

Commission on Racial & Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System

Connecticut Judicial Branch

Meeting Minutes September 9, 2019

2:00 – 3:30

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

Commission members: Justice Harper (Chair), Cheryl Sharp (CEO), Claud Chong (OCPD), Scott Jones (Senate President Pro Tem), Brian Austin (DCJ/OCSA), Steven Hernandez (CEO), Hakima Bey-Coon (OVA), David McGuire (House Majority Leader), Patricia Camp (in for Carleton Giles, BOPP), Preston Tisdale (Governor), Patrick Ridenhour (CT Police Chiefs Assoc), Jodi Hill-Lilly (DCF).

Non-Commission members in attendance: Deb Fuller (Judicial – CSSD), Troy Brown (Judicial – CSSD), Esther Harris (Judicial), Aileen Keays (CCSU-IMRP).

- I. Welcome**
 - a. Meeting commenced at 2:10
- II. Review and approve minutes from May 21st meeting**
 - a. Motion made by Preston Tisdale, seconded by Scott Jones, approved via unanimous voice-vote
- III. Updates on other commissions, committees and task forces**
 - a. *Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee – Judicial/CSSD*
 - a. JJPOC RED Workgroup Update – Judicial/CSSD
 1. JJPOC, REDC work group – Center for Children’s Law & Policy has been brought in to assist with the committee’s work. Martha Stone is interested in expanding the work to include child protection. Work group has not yet made any recommendations because they are still early in their work. Jodi Hill-Lilly will receive the data that is being collected at DCF for this project and can share it when it is available.
 - b. [Racial Profiling Prohibition Project \(CTRP3\) – IMRP](#)
 - a. Next month, CTRP3 will release its next annual report with 2018 traffic stop data. On June 25th, RP3 released its 2017 annual analysis which can be found at www.CTRP3.org. Sept. 18th, a community forum will be held in New London at the NL Technical HS.
 - b. Commission would like to invite Project Manager, Ken Barone, to present his work to the Commission during its November meeting.
 - c. [CT Sentencing Commission \(CSC\) – IMRP](#)
 - a. 2019 legislative proposals outcomes
 - i. [SB 948, An Act Concerning the Recommendations of the Connecticut Sentencing Commission with Respect to Misdemeanor Sentences](#) – passed the Judiciary Committee, but died in the Senate

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- ii. HB 7349, An Act Concerning Identity Theft Victim Access to Records – didn't pass
 - iii. SB 25, An Act Restoring Electoral Privileges to Felony Convicts Who are on Parole – didn't pass
 - iv. SB 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 – passed the Judiciary and Appropriations Committees but died in the Senate.
 - v. SB 1008, An Act Concerning a Study of the Disparities in Pretrial and Sentencing Outcomes of Criminal Defendants – Passed. The CSC will study potential disparities in pretrial and sentencing outcomes related to the racial, ethnic, gender and socioeconomic status of a criminal defendant. Interim report is due on January 1st of 2020; final report is due on January 1, 2021.
- b. The commission continues to work on many of the above topics with the intent to re-propose them, or a modified version, during the 2020 session.
- c. Other projects/studies
- i. Evaluation of the Impact of Risk and Needs-Based Sentencing in Connecticut – CSC will have a presentation on this at its meeting this Thursday.
 - ii. Diversionary programs study – CSC is in the process of conducting this study. Will receive data for analysis shortly.
 - iii. Firearms study – looking at offenses related to firearms. Report should be complete by the end of this year.
 - iv. Study Concerning Inmates Established as Chronically Mentally Ill – the study shall include the # of chronically mentally ill inmates, if the population is completing longer portions of their sentences than non-mentally ill inmates, and whether they participate in programs assisting with reentry at a disparate rate
 - v. Collateral Consequences Subcommittee's projects/studies:
 - 1. eligible to-vote population (people held pre-trial and convicted of misdemeanors) at DOC study
 - 2. automatic erasure of records
 - 3. fines, fees and cost of incarceration
 - 4. the licensure study
- d. Commission's next meeting is this Thurs., 2pm, at the LOB

IV. MacArthur 2016 Safety and Justice Challenge award

- a. Aileen Keays provided a brief summary of the execution of the implicit bias training. There is concern with some attendees training the material.
- b. The Commission will follow-up with training completers to inform them that, at this time, they are not to train the material on behalf of the Commission.

V. Strategic planning process?

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- a. Would like to explore a strategic planning process for the Commission. Its focus could be on the Commission's intent with implicit bias training moving forward – level and type(s) of involvement, how to select trainer(s), etc. Will discuss during November meeting.
- VI. Website**
- a. A new website has been under development and will soon be ready-to-launch.
- VII. November meeting** – 2nd Mon is Veteran's Day, propose the 18th
- a. Commission will meet Nov. 18th. Kitty will discuss the implicit bias training in greater detail and the proposed strategic planning process.
- VIII. Other business**
- a. 2019 other bills relevant to the work of this Commission:
 - ii. HB 6921 – established a council on collateral consequences of a criminal conviction focusing on employment. The Council's report is due Feb. 1, 2020.
 - iii. Prosecutorial transparency bill – one of the most comprehensive transparency laws in the country. Captures a lot of data from different decision-points in the system, including but not limited to, sentencing info. (which is currently collected but this law expands the info captured), plea offers, input from victims. One of the struggles partners are discovering is that this data is not easy to capture; the department is still mostly a paper agency. Other states have successfully accomplished this county-wide, but this will be the first state to collect such data.
 - iv. SB3 and HB1111 – sexual harassment and sexual assault – statute of limitations was extended to file a claim.
 - v. No racial impact statements were applied to proposed legislation this session. There is a sense that people don't know how to create them. OOE has created a plan for racial & ethnic impact statements which includes adding staff committed to drafting racial & ethnic impact statements. Sen. Gary Winfield, Rep. Toni Walker and Rep. Brandon McGee are championing this.
 - b. CHRO hosts an annual youth leadership event at UConn. Invited the Commission to create a topic. Would like topics by Nov. 1st.
- IX. Meeting adjournment**
- a. Meeting concluded at approximately 3pm

Upcoming Meetings

November 18th