

Commission on Racial & Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System

MINUTES

October 4, 2010 Meeting

(Make-up date for the September 20th postponed meeting)

Persons present: Lubbie Harper, Jr. (Chair), Deb Fuller (Judicial), Lauren Walker (UConn intern with Judicial), Maureen Price-Boreland (CPA), Judith Rossi (OCSA), Pat Hynes (DOC), Hakima Bey-Coon (OVA), Ernie Green (OCPD), Jeanne Milstein (OCA), Andrew Moseley (AAAC), Gary Roberge (CSSD), Paul Fitzgerald (Connecticut Police Chiefs Association), Werner Oyanadel (CT Puerto Rican and Latino Affairs Commission), Tracey Gove (House of Reps), Aileen Keays (IMRP/CCSU), Andrew Clark (IMRP/CCSU), Preston Tisdale (former designee of the OCPD).

I. Welcome

II. Working Group Updates

- a. Education, Training and Cultural Competence Working Group – Tracey Gove
 - i. Working on implicit bias language for jury instruction
 - ii. OCSA is currently looking at the draft
 - iii. By the next meeting should have final draft ready
 - iv. Judicial is interested in seeing the work of the Working Group and incorporating it into their jury instruction process
 - v. One issue that has been discussed and not yet determined is when in the jury instruction process the jurors should receive the instruction on implicit bias
 1. Judge feels should be given at all three phases of the jury instruction process
 - a. OCSA's concern is whether that gives this instruction more importance than other instructions, such as sympathy
 - vi. Working Group was also looking into training on cultural competence
 1. Had difficulty finding one definition of cultural competence
 2. There is no one definition; it is defined differently by different organizations
- b. Media Working Group – Maureen Price-Boreland and Aileen Keays
 - i. Trying to collaborate with CCSU on research
 - ii. Met with Dr. Mendez, Communications Chair at CCSU

- 1. Dr. Mendez said could do a snap-shot analysis over the period of one-week.
 - 2. This semester was not good for him, though; planning on performing the analysis during the 2011 semester
 - iii. Reached out to Vivian Martin, Director of the new Journalism program at CCSU
 - 1. Trying to set-up a meeting with the Media Working Group
- c. Pre-Arrest, Prevention, Diversionary and Community-Based Programs Working Group - Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt
 - i. Supposed to meet in August but did not because of vacations
 - ii. Next meeting is scheduled for October 22nd
 - iii. Continuing to look at what groups exist and what they're doing. Would like to have a centralized database of community-based and state-based organizations so there's no duplication of efforts

III. Update on the Adult Diversion Pilot Program

- a. Judicial received \$70,000 for one quarter from Appropriations
- b. Will be creating a pilot in New Haven
- c. Met with Donna Morris, professor at UNH, who runs a mediation program there
 - i. Also willing to assist us with research
- d. Free mediation conference on the 15th at Quinnipiac Law School
- e. May be helpful to reach-out to New Haven Re-entry Roundtable
 - i. Amy Meeks, co-Chair, along with Bill Dyson
 - ii. NH Reentry Roundtable recently secured a visiting Yale professor and five Yale students to help but they have not yet determined how the students will assist.
 - iii. Have mapped out resources in NH.
 - 1. IMRP is assisting them in putting it up on the Web
 - iv. 5 Reentry Roundtables in the state and IMRP is assisting in putting their information on the Web

IV. Commission's 10-year Anniversary

- a. Have talked about an Op-ed and/or a social event
- b. Ties in with the annual report – could be vehicle to highlight the achievements of the Commission over the past 10 years
- c. Preston continues to receive inquiries into when our next conference will take place

Discussion on hosting event(s)

- i. May consider bringing discussions to local level – into the cities; could tailor it to the needs of the particular community
- ii. Could host one large-scale conference with afternoon regional break-out sessions
 - 1. Well-received by attendees

- iii. If did it again would need to charge – the first one cost over \$30,000
- iv. Could look for sponsors – A Better Way Foundation helped sponsor IMRP's 1st conference at CCSU
- v. IMRP is working with the Hartford Public Library (HPL) facilitating dialogues – could talk with HPL to host regional discussions at libraries in various cities
- vi. Must be careful with the localized talks; must be able to deliver
 - 1. If local discussion the hosts are expected to deliver.
- vii. Andrew Clark will try to identify potential sponsors for a conference
- viii. Pat Hynes will forward the idea to DOC's grant person who may have some ideas on sponsors

V. Annual Report

- a. "2006-2010 Report" to discuss activities during Harper's tenure
- b. Probably be finalized by next meeting for review
- c. Reviewed items discussed in the report

Discussion

- i. Some of the mandatory reporting data may be getting reported by other organizations. May want to look into what has been reported by the CTJJAC
- ii. Discussion on what we *do* know versus what we *think* we know and whether the annual report should reflect actions of the Commission and/or more of a research report.

VI. Other Business

- a. At the OPM-sponsored Cross-training, Deb, Maureen and Preston presented on behalf of the Commission on racial and ethnic disparity in CT's CJ system.
- b. Suggestion for next meeting: include update on Raise the Age implementation
 - i. Concern with the economic climate that there may be some push-back to include 17 year olds
 - ii. Maybe invite Bill Carbone to present on CSSD's observations of its implementation
- c. Jeanne would like to present on youth recidivism at Manson and the work she's doing there.

VII. Adjourn