



Minutes

Thursday, February 22, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Virtual

Advisory Board Members Present: William Dyson (Chair), Andrew Clark, Chief Neil Dryfe, Michael Gailor, Werner Oyanadel, Tamara Lanier, Allison Beas, Chief LJ Fusaro, Gail Hardy, Eyvonne Parker-Bair, Lt. Colonel Mark Davison, Stacey Manware, Colonel Daniel Loughman, Maurice Reaves, Rashad Glass, Piotr Milczek, Tanya Hughes, Cato T. Laurencin, Sarah Karwan (Commissioner Ronnel Higgins), Chief Vern Riddick

Staff: Ken Barone, Jim Fazzalano, Erica Escobar

Guest: Rick Green, Joshua Eaton

I. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. and members introduced themselves.

II. Approval of the January 18, 2024, meeting minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from January 18, 2024. The minutes were unanimously approved by members via voice vote.

III. Subcommittee Reports

a. Data Collection, Analysis, and Quality

Stacey Manware presented an update on the Data Subcommittee's recommendations. The first recommendation focuses on establishing procedures for internal audit recommendations for police agencies regarding racial profiling information sent to IMRP. Additionally, it proposes adding citation numbers to the data collection system. The proposal is the start of a more comprehensive series of recommendations that are being vetted by the subcommittee.

The current proposal would require police departments to verify and certify the records they send to the racial profiling system annually. Law enforcement agencies must also promptly report any data discrepancies within 30 days and share internal affairs reports concerning data issues involving officers, irrespective of case outcomes, to ensure timely resolution

and inform concerned parties. Departments should also be required to correct data errors promptly, emphasizing the importance of maintaining accurate information. Lastly, there should be annual data training to ensure officers understand the significance of the data they collect and can provide it efficiently during roll calls, minimizing the need for extensive training sessions.

Ken mentioned that the training program development would be handled internally by the staff and disseminated to all agencies. The funding from the federal grant would support this initiative. The law enforcement representatives in attendance supported the recommendations. A motion was made and seconded to approve the series of recommendations, which was unanimously approved by members via voice vote.

The subcommittee also recommends adding the citation number to the data collection system. This entails police agencies reporting unique citation numbers to the racial profiling system, facilitating audits and comparisons to detect discrepancies or anomalies within the data. Ken explained that the modification to the CJIS system, funded by a federal grant, shouldn't incur any costs for agencies if given enough time to implement. They anticipate working through the RMS vendors' timeline without burdening agencies with additional costs. A motion was made and seconded to approve this recommendation, which was unanimously approved by members via voice vote.

b. Policy

Michael Gailor summarized H.B. 5055: An Act Strengthening Police Data Reporting Requirements, which criminalizes false reporting of public records by law enforcement officers. The bill mandates the referral of such matters to the chief state's attorney's office for investigation. Ongoing discussions aim to modify certain sections for better alignment with the bill's intent, ensuring accountability for officers who violate criminal laws through intentional false reporting.

Chief Fusaro shared a concern about the limited time for stakeholders to fully review the bill before taking a position. He emphasized the need for more clarity on how the legislation would affect law enforcement, particularly regarding potential duplications of existing laws. Fusaro suggested postponing the formation of an opinion until these questions are answered. Chief Riddick concurred with Chief Fusaro. Ken suggested that the policy subcommittee convene in the following week to determine if there's a consensus on the next steps regarding this matter.

Tamara Lanier emphasized the importance of proceeding cautiously and taking time to thoroughly understand the proposed legislation and its implications. She noted concerns raised by NAACP units and community members, suggesting that the matter deserves careful consideration and additional time for deliberation.

c. Community Outreach

Gail Hardy provided an update about a series of recommendations from the Community Outreach Subcommittee, which involved drafting a statement addressing the audit of past CSP reports. The statement highlights the identification of inaccurate records submitted to the racial profiling database by troopers and constables, emphasizing their significant impact on reports published before 2021. This statement was tabled until the subcommittee could further review after receiving comments from board members.

The subcommittee also discussed plans to raise awareness of the Alvin W. Penn racial profiling law by posting a statement on state agency web pages. DMV suggested sharing important project information at DMV centers too. The statement reads: "Discover how Connecticut's Alvin W. Penn racial profiling law ensures fair treatment in traffic stops. Learn more at the CTRP3 website." A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommended website language, which was unanimously approved by members via voice vote.

IV. Old Business

a. CSP Data Audit Report- Review/Comments on Independent Investigation completed by Finn, Dixon, and Herling LLP

Ken updated the board on the CSP Data Audit Report, noting the ongoing review of 105 troopers at the state police for additional assessment. 66 individuals have been reviewed to date and shared them with IMRP staff. One trooper was removed from the list, leaving 36 for further review. Attorney Deirdre Daly's report included a series of recommendations that are being reviewed by the appropriate subcommittees.

Jim Fazzalaro proposed initiating regular updates on the audit reconciliation process starting March 1st, to be posted on the project's website. He suggested that he and Ken could manage this, providing monthly updates on the progress made. Chair Dyson expressed hesitancy about implementing regular updates on the audit reconciliation process, noting that seemingly simple tasks can become complex. He suggested deferring the decision to the

next meeting to allow time for careful analysis of the proposal and its potential implications.

V. New Business

a. 2023 preliminary traffic stop totals.

This item was tabled for discussion until the next meeting.

There was no further discussion, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.