

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

Connecticut Judicial Branch

## **DRAFT - Meeting Minutes**

**September 11, 2023**

2:00 – 3:30

Virtual via WebEx

*Commission members present: Justice Lubbie Harper Jr. (Chair), Werner Oyanadel (CWCSEO), Cmsr. Alan Tan (CWCSEO), Denise Drummond (CWCSEO), Jennifer Medina Zaccagnini (BOPP), Claud Chong (COPD), Monica Rams (Commissioner of Children and Families), Sharon Cheeks (Governor), Preston Tisdale (Governor), Avery Gaddis (Senate Minority Leader Appointee), Alex Tsarkov (CSC/House of Representatives Appointee), Sarah Eagen (Office of the Child Advocate), Hakima Bey-Coon (State Victim Advocate), Gail Hardy (Office of the Chief State Attorney)*

*Non-commission members present: Aileen Keays (UConn IMRP), Ken Barone (IMRP), Irvine Peck's-Agaya (UConn IMRP), Brittany LaMarr (UNH The Tow Youth Justice Institute).*

### **I. Welcome**

- a. Meeting commenced at approximately 2:04pm
- b. Introduction of new member, Alan Tan, from CWCSEO

### **II. Review and approve minutes from July meeting**

- a. Motion to approve made by Werner, seconded by Preston, approved via unanimous vote.

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

- a. *Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee (JJPOC) – Tow Youth Justice*
  - a. JJPOC will announce the creation of a gender responsiveness workgroup in October. This group will be responsible for defining “gender responsiveness” as its first goal.
  - b. JJPOC is in the process of creating a re-entry plan due Nov 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - c. Connecticut is becoming a participating state in alignment with the federal guidelines for juvenile justice and delinquency prevention. The federal funding will be overseen by OPM. The implementation of these guidelines will lead to several policy changes within JJPOC and start compliance with federal government regulations for juveniles.
  - d. The implementation plan with CSSD to transfer juveniles from the custody of DOC to CSSD juvenile facilities is due on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - e. The creation of an automatic pre-arrest diversion program for young people is in the works and recommendations from this program are expected to come out in 2024.

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

---

## Connecticut Judicial Branch

- b. [CT Racial Profiling Prohibition Project](#) (CTRP3) – IMRP
    - a. CTRP3 released its report on the audit of state police traffic stop data.
    - b. It was announced that there was a Hartford police officer who resigned in March because of falsified records. In one case, the officer used false information to secure a warrant for an arrest. The Hartford Police Department was able to identify the officer because it has been following the auditing process and has been conducting an annual audit. Both Norwalk and Hartford Police Departments have held officers accountable following results from audits and have promptly informed the task force.
  - c. [CT Sentencing Commission](#) (CSC) – IMRP
    - a. CSC developed recommendations to expand 10% cash bond where people pay directly to the court and receive their money back. The recommendations raise the threshold for bonds to \$50,000 and go into effect in Jan 2024.
  - a. [Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force](#) (PTATF) – IMRP
    - i. PTATF is no longer in existence and can be taken off the agenda moving forward. The group sunset a couple months ago.
- IV. Special Guest Presentation:** Ken Barone, [audit](#) of state police traffic stop data
- a. IMRP will send members the recommendations that were generated because of the audit’s findings.
- V. Discussion of next steps following “Reimagining the Criminal Justice System: Where We Were, What We’ve Done, and What’s Next” – IMRP**
- a. Please look at the summary of ideas/thoughts captured during the conference’s facilitated dialogues. Consider potential action items the commission should consider in preparation for future discussion.
- VI. Other business**
- a. None
- VII. Meeting adjournment**
- a. Meeting adjourned at 3:19.

## 2023 Meeting Schedule

*Commission meets every other month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 2pm*

November 13, 2023