Minutes
Thursday, November 30, 2023
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Zoom

Advisory Board Members Present: William Dyson (Chair), Andrew Clark, Marc Pelka, Chief Neil Dryfe, Michael Gailor, Werner Oyanadel, Michelle Riordan-Nold, Tamara Lanier, Allison Beas, Chief LJ Fusaro, Gail Hardy, Joe Cristalli, Eyvonne Parker-Bair, Lt. Colonel Mark Davison, Stacey Manware, Colonel Daniel Loughman, Maurice Reaves, Rashad Glass, Piotr Milczek, Commissioner Ronnell Higgins,

Staff: Ken Barone, Jim Fazzalaro, Erica Escobar

I.   Welcome & Introductions

Stacey Manware convened the meeting at 10:05 a.m. and asked members to introduce themselves.

II.   Approval of the October 19, 2023, meeting minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from October 19, 2023. The minutes were unanimously approved by members via voice vote.

III.   Subcommittee Reports

a.   Data Collection, Analysis, and Quality

Stacey Manware provided an update on the proposal for annual departments to audit and verify their traffic stop records. The proposal's core objective is to empower agencies in verifying data, detecting anomalies, and promptly addressing them. Key elements include emphasizing routine reviews, implementing a time-sensitive discrepancy requirement, and mandating reporting for patient records within specified timeframes. Explorations are underway for incorporating an educational component and a tool, in alignment with audit proposals. Presently, these matters are being actively discussed within the subcommittee.

Ken Barone updated the board about the audit proposal, detailing the nine concepts under consideration by the working group for more robust agency audits. Stacy is

overseeing the process, and the group is finalizing a contract with a former NYPD deputy commissioner and current DOJ monitor for an assessment of best practices. The goal is to assess and improve the statewide system, producing a report with recommendations for data verification obligations. The plan involves both in-house efforts and an external expert to finalize the report in three months. The subcommittee will then review and set an implementation date based on the identified reforms and expert suggestions.

Ken Barone also updated members on recent changes to the data collection system approved several months ago, to go live by July 2024. Technical documentation for vendors is expected within the next 30 days, giving them around six months to implement and test minor system changes, including a new field for collecting ticket numbers. During the transition, the system will accept both old and new data for several months, with additional time provided for vendors to achieve full compliance and minimize costs for agencies. The objective is to ensure vendors receive the necessary technical documentation by the year's end.

b. Policy

The subcommittee will convene in January 2024 and meet through the legislative session. The committee will review any legislation that could affect the project and discuss potential recommendations.

c. Community Outreach

Gail Hardy updated members on the Glastonbury Public Forum, which is scheduled for December 13th. An announcement has been circulated for their second community forum this year at the Glastonbury Riverfront Community Center, starting at 5:30. Partnering with the Glastonbury MLK Community Initiative, Ana Mitchell, the Outreach Coordinator, arranged the event, featuring a facilitated conversation, a 10-minute project presentation, a 20-minute panel discussion, and a half-hour for questions and comments from the public.

Ken shared that the 2022 data is now available on the public website, allowing downloads from October 1, 2013, to December 31, 2022. Over the past year, collaboration with New York University has centered on creating a portal for police administrators with advanced functionality for statistics, data analysis, and officer-level insights. Progress is ongoing, and they intend to unveil a prototype in the new year.

IV. Old Business

a. CSP Data Audit Report- Update

Ken Barone shared an update on the CSP data audit report. State police are in the process of reconciling information for 130 troopers initially identified with overreported records. After resolving a batch number duplication issue for 25 individuals, they have sent 41 cases for review. Progress is ongoing, and both parties are actively involved in the audit.

Lt. Colonel Mark Davison provided an update on the ongoing process, indicating that the IMRP is receiving reconciled data, and they are currently 68% through the cohort of 130 troopers. He emphasized the collaborative effort and mentioned the successful incorporation of paper ticket numbers into NextGen, following the audit's recommendation. This enhancement facilitates smoother database matching.

Ken Barone added that the good news is that NextGen has incorporated the ability to collect paper ticket numbers into their system. Given that NextGen is the vendor for about two-thirds of municipal agencies, implementing this recommendation for all agencies, as CJIS is working towards, should not pose a significant challenge.

V. New Business

a. 2022 Traffic Stop Data Analysis and Findings Report preliminary findings presentation.

Ken Barone provided a presentation on the preliminary findings of the 2022 traffic stop analysis. Since 2018, the board has refrained from releasing a final report, opting instead to share initial findings through a public meeting. After identifying agencies and collaborating with the board, additional factors contributing to disparities are explored, leading to the publication of the final report. The presentation serves as an overview of the statewide analysis of the 2022 data findings. Ken emphasized that the identification of racial and ethnic disparities, the focus of today's discussion, does not inherently prove racial profiling. These statistical disparities only serve as indications of data trends requiring additional analysis. The analysis helps identify trends for further exploration, but it does not constitute evidence of racial profiling.

VI. General Discussion

Chief Neil Dryfe stated that there are challenges in comprehending some of the statistical analysis outlined in the detailed report and suggested a more reader-friendly executive summary. He emphasized the need for clarity to prevent misinterpretation or oversight due to the reports complexity, especially for the public.

Ken Barone suggested learning from California, Oregon, and Illinois, states with comparable tools, particularly in improving the user-friendliness of executive summaries. The goal is to adopt best practices observed in these states for Connecticut's upcoming report.

There was no further discussion, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.