



Minutes

Thursday, June 20, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

LOB 1B

Advisory Board Members Present: William Dyson (Chair), Andrew Clark, Chief Neil Dryfe, Michael Gailor, Joe Cristalli, Eyvonne Parker-Bair, Lt. Colonel Mark Davison, Rashad Glass, Piotr Milczek, Tanya Hughes, Dr. Cato T. Laurencin, Chief Vern Riddick, Daniel Karpowitz, Kelly Mero, Chief “Jack” Drumm, Commissioner Ronnell Higgins, Colonel Daniel Loughman, Gail Hardy

Staff: Ken Barone, Jim Fazzalano, Erica Escobar

Guests: Valerie Gordon, John Lucas

I. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. and members introduced themselves.

II. Approval of the April 11, 2024, meeting minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from April 11, 2024. The minutes were unanimously approved by members via voice vote.

III. New advisory board member nominations

Chairman Dyson introduced two members for nomination to join the advisory board. Chief Jack Drumm of the Madison Police Department has previously served on the Policy Subcommittee. In addition, he was a member of the Connecticut Police Transparency and Accountability Task Force. Chief Drumm addressed the board and expressed his appreciation for the work and a desire to contribute to the conversation. A motion was made and properly seconded to add Chief Drumm as a member of the board. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Dyson next introduced Dr. Kelly Mero. Dr. Mero has been serving as an active member of the Policy Subcommittee and would be joining the board as a community representative. In addition to her role on the subcommittee, Dr. Mero sits on the Hord Foundation in Danbury and is a member of the

Descendants of the Connecticut 29th Colored Regiment. Dr. Mero addressed the board and expressed a desire to work with members to address and eliminate racial profiling. A motion was made and properly seconded to add Dr. Mero as a member of the board. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

a. Data Collection, Analysis, and Quality

Ken Barone provided an update on behalf of Stacey Manware regarding the Data Collection, Analysis, and Quality Subcommittee. The members agreed to establish a working group to develop a model policy for data auditing to ensure data integrity. This effort is informed by IntegrAssure's independent evaluation of the profiling system. Interested members were invited to join the working group.

Additionally, the subcommittee is creating a traffic stop reporting liaison program. This program will designate a liaison within each agency to be responsible for staying informed, educating officers, and managing data collection updates. The program will include biannual meetings to discuss updates, address questions, and resolve issues, such as the classification of occupied parking violations. The goal is to launch this program by the fall to enhance communication and standardize reporting practices across agencies.

b. Policy

Tanya Hughes provided an update to the Advisory Board members. The members unanimously agreed to support H.B. 5055, the governor's bill that would have made it a crime to intentionally falsify records for the Penn Law. Although the bill passed the House, it was not voted on in the Senate and ultimately failed. Based on comments from Judiciary chairs, the bill is likely to be introduced again in the next session. No further updates were provided.

b. Community Outreach

Gail Hardy updated the Advisory Board on efforts to develop consensus language regarding data discrepancies in past traffic stop reports. The subcommittee has unanimously approved language for inclusion in past reports and seeks the Advisory Board's approval. The proposed language reads as follows:

“The Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project advisory board authorized a comprehensive audit of racial profiling records submitted by the Connecticut State Police between January 1, 2014, and December 31, 2021. The audit identified inaccurate infraction records submitted to the racial profiling database by troopers and constables during all years of the audit. The inaccurate records most likely had a small but statistically significant impact on the analysis of Connecticut State Police data published before 2021. For more information, visit www.ctrp3.org.”

A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the language. The language was unanimously approved via a voice vote.

Gail also informed members that the subcommittee is planning upcoming community forums, including one in Danbury this fall and another with the tribal community. A recent forum in Branford was a success, thanks to subcommittee member Anna Mitchell. Additionally, Eyvonne Parker-Bair is working to ensure that project related information is posted on other state agencies, including the DMV, and throughout the state.

V. Old Business

a. CSP Trooper/Constable Record Reconciliation Process update

Ken provided an update on the CSP Trooper/Constable Record Reconciliation Process. He reported that the reconciliation process has largely been completed. Initially, 130 troopers were identified with discrepancies, which led to a review by the state police. This review resulted in the removal of 25 troopers due to badge number issues, reducing the count to 105.

From August to April, the state police conducted a detailed review and shared their findings with the project staff. A supplemental report summarizing these findings is currently being prepared. This report will document lessons learned from the reconciliation process and suggest potential improvements for both the state police and other agencies. The summary will be shared with the state police for their feedback before the supplemental report is released. Due to the complexity of the information, producing this report is expected to take some time.

Commissioner Ronnell Higgins provided an update on implementing the initial recommendations made by the advisory board. He reported that the seven recommendations have been implemented, including expanded training, improved supervision, and mandatory use of E-ticket technology.

To ensure thorough data analysis, Commissioner Higgins has hired an experienced data scientist who is now analyzing racial profiling, traffic, and public safety data.

The State Police's investigation into compliance with the Alvin Penn Law is complete and under administrative review. This review covered 16 members—13 troopers and 3 constables. Internal affairs investigations are ongoing for 6 troopers and 1 constable, with administrative reviews for 7 troopers and 2 constables. Results and potential disciplinary actions are expected in the coming weeks.

Commissioner Higgins concluded by expressing gratitude and anticipating continued collaboration with CTRP3.

VI. New Business

a. Traffic Stop Data Analysis and Findings, 2022 report release

Ken provided an update on the 2022 Traffic Stop Data Analysis. Traffic stops increased by about 14% in 2022 compared to 2021 but remained 39% lower than pre-pandemic levels. The number of stops continued to rise in 2023, although still below pre-pandemic numbers.

The report highlighted Guilford for the first time due to statistically significant disparities, not because of greater issues compared to other departments. Guilford's complexities, including seasonal traffic increases and regional enforcement activities, were noted. The report found that Guilford's focus on speed enforcement and high rate of written warnings contributed to their data. It concluded that Guilford was not engaged in racial profiling.

Ken also pointed out new graphs in the report showing trends in traffic enforcement by day, month, and type. He expressed optimism about releasing future reports more promptly and praised the Advisory Board's consistent support and improved interactions with police departments.

VII. General Discussion

Ken informed the Advisory Board that the next meeting is scheduled for August 22nd. The Board will take July off due to vacation schedules. Meetings will return to virtual format for the time being, with plans to hold two in-person meetings per year. The fall in-person meeting is tentatively set for October.

There was no further business, and the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.