

# COMMISSION ON RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPARITY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

## MINUTES

### July 18, 2011 Meeting

*Persons present:*

*Justice Harper (Chair; Supreme Court Justice), Deb Fuller (Judicial), Aileen Keays (Contractor – IMRP/CCSU), Hakima Bey-Coon (OVA), Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt (DCF), Jeanne Milstein (OCA), Andrew Moseley (BOPP), Glenn Cassis (ACCC), Werner Oyanadel (LPRAC), Gary Roberge (CSSD), Tracey Gove (House of Rep's appointee).*

- I. Welcome
  - a. Meeting commenced at 12:33 pm
  
- II. Annual Report
  - a. Posted on the REDCJ website <http://www.ct.gov/redcjs/site/default.asp> and e-mailed to members
  
- III. Working Group Updates
  - a. Education, Training and Cultural Competence Working Group – Tracey Gove
    - i. Jury instruction language continues to work its way up the ladder in Judicial for approval
    - ii. Working Group is in process of choosing its project for the fall
  - b. Media Working Group –Aileen Keays
    - i. Southern CT State Univ. professor Frank Harris has discontinued talks with the Working Group
    - ii. Working Group asked Chief of Police Paul Fitzgerald if he would be able to solicit police departments' policies pertaining to the release of mug shots to the media. He agreed and requested a letter to distribute.
      1. Working Group currently working on drafting a letter
    - iii. Aileen attended an event with John Dankoski. Spoke with him and his producer Catie Talarski about the proposed research project. Mr. Dankoski was very interested and thought he may be able to bring Stan Simpson and CCSU's Vivian Martin on to the project.
      1. Stan Simpson directed Weaver High School's Journalism and Media Academy.
        - a. A May publication from the Academy called "[Media Bias Creates Inequality In Coverage](#)"
      2. Working Group will be following up with Mr. Dankoski

*Discussion*

- It was suggested that the Media Working Group review FOI policy for releasing mug shots; some departments follow those guidelines and have no internal policy of their own.
      - CSSD posts its warrant photos on the Judicial website
      - Lew Brown (a.k.a William Moses Brown), retired channel 30 news anchor, may be a good person for the working group to reach out to.
    - c. Pre-Arrest, Prevention, Diversionary and Community-based Programs Working Group – Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt
      - i. The working group continues to work toward releasing a survey to service providers.
- IV. Legislative Subcommittee Update - Brian Austin and Jeanne Milstein
- a. No updates due to the amount of attention necessarily paid to the current fiscal crisis
- V. Joint Event with CT NAACP
- a. Event planning group will be meeting this Thursday
  - b. Two potential dates for the event Saturdays Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>
  - c. Weaver High School is the determined location
  - d. Have a draft agenda that will be reviewed and further modified at Thursday's meeting
  - e. Difficulty confirming keynote speakers; Scot Esdaile volunteered to recruit speakers yet has since been pre-occupied assisting the Norwalk woman on trial for enrolling her son in Norwalk Public Schools while homeless. Event planning group has had a difficult time getting in touch with him to proceed with the event planning. Hope this will be resolved at Thursday's meeting.

*Discussion*

- May want member of the Commission to be guest on NPR's *Where we Live* to discuss the issues and promote the event?
- VI. Access to Justice Commission
- a. Newly-created Commission within Judicial Branch
  - b. Stems from the Judicial Branch's Public Service and Trust Commission, initiated by Chief Justice Rogers in '07, to create a long-term strategic plan for the Branch
  - c. AJC Commission is to work in tandem with the Strategic Plan and become an integral part of the Plan's evolution
  - d. Its mission: to develop recommendations to help ensure equal access for all people, including low- and moderate-income individuals, people with different physical or developmental abilities, the elderly, limited English proficient and ethnic, cultural and racial minorities.
  - e. Has had one meeting. Aileen Keays is representing the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System
- VII. Other Business
- a. Membership

- i. Donald Green resigned his membership
    - ii. The commission, via Deb, is continuing to try to get Preston Tisdale appointed to the commission. Discussions with Gov. Malloy's office are on going
  - b. Deb Fuller reviewed legislation that passed during the last legislative session that may be of interest to the Commission
    - i. A bill that requires DCF, State Police, child welfare, etc to report to OPM bi-annually the efforts of the agency to reduce disproportionate minority contact (DMC)
      1. 1<sup>st</sup> reports due to OPM September 1, 2011. OPM then submits a report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2011
    - ii. Bill requiring the creation of a task force on eyewitness identification effective October 1<sup>st</sup>
    - iii. One of the implementers calls for a study to create a uniform corrections agency
      1. Supposed to do with JJAC and CJPAC
  - c. Werner Oyanadel mentioned a bill that was proposed but failed to get passed that would have strengthened the Alford Doctrine. This may be an opportunity for the Commission to re-work the language
    - i. It was determined that the Legislative Subcommittee will review this proposal

*Discussion*

- If can get police chiefs on-board with drafting new language than would have a better chance of creating something that would pass
    - Harper will ask Chief Fitzgerald to work with the Legislative Subcommittee on this
- d. The analysis of law enforcement traffic stop reports has been moved out of the AAAC to OPM

*Discussion*

- Those findings may assist this Commission in drafting revised language for the Alford Doctrine

VIII. Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:15 pm