



Community Outreach Subcommittee Minutes

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Zoom

Subcommittee Members Present: Gail Hardy, Rachel Timm, Eyvonne Parker-Bair, Ana Mitchell, Andrew Clark, Piotr Milcek, Cheryl Sharp, Rashad Glass

Staff: Ken Barone, Erica Escobar

I. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Gail Hardy called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. Approval of the October 1, 2025, minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from October 1, 2025. The minutes were unanimously approved by members via voice vote.

III. Old Business

a. 2026 Public Forums

The 2026 public forums planning is underway, with the first event scheduled for January 28th at the Trumbull Public Library. Ana Mitchell reported that outreach is progressing well, with support from the Bridgeport office and members of the Housatonic community helping to distribute flyers. Efforts to connect with local leadership are ongoing, and the Trumbull police chief will also be contacted.

A second forum is being planned for Windsor, likely in March, with venue selection identified as the main challenge. The group also discussed engaging college students by inviting those studying human rights or related courses to attend live forums. Partnerships with universities that have relevant programs or clinics, such as Wesleyan and Yale, are being considered to connect students with real-world impacts of policing and incarceration.

Michelle Dumas Keuler of the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities will represent the organization on the Trumbull forum. Key next steps include following up with Trumbull town leadership and the police

chief, confirming the Windsor venue and date, and pursuing university partnerships to engage students.

b. Media Campaign Presentation Update

An update was provided on the media campaign. The commercial was produced in December in Madison and at the office, featuring a traffic stop, multiple participants, and Chief Riddick in the role of police chief. The project will deliver updated, professional content for the CTRP3 website and social media, replacing material that is nearly ten years old.

The draft commercial is expected for review at the next meeting, with plans to share it by the end of January in time for the legislative session. A second, shorter video is in development, with Tanya Hughes scheduled to participate. Communications Director Valerie is overseeing production to ensure high-quality results.

General Discussion

c. Qualitative Analysis Report

The community outreach subcommittee reviewed the qualitative report from Northeastern University, which will be presented at the full board meeting in January. The report complements a prior quantitative evaluation showing a 24% average reduction in racial disparities after engagement with police departments, sustained for at least one year.

The qualitative evaluation, based on interviews with advisory board members and police chiefs, identified nine recommendations for improvement. Key priorities for the subcommittee include expanding and diversifying community engagement, particularly with young people, justice-impacted individuals, and non-English speakers; reframing the public narrative about the project; formalizing communication with patrol officers; and making data more accessible. Initiatives such as law school outreach, the Kids' Court Academy, and enhanced website accessibility in multiple languages were discussed as ways to operationalize these recommendations.

Additionally, the subcommittee discussed enhancing public forums to include practical guidance for individuals on their legal rights during police stops. Updates on Danbury were shared, including a response to allegations of racial profiling and ongoing data review. The group also noted the importance of clarifying the distinction between federal, state, and local enforcement authority in public education efforts. The committee plans to synthesize these priorities and develop an actionable plan for this year.

There was no further discussion, and the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.