



## Community Outreach Subcommittee Minutes

Wednesday, September 25, 2024  
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
Zoom

**Subcommittee Members Present:** Gail Hardy, Eyvonne Parker-Bair, Andrew Clark, Rachel Timm, Piotr Milzek

**Staff:** Ken Barone, Erica Escobar

### I. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Gail Hardy called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

### II. Approval of the August 28, 2024, minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from August 28, 2024. The minutes were unanimously approved by members via voice vote.

### III. New Business

#### a. Danbury Public Forum debrief

The Danbury Public Forum at the Danbury Public Library faced challenges, including only a small crowd being present. However, the discussion was insightful and engaging with attendees. It was suggested that outreach to local colleges, such as Western Connecticut State University, could enhance participation, particularly among students with relevant experiences with police. Overall, the event facilitated important discussions and established connections for future initiatives.

Rachel Timm expressed a goal to involve the Public Interest Law Group in future forums, believing students could engage enthusiastically with the issues and communicate effectively within their communities. She suggested hosting events on college campuses to enhance participation. She emphasized the positive discussions regarding shared concerns between law enforcement and the public, underscoring the importance of clear communication.

There was a discussion about engaging UConn law students through a dedicated presentation or panel at the law school later in the semester. The idea is to invite key speakers, including law enforcement representatives, to

spark interest in criminal law reform among students. Rachel expressed her enthusiasm for this initiative, highlighting that many law students are drawn to the field because of their interest in reforming the legal system. She is eager to assist with organizing the event.

Eyvonne Parker-Bair emphasized the importance of using recent experiences to guide future efforts, noting that they reveal areas needing engagement. She suggested involving organizations such as the Black Law Students Association (BLSA), the Hispanic Bar Association, and the Black Bar Association in upcoming events, drawing from her experience as a past president of these groups. Parker-Bair also highlighted the potential benefit of collaborating with the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus to enhance community involvement.

There was a discussion about organizing a targeted presentation or panel for law students at UConn, potentially in collaboration with the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) and the Hispanic Bar Association. The event would include a historical overview of the Alvin Penn Act and encourage dialogue among participants.

Participants emphasized the importance of involving the broader legal community and suggested allowing for informal discussions after the presentation to facilitate sharing of lived experiences. There was a consensus on the potential to host the event before the semester ends, with plans to consult the student affairs office for feasibility.

The group recognized the need for effective promotion and discussed engaging high school students in related discussions, drawing from successful past initiatives. Overall, there was an agreement on reaching out to various organizations to ensure a diverse audience and meaningful conversations.

#### b. Future Public Forums: Cheshire and Enfield

A discussion was held about future events, confirming that Cheshire plans to host an event at the library in January, likely coinciding with Martin Luther King Jr. holiday activities. Dates and locations for forums in Cheshire, East Hartford, and Enfield are being secured for the 2025 series, with Cheshire in January, East Hartford in early March, and Enfield in April or early May.

Although there was initial consideration for an event in East Hartford before year-end, it was decided to focus on the planned 2025 events due to scheduling conflicts. Waterbury was suggested as a potential venue for May or June, as it had previously attracted a large audience. Plans will be made to discuss Waterbury's inclusion in the first half of 2025 to establish a cohesive event schedule.

#### c. State agency outreach for website inclusion of CTRP3 information

An update on the state agency outreach for the inclusion of CTRP3 information on websites was provided. The DMV has been tasked with identifying suitable locations on their site to add similar language and links, based on a previously shared example. Follow-ups are also needed with three agencies: the Chief Public Defender's Office, the Chief State Attorney's Office, and CHRO, with the goal of completing these tasks by the next meeting.

The Chief State Attorney's Office is redesigning its website and plans to include language regarding the Alvin W. Penn Act and a link for CTRP3. They are considering appropriate placements for this information, similar to how the DMV includes it on registration and license renewal pages.

Erica Escobar will review the current site to suggest optimal locations for the CTRP3 language and link, allowing for feedback on its appropriateness. There was a suggestion to use website analytics to identify the most visited pages to help guide these decisions.

Additionally, there is a desire to feature CTRP3 information on the home pages of all police departments in Connecticut, with chiefs encouraged to promote this language and link collaboratively.

#### IV. General Discussion

##### a. Website Redesign

An update was shared on the CTRP3 website redesign. Valerie Gordon assessed the current site and noted it is too dark and busy, with negative language that doesn't convey a collaborative message. She has enlisted a UConn team to simplify the homepage and lighten its appearance. By the end of the year, they plan to present two or three mockups for feedback before starting the full redesign. The site also needs better organization of links and essential documents, like minutes and agendas, to improve user experience.

##### b. Video Production Project

An update was shared on board member participation in video production for the website. A ten-year-old video on ending racial profiling is being updated to reflect current progress and collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including law enforcement and community activists.

There were no additional comments, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.