

COMMISSION ON RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPARITY IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

MINUTES

November 21, 2011 Meeting

Persons present:

Justice Lubbie Harper, Jr., (Chair; Supreme Court Justice), Deb Fuller (Judicial), Aileen Keays (Contractor – IMRP/CCSU), Maureen Price-Boreland (CPA), Donald Green (OCPD), Preston Tisdale (Gov. 's appt), Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt (DCF), Hakima Bey-Coon (OVA), Paul Fitzgerald (CT Police Chief's Association), Glenn Cassis (AAAC), Tracey Gove (Minority Leader of the House of Representatives Appointee), Jeanne Milstein (OCA).

- I. Welcome
 - a. Meeting commenced at approximately 12:35pm
- II. Working Group and Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Pre-Arrest, Prevention, Diversionary and Community-based Programs Working Group – Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt
 - i. Will be meeting with 211 and CJPAC to explore combining their initiative with ours. Their group will be conducting
 - b. Education, Training and Cultural Competence Working Group
 - i. Replacement of Chair – Tracey needs to be replaced due to his new position at the WHPD, yet still would like to be an active participant. Other participants include Werner, Shawna, Preston, Glenn & Jeanne.
 - c. Media Working Group – Maureen Price-Boreland
 - i. Maureen met with Deb & Aileen to brainstorm on next steps. Tried several times over the past year to partner with a University on conducting a research project with students. Recently Maureen spoke with Stan Simpson who thought that his students were not at that skill-level yet. Yet, gave the name of The Hartford Courant's online monitor, Rick Hancock. Also, Richard Henley at Quinnipiac is head of Communications Department and may be interested in taking this on.
 - ii. Aileen crafted letter to police chiefs requesting information on policies regarding the release of mug shots to the media.
 - iii. Facebook page was created for the Commission. Ann-Marie will assist with the technical administration of the page. Purpose: may be a way of publicizing the work of the Commission. Check-out Reclaiming Futures' Facebook page.

Discussion: If post in a public forum on Facebook than may elicit "ugly" comments; may want to set-up the page to not accept comments so we can put information out there but not encourage negative comments. There's a

community group in West Hartford called WHIRED – West Hartford Initiative on Racial and Ethnic Diversity. They have a Facebook page, too.

- d. Legislative Subcommittee – Jeanne Milstein
 - i. Have not had a committee meeting however if members have suggestions please send them to Jeanne.
 - ii. Will also solicit ideas from Abby Anderson of CTJJA, etc
 - iii. Sentencing Commission is looking at initiatives to address including one to provide opportunity for sentence modification for youth sentenced to lengthy incarceration sentences as a minor. Jeanne would be interested in reviewing the language to begin to form an opinion on the matter.
 - iv. Also will be looking at the racial profiling legislation to form an opinion

III. Schedule of Meetings for 2012

- a. Will change meetings to second Monday of every other month at 2pm, the location will remain the same.
- b. Aileen will post the revised schedule on the website.

IV. Membership

- a. Vacancies cannot get filled: Sen. Looney’s appointment, Rep. Sharkey, Sen. McKinney and one Governor appointee. If anyone knows someone who may be interested please forward those suggestions to Deb.

V. Event Planning

- a. Have been working with NAACP for about one year on planning a conference. Believe they overrepresented what they were able to do.
- b. Met with Mike Lawlor. He is very interested in Texas study on school suspensions that Mike Thompson worked on. Study demonstrated the relationship between school suspensions and involvement in CJ system. Mike would be able to get someone who worked on the study to come speak about it, which would cost the disparity commission nothing. Would like target audience to be policymakers and decision-makers. Would like to have meeting with new Commissioner of (Higher?) Education and Mike Lawlor to begin planning.

Discussion: present the information to local districts at-large. Could use Preston’s connections in Bridgeport, Harper’s in New Haven, etc. Could consider having Mike Thompson give a keynote address at the CABA (CT Assoc of Board of Education) annual conference in November – could have a joint conf with CABA and Superintendants. Should get Assoc. of School Superintendants, Abby Anderson, etc there now since their conference isn’t until November.

New study out – better not to have SROs in schools.

Some great speakers participated in the public defenders annual conference/meeting. They may present for cost.

Several Yale Law professors have published multiple pieces on this issue and may present for little-to-no cost. May also be willing to join the commission.

VI. Updates on other Commissions, Committees and Task Forces

- a. Access to Justice Commission
 - i. Met twice since September. Created four subcommittees: Criminal Issues/Child Protection; Legal Aid/Civil Representation; Self-represented Parties; and American Bar Association and Technology & Access to Justice. More information may be found on their website <http://www.jud.ct.gov/Committees/access/>
 - b. Sentencing Commission
 - i. Two paths Commission is going through: technical (addressing anomalies in penal code, etc) and policy changes
 - c. Juvenile Jurisdiction Policy and Operations Coordinating Council
 - i. Put out RFP to staff the JJPOCC. IMRP was awarded the contract, Ken Barone of the IMRP has been assigned to staff it. Its work is expected to end January with a final report.
 - d. Criminal Justice Policy Advisory Committee
 - i. Meets monthly. Interested in looking at commissions and boards to see if any are duplicative or defunct.
 - e. Eye-witness ID Task Force
 - i. Justice Borden is heading a newly-established Eyewitness Identification Task Force to look at the reliability of eyewitness identification.
- VII. Other Business
- VIII. Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30pm