

Commission on Racial & Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System

Connecticut Judicial Branch

Meeting Minutes November 14, 2017

2:00 – 3:30

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

Commission members present: Justice Harper (Chair), Leon Smith (Majority Leader of the House appointee), Patrick Ridenhour (Representative of Municipal Police Chiefs), David McGuire (Majority Leader of the Senate appointee), Subira Gordon (Commission on Equity and Opportunity), David Rosado (DESPP), Maureen Price-Boreland (Speaker of the House appointee).

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

- I. Welcome**
 - a. Justice Harper convened the meeting at 2:05 PM. Members introduced themselves. Members welcomed Leon Smith (Center for Children’s Advocacy), who is the new appointee of the House Majority Leader.
- II. Review and approve minutes from September 11th meeting**
 - a. Subira Gordon moved approval; Lt. Colonel Rosado seconded the motion. Justice Harper called for a voice vote and the motion passed unanimously.
- III. Updates on other commissions, committees and task forces**
 - a. *Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee – Judicial*
 - a. Meeting monthly; some recs from last session made it into the adopted budget (incl. eliminated remainder of status offenses over the next couple of years). Some anticipated funding for services did not come through. Leon noted the need for further education, as CSSD continues receiving truancy FWSN referrals from some LEAs. Deb added that the budget transferred juvenile justice services from DCF to Judicial CSSD, so no more commitment to DCF.
 - b. [Racial Profiling Prohibition Project](#) – IMRP
 - a. Project just released its year three analysis of all 107 police departments; it is available on their website at www.CTRP3.org.
 - c. [CT Sentencing Commission](#) – IMRP

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- a. The Commission's final report on sex offender sentencing, management, and registry is due December 15, 2017, concluding two years' of analysis. The Commission is set to vote on recommendations from its Special Committee on Sex Offenders on December 14th. Some of the recommendations are aimed to reform the sex offender registry from an offense-based system to a risk-based system.
- b. The Commission is continuing its study on bail. On October 16th and 17th, the Commission traveled to New Jersey with 12 delegation members to learn about their newly-implemented no-money bail system. On October 19th, the Commission hosted a symposium on pretrial release and detention at the University of Connecticut School of Law. The Commission may be considering a constitutional amendment on bail and a set of statutory changes.
- c. The Commission is also looking into collateral consequences of conviction including family impact statements, pardons process, and immigration consequences from state criminal conviction. Maureen Price-Boreland invited participation in the Sentencing Commission's Collateral Consequences Subcommittee, as the Subcommittee is exploring ways to prevent the disparity within the criminal justice system from spilling over into areas of life such as professions and voting rights. Interested members should contact Maureen to get involved.

IV. Updates on implicit bias campaign

- a. *Pilot project*
 - i. Study proposal – IMRP
Scheduling a meeting with Perception Institute to discuss Commission's concerns and potential alternate study designs. Rachel has some insights from some of their other work that they believe might be helpful to share and discuss.
- b. *Collaboration with the Education Committee, Chair Judge Sheridan – IMRP*
 - i. The committee organized an implicit bias presentation during the 2017 Connecticut Judges' Institute. The presentation was offered as a plenary session and attended by all judges and family support magistrates. The presentation was videotaped by Judicial Branch staff and will be included in the Branch's Pre-Bench Orientation program for new judges. The Committee indicated that when new things develop they plan to reach out to us and welcome our continued collaboration. David McGuire asked whether the State's Attorneys have similar training. Deb and Aileen described a series of similar trainings planned by Brian Austin for prosecutors.

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V. **Judicial Branch's Diversity Week**

- a. The 4th annual week was kicked off on 10/23, with Justice Harper as the keynote speaker. Shawna shared some of the many positive comments participants provided regarding Justice Harper's speech. This year's attendance was record high. The Advisory Committee on Cultural Competency (Justice Robinson, Chair) welcomes feedback, including speaker suggestions, for next year.

VI. **MacArthur 2016 Safety and Justice Challenge award**

- a. After the Center for Court Innovation refused to accept CT's standard data use agreement terms, site status changed and the funding was reduced to \$75,000. The goal is to create a training curriculum and train-the-trainer initiative. Once the Commission receives its funds, it will have 1-year to spend the money. Commission will contract with IMRP (b/c of existing contract) to hire person to work on this project; still in MOA process (happening quickly, but out of Deb's hands).

VII. **Marshall film screening**

- a. Next planning meeting will be Nov. 15th at 11:30; hoping for December date at CCSU. Associated panel: Preston, John Smriga – a prosecutor who can speak to the prosecutor's office mindset and culture at that time, and screenwriter Mike Koskoff.

VIII. **Other business**

- a. Former OCPD Commission appointee has been appointed Judge; Deb will ask Chris Rapillo (now Chief Public Defender) to appoint a new member.

IX. **Meeting adjournment**

- a. Meeting concluded at approximately 2:42 PM

