

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 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), Alok Bhatt (substitute for Commissioner Subira Gordon, Commission on Equity and Opportunity), Kim Weir (DOC), Patrick Ridenhour (Representative of Municipal Police Chiefs), Brian Austin (OCSA/DCJ), Maureen Price-Boreland (Speaker of the House appointee), William Rivera (DCF), Preston Tisdale (Governor appointee).

Others present: Deb Fuller (Judicial CSSD), Kristina Gonzalez (OPM), Troy Brown (Judicial CSSD), Esther Harris (Judicial), Aileen Keays Yeager (CCSU/IMRP).

- I. Welcome**
 - a. Meeting commenced at approximately 2:05 PM
- II. Review and approve minutes from November 14th meeting**
 - a. Brian Austin made a motion to approve the minutes; Preston Tisdale seconded the motion, the motion was approved unanimously via voice-vote.
- III. Updates on other commissions, committees and task forces**
 - a. *Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) – Judicial*
 - a. The JJPOC is monitoring juvenile detention population following passage of legislation in 2016 (effective 1/1/17), which reduced the grounds for holding juveniles in pretrial detention. Since January 2017, there has been a significant drop in the pretrial population held at the two Juvenile Detention Centers operated by the Judicial Branch/CSSD.
 - b. JJPOC is also working to shift more services from court-based to community-based.
 - b. [Racial Profiling Prohibition Project \(RP3\) – IMRP](#)
 - a. In April, RP3 will release a report providing an update on the nine police departments identified in last year's annual report.
 - b. In June, RP3 will release its third annual report.
 - c. [CT Sentencing Commission \(CSC\) – IMRP](#)
 - a. The Commission adopted and submitted its [report](#) on pretrial release and detention to the Governor and the legislature. CSC also drafted a bill based on recommendations included within the report that will be heard

Commission on Racial & Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System

Connecticut Judicial Branch

during a Judiciary Committee public hearing on March 20th. The bill has not been filed yet; Aileen will send the bill number when it is posted.

IV. Updates on implicit bias campaign

a. *Pilot project*

- i. Study proposal was presented at the meeting, as was the Seattle juror instructions. Commission was asked to review both documents and forward comments to Aileen within two-weeks.

b. *Collaboration with the Education Committee, Chair Judge Sheridan*

- i. Will send e-mail this week to try to schedule the first meeting of the working group. Anyone that has not volunteered that would like to please let Aileen know.

V. “They Call Us Monsters” event

- a. On Feb 27th & 28th, the Commission sponsored an event with film producer and director, Ben Leer, who created a documentary on youth charged with serious felonies and the potential for them to spend the rest of their lives in prison.
- b. Principal of Weaver High School is interested in holding follow-up activities to try to reach youth considered to be at the highest risk.
- c. Film was good at bringing the human element to the issue.
- d. In terms of disparity, the film showcased the disparity that inflicts minorities based on race and/or economic standing.

VI. MacArthur 2016 Safety and Justice Challenge award – Kristina Gonzalez

- a. State is still waiting for the grant. Final contract language has successfully passed through OPM’s legal department. Total grant award to the State is \$2.5 million to address racial & ethnic disparity in the CJ system and the pretrial population. Hoping to have a draft data-use agreement by the end of this week, then after that draft is signed the state will be issued payment. This commission will create implicit bias training for each primary CJ sector (law enforcement, prosecutors, public defenders, etc.) as part of its award.

VII. Discussion of 2017 legislative session agency proposal announcements

- a. Governor’s Raise the Age initiative bill seeks to have Judicial take over all of DCF’s juvenile justice functions.
- b. JJPOC has a legislative packet coming out shortly.
- c. S.B. 482 seeks to require racial & ethnic impact statements at legislators’ request.
- d. S.B. 600 sought to require police to report juvenile foot stops to collect data on police/youth interaction when youth are walking. This was a Center for Children’s Advocacy bill that has just died.

VIII. Approve Biennial report

- a. Motion was made to approve the report by Preston Tisdale, seconded by Brian Austin, approved unanimously via voice vote.

IX. Other business

Commission on Racial & Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System

Connecticut Judicial Branch

- a. Preston Tisdale recommended a documentary he recently saw on N.Y.'s public T.V. that was based on Bob Herbert's book "Against All Odds" on the black middle class.
 - b. William Rivera asked if this commission has considered looking at immigration issues that have arisen in response to President Trump's immigration bans. The commission discussed the current immigration issues in relation to racial & ethnic disparity and determined that at this time, there is too much uncertainty with the current ban to determine how the commission could respond.
- X. Meeting adjournment**
- a. Meeting concluded at approximately 2:45 PM

