJS meeting several months ago, OVA discussed desire to increase community awareness of crime victim’s rights and availability of OVA as a resource, but having a lack of funds to support public awareness efforts. Afterward, IMRP was able to partner OVA with faculty at CCSU and New Britain-based non-profit ParaDYM to create, free of charge, media that intends to increase awareness of victim’s rights and showcase OVA. Filming continues and video editing is occurring. This partnership provides University students and youth participants of the ParaDYM program with meaningful and real-world projects, OVA with a wanted product and ultimately the community with increased knowledge on their rights.

VII. Implicit bias campaign

a. Proposed jury instruction

- i. REDCJS resubmitted its proposed jury instruction language to Criminal Jury Instruction Committee for reconsideration. [Language](#) has been added to the existing section on Sympathy, however, the manner in which it is blended in with discussion of *explicit* dislikes and negative feelings of groups, diffuses and inaccurately represents meaning of implicit bias. Commission determined that this is inadequate for addressing the implicit biases that may impact juror decision-making. A response letter will be issued to the Committee informing them of the inadequacy of their addition with a focus on the inaccurate suggestion the language provides. Furthermore, Criminal Jury Instruction Committee members will be invited to attend the implicit bias conference and to meet privately with Professor Godsil during the day's lunch.

b. Working group update

- i. Dates: Best weeks for Professor Godsil are mid-two weeks of September
- ii. Potential locations: ITBD, Gateway Community College, LOB, Manchester Community College, UConn Law School, Naugatuck Valley Community College, UConn Waterbury campus and DOC training academy in Cheshire were discussed. Working Group will look into the suggested locations.

VIII. Other business

- a. none

IX. Meeting adjournment

- a. Meeting concluded at approximately 3pm