

COMMISSION ON RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPARITY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

MINUTES

September 9, 2013 Meeting

2:00 – 3:30

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

Persons present: Justice Lubbie Harper Jr. (Chair), Deb Fuller (Judicial), Esther Harris (Jury Administrator), Garvin Ambrose (Victim Advocate), Hakima Bey-Coon (OVA), Preston Tisdale (Governor's appointee), Glenn Cassis (AAAC), Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt (DCF), Brian Austin (OCSA), Gary Roberge (CSSD), Tracey Gove (House of Reps appointee), Ernest Green (OCPD), Aileen Keays (Consultant – IMRP), Tina Colon Williams (Judicial intern).

Special Guests: Center for Children's Advocacy staff Attorneys Martha Stone, Leon Smith and Marissa Halm.

- I. Welcome**
 - a. Meeting commenced at approximately 2:15pm
- II. Review and approve minutes from March 25th meeting**
 - a. Approved unanimously by voice vote
- III. Membership update – Ann Smith, AFCAMP**
 - a. Glenn Cassis has spoken with Attorney Smith. She has demonstrated interest in participating on the Commission.
 - i. Commission will reach-out to Attorney Smith
 - b. Sarah Eagan has been appointed new Child Advocate, thereby is a new member of the Commission.
- IV. Presentation on DMC reduction pilot project – Center for Children's Advocacy (CCA)**

Project summary

 - a. Spectrum Associates has conducted three statewide analyses on DMC.
 - b. Three pilot locations thus far: Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven, sequentially. Waterbury will launch in fall, probably early November.
 - c. Purpose: to reduce number of kids of color entering CJ system. To divert as early as possible, and at every point thereafter.
 - d. Data-driven project: meet monthly and review data either monthly or quarterly.
 - e. School-based arrests have been a major focus of their analyses into DMC.
 - f. School-Police Collaboration Teams have been established in both Hartford and Bridgeport to understand when and how to respond to certain situations involving youth.

- g. Complete buy-in from both Hartford and Bridgeport police chiefs: Bridgeport chief attends every meeting; if Hartford chief cannot attend personally then sends top rank representatives to each meeting.
- h. Implemented Child Health & Development Institute's (CHDI's) School-Based Diversion Initiative (SBDI) in 3 schools with the highest rates of referral to detention and found significant decrease in referrals.

How REDCJS can support this pilot

- i. Included within the large juvenile justice bill introduced last legislative session was a provision that recommended an LOA be established between the schools and law enforcement when a school has an SRO. This passed through the committees then died in the Senate. Would love REDCJS's support when the bill is reintroduced next session.
 - i. Justice Harper would like to see the bill.
 - ii. At next REDCJS meeting, will discuss how to support this pilot.
- j. Documentary, *The Color of Justice*, created by CPTV and funded by OPM's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee discusses how race effects youth interaction with the juvenile justice system in Connecticut. The Juvenile Justice Alliance is planning 15 discussions to be held across the state to discuss the information presented in *The Color of Justice*.
 - i. REDCJS will acquire documentary and plan a showing.
 - ii. *The Color of Justice* may be found on the CCA's website, www.kidscounsel.org.

Discussion

- a. Question from Commissioner – was a climate survey conducted before and after the initiation of this pilot to measure any change in students' sense of safety?
 - iii. No, but would be interesting.

V. Updates on other commissions, committees and task forces

- a. [Access to Justice Commission](#) (A2J) – Aileen Keays, Institute for Municipal & Regional Policy (IMRP)
 - i. New chairs, Judges Solomon and Kahn
 - ii. REDCJS representation has expired as A2J's work moves into its next phase: implementation of Commission's recommendations. These recommendations are outlined in the Commission's [annual report](#). A2J is shrinking its number of members and changing its representation to support its new focus.
- b. [Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Committee](#) (CJPAC) – Deb Fuller
 - i. At last meeting, New Haven police chief presented on Project Longevity. No other updates.
- c. [Racial Profiling Prohibition Project](#) (RP3) – Aileen Keays, IMRP
 - i. The CGA modified the Alvin Penn Act this session passing P.A. 13-75. All modifications were technical updates to the law proposed by the RP3 advisory board. New law goes into effect October 1, 2013.
 - ii. RP3 spent last 4-months conducting public awareness campaign. This included hosting informational sessions around state for law enforcement

- to introduce Penn law revisions, focusing on how law enforcement may comply with its requirements.
- iii. RP3 website now has a [public page](#) that provides information on how to file a complaint if member of the public feels they were profiled. Also has PSA on profiling that was produced by IMRP staff, former CCSU students.
- iv. Information given by police to motorists who were pulled over includes instructions for filing a complaint that is now in English and Spanish thanks to Werner's assistance with translation.
- d. [CT Sentencing Commission](#) (CSC) – Aileen Keays, IMRP
 - i. Legislative session update:
 - 1. [Nine bills](#) were born out of the work of the CSC
 - a. Bills signed by Governor:
 - i. Exemptions to State Contracting Statutes
 - ii. Kidnapping and Sexual Assault
 - 2. At the next full Commission meeting, September 19, 2013, 2-5 p.m., a discussion will take place about the possible continuation of advocacy for those bills into the next legislative session and to address any changes to them that may be helpful towards future success.
 - ii. Committee updates:
 - 1. Recidivism Reduction Committee
 - a. Primary project – child support indebtedness during incarceration. The principal concern is whether the accumulation of child support debt during incarceration contributes to rates of recidivism as well as its potential effect on parent engagement with child(ren).
 - 2. Sentencing Structure Committee
 - a. Yale Law School Clinic report detailed policy changes in the four states that experienced the greatest reduction in recidivism levels between 2002 and 2009. The focus of the report was the importance of the relationship between inmates and the community. Committee's looking into this.
 - iii. Commission's chair, Judge Shortall, resigned as chair late summer. Justice Borden has just been appointed new chair.

VI. Follow-up from last meeting

- a. Racial Impact Statements
 - i. Justice Harper plans to send a letter to CGA on behalf of the Commission in support of the use of racial impact statements in proposed legislation at a time when it may impact the next legislative session.
- b. FOI requests of BOPP for pardon applications
 - i. No update.

VII. Discussion of possible participation by the Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission (APAAC)

- a. Arlene Avery, member of APAAC, interested in joining REDCJS.
- b. Statutorily, the charge of the Commission is focused on African-American and Hispanic populations.

Discussion

- a. Connecticut Chief State's Attorney's Office (CSAO) has had a hate crimes advisory committee that has been defunct as of late, but CSAO has been considering resurrecting it. However, in consideration of the number of committees in existence, CSAO thought REDCJS may be an appropriate venue for this topic. If interest of APAAC is related to hate crime, may be appropriate.
 - i. Brian will ascertain from Commissioner Avery her expectations with participating on REDCJS.

VIII. Other business

- a. None

IX. Adjourn

- a. Meeting concluded at 3:30pm