

Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2017

2:00 – 3:30

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

Commission members present: Justice Lubbie Harper, Jr. (Chairperson), Hakima Bey-Coon (OVA), Subira Gordon (Commission on Equity and Opportunity), Brian Austin (OCSA/DCJ), Preston Tisdale (Governor appointee), Carlton Giles (BOPP), Cheryl Sharp (Commission on Equity and Opportunity), David Rosado (DESPP).

Others present: Deb Fuller (Judicial CSSD), Troy Brown (Judicial CSSD), Esther Harris (Judicial), Aileen Keays Yeager (CCSU/IMRP), Ben Daigle (CCSU/IMRP), Shawna Woodard (Judicial).

- I. Welcome**
 - a. Meeting commenced at approximately 2:08pm
- II. Review and approve minutes from March 13th meeting**
 - a. Minutes were reviewed. Preston Tisdale made a motion to approve, Brian Austin seconded the motion; minutes were approved via unanimous voice-vote.
- III. Updates on proposed legislation during 2017 session**
 - a. JJPOC's proposed legislation made a number of changes affecting juveniles, however, it did not pass during regular session.
 - b. As a result of legislation that passed in 2016, that limited the grounds for detention effective 1/1/17, the juvenile detention population has significantly decreased.
- IV. Updates on other commissions, committees and task forces**
 - a. *Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC)*
 - a. JJPOC continues to meet and has a meeting this month. It is working on its strategic plan for the next 5+ yrs.
 - b. [Racial Profiling Prohibition Project \(RP3\)](#)
 - a. On July 20, 2017, RP3 released a supplemental report on the nine municipal police departments identified in the 2014-15 Traffic Stop Data Analysis and Findings. A main goal for the supplemental report was to better understand whether statistical disparities identified in the department level analysis could be driven by specific department-wide practices or by individual officers. The nine departments were Bloomfield, Meriden, Newington, New Milford, Norwalk, Trumbull, West Hartford,

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Wethersfield, and Windsor. A full copy of the supplemental report can be found on RP3 website at www.ctrp3.org.

- b. The year three analysis of all 107 police departments is tentatively scheduled to be released this October.
- c. Additionally, the newly-created Task Force to Study the Curriculum and Education of Police Officers has a report due this October, as well.
- c. [CT Sentencing Commission](#) (CSC)
 - a. The Commission's final report on Sexual Offender laws and policy is due December 15, 2017, concluding two years' of analysis and compromise. The group, co-chaired by Brian Austin, has been looking into a risk-based registry instead of offense-based. Also looking at different levels of registries depending on level of risk. The levels involve the number of years the indiv. would be on the registry and whether they would be on a public, or law enforcement-only, registry. The risk assessment tool that the group is considering is the "static 99" which is already in-use by probation and parole.
 - b. Oct. 19th, the CSC will host a "Symposium on Pretrial Justice: Legal and Evidence-Based Practices" at UConn School of Law.
 - c. Oct. 16th – Oct. 17th, members of the CSC will visit New Jersey to learn about its implementation of CJ reform and processes for handling pretrial detention, including its bail system.
 - d. The Commission is also looking into collateral consequences of conviction including prohibitions on accessing certain government benefits, vocational exclusions and impacts on children and families.

V. Updates on implicit bias campaign

- a. *Pilot project*
 - i. Study design proposed by Perception Institute includes the use of real jurors in actual cases, which Judicial is concerned with. Therefore, the study is currently on-hold. The Commission would still like to pursue a study of implicit bias juror instruction. IMRP will follow-up with Perception Institute to inform them of the State's concern with the original study design and will determine whether Perception Institute has alternate methods it would consider. If not, Preston Tisdale recommended the Commission discuss its interest with Benjamin Reese of Duke University.
- b. *Collaboration with the Education Committee, Chair Judge Sheridan*
 - i. IMRP will follow-up with Judge Sheridan to determine what, if any, actions have been taken since his meeting with Judge Bennett.

VI. Diversity week keynote address, Oct. 23rd at 9:15 a.m.

- a. Justice Harper will provide the keynote address at this year's Judicial Branch Diversity Week kick-off event. The event is open to non-Judicial employees but

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those guests are asked to inform Shawna of their expected attendance so that she can ensure space. Shawna will send a copy of Diversity Week's schedule to members of the Commission.

VII. MacArthur 2016 Safety and Justice Challenge award

- a. State of CT, through OPM, was not able to reach a data use agreement with CUNY's Center for Court Excellence due to CT's standard terms & conditions. REDCJS has been re-classified as a partner site for the MacArthur initiative which would provide some funding to develop implicit bias training. The money would need to be used within one-year.

VIII. Other business

- a. Justice Harper attended a screening of "[Marshall](#)" about a Bridgeport court case involving Thurgood Marshall in 1947. The release date is Oct. 13th, the film was recommended to Commission members.
- b. Esther Harris commented that she is receiving an increasing number of requests for info on the demographics of jurors due to the perception that jurors do not reflect the racial/ethnic background of defendants. Esther also addressed a recent [New London Day article](#) discussing the case of Evan J. Holmes ([State v. Holmes](#)) and a judge's concern with the case's use of peremptory challenge in excluding a potential juror from serving. IMRP will send copy of the article to members.
- c. The Commission on Equity and Opportunity is working on a study of reentry and employment opportunities that is specifically looking at those that did not serve time in a correctional facility but do have a conviction. Hoping to release a report January.
- d. Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities is creating two documentary films – one about life after incarceration, the other is "From Lemonade to Light Post" on human trafficking. Intent is to use the films for training. Disparity commission would like to consider how they can also be used to help create policy and/or statute change.
- e. There will be a community conversation this Sat. at Colchester's historic [School for Colored Children](#). For more information, e-mail mail@colchesterhistory.org.
- f. Hispanic Heritage Month begins this week. One of Troy Brown's scheduled speakers for the associated events has cancelled; he has requested recommendations for speakers.

IX. Meeting adjournment

- a. Meeting concluded at approximately 2:58pm.