

Commission on Racial & Ethnic Disparity in the Criminal Justice System

Connecticut Judicial Branch

Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2022

2:00 – 3:30

Virtual Meeting via WebEx

Commission members in attendance: Justice Lubbie Harper, Jr. (Chair), Werner Oyanadel (CWCSEO), Hakima Bey-Coon (OVA), Preston Tisdale (Governor), David McGuire (Appointee of Majority Leader of the Senate), Gail Hardy (DCJ), Claud Chong (Chief's Public Defender's designee), Alex Tsarkov (Majority Leader of the House), Carleton Giles (Chairperson of the Board of Parole), Patrick Ridenhour (Representative of the Municipal Police Chiefs), Sarah Eagan (Office of the Child Advocate), Monica Rams (Department of Children and Families).

Non-commission members in attendance: Deb Fuller (Judicial/CSSD), Aileen Keays (UConn IMRP), Irvine Peck's-Agaya (UConn IMRP), Troy Brown (Judicial/CSSD), Jodi Hill-Lilly (DCF).

I. Welcome

- a. Meeting commenced at approximately 2:04pm

II. Review and approve minutes from January meeting

- a. Commissioner Giles moved to approve, seconded by Chief Ridenhour, approved unanimously via voice vote

III. Updates on other commissions, committees, and task forces

- a. *Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) – Judicial/CSSD*
 - a. Bill before General Assembly with a public hearing today. It is a significantly paired down bill. Under this proposed legislation, DCF will administer education in JJ placements. It also adds pedestrian stops to current traffic stop analysis. Also, adds 4 members to the JJPOC.
 - b. Explored re-opening CJTS but a lot of pushback and Judiciary chose to not pursue it at this time.
 - c. DCF will invite the proposed head of educational services to a future meeting of this commission.
 - i. Comment shared in the Chat: we are hoping that there will ultimately be some standardization around education: hours of instruction, etc. OCA still has big concerns about lack of appropriate education for youth aged 15 to 21 in the adult criminal justice system. DOJ issued a report in December on conditions at MYI, including lack of appropriate education, violations of the Constitution.
- b. [CT Racial Profiling Prohibition Project \(CTRP3\) – IMRP](#)
 - a. Next meeting of CTRP3 this Thursday at 10am. Since the last CRED meeting, this was published by Tom Condon on the project, including the

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issue of primary/secondary stops. <https://ctmirror.org/2022/01/30/after-a-poor-start-cts-anti-racial-profiling-effort-is-making-progress/>.

- b. Testimony provided to the Judiciary Committee last week on the PTATF bill highlighted the primary/secondary stop issue. Can follow up on that if CRED is interested as there are racial/ethnic implications to adopting these provisions in statute.
- c. [CT Sentencing Commission](#) (CSC) – IMRP
 - a. Restoration of voting rights for those in prison
 - i. Submitted four proposals on voting rights, none were raised
 - b. Sex offender registry removal mechanism
 - i. Proposal to the judiciary committee not raised, these proposals would have allowed judges to move offenders from public registry to law enforcement registry
 - c. Cost of incarceration
 - i. Proposal has been raised, HB 5390, An Act Repealing Statutory Provisions that Impose Liability on an Individual for Repayment of Costs Incurred When the Individual Was Incarcerated. It will prevent the state from being able to collect from formerly incarcerated people for the cost of their incarceration
 - d. Sentence modification clarification
 - i. Raised, Senate Bill 425, An Act Concerning Sentence Modification, the bill would make the changes already made in An Act Concerning Sentence Modification retroactive
- d. [Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force](#) (PTATF) – IMRP
 - a. Final report passed out of PTATF on January 11th. It can be found at ctpolicetransparency.com. Testified on behalf of the PTATF at 3/9/22 JUD public hearing:
<https://cga.ct.gov/2022/juddata/pha/pdf/2022PHA00309-R001000JUD-PHA.PDF>. CRED may want to consider looking at coverage of the hearing/bill. It has not been accurate and feeds into narrative that police were not part of creating the recommendations. The PTATF members are primarily law enforcement. Next steps for PTATF affiliated group is to create a Report Implementation Guide and host a series of public sessions highlighting the recommendations.
 1. Chief Ridenhour stated that his understanding was that there was some dissention amongst law enforcement members of the task force. Chief Ridenhour testified on the bill in opposition to some aspects of the bill. Law enforcement generally supports the bill, but some aspects are concerning to law enforcement.

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IV. Program Utilization by Formerly Criminalized Persons: Linking Recidivism Data to Data Held by US Census Bureau – IMRP

- a. Yale professor analyzing the extensive data provided by various state and federal agencies. Will update commission as significant advances are made.

V. CREDCJS conference on race and policing – IMRP

- a. Aileen, Irvine and Werner have been working to find a venue that accommodates all needs for our event (large event space, breakout rooms, tech capability for hybrid model, if needed).
- b. Dunkin Donuts/Yard Goats Stadium seems promising, but we are waiting for pricing

VI. Motor vehicle thefts and juvenile justice statement

- a. During the last meeting, the Commission voted to release a statement on motor vehicle thefts and juvenile justice. Aileen and Irvine put together a statement shared with commission members. Asked for suggestions on where to send the statement. Suggestions shared during the meeting:
 - i. OCA will share widely
 - ii. Governor's office
 - iii. Legislators
 - iv. Co-chairs and ranking members of the Judiciary committee are having a hearing today on the juvenile justice system
 - v. JJPOC
- b. Overwhelming praise that the statement is well-written, but concerns about rising juvenile offenses. There needs to be solutions to address this issue.
 - i. Arresting juvenile is not a solution
 - ii. Solution focused approach – preventative measures should be encouraged. Be active in intervention mechanisms with the youth to disrupt this cycle
 - iii. Prevention efforts (Juvenile Review Board, Youth Service Bureaus, etc.)
 - iv. Need to fix the gaps and be proactive about early interventions with kids to interrupt the cycle
- c. May be the best statement OCA has read about this issue and cannot wait to circulate it. It is very data-driven and captures the impact COVID has on kids and strongly cautions against policymaking in response. One major concern is lowering the age for transfer to adult criminal court, even as low as 13 years old, which there is no evidence to support. The DOJ just completed its investigation into MYI for boys, age 15-22. Their findings conclude that the conditions violate the youth's human rights. This provides additional context when the legislature considers policy suggestions such as lowering the age the system can transfer a youth/child to adult court.
 - i. OCA still has big concerns about lack of appropriate education for youth aged 15 to 21 in adult criminal justice system. DOJ recently issued a

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[report](#) in December finding conditions at MYI, including lack of appropriate education, violate the Constitution.

ii. OCA charged with investigating conditions of youth imprisoned

VII. Request to Raise Voting Access and Re-enfranchisement Act letter

- a. Letter requesting the General Assembly raise a bill to expand voting rights and access for criminal justice involved, and currently incarcerated, individuals in Connecticut. Justice Harper signed on to the letter on behalf of the Commission. The letter received signatures from several organizations, however, the General Assembly chose not to raise the proposed legislation.

VIII. Other business

- a. Scott Jones was nominated by the Governor to become judge. The commission extends its congratulations.

IX. Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health

- a. Last year, the legislature declared racism a public health crisis and created the [Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health](#). Jodi Hill-Lilly indicated that she suggested this newly formed group connect with this commission.

X. Meeting adjournment

- a. Motion to adjourn made at 2:44pm

2022 Meeting Schedule

May 9th

July 11th

September 12th

November 14th