



Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project

Thursday, June 21, 2018

10:00am – 12:00pm

Legislative Office Building, Room 2B

Minutes

Present: Chief Dryfe, Chief Fusaro, Michael Gailor, Rashad Glass, Subira Gordon, Tanya Hughes, Tamara Lanier, Mike Lawlor, Kaley Lentini, Jim Fazzalaro, Ken Barone, Andrew Clark, Commissioner Dora Schriro, Dr. Cato Laurencin, Cheryl Sharp, Rep. Robyn Porter, William Dyson

I. Welcome

Bill Dyson welcome members and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He thanked members for attending.

I. Approval of the April 17, 2018 minutes

Chief Fusaro made a motion to approve the minutes from April 17, 2018. The motion was seconded by Andrew Clark. There was no discussion and the minutes were passed unanimously.

II. Data Working Group Update

Ken Barone provided an update on the status of the follow-up reports for the eight municipal police departments identified in the November 2017 Traffic Stop Data Analysis and Findings report. The project staff met with all eight departments and are in the process of drafting the follow-up reports. Ken outlined a timeline that indicated that draft reports would be shared with departments by the end of August and final reports are tentatively scheduled for release to the advisory board in the fall.

After discussing the lack of response from the Bridgeport Police department regarding data reporting issues, the working group drafted a letter for the advisory board to consider sending to OPM. The letter outlines the ongoing issues with Bridgeport PD and highlights the steps the project staff took to try and resolve the problem. A recommendation was made that OPM consider whether Bridgeport PD is in compliance

with the Alvin W. Penn Act. Chairman Dyson asked if any members objected to formally sending the letter to OPM on behalf of the advisory board. There were no objections.

Lastly, the working group reviewed the proposal put forth by researchers Matt Ross and Jesse Kalinowski to analyze disparities in stop outcomes. The proposal was reviewed by the working group and a recommendation was made to conduct this analysis in the upcoming report. Chairman Dyson asked if there were any objections to proceeding with the inclusion of this methodology in the 2017 analysis. There was no objection.

III. Draft Preamble Proposal

Dr. Cato Laurencin presented a draft preamble that he asked the advisory board to consider. He recommended that the advisory board establish an ad hoc working group to discuss the preamble and make a formal recommendation at a future meeting. Chairman Dyson recommended that Dr. Laurencin chair the committee and schedule a meeting prior to the next advisory board meeting. There was no objection.

IV. CT Data Collaborative Presentation on updated website

Michelle Riordan-Nold from the CT Data Collaborative provided a brief presentation to highlight the changes made to the data website. There is a new web layout and additional data has been uploaded. Advisory board members were encouraged to visit the site and recommend any improvements.

V. Presentation/Discussion with the Wethersfield Police Chief

In the November 2017 report published by the IMRP, a recommendation was made for the advisory board to further review the findings of the Wethersfield Police Department. Wethersfield has been the only department identified with racial and ethnic disparities in all three annual reports. Researchers have conducted two in-depth follow-up reports and published their findings. Ken Barone and Jim Fazzalaro stated that additional analysis would likely not alter the findings outlined in the reports. The advisory board invited the Chief Cetran to attend the meeting to discuss the findings and answer questions advisory board members had.

Chairman Dyson welcomed Chief Cetran and thanked him for his willingness to participate in the meeting. Chief Cetran was provided with an opportunity to address the advisory board prior to taking questions. Chief Cetran highlighted a number of errors that his department continues to have with the methodology. A brief summary of some of the areas of concern highlighted by Chief Cetran include:

- The title of the report is provocative. In particular, departments cannot “racially profile” because a reason other than race is specified as the reason for the stop. He recommended that the advisory board consider changing the project name to “Bias Policing Prohibition Project.”

- The estimated driving population methodology used doesn't adequately determine the racial make-up of drivers in Wethersfield. The high minority population in Wethersfield is the result of pass through traffic for shopping and visiting business establishments, particularly from the City of Hartford.
- The report wrongly recommends that police reduce their use of equipment related stops and increase the use of safety related stops to help reduce the racial disparity.
- The report is faulty and is hurting police-community relationships.

Following comments made by Chief Cetran, Chairman Dyson opened the discussion to advisory board members. Members discussed expressed a concern for the Chief's interpretation of the definition of racial profiling, the legitimacy of the methodologies used, and police-community relations as a result of this project. After a lengthy discussion with the advisory board, Chairman Dyson thanked Chief Cetran for his attendance.

The advisory board adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.