

# Commission on Racial & Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System

Connecticut Judicial Branch

## Meeting Minutes September 13, 2021

2:00 – 3:30

Virtual Meeting via WebEx

*Commission members in attendance: Justice Lubbie Harper, Jr. (Chair), Scott Jones (President Pro Temp of Senate), Werner Oyanadel (CWCSEO), Steven Hernandez (CWCSEO), Sharon Cheeks (Governor), Hakima Bey-Coon (OVA), Denise Drummond (CWCSEO), Cheryl Sharp (CHRO), Preston Tisdale (Governor), Patrick Ridenhour (Representative of the Municipal Police Chiefs), David MGuire (Appointee of Majority Leader of the Senate), Gail Hardy (DCJ), Claud Chong (Chief's Public Defender's designee), Monica Rams (DCF) .*

*Non-commission members in attendance: Deb Fuller (Judicial/CSSD), (Judicial/CSSD), Aileen Keys (IMRP), Irvine Peck's-Agaya (IMRP), Ken Barone (IMRP), Andrew Clark (IMRP), Alex Tsarkov (IMRP)*

- I. Welcome**
  - a. Meeting commenced at approximately 2:05pm
  - b. Introduced [Irvine Peck's-Agaya](#)
- II. Review and approve minutes from July meeting**
  - a. Werner Oyanadel and Steven Hernandez should be listed as CWCSEO and Cheryl Sharp listed as CHRO
  - b. Minutes approved via unanimous voice-vote
- III. Updates on other commissions, committees, and task forces**
  - a. *Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) – Judicial/CSSD*
    - a. JJPOC RED Workgroup Update – Deb Fuller
      - i. Looking at RED frameworks – four different models for analyzing potential racial impact
      - ii. Pedestrian stops by law enforcement bill
      - iii. Educating juveniles in custody proposal
    - b. [Racial Profiling Prohibition Project](#) (CTRP3) – Ken Barone, IMRP
      - a. Next meeting Oct 21<sup>st</sup>. Will release 2020 traffic stop findings. Released 2019 findings a year ago which will be made available to the public on CTRP3 website next week.
      - b. Continue to see reductions in the number of departments identified as demonstrating disparate traffic stop rates with regard to racial and ethnic minority drivers.
  - c. [CT Sentencing Commission](#) (CSC) – Alex Tsarkov, IMRP

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- a. Reduction in drug-free zones. As part of same bill, passed eligibility for sentence modification.
- b. Reduced sentence for misdemeanors by 1-day to avoid unintended immigration enforcement involvement.
- c. Legislature did not raise the Commission's voting or sex offender bills. Will revise proposal on the sex offender registry to focus on a removal mechanism. Will also look at incarceration issues.
- a. [Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force](#) (PTATF) – Andrew Clark
  - a. Next full meeting Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>
  - b. Recruitment, retention, and promotion
  - c. Disability subcommittee just sent recommendations on several issues
  - d. More info at [www.ctpolicetransparency.com](http://www.ctpolicetransparency.com)

#### IV. **Program Utilization by Formerly Criminalized Persons: Linking Recidivism**

##### **Data to Data Held by US Census Bureau** – Andrew Clark

- a. A long-standing project which stems from a 2015 statutorily required report looking at Raise the Age for juvenile justice. IMRP connected with Chapin Hall in Chicago who had received funding for 5 projects nationally with U.S. Census Bureau data. Have been linking juvenile recidivism data with other federal data. Partnering with Yale University School of Medicine who work with people returning from prison on their health needs. Commission will now be part of the team that reviews this data and produces report, along with the DSS. This project should be able to tell the story of juveniles who entered the justice system from 2000-2014 and link their data across several data sources to tell the story of the systems they touch, their needs and supportive services received, and how they fared.

#### V. **CREDCJS Conference on Race and Policing** – Aileen Keays

- a. Conference planning committee has continued to meet.
- b. Conference is moved back to the Spring to maximize chances of in person events. Actively discuss and plan for potential hybrid options throughout the planning process.
- c. Aileen shared list of potential speakers to membership in meeting material. Please review the list and send feedback on speakers and panelists to Aileen, as well as additional recommendations.
- d. Aileen will reach out to speakers based on feedback and recommendations from the Committee. She will identify the conference date based on the availability of the most favorable speaker and potential Keynote.
- e. Get more speakers that reflect the Latin-X community and other minoritized identities.

#### VI. **Other business**

- a. [Public Act 21-174, section 8](#) established a committee for the purpose of studying the effects of and possible alternatives to suspensions and expulsions. Report will be submitted to the JJPOC regarding disciplining in schools.

**VII. Meeting adjournment**

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 2:37pm

