

COMMISSION ON RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPARITY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

MINUTES

May 14, 2012 Meeting

Persons Present: Justice Lubbie Harper, Jr. (Chair), Deb Fuller (Judicial), Andrew Clark (Contractor - IMRP), Aileen Keays (Contractor - IMRP), Andrew Moseley (BOPP), Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt (DCF), Brian Austin (OCSA), Ernest Green (OCPD), Glenn Cassis (AAAC), Hakima Bey-Coon (OVA), Jesenia Delgado (DESPP), Kimberly Weir (DOC), Paul Fitzgerald (Municipal Police Chiefs), Tracey Gove (House of Reps Appointee), Gary Roberge (CSSD).

- I. Welcome
 - a. Meeting commenced at approximately 2:10pm
- II. Review and Approve Minutes from January 30th meeting
 - a. Minutes were reviewed and approved pending minor edits
- III. Membership Vacancies
 - a. A meeting was held amongst Justice Harper, Deb Fuller, Andrew Clark, Aileen Keays and Maureen Price-Boreland to discuss the work of the Commission. One major challenge that was addressed was the Commission's five vacancies.
 - i. Requested Commission members suggest people they feel may be effective leaders on the Commission
 - b. Mickey Kramer will represent the Office of the Child Advocate as an acting member in place of Jeanne Milstein, former Child Advocate, until a permanent Advocate is appointed.
- IV. Working Group and Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Education, Training and Cultural Competence Working Group
 - i. The working group decided to focus its efforts on supporting the work of the newly-established Racial Profiling Prohibition Project (RP3).
 1. The group is hosting police and community informational sessions throughout the state to discuss the revised traffic stop law that is intended to track and prevent racial profiling. Sessions held thus far have been well-attended by police chiefs and other groups.
 - a. The next discussion will be May 29th or 30th in Bridgeport
 - b. Commissioner asked how info. on the event is given to community
 - i. NAACP and CHRO send it to their networks.

- b. Media Working Group
 - i. A survey was created by Ms. Keays and Police Chief Douglas Fuchs that asked police chiefs about their practices dispensing mug shots to the media. During a recent Commission meeting it was recommended that the working group hold off on distributing the survey until the East Haven racial profiling incidents were out of the media.
 - 1. According to Chief Gove, Chief Fuchs will no longer be the Chair of the CT Police Chiefs Association as of June; he will be replaced by Chief Dale of Southington. Therefore, the working group may want to distribute the survey while Chief Fuchs still holds that position.
 - c. Pre-Arrest, Prevention, Diversionary and Community-based Programs Working Group
 - i. No update
 - d. Legislative Subcommittee
 - i. No update
- V. Updates on other Commissions, Committees and Task Forces
- a. Access to Justice Commission
 - i. Was established to promote equal access to justice in CT's justice systems.
 - ii. Focusing a lot of its attention on legal aid. Supported a Judicial bill to increase fees for filing court documents. The new proceeds would go toward funding legal aid services for the indigent and technology for the Judicial Branch. The bill, H.B. 5388 "[An Act Concerning Court Fees and the Delivery of Legal Services to the Poor](#)" passed.
 - b. CT Sentencing Commission
 - i. Been in existence for a little over one year. Chaired by Judge Shortall.
 - ii. [Annual report](#) was released January 2012
 - iii. Proposed several legislative changes and bills this session
One of the bills passed that addressed unclassified misdemeanors. Working group met weekly to review the unclassified misdemeanors during a year-long process. Drafted 120-page bill decriminalizing several offenses, changing fines, creating a class D misdemeanor and more infractions that were previously misdemeanors.
 - c. Juvenile Jurisdiction Policy and Operations Coordinating Council
 - i. It is in the proposed budget to track 17-year olds as they transition from the adult to the juvenile justice system. No new significant proposals; primarily just monitoring
 - d. Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Committee
 - i. No significant initiatives
 - e. Eye-witness ID Task Force
 - i. The task force's proposed bill requiring the use of a double blind photo array during eyewitness identification passed.
 - f. Racial Profiling Prohibition Project
 - i. S.B. 364 "[An Act Concerning Traffic Stop Information](#)" passed and will go into effect July 1, 2013.
 - ii. There are a lot of people involved with this initiative, including CHRO, IMRP, Police Chiefs Association, and State's Attorney's Office. As a

result, advisory board has been formed that will help monitor the process. This group is co-chaired by Bill Dyson and Jim DeCarlo of UNH. The establishment of this group was also written into the bill. As a result of this bill, data collected by police officers during traffic stops will now be sent to OPM instead of AAAC. The Racial Profiling Advisory Board will work with OPM on developing methodology for analyzing data. Will be part of CJIS system so will be electronically reported which will enhance turnaround time of data analysis. Some open spots still available on the Advisory Board for any Commission members that may be interested.

- iii. Securing \$1.2 million in federal money to support the work.
- iv. Bill doesn't go beyond traffic stops because federal money coming from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
- v. Wanted to be diligent to explore potential collateral consequences of the bill. Original start date was supposed to be Jan. but pushed back to July so advisory board could take the time to further explore the potential for collateral consequences prior to its implementation.
- vi. Working with Northeastern University's Institute on Race and Justice that has done this work in several states.

VI. Legislative Update from 2012 Session

- a. Bills that passed
 - i. H.B. 5388 (discussed above)
 - ii. Eyewitness ID bill (discussed above)
 - iii. Abolition of the death penalty
 - iv. Traffic stop bill (discussed above)
- b. Bills that died
 - i. 5391 An Act Concerning Law Enforcement License Recognition
 - ii. Traffic cameras
 - iii. Judicial Branch's juvenile bill
 - iv. Certificate of relief from barriers

VII. Event with Marc Mauer

- a. Host an event with Marc Mauer, Executive Director of [The Sentencing Project](#) that has published great reports on the criminal justice system and disparity.
- b. Conference call with Marc Mauer, Justice Harper, Deb Fuller, Maureen Price-Boreland and IMRP
- c. IMRP attended *Ripples of Injustice* in NYC during which Marc presented. IMRP spoke with him then, as well
- d. For about a year, the REDCJS was planning a major event with NAACP that never came to fruition
- e. Mr. Mauer also demonstrated interest in maintaining a relationship with the Commission beyond the event
- f. *Discussion*
 - i. Since REDCJS has interest in preventing youth from entering CJ/JJ systems, maybe have co-keynote be someone who, on national-level, works on juvenile issues.

ii. How did NY Law get funding for their *Ripples of Justice* conference?

VIII. Other Business

- a. IMRP will have the graduate assistant that assisted the Sentencing Commission working full-time during summer. She will be able to dedicate some hours to this commission through summer months to assist with event planning and/or working groups.

IX. Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:10pm