

Commission on Racial & Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System

MINUTES November 16, 2009 Meeting

Persons Present

Judge Lubbie Harper, Jr. (Chairperson), Deborah Fuller (Judicial), Aileen Keays (IMRP), Andrew Clark (IMRP), Andrew Moseley (BOPP), Ann-Marie DeGraffenreidt (DCF), Gary Roberge (CSSD), Glenn Cassis (AAAC), Hakima Bey-Coon (OVA), Judith Rossi (OCSA), Kay Berris (Judicial), Maureen Price-Boreland (CPA), Merva Jackson (AFCAMP), Pat Hynes (DOC), Paul Fitzgerald (Police Chief's Association), Tracey Gove (House of Rep's appointee).

Hand-outs

Meeting agenda, Working Groups' membership, Working Groups' Strategic Plans, State of Connecticut Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division Adult Bail Services October 8, 2009 PowerPoint print-out, Bond Rating Scale Form, CSSD Pre-trial Risk Assessment Point Scale, CSSD Case Data Record, draft minutes from September 21, 2009 meeting.

Meeting Commenced at 12:33 pm

- I. Welcome
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minutes were unanimously approved
- III. Presentation of the results of CSSD's evaluation of its revised policies to enhance offenders' accessibility to financial and non-financial bail – Gary Roberge
 - a. In 2003, the Judicial Branch initiated a multi-year project to develop a more systematic & consistent bail determination process
 - It has been a 6-7 yr process and CSSD continues to work to improve its policies and practices
 - b. Project ultimately resulted in:
 - Increased number of defendant's released on non-financial bonds
 - Increased use of the service provider network
 - A decrease in the number of failures to appear
 - More consistent and equitable financial bond recommendations
 - c. Three significant developments resulted from this project:
 - 2003 Validation of the Case Data Record
 - 2005 Bail Decision Aid
 - 2008 Financial Bond Guideline

d. Hand-outs were reviewed and discussed

Discussion/questions

- Have you looked at the affect of race?
 - No, not yet
- What was the rate of arrest during this time period?
 - It went down
- There are still a high number of people in prison pre-trial: a person held pre-trial is more likely to be sentenced to prison than someone not held pre-trial. Is CSSD looking to aid that disparity?
 - No, not particularly. However, other programs target that disparity including jail re-interview
- It would be great to see some evidence that these programs help racial disparity; the majority of accused people who were incarcerated pre-trial were minorities. It seems to me that CSSD is on the right track with this project.
 - CSSD can talk with its data people to see if they can look at race.
 - Would feel can certainly break it down by race and ethnicity.
 - Gary will look into CSSD's ability to break the data down by race
- Being held pre-trial may have been the biggest point in the system of disparity
- Marriage was identified as the primary indicator for appearance in court, yet if think of it in terms of race, the unmarried are more likely minority
- When Judicial looked at this, the single most determining factor was prior criminal record
- Did CCSU consider not married but a common law living situation?
 - CSSD has been talking about that internally & will ask CCSU to take this into account during follow-up assessment

IV. Working Group Updates

- a. No updates were shared
- b. Commission members in attendance were asked to join one of the three Working Groups: Media; Education, Training and Cultural Competence; or the Pre-arrest, Prevention, Diversionary and Community-based Programs Working Group
 - i. The pre-arrest and prevention working group needs the most new recruits
 - 1. Hakima Bey-Coon will join as a member
 - ii. Education has the most members

V. Budget Update

VI. Other Business

- a. Val LaMotte of JJAC was invited to return to the Commission to present on the DMC training by police for police
 - i. Val said she would be happy to return but also invited members to attend some of a two-day training this Wed and Thurs to observe
- b. OJJDP featured JJAC's training at their national conference
- c. Find-out from Val how many members the training can accommodate without being disruptive to the training environment. The entire Commission?
 - i. Ann-Marie will find-out the 2010 training schedule from Val

VII. Meeting adjourned at approximately 2 pm