

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

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Connecticut Judicial Branch

## Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2022

2:00 – 3:30

Virtual Meeting via WebEx

*Commission members present: Justice Lubbie Harper, Jr., (Chair), Werner Oyanadel (CWCSEO), Preston Tisdale (Governor), Claud Chong (Chief's Public Defender's designee), Alex Tsarkov (Majority Leader of the House), Patrick Ridenhour (Representative of the Municipal Police Chiefs), Sarah Eagan (Office of the Child Advocate), Denise Drummond (Commission on Equity and Opportunity), David McGuire (Majority Leader of the Senate), Carleton Giles (BOPP), Monica Rams (DCF), Sharon Cheeks (Governor).*

*Non-Commission members present: Aileen Keays (UConn IMRP), Ken Barone (UConn IMRP), Troy Brown (Judicial/CSSD).*

- I. Welcome**
  - a. Meeting commenced at approx. 2:09pm
- II. Review and approve minutes from July meeting**
  - a. Motion to approve made by Preston Tisdale seconded by Carleton Giles, approved by unanimous vote.
- III. Updates on other commissions, committees, and task forces**
  - a. *Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC)*
    - a. Aileen read a summary statement from Tow Institute of Justice at UNH re: JJPOC's activities
    - b. JJPOC did not have an August JJPOC meeting, its next meeting is this Thursday Sept. 15th at 2pm.
    - c. The agenda will include a presentation from Judicial Branch Court Support Services Division on their REGIONS programs and one-two of their contracted providers may present on the particulars of their program as well. Following that presentation, CT Justice Alliance will present their 2022 CTJA Report.
    - d. At the end of the meeting, JJPOC will present an educational video that the Truancy Subgroup, in collaboration with UNH, has designed and is currently being piloted in Hartford Public Schools to increase education and awareness on YSB's and the services they provide for young people experiencing attendance issues. This video is connected to the piloted school parental consent form for referral to community-based services shall a child become truant throughout the school year. (The video has

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been translated in 4 additional languages, linked here: [English version](#) [Spanish version](#) [Polish version](#) [Portuguese version](#) [Chinese version](#))

e. Workgroups and subgroups are heavily involved right now in formulating their recommendations and outlining their reports for this upcoming legislation session. FYI: We have legislative mandates to report on Suspension & Expulsion, Commissary, and Alternatives to Arrests so recommendations will certainly be coming forward from these at least these 3 workgroups.

b. [CT Racial Profiling Prohibition Project](#) (CTRP3) – Ken Barone, IMRP

- a. All commissioners invited to attend CTRP3's event this Thursday to celebrate the anniversary of the racial profiling law change and the work that has occurred since.
- b. Advisory board will release its new report in early Nov on the 2021 traffic stop data analysis.
- c. Hearst Media reported 4 state troopers fabricated hundreds of traffic stop data. CTRP3 met with state police and sent them a request for info to assist with its review of state police data received and analyzed by CTRP3 since data collection began. Validity of CTRP3 relies on quality data and public perception of accuracy of data and quality analysis
- d. Use of force
  - i. Last month, released 1<sup>st</sup> full report on use of force in CT for 2019-2020. Also on July 1<sup>st</sup>, rolled out a standard form and process for documenting use of force (standards for when force should be reported).

c. [CT Sentencing Commission](#) (CSC) – Alex Tsarkov, IMRP

- a. Bail reform
  - i. There is a lot of discussion now on 10% cash bonds. It was a big initiative of the Commission a few years ago. A pilot program returned millions of dollars to defendants

d. [Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force](#) (PTATF) – Ken Barone, IMRP

- a. Nothing new

#### IV. **CWCSEO Advancing Racial Equity Symposium** (Werner Oyanadel, CWCSEO)

- a. Thanked the Commission for co-sponsoring the event. It was a great event with about 100 guests. Health Equity Solutions, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Black and Puerto Rican Caucus were all participants. The Sunday before the event, legislative leaders published an Op-Ed on the front page of the paper committing to pursuing racial equity this upcoming legislative session. Will be available on video

#### V. **Discussion of the CREDCJS conference on race and reimagining policing**

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- a. Aileen reviewed the agenda thus far
  - b. Discussion Notes
    - i. Great to provide guidance for LE on how to come together to advance these recommendations
    - ii. Role of unions is a great topic that should be discussed. Part of that should be Labor Boards and how they handle or don't handle discipline that has been hand down by departments to address behavior.
    - iii. More Latino or Hispanic representation. For facilitators or moderators, Stephen Hernandez would be great.
    - iv. Law enforcement's interaction with children – in schools, community. Tow has a new initiative on police and youth engagement. Overarching theme would be how we perceive LE's role with children in schools, mental health crises, community. LE perspective on what is and isn't working. How can LE be prepared to be the 1<sup>st</sup> responder to youth in crisis. There may be someone from Tow that could speak to that. Danielle Cooper is a point person at Tow on that initiative. Use of police to respond to mental health crises of youth in schools and arrests of children 12 and under in schools. Data indicates that, typically, children subject to school-based arrests are children with identified disabilities. Uniformity of use of SRO – attempt to make it uniform statewide but faced resistance in some towns. Think about which officers are going into schools. CT Voices for Children did a report a few years ago on CT schools with SROs. One finding was Hispanic children going to school with an SRO had a 5x higher likelihood of arrest than Hispanic students going to school without an SRO.
    - v. Potential connection with Commission on Racial Equity in Health
    - vi. May need to consider our next conference; there are so many topics that need meaningful exploration and action – may need to divide topics over two days a few months apart.
- VI. Other business**
- a. Judicial CSSD hosting its annual week-long diversity event the following week, “Peace of Mind: the Connection between MH and Diversity”.
- VII. Meeting adjournment**
- a. Meeting adjourned at 3:13pm

## 2022 Meeting Schedule

November 14<sup>th</sup>