

Commission on Racial & Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System

Connecticut Judicial Branch

Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2019

2:00 – 3:30

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

Commission members present: Justice Lubbie Harper Jr. (Chair); Brian Austin Jr. (Designee of the Chief State's Attorney); Hakima Bey-Coon (Designee of the State Victim Advocate); Carleton Giles (Board of Pardons and Paroles); David McGuire (Appointee of the Majority Leader of the Senate).

Staff and guests present: Deborah Fuller (Judicial); Aileen Keays and Kitty Tyrol (Institute for Municipal & Regional Policy).

- I. Welcome**
 - a. Meeting commenced at approximately 2:10pm
- II. Review and approve minutes from January 14th meeting**
 - a. Minutes were reviewed. Motion made by Carleton Giles to approve, seconded by Brian Austin and David McGuire, and approved through unanimous voice-vote.
- III. Updates on other commissions, committees and task forces**
 - a. *JJPOC RED Workgroup Update* – Judicial/CSSD
 - a. Chaired by Hector Glynn and Yale's Dr. Derrick Gordon. The group has been meeting since January and is seeking to understand the disparity work already occurring in CT. JJAC has appointed three younger people to participate in the workgroup, as well. They are very motivated and interested in traffic stop data, in-particular. Deb told the workgroup about the history of the commission and the upcoming MacArthur training on implicit bias. The workgroup and commission will seek to support each other's work. May invite one of the JJAC young advocates to a commission meeting.
 - b. [Racial Profiling Prohibition Project](#) – IMRP
 - a. RP3 plans to release its fourth annual racial profiling study on Thursday, June 20th at 10:00 a.m. The study covers the 2017 calendar year. In addition, the advisory board will host a public forum at Gateway Community College on Wed., June 19th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The forum is free and open to the public.
 - c. [CT Sentencing Commission](#) – David McGuire
 - a. Senate Bill 364 bill is still working its way through to reduce one-year sentences to 364 days to prevent immigration enforcement.

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- b. [S.B. 1113, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission with Respect to the Sexual Offender Registry, Petitions to Terminate Parental Rights of Incarcerated Parents and Sentence Review and Sentence Modification](#), is also still working its way through, however, it is our understanding that legislators have tacked on a lot of addendums to it; the bill may be in jeopardy.

IV. Member updates on legislative proposals

- a. The Governor put forward S.B. 880, An Act Increasing Fairness and Transparency in the Criminal Justice System. This bill seeks to promote greater prosecutorial transparency through increased data collection and reporting. Since its proposal, several relevant state agencies have been working together to try to determine how to accomplish the provisions set forth in the bill. The bill may be facing some challenges due to staffing needs necessary to collect the data and a fiscal note that was attached. The bill made it through the Appropriations Committee despite its associated expenses not being factored into the budget. Governor also appointed new members to the CJ Commission; even if the bill does not pass this year, changes have been made due these new members.

V. Update on the MacArthur 2016 Safety and Justice Challenge award – Kitty Tyrol

- a. Training scheduled for June 3, 18 & 19. The 3rd is the implicit bias training of trainers and on the 18th and 19th Everyday Democracy will train attendees in facilitation of dialogue on race. Fifty-one people out of 60 have registered already. Nice representation from the CJ system and community. Blending curricula now to get it down to a 2.5-hour training.
- b. CT is the only state awarded funds through the MacArthur Safety & Justice Challenge and MacArthur would like to see CT to continue its involvement. However, OPM has indicated its intent to not pursue additional funding.

VI. Special guest(s) for the next meeting? Black and Puerto Rican Caucus?

- a. Invite both the Chair and Vice Chair of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus to meet with the Commission during the September meeting.

VII. Other business

- a. Reclassify the July meeting as a meeting of those trained during the MacArthur training.
- b. Will explore hosting a strategic planning session for the Commission in the fall.
- c. Membership – appointment.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:50pm

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Upcoming Meetings

July 8th

September 9th

November 18th

